**How to Help Parents Win** – Kara Powell (notes from seminar presented during Orange Live 2020)

What does it mean to help parents win?

 To get parents to do what you want? To get parents to do what will help me win in ministry?

 OR

 To help parents get what they want (mature kids)? To help parents win at raising their own kids?

Why is it important to help parents win?

Is ministry like a “dry cleaner” where parents drop off their kids at the ministry, spiritually dirty, and come back in a few hours to pick them up, spiritually clean? Up to ministry leader?

Research says - Families are the primary influence when it comes to developing their kid’s faith.

What do you think about these quotes?

 *“When it comes to kids faith parents get what they are.”*

 *“We can’t out teach what you teach at home. We just aren’t that good.” (youth leader to parent)*

 *“We want parents to be more connected to the faith community, so they’re more intentional at home.”*

THREE Ways to help parents WIN: Build Warmth, Talk about God, Build a Team

**BUILD WARMTH**

 Churches are aging or shrinking and young people are leaving

 When it comes to working with young people – “warm is the new cool”

 Building Warmth is different at each PHASE of child development

 Ages 0-4 Embrace the child – physically / emotionally

 Grades 1-5 Engage their personality

 Grades 6-8 Affirm young person’s identity; cannot be too affirming

 Grades 9-12 Mobilize teen’s potential

 Ages 19-23 Guide - Parent is a Guide

 Ages 26-29 Resource - Parent is a Resource

(Ages 18-29 Growth “with” their young person)

BONUS Serve together

**TALK ABOUT GOD**

 Helping parents talk about God naturally and organically

 70% of Middle/High School students admit they have questions about God

 “It’s not doubt that is toxic to faith – its silence.”

 We want to help families and churches to be a greenhouse to explore questions with young people.

**TALK ABOUT GOD** (continued)

 We need to help parents know what to do WHEN (not if) kids ask a tough question about God.

 Four Words to REMEMEBER – “I don’t know, but …”

 “Here’s what I’ve found to be true about God…”

 Give parents discussion questions, to talk about in advance or after, what you present.

Help parents share their testimony / spiritual journey (do kids know how you became a Christian?)

**BUILD A TEAM**

 We can help parents develop a team.

 13 Factors that influence how faith forms (study Scripture / serving …).

 Most influential factor – *intergenerational faith experiences*!

 But we keep segregating young people from the church.

5:1 Ratio (usually say one adult for every five young people) – what if we reverse that and had five adults for every young person (5 adults that are “on your team”).