

CULTIVATING THE GROUND

June 9, 2019

Pastor Will Perez—Mark 4 (NIV)

Mark 10:13-16 *Jesus Blesses the Children*

One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so He could touch and bless them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering Him. ¹⁴When Jesus saw what was happening, He was angry with His disciples. He said to them, "Let the children come to Me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. ¹⁵I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it." ¹⁶Then He took the children in His arms and placed His hands on their heads and blessed them.

HOW DO WE IMPACT THE 66% OF CHURCH-OUTS?

1. **ADULTS** investing between ages 15-18.

This is the number one, the most important indicator. Adults investing in students is a game changer.

2. Students who read the Bible **PRIVATELY** prior to age 18 .

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 *"Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. "*

3. Wanting the church to help **GUIDE** their decisions in everyday life.

This means authentically doing life with our students.

It's not the condition of the soil, but the conditioning of the soil that matters.

James 5:16 . . . confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

“Keep the Dust Off the Highchair”

*I took a piece of plastic clay,
And idly fashioned it one day.
And as my fingers pressed it still,
It moved and yielded to my will.
I came again when the days were passed,
And the bit of clay was hard at last.
The form I gave it still it bore,
But I could change that form no more.*

*I took a piece of living clay,
And gently formed it day by day;
And molded with my power and art,
A young child's soft and yielding heart.
I came again when the days were gone,
It was a man I looked upon.
He still that early impress wore,
But I could change that form no more.*

Dave Stone, Preaching Today

***It's not the condition of the soil, but the
conditioning of the soil that matters.***

Prayer of Salvation,

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have sinned, and I choose to invite You into my life today. I repent of my sin and by doing this I want You to be the Lord (Master) of my life. I know that Your gift to me is free and I can do nothing to earn eternal life. Thank You for dying for my sins. Amen.