

11 Indispensable Relationships You Can't Be Without

Chapter 9 Who's Your Rhoda? You Need A 'Little One.'

“Children are just people in the process of getting older. Vulnerable people learning to be human and wise children know that being men and women is much more interesting and complicated than the state in which they are temporarily stuck.”
- A.S. Byatt

Many times we only look to children for hugs and smiles or we don't take them seriously. Sometimes we run to them and often times we run away from them, but I believe we would all agree that we can't live without them.

The Bible showcases many young people who contributed to the story of redemptive history in the Bible. Tonight we remember children and youth like:

Isaac and Ishmael	Jarius' daughter
Joseph	Josiah
Moses	Timothy
Samuel	Little Children Brought to Jesus
David	Rhoda
The Widow's Son	Baby Jesus

**When was the last time that we stopped to learn from the free spirits of children?
Let's stop to do just that?**

“When it came time for Jesus to ‘get real’ and showcase his ‘ideal’ model of faith, he didn't tap on the shoulder of a scholar or parade an athlete before the on lookers. He chose a _____ . . . as faith's gold standard. That's why you need a _____.

Let's take a look at how important children are in the Bible? So important that we receive instructions for them and to them:

Psalm 127:3-5 *Behold, children are a _____ from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.*

Isaiah 54:13 *All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your _____.*

Colossians 3:21 *Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become _____.*

Deuteronomy 4:9 *“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your _____ all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children—*

Proverbs 23:13-14 *Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die. If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from _____.*

Proverbs 22:6 *Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not _____ from it.*

The book of Acts gives us a glimpse of the life of a young servant leader named Rhoda. Who is Rhoda in the Bible? What does the name Rhoda mean?

What do we learn from Rhoda? How can adults learn from the example of this child?

She was a child who teaches each of us how to _____
_____.

Do you remember when you were a Rhoda? What did you like the most about childhood?
If there were one thing you could continue to do that you did as a child what would it be?
If there were one thing you would hope that all could learn from children what would it be?

Who is the Rhoda's in your life?

How do modern day Rhoda's enhance our lives?

Rhoda's in our lives keep us _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.

Consider the value of these 5 characteristics found in modern day Rhodas:

1. Snug

2. Scared

3. Small

4. Light

5. Alive

Bridge Questions-

1. What are you doing to live Jesus' philosophy of 'When you receive a child, you receive me?' Where are you receiving a child in your life?
2. Discuss some ways that each of us may be more intentional about teaching, reaching and spending time with children. Here are a couple of ways: Volunteer once or twice a month in the nursery, children's church or youth church. Perhaps teach a Sunday school class for children or youth. Consider mentoring young people in your church and community. What are your suggestions?
3. What were some of the 'make believe' games you played as a child? Can you identify some of the life skills you were learning while you were 'making believe'?
4. Rhoda never saw Peter but just heard his voice and believed. The others inside the room praying had to see Peter in order to believe. In what ways have we been like Rhoda (faith filled)? How have we been like the person's inside the room praying (doubtful)? Discuss how John 20:29 encourages us to believe at all costs.
5. Children help us to see the mustard seed meaning in life. When was the last time that you have been encouraged by a child? What did that entail?

*"Are you willing to do little? Is little beneath you? Are you too big to do small?"
Your small deed can make a big difference.*