

## Session 3: Children are Strategic

### Partner Discussion Questions

1. What do most people in your culture expect children to do?
2. What do most people in your culture think children are incapable of doing?

### Potential of Children

How does God view children? (Matthew 21:16)

Short candle:

Tall candle:

### Partners in Ministry

1. God created children in a special way.
  - Their hearts are soft towards the things of God.
  - Children have great faith that acts.
  - They lack fear and barriers—fear of rejection, lack of Bible knowledge, barriers of race or social status.
  - They love to be committed to causes greater than themselves.
2. God has empowered children to serve.
  - Children who follow Jesus have the same Holy Spirit as adults who follow Jesus.
  - The Holy Spirit gives children gifts and abilities and places them into the Body of Christ.
  - These gifts are not eggs waiting to hatch when children become adults.
  - These gifts are more like ripe fruit, ready for use now.
3. God has given children spheres of influence.
  - Children can minister in places where adults cannot.
  - I cannot go into a child's classroom or onto the football field with his team, but he can.
  - Often, a child is the best one to share Jesus with his teacher, classmates, and friends.
  - A child is the best one to recruit other children to join him in ministry.
4. God uses children in His big story. Here are three examples:
  - Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1, 8-10)
    - God chose to speak through a young boy who was following and serving God.
  - Naaman's servant girl (2 Kings 5:1-3)
    - God used her to bring hope to an unbelieving family.

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- Josiah (2 Kings 22:1-2)
  - God used Josiah to bring the people of Israel back to the straight path, the path of obedience to God's laws.

### Four Goals of Mobilization

*Mobilization:* to make ready for active service, to release for use

1. Raise up disciples who follow Jesus for a lifetime, disciples who have a strong faith and set an example for others (1 Timothy 4:12).
2. Multiply lifelong followers of Jesus (Luke 10:2).
3. Foster multi-generational impact (Psalm 145:4).
4. Reach the unreached (Revelation 7:9-10).

*"If tomorrow's world of unreached people were waiting for our kids, would our kids have a heart to reach them based on what we are giving them?"*