

Effective Altar Times in Kidmin

Jamie Doyle

Children's Ministries Pastor - River City Church - Lafayette, IN



Jamie giving a salvation altar invitation in Kenya

Introduction: It's Time To Impact a Generation...

Unless room for response is made, many times people will only go to an altar a few times in their life. I believe an altar/response time plays a vital role in the maturing of any child's walk with God as well as adding to the intensity of the service.

I. Why Give Kids An Altar Call?

- A. Kids aren't going to wait to get home and respond.**
- B. The Holy Spirit wants to deal in the lives of children.**
- C. Give the kids a time and place or someone else will...**

Addendum: Definition of an “Altar”

- A. In some communities and cultures the word “ALTAR” means a variety of things.**
- B. Help the children in your ministry understand who, what, where, when, why and how an altar or prayer time happens.**
- C. Help the children in your ministry understand that God is approachable.**

II. Those “WOW” Moments

- A. You KNOW what I’m talking about!**
- B. You can look out into the faces of the kids and... whoa! THEY GET IT!**

There is a connection from the concept you are demonstrating and it’s actually touching their hearts.

- C. These are the MOMENTS that we live for in a children’s church setting.**

If these are not the times you live for in a children’s classroom or service, then put down these notes and do something else with your life.

- D. God is doing something inside of those kids in that moment...**

...and He wants to continue.

III. Give Them a Reason to Respond

- A. The model of Jesus**

1. He taught and instructed in order to build faith.
2. THEN He healed and did miracles.
3. If Jesus did it this way, WE should use this as a guide.

- B. Teach solid content in order to build the faith of the children.**

1. This takes responsibility and preparation.

2. Know what the Word of God says before you teach it.
 3. Use fun and interesting methods that point to the main topic.
- C. Give good instruction before calling the kids to the altar.**
1. Make it very clear what is expected and what is not allowed.
 2. Give correction with Love.
 3. Allow kids to mess up once in a while.
 4. Be excited - God is doing something amazing in the hearts of these kids!

IV. Where To Place An Altar Call

- A. Let's look at the *Natural Intensity Level* of a Children's Class:**
1. Kids are naturally excited and rowdy when they first get to any class.
 2. It takes almost half to three quarters of the way through a class to get the kids paying attention to a point that you could teach them just about anything.
 3. Kids know when class is almost over –so they will start to get restless again.
- B. Somewhere in the middle, kids are more sensitive and focused.**
- C. Use the remaining time to reinforce your lesson – don't think of these items as "time-fillers".**

Exciting
Fun
Rowdy
Talkative
Silly

Serious
Focused
Intense
Listening

Exciting
Fun
Rowdy
Talkative
Silly

V. Different Kinds Of Altar Calls

- A. **A call to salvation**
...as many services as possible
- B. **A call to the challenge or the subject matter of the day**
- C. **A call to deal with specific needs**
- D. **Times of Worship**
- E. **Prayer Stations**
- F. **Baptism in the Holy Spirit**
- G. **Listening for God's Voice/Direction**
- H. **Making a commitment or declaration**

VI. Making The Time More Effective

- A. **Use Music Effectively**
 1. Background music will help kids be more confident in their prayers.
 2. Use slow and reflective music.
 3. Don't use music that the kids are familiar with – this can be distracting.
- B. **Eliminate Distractions** — If kids are uncomfortable, they are not attentive. Anything that is distracting has the potential to pull kids away from receiving.
 1. Make sure the room is the right temperature.
 2. Close doors and windows to eliminate outside noise.
 3. Fix, replace or throw-out broken/squeaky chairs or furniture.
 4. Take out the garbage and eliminate foul odors.
 5. Adjust the sound of the PA equipment.
 6. Repair or replace equipment that is a hassle when using it.
 7. Move distracting children back to their seats.

- C. Altar Workers – Use kids, teens and adults.**
- D. Tissues – are a must (it's sanitary too).**
- E Tracts and/or follow up program for Salvation and Holy Spirit.**
- F. A Prayer room for specific prayer, counsel and instruction.**

More can be found at my website:

JamieDoyle.com

Links and downloads related to this breakout

It's the first post on the front page