

From the Desk of Beth Ann Murray



Trusting God in the 80/20 Gap

Rebel against the Gap of not having everything you need, allow it to wear you down and stay in safe stagnant places, or approach the 80/20 Gap with a combination of humility and confidence. The later approach is our mantra here at SonRise's Children's Ministries. It is possible to genuinely seek excellence rather than comfort if you embrace the Gap and celebrate the Gap.

What's the 80/20 Gap? It's the distance between the resources we define to be required to support an area of ministry (100%) and the actual resources we work with (80%). The 80/20 Gap is a fact of life in our world today. So when funds fall short, God calls us to step out in bold ways.

The Gap is not a burden to bear by the Children's Leaders, it doesn't have easy fixes, like perfect curriculum, perfect websites or even perfect events. It doesn't magically disappear with spiritual maturity and especially it won't disappear with guilt trips.

The 80/20 Gap is somehow in God's plan for here and now.

God's promise's reassures us of sustenance as we persevere. My favorite Bible verse and one of my Life Scriptures is Proverbs 3:5-6 states: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." This Gap keeps us humble; it presses us into reliance upon God; it keeps us alert; it keeps us thinking outside the box; it wards off self-sufficiency; and ultimately it leads us to connect with and value children.

Celebrating the Gap is the easy part. We Pray, pray thanks, pray when we are dancing, pray when we just don't know, we pray when we are brought to tears, and always invite the prayers of others. When possible we pray as a team, and always for each other. The most important part of praising the Gap is Listening to God!

The easiest thing for the Children's Ministry team is to serve. The heart and soul of our ministry here at SonRise is to be faithful ministers to those called to serve alongside us. That includes, program leaders, Sun-

day school teachers, and volunteers.

From my experience of shepherding children, families and the people who I work with, I have learned to listen and act on their needs, and their ideas for improvement. Our Pastor Jerome provides us with the big-picture inspiration. We put out a survey last year to see what our families and volunteers think of our Children's Ministry Program and acted on their suggestions to improve our day-to-day and week-to-week children's programs.

Even though our church family sees me always on the run on Sunday mornings, I hope you notice, I do it all with Joy! Thank you God for those you've given to our ministry. God always provides that awesome person who steps up at the right time.

SonRise's Children Ministry will continue to celebrate the Gap. Because we as Children's Ministry leaders are serving God's purposes, and God has already planned them to be accomplished.

~Beth Ann

