

# **Raise the Bar: A Call to Kids Ministers**

# Introduction

Every generation of children deserves a generation of ministers who refuse to settle for average. Kids Ministry is not babysitting, entertainment, or weekend programming — it is frontline Kingdom work. It is intercession. It is discipleship. It is spiritual warfare. It is compassion in motion. And it is one of the greatest callings God places on a person's life.

To “raise the bar” is not about adding pressure; it is about awakening purpose. It is about remembering that Jesus Himself set the standard for ministry — a standard marked by compassion, sacrifice, and a willingness to carry the burdens of others. When we raise the bar, we are not lifting ourselves; we are lifting our ministry to match His heart.

This booklet is designed to help Kids Ministers step into that higher calling with clarity and conviction. Each section of the BAR acronym — **Burden, Attitude**, and

**Responsibility** — highlights a foundational posture of a minister who wants to serve like Jesus.

This first chapter focuses on the word **Burden**. Not the kind that crushes, but the kind that awakens. The kind Jesus carried. The kind that moves us toward children with compassion, courage, and spiritual sensitivity.

May this resource stir something deep within you. May it call you higher. May it remind you that God is still looking for burden-bearers — and that He has chosen you to be one of them.

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### **Chapter 1 — Burden: Carrying the Heart of Jesus**

A burden is not a weight meant to break you; it is a weight meant to shape you. In Kids Ministry, the burden is the holy responsibility to see children the way Jesus sees them, to feel what He feels, and to respond the way He responds.

When we hear the word *burden*, it can feel uncomfortable. It sounds heavy — and it is. But it is also sacred. Jesus Himself lived under a holy burden every day of His ministry. He carried the cross. He carried compassion.

He carried intercession. He carried the weight of people's pain, sickness, and sin. And He carried it willingly.

### **1. Jesus Never Lost His Burden**

Throughout Scripture, Jesus is consistently moved with compassion. He weeps over Jerusalem. He prays in Gethsemane. He steps toward the man with leprosy while others step away. When the man says, "If You are willing, you can make me whole," Jesus responds with one of the most powerful statements in the Gospels:

**"I am willing."**

This is the posture of a burden-bearer.

This is the posture of a Kids Minister who raises the bar.

To carry a burden is to say:

**"I am willing."**

Willing to pray.

Willing to show up.

Willing to love.

Willing to be moved.

### **2. Burden Is Both Spiritual and Physical**

Many ministers think of burden only as a spiritual feeling — a heaviness in prayer or a stirring in the heart. But burden is also physical. It looks like:

- **Setting up rooms**
- **Preparing lessons**
- **Purchasing supplies**
- **Hugging children who need comfort**
- **Showing up early and staying late**
- **Carrying unseen responsibilities**

These physical acts *are* ministry. They are expressions of the burden you carry for the next generation.

### **3. Don't Lessen the Burden — Increase It**

In a world that constantly encourages us to do less, Jesus calls us to carry more — not in exhaustion, but in devotion. When you increase your burden, you increase your sensitivity to God. You begin to feel what He feels. You begin to see what He sees.

Practical ways to increase your burden:

- **Commit to consistent prayer** — including Sunday mornings at 9:00
- **Develop a daily rhythm of Scripture**
- **Give more of your time, attention, and compassion**
- **Stay spiritually alert to the needs of children**

The more you carry, the more God entrusts to you.

#### **4. Burden Unlocks Revelation**

The sons of Issachar understood the times because they lived under a burden. When you carry a burden for children, God gives you insight into:

- **What they are facing**
- **What they are feeling**
- **What they need spiritually**
- **How to speak into their lives**

A burdened minister becomes a discerning minister.

#### **5. A Real Moment: Brandon's Story**

During VBS, a powerful moment unfolded when Sister Brittany ministered under a deep burden of repentance. As she apologized to her children publicly, the atmosphere shifted. God began touching hearts — including little Brandon.

When Brandon approached me and I initially told him to sit down, the Lord nudged me to bring him back and apologize to him. That simple act of humility broke something open in him. He wept. He prayed. And in the weeks that followed, he became tender and sensitive to the presence of God.

This is what burden does.

It opens hearts.

It heals wounds.

It releases children.

It creates moments that shape destinies.

## **6. Stay Under the Burden**

The temptation after a powerful season — like VBS — is to relax. But the call of Jesus is to stay under the burden. To remain sensitive. To keep praying. To keep

showing up. To keep carrying the heart of God for children.

A Kids Minister who raises the bar is a Kids Minister who refuses to put the burden down.

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## **Chapter 2 — Attitude: Guarding the Gate of Your Spirit**

Attitude is not a small thing in Kids Ministry — it is everything. It shapes how we pray, how we serve, how we respond to challenges, and how we minister to children. A burden can be strong, but a wrong attitude can suffocate it. A calling can be clear, but a poisoned attitude can cloud it. A team can be unified, but a single attitude shift can fracture it.

If the enemy cannot stop your burden, he will try to **bend your attitude.**

### **1. The Enemy Speaks — and He Speaks to Your Attitude**

From the very beginning, Scripture shows us that the enemy uses **voice** as his primary weapon. Eve wasn't attacked with a sword — she was attacked with a sentence. A whisper. A suggestion. A question.

The same strategy continues today.

As you pursue God, increase your burden, and step deeper into spiritual things, another voice will try to slip in. It may come through:

- **discouraging thoughts**
- **negative people**
- **unexpected circumstances**
- **comparison or insecurity**
- **weariness or frustration**

The goal is always the same:

To **lessen your burden** by **shifting your attitude**.

The enemy knows he cannot steal your calling, so he tries to sour your spirit.

## **2. The Voice That Lowers the Bar**

The enemy's voice often sounds like:

- “You don't have to do that.”
- “Someone else can handle it.”
- “Why are you trying so hard?”

- “That’s too much.”
- “You’re doing more than everyone else.”

These are not harmless thoughts — they are **assignments**.

Assignments designed to:

- discourage your burden
- weaken your prayer life
- create distance between you and your team
- make ministry feel heavy instead of holy
- turn servanthood into resentment

A Kids Minister cannot afford to entertain these voices. They are not from God. God never tells you to pray less, care less, give less, or serve less.

### **3. When Attitude Slips, Everything Slips**

I want to share a vulnerable truth: even in revival, my attitude once became negative. I wasn’t praying like I should. I wasn’t giving like I should. I wasn’t serving like

I should. I was “mixing with the mixers,” sinking in spiritual quicksand.

This is a warning for every Kids Minister.

You can be in a church that is on fire — and still lose your flame if your attitude shifts.

A bad attitude:

- steals time
- steals impact
- steals spiritual sensitivity
- steals joy
- steals unity

And it always begins with listening to the wrong voice.

#### **4. Attitude Affects How You See Everything**

When your attitude is under attack, you begin to feel differently about:

- **your pastor**
- **your team**

- **the children**
- **showing up early**
- **staying late**
- **setting up**
- **serving faithfully**

Suddenly, what used to be a joy becomes a job.

What used to be worship becomes work.

What used to be a calling becomes a complaint.

This is not a personality issue — it is a spiritual one.

### **5. Humility: The Cure for a Contaminated Attitude**

The antidote to attitude attacks is not hype — it is **humility**.

Humility shuts the door on pride.

Humility silences the enemy's voice.

Humility keeps your spirit soft and your burden strong.

Philippians 2 tells us that Jesus came:

- **in the form of a servant**

- **with the mind of humility**
- **with obedience even unto death**

He did not come to be served — He came serving.  
A Kids Minister who raises the bar must adopt the same posture.

When you choose humility:

- pride loses its grip
- comparison loses its power
- negativity loses its influence
- the enemy loses his access

Humility keeps your attitude aligned with the heart of Jesus.

## **6. The Mind of Christ Protects the Attitude of a Minister**

Scripture says, *“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”*

This is not a suggestion — it is a safeguard.

When you carry the mind of Christ:

- you recognize the enemy's voice quickly
- you refuse to let negativity take root
- you stay focused on serving, not being seen
- you remain sensitive to the Spirit
- you protect your burden
- you protect your unity
- you protect your ministry

A servant's attitude is a shield.

A humble attitude is armor.

A Christlike attitude is a fortress.

### **7. Raising the Bar Means Raising Your Attitude**

Kids Ministry is spiritual work.

Spiritual work requires spiritual posture.

Spiritual posture begins with spiritual attitude.

To raise the bar in Kids Ministry, you must:

- guard your attitude
- filter the voices you listen to
- stay humble
- stay prayerful

- stay servant-minded
- stay aligned with the mind of Christ

Your attitude determines the altitude of your ministry.

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### **Chapter 3 — Responsibility: Stewarding What God Has Placed in Your Hands**

Responsibility is not simply a task list — it is a sacred trust. When God places children, families, and ministry moments in your hands, He is entrusting you with something eternal. Raising the bar in Kids Ministry means embracing responsibility not as pressure, but as privilege.

Responsibility is the outward expression of the **burden** you carry and the **attitude** you protect. It is the practical, daily, consistent stewardship of the calling God has placed on your life.

#### **1. Responsibility Begins With Hearing the Right Voice**

Every Kids Minister stands between two voices:

- **the voice of God**, calling you deeper, higher, and closer
- **the voice of the enemy**, calling you to do less, care less, and expect less

Responsibility means choosing which voice you will obey.

When the enemy whispers:

- **“You don’t have to do that.”**
- **“Someone else can handle it.”**
- **“You’re doing too much.”**

He is not attacking your schedule — he is attacking your stewardship.

Responsibility requires discernment. You must recognize when a voice is trying to pull you away from what God has assigned to you.

**2. Responsibility Requires Consistency, Not Convenience**

Ministry is not built on convenience. It is built on consistency.

Responsibility looks like:

- **showing up early**
- **staying late**
- **preparing lessons with excellence**
- **praying even when you don't feel like it**
- **serving even when no one sees it**

These are not small things — they are spiritual acts of obedience.

When you take responsibility seriously, you become someone God can trust with more.

### **3. Responsibility Protects the Ministry From Drift**

When attitudes slip, responsibility keeps you anchored.

When distractions come, responsibility keeps you focused.

When the enemy tries to discourage you, responsibility keeps you moving.

Responsibility is the guardrail that keeps your burden from fading and your attitude from drifting.

A responsible Kids Minister says:

- **“I will not let my emotions dictate my obedience.”**
- **“I will not let discouragement stop my consistency.”**
- **“I will not let the enemy talk me out of what God called me to do.”**

Responsibility is spiritual maturity in action.

#### **4. Responsibility Requires Humility and Servanthood**

Responsibility is not about being important — it is about being available.

Jesus modeled this perfectly. Philippians 2 tells us He came:

- **in the form of a servant**
- **with humility**
- **with obedience unto death**

A Kids Minister who raises the bar must embrace the same posture.

Humility keeps you teachable.

Servanthood keeps you grounded.

Obedience keeps you aligned.

Responsibility is not glamorous, but it is glorious in the eyes of God.

### **5. Responsibility Shapes the Next Generation**

Children do not remember your title — they remember your consistency.

They do not remember your position — they remember your presence.

They do not remember your tasks — they remember your heart.

Your responsibility creates:

- **safety**

- **structure**
- **spiritual stability**
- **moments where God can move**

When you take responsibility seriously, you create an environment where children can encounter Jesus freely and deeply.

### **6. Raising the Bar Means Owning Your Calling**

Responsibility is not something you wait to feel — it is something you choose to carry.

A Kids Minister who raises the bar says:

- **“This is my calling.”**
- **“This is my assignment.”**
- **“This is my responsibility before God.”**

And because of that, they serve with excellence, humility, and unwavering commitment.

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### **Conclusion — Raising the Bar for a Generation**

Raising the bar in Kids Ministry is not about perfection — it is about posture. It is about becoming minis-

ters who carry the **burden** of Jesus, protect the **attitude** of Christ, and embrace the **responsibility** of the Kingdom.

When you carry a burden, you feel what Jesus feels.

When you guard your attitude, you think like Jesus thinks.

When you embrace responsibility, you serve like Jesus serves.

This is the bar.

This is the call.

This is the invitation.

The next generation needs ministers who pray with passion, serve with humility, and lead with spiritual sensitivity. They need ministers who refuse to settle for average. They need ministers who raise the bar.

And God has chosen **you** for this moment.

May you carry the burden with joy.

May you guard your attitude with vigilance.

May you embrace responsibility with courage.

May you serve with the heart of Jesus.

And may the children you minister to rise higher because **you** chose to raise the bar.



