

SEEDS OF FAITH

10 Investment Principles for a Children's Ministry

Harvest

By Moises Alvarez

Foreword by David & Kim Ramsey



Dedication



To every children's minister who has ever planted a seed in faith. Your labor is not in vain.



Foreword



A farmer must have faith to plant that first seed into the ground; otherwise, why plant it? He invests his time, effort, and money to buy the seed and prepare the soil before he ever sees the first sprout break through the ground. Even after it sprouts, he must water, pull weeds, and nurture the plant before it is ready to be harvested. Weather, bad seed, insects, and poor soil may threaten the crop, but the farmer is not deterred because he has faith for a good crop and a successful year.

As children's ministers, we too are farmers. We plant seeds into the hearts of children and their families. We invest our time, our effort, and often our own resources to see that first tear of repentance or that peaceful smile as a child experiences the presence of God. And that is

just the beginning. We want to see them grow, so we water that seed with our tears, pull weeds through prayer and teaching, and nurture them with love.

The devil does not like that. He tries to discourage us with misunderstanding, negative comments, difficult home environments, and lack of laborers. But we are not deterred because we have faith that God gives the increase. “He that goeth forth, weeping, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.” (Psalm 126:5–6)

Bro. Moises Alvarez shares his heart through this booklet on *Seeds of Faith*. He is a product of a children’s minister’s faith. Seeds were planted in his heart as a child when he was invited to ride a bus to Sunday school. That seed fell on good ground. He won his family to the Lord and is now active in ministering and planting seeds of hope into the lives of children and families. And the seed he is planting continues to fall on good ground as God gives the increase.

As you read this booklet, be blessed, be inspired, and let your faith grow.

David and Kim Ramsey

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About the Author

Moises Alvarez is a proud product of the ministries of Life Challenge UPC: bus ministry, Sunday school, youth, and Bible Quizzing. Now dedicated as a Sunday school teacher, bus ministry volunteer, street ministry lead volunteer, and Bible study mentor for kids, Moises is passionate about seeing children transformed by the power of God from the inside out—through receiving the Holy Ghost, being baptized in Jesus' name, and living for God.

His ministry focuses on reaching, teaching, and discipling children in neighborhoods, homes, and the church on a weekly basis. He is married to Sylvia, who was also won to God through a bus route as a youth. They met while serving in Sunday school together and continue to minister side by side. Sylvia is a tremendous help and partner in ministry.

About Inside Out Street Ministry

Positive, Bible-based, and life-changing—the Gospel of Jesus Christ in and out of Odessa, Texas since 2007.

A Sunday school that is mobile. Reaching kids that are immobile. Taking fun and faith into neighborhoods, parks, apartment complexes, and trailer parks.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Every year from spring through fall, we take the excitement and experience of Sunday school to the sidewalks of our city. We use a mobile trailer that folds out into a stage to present puppet shows, prizes, games, music, candy, and snacks to children.

**TO SEE THE CHILDREN TRANSFORMED
BY THE POWER OF GOD FROM THE INSIDE
OUT!**

We distribute flyers to neighborhoods—many of which are at-risk areas—and invite children and their families to attend this open-air program. We have visited hundreds of children in our community, many of whom now attend Sunday school and have a faith in God.

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Introduction – Importance of Children’s Ministry

Matthew 13:31–32

Jesus has your children's ministry in your church and city for big reasons. He has sown your ministry into the

lives of children because the results will be great. It is not “if”—it is a matter of “when.” You may not feel significant. You may be hidden in the back of the church week after week. People may not see what you do. You may feel overlooked—but it’s okay.

Just know that your ministry to children will grow. It will grow beyond your plans and others’ opinions. You may have had humble beginnings. You may have started off slow. Believe it or not, your ministry will grow and take on its role of “greatest.” Not just in attendance—but in conversions, discipleship, and influence.

Jesus planted you to grow. You will grow. Your ministry will be great in the church and in the city. Believe it—in Jesus’ name!

You Got to Have Faith

Hebrews 11:1

What do you hope for? What are you yet to see happen in ministry that you would like to see? It can happen! In Mark 9:23 Jesus said, “If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.” You have to believe it can happen and that it will happen.

Mark 9:24 continues, “Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.” You can say, “Lord, I can see You filling many children with the Holy Ghost. If there is some personal doubt that slows me down, take it out of me. I want to go all the way to see it happen.”

Jesus questioned His disciples in Mark 4:40: “How is it that ye have no faith?” We must have faith in children's ministry. Jesus operates through faith. Allow Him to operate through your faith. Believe Him for anything.

Faith When?

Hebrews 11:1 says, “Now faith...” Not tomorrow. Not next year. Now. Faith is for now.

Jesus cannot wait to bless your ministry today. In John 4:35 He says, “Lift up your eyes... the fields are white already to harvest.” Opportunities are out there. Don't limit yourself to Sunday. Use Monday through Saturday too. Be a children's minister—not just a Sunday school worker.

You Got to Have Faith Part 2

James 2:17–18

Faith without works is dead. You must do something with your faith. If you leave faith alone, you cause the death of your own faith. Works give life to faith.

If God tells you to go bless children somewhere and you go, you will see God work. Then you will continue to go. Faith and works together produce results.

Faith Walk

2 Corinthians 5:7 says, “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” Sight will tell you what cannot happen. Faith will show you what God can do. Walk with Faith.

Thank God for Seeds

Genesis 8:22

We need seeds before we get a harvest. The promise in each seed is a harvest. As you receive seeds of faith from the Lord and plant them into children, you are promised a children’s ministry harvest.

Hearing + Receiving = Harvest.

Prepare your heart to receive seeds of faith. Believe and act upon what you receive. Do not allow your heart to become a place where seeds can be stolen, take no root, or be choked out.

The Sower

Matthew 13:3

Get ready—the Sower is coming by. Jesus has seeds that will bring revival to your ministry workers and growth to your ministry. Books and curriculum are no match for what Jesus wants to give you.

Spend more time in prayer and the Word. The Spirit and the Word agree. Jesus has seeds specifically for your ministry, your class, your city, and your children.

Guard Your Heart

Mark 4:4, 15

Once the seeds begin to come, guard your heart. The devil will try to kill, steal, and destroy what God has created in your heart for ministry. His goal is to take away the seeds of faith.

Resist the devil. Do not give him place. Protect the promises God has given you. Do not let the enemy steal your seeds.

The Root Problem

Mark 4:5–6, 16–17

The seeds are never the problem. We are the problem. Our experience with the seeds must be deep. Clear out the junk that prevents seeds from taking root.

Shallow commitments produce shallow results. Let the seeds take root. Develop a deep commitment to what God has given you.

Spiritual Seeds

Mark 4:7, 18–19

The seeds God wants to give us are spiritual. Carnal and worldly ways will choke out spiritual seeds. Being carnally minded will never produce spiritual fruit.

Throw out what quenches the Spirit. Replace a lust for things with a love for souls. Keep your ministry pure and spiritual.

Time to Reap

Mark 4:8, 20

The parable of the sower ends with hope: “And other fell...” Jesus never stops sowing. When your ground is good, the seeds will produce—thirtyfold, sixtyfold, and a hundredfold.

Prepare for increase. Dream big. Focus on souls, not programs. God wants your ministry to prosper.

Thank God It's Fresh

Isaiah 55:8–11

God sends spiritual rain—His Word, His presence, His inspiration—to refresh your ministry. After the rain, look for what is budding. Notice what God is causing to grow.

Don't fear new seeds. Allow God to reshape your thinking and methods.

Seeds That Transform

Mark 4:26–29

God wants you to sow the good seed of His kingdom in the souls of children. You have His seeds—now sow them. Be present in every stage of growth. The seeds will transform.

Your investment will produce a harvest.

Seeds of Faith Principles

1. Although small (like a mustard seed), your

children's ministry is destined to grow in conversions, disciples, and influence. (Matthew 13:31–32)

2. Use and operate in faith NOW. Believe God for anything and ask Him to take away any personal doubts. (Mark 9:23–24)
3. Be sensitive and receptive to the seeds God wants to give you. (Genesis 8:22)
4. Return to prayer and Bible reading. Jesus the Sower will give the seeds you need. (Luke 2:11)
5. Guard your heart. Do not question the seeds. Receive them. Do not allow them to be stolen. (Ephesians 4:27)
6. Allow the seeds to take root. Develop deep commitment. Hold on to God's promises. (Psalm 42:7)
7. Clear out carnal and worldly ways. Do a pure work for God. (Romans 8:5–8)
8. God will bless you according to how much ground you prepare. The fruit is meant to

outlast you. (John 15:16)

9. Get under every spiritual rain. Notice what God wants to accomplish next.

