



Spiritual Lessons From Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes: Why I Love Training Our Young People

Introduction: We are tired. We are excited. We are proud. We just returned from the Lads to Leaders/ Leaderettes convention in Orlando, Florida. I want us to share a few positive things, some spiritual lessons, we learned from Lads to Leaders this year.

Discussion:

I. Genuine Christian Unity

Ephesians 4:3 says, *“Make every effort to keep unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”* This is emphasized throughout the book of James. While we were at the convention we were surrounded by hundreds of participants. And, even more adults and coaches. We sat in rooms and halls with these people. We shared the pool, elevators, and waiting areas with them. We judged events with them. We cheered together. We sang together. We applauded the great talents of these young people. Collectively we supported this great work. We contributed over \$10,000 together. However, we were constantly reminded that we are brethren. Our children may have competed against each other, but we also encouraged each other and pushed each other to do our very best.

II. Genuine Christian Growth

Remember what Peter said in **II Peter 1:5-9**. We need to add to our faith! There are dozens of events that help us all to grow. Remember that there are year-round events. Each of these events reminds us that all of us have talents. Each of us needs to use opportunities provided to us to grow spiritually in Christ. These young people are better off for having been trained for service.

III. Genuine Christian Love

As the young people studied James and I & II Peter, they learned about the royal law (**James 2:8**). The royal law is to love your neighbor. This was evident during convention. Our kids supported one another and went to several events. Some of us went to support kids from other congregations. Some of them we didn't even know. We praised them and applauded them. It was a great reminder that we need to have brotherly love for all those within the fellowship, not just those in our own congregation.

IV. Genuine Christian Leadership

The overall goal of L2L is about leadership. This year we focused on the theme “We’ll Work Till Jesus Comes.” In I Peter 5, Peter addresses the need for leadership. We need young men and young women prepared to lead the next generation. These young people were challenged to do their very best and to stand out. This ministry is also intended to motivate us adults to remember the need to lead and mentor these young people.

Conclusion: In the coming weeks we will have to start planning for 2013. The theme is centered around the book of Proverbs. So, we will have thirty-one chapters to study and 50 weeks to prepare. Convention will be the last weekend in March. We have established a committee and we will be working on new events, improving current events, and putting our heads together on how to get more support from the church family. We need more coaches/judges and we need more commitment from our parents and kids. We have really only touched the tip of the iceberg in respect to the events (year round events). My prayer is that we have all grown and been blessed because of L2L this year. These four things are all things we need to emulate at home and in the church! Will you work until Jesus comes?