



Greater Sydney SDA Conference

Think Orange

Imagine the impact when church and family collide...

Think Orange

Reggie Joiner

David C. Cook Colorado Springs, 2009.

- There are two powerful influences on the planet – the church and the home.
- They both exist because God initiated them.
- If they work together they can potentially make a greater impact than if they work alone.
- Too much is at stake for either one to fail.
- In society the church is losing its influence while the home is losing its heart.
- What if the solution is neither yellow or red? What if the answer is both, blended in a radical new way?

Consequences of red or yellow thinking:

- The church forfeits its potential to have a greater influence on kids' and students' lives.
- Churches miss critical opportunities to meet the needs of unchurched parents in their communities.
- Communities continue to perceive the church as institutional, insulated and irrelevant.
- The church is characterised by superficial relationships.
- Productions or programs are positioned as the answer.
- Parents and leaders fail to teach the same truths in a synchronized effort.

- Parents avoid or abdicate to the church the responsibility to be spiritual leaders.

The Church

- The church exists to show the world who Jesus is
- Our mission is not to preserve the local church as it presently exists in its various forms or models; our mission is to be the church.
- One hundred years from now the only thing that will matter is someone's relationship with God.

The Family

- What matters more than anything is that my kids have an authentic relationship with God.
- My children need to know I will never stop pursuing them or fighting for a right relationship with them.
- My personal relationship with God and with my wife affects them more than I realize.
- Just being together can never substitute for interacting together in a healthy way.
- A mother and father are not the only adult influences my children need.
- There is a degree of dysfunction in every family

Based on Deuteronomy 6:7 there are four key times all families can leverage to build the faith of their children.

- Meal Time – When you sit at home – Focussed discussion as a teacher to establish valued
- Drive Time – When you walk along the road – Informal dialogue as a friend to help interpret life
- Bed Time – When you lie down – Intimate conversation as a counselor to listen to the heart.
- Morning Time – When you get up – Encouraging words as a coach.

1 – Kids need parents who will help them advance in their relationship with God.

- No one has more potential to influence a child's relationship with God than parents.
- 3000/40 principle – 40 in a church environment, 3000 at home. We need to leverage the 3 000

2 – Parents need churches that will help them know how to be spiritual leaders.

- Only one out of five Christian parents have ever been contacted by their churches to discuss their responsibility to influence their children spiritually.

3 – Churches need leaders to do less for kids and more for families

- Maybe the most strategic and effective thing you could do for your families is to stop doing something.

Things Every Kid Needs:

- A really Big God they can trust no matter what
- Someone else who believes what they believe
- Another voice saying the same thing parents say
- Uncommon sense to help them make wise choices
- Nosy parents who know where their kids are spiritually

Your ability to synchronize the church and the family is intricately connected to how you...

- Meet and work together as leaders
- Craft and present truth
- Enlist parents to actively participate
- Recruit leaders to mentor or coach
- Mobilize kids and teenagers to serve

Orange Essentials

1. Integrate Strategy

- Align leaders and parents to lead with the same end in mind
- Your need to make sure that everyone who leads with you is leading in the same direction
- A strategy is a plan of action with an end in mind

Without an integrated strategy:

- Parents struggle over how to partner with the church
- Programming tends to be isolated in impact
- There is no consistent forum to evaluate and improve what you are doing

- Volunteers become disillusioned with the lack of direction
- Leaders and staff drift toward silo thinking
- Overprogramming and competing systems dilute your influence
- We can't really expect parents to get on the same page with the church until we get on the same page as leaders.
- It's the effectiveness of your strategy, not the scope of your mission, that ultimately determines your success.
- The notion that any church is somehow exempt from integrating a strategy is tragic.
- When you integrate strategy it magnifies everyone's focus
- One of the most critical discussions you can have as a team is to decide where you really want to lead people.
- The problem isn't that churches are not doing programming for families; the problem is their lack of strategic programming for families.
- When you integrate strategy it expands everyone's capacity
- Design a system that removes competition between ministries

2. Refine The Message

- Say Less – Simply what you need to communicate the biggest concepts
- Leverage every possible environment to reinforce each concept
- Make it fit – show them what it means for everyday life
- Recycle – once you have created the right statements repeat them until they stick
- Experience – Make it Theirs. Create an experience that facilitates learning
- Personalize – Make it real, what do you model to them from your own life
- Truth is learned best in the circle of loving relationships

Incite wonder

**Provoke Discovery
Fuel Passion**

Preschool	Children	Students
Wonder	Discovery	Passion
God made me	I need to make wise choices	I am created to pursue an authentic relationship with my creator
God loves me	I can trust God no matter what	I belong to Jesus Christ and define who I am by what He says
Jesus wants to be my friend forever	I should treat others the way I want to be treated	I exist everyday to demonstrate God's love to a broken world

3. Reactive The Family

- Act like every parent is your partner
- Act like every parent can be a better parent
- The goal is not to engage parents to do everything, but to engage them to do something more.
- Even the best parents need consistent voices in their lives that encourage them to stay in sync with a strategy and to create a strong rhythm in their homes.

4. Elevate Community

- Connect everyone to a caring leader and a consistent group of peers
- Everyone needs to be believed in by someone, and everyone needs to belong somewhere. True community provides both.

Community matters:

- Parents feel supported in trying to have moral influence with their children
- The church grows in meaningful relationships
- Students will pursue counsel from Christian mentors
- Programmes become a step in a process rather than the whole answer
- Leaders discover the potential to make a lasting investment in someone's life.

Catalysts for Spiritual Growth

- Life-changing Truth
 - Spiritual Disciplines
 - Personal Ministry
 - Significant Relationships
 - Pivotal Circumstances
-
- When you elevate community you help kids or students navigate critical life situations
-
- If you want a teenager to trust you, you have to earn relational change in your pockets over time.
-
- When you elevate community, you do something that nothing in culture can match.

Faith Skills

- Navigate the Bible – survey and locate
- Personalize Scripture – memorize and apply it to everyday situations
- Dialogue with God – public and private
- Articulate Faith – share, defend
- Worship with your life – serve, invest

5. Leverage Influence

- Create consistent opportunities for students to experience personal ministry
- We're all designed to live inside a story...to play a role in a story
- Make people feel significant by giving them something significant to do.
- The heart will gravitate to whatever offers adventure and significance
- What makes us think that students will do ministry when they leave us if they never do ministry while they are with us?
- If what they have heard doesn't move from their heads to their hands, it will probably never make it to their hearts.
- One of the best ways to stimulate faith is to give someone an opportunity to have a personal ministry.

- You don't begin to serve when you feel compassion; you feel compassion as you begin to serve.
- As leaders and parents, our primary calling is not to keep our children in the church, but to lead them to be the church.

Steps to Orange-ify

- Discover
- Define an action plan
- Communicate
- Reorganize
- Develop
- Promote
- Launch

Develop an integrated model of family ministry.

www.OrangeLeaders.com