

Who's the Greatest?

1 *At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”*

*Matthew 18:1*

2He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. 3And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 18:2-3

4Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. Matthew 18:4-5

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6“If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. Matthew 18:6

*6lf we distressed, it is for your comfort and*

***Unless you change***

**And become like a child**

**THE KEY – LOOKING AT THE FACE OF JESUS**

**How can we become like  
Children?**



# 1. Faith – simple belief and complete trust

*Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.  
Hebrews 11:1 NLT*

Lack of faith is not a failure of logic,  
it's a failure of imagination.

Lack of faith is the inability or unwillingness to entertain thoughts of a God who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine –  
Mark Batterson

## 2. Wonder

**The God who conveniently fits within  
the confines of your mind will never  
fill your soul with wonder –**

**Mark Batterson**

Disuse syndrome – if you stop using any part of your body, including your mind, it atrophies.

**Being half-minded is no better than being half-hearted!**

**3. Innocent**

**4. Humble**

# 5. Childlike submissiveness and meekness

# What are we to do with children?

## 1. Bring them to Jesus

*And whoever welcomes one such child  
in my name welcomes me.*

*Matthew 18:5*

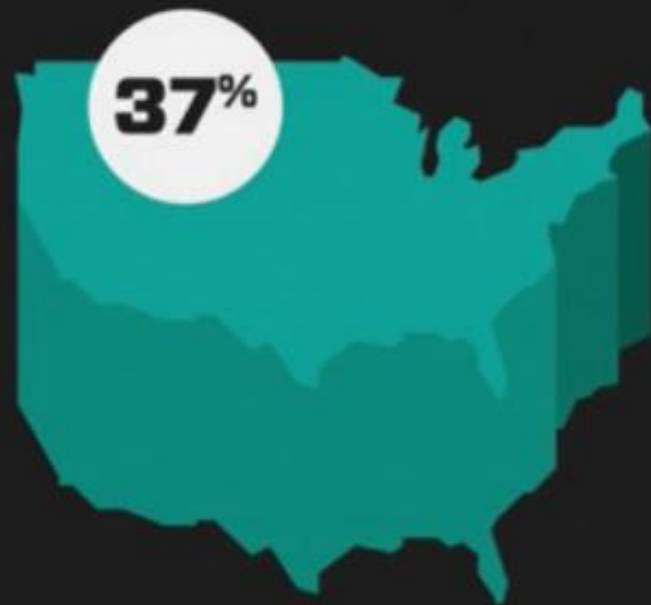


13 Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. 14 Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Matthew 19:13-14

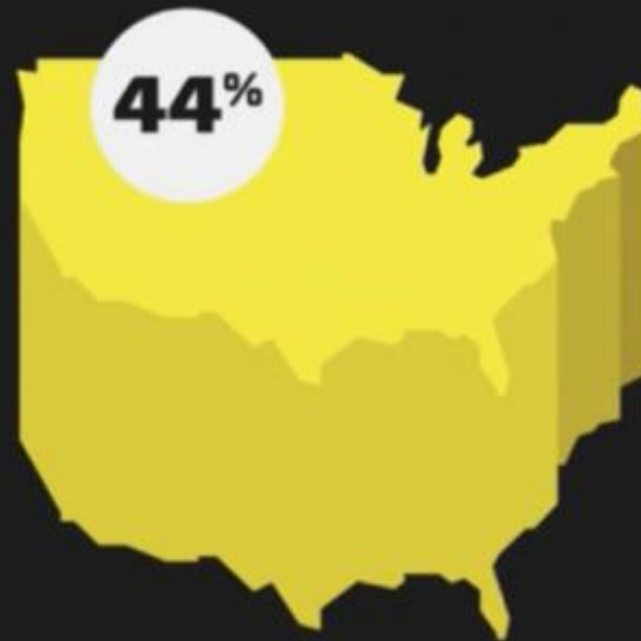
God places the highest importance  
on bringing children to Jesus

## How Post-Christian Is America?

From 2013 to 2015, the percentage of Americans who qualify as "post-Christian" rose by 7 percentage points



2013



2015

# Church



Decline in Church attendance – Gallup Research



# Scripture Engagement

## 2014 State of the Bible



Millenials (18-29)

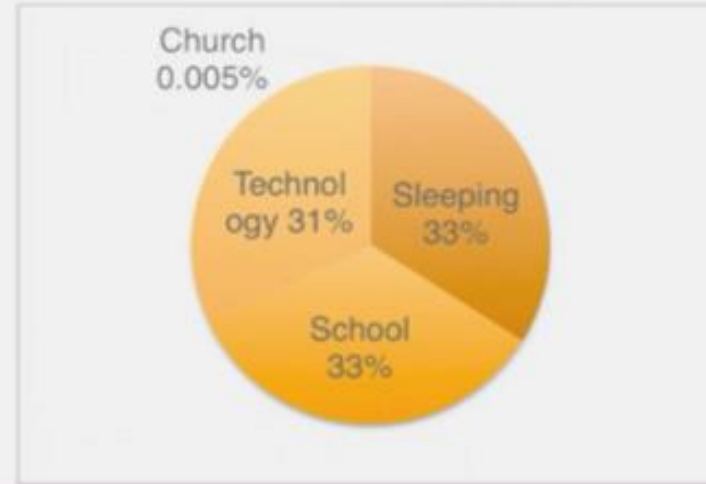
**68%** Read the Bible 4x's per year or less of which **40% Never Read it.** Only **1 in 3** could choose the first 5 books from a list. Most Millenials **60%** described themselves as only **Somewhat knowledgeable of the Bible or Less**

When the conclusion of the ABY and Reveal studies meet the Millenials, the conclusion must be growing Spiritual Stagnation.



# Technology Usage

% Of Hours Spent Per Year



## 2010 Kaiser Family Foundation



**7 hrs 38 mins** per day using entertainment media

More than **58** hours a week

Multiple Devices – average over **10** hours per day

Local ministry engagement **25–50** hours a **year**

Digital **2,737** hours a **year**



The worldview and beliefs of someone 14 years old will almost always be the worldviews and beliefs they will go to the grave believing.

Of all of those who put their faith in Jesus for salvation, 90% of them do so by 13 years old. 4% from 14-18 years old, and 6% from 19-death

## 2. Train them by example

*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6*



## OUR PLAN:

To unite the 4 churches to bring children to Jesus for Awana and Youth group

### 3. Unite for them

19“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” Matthew 18:19-20

# WHAT DO I DO?

**Bring them**  
**Train them**  
**Unite for them**