

## Henry Williams – Ministry Model Paper

I'm sorry, but because some of the things I'm sharing are sensitive in nature I'll be using pseudonyms for everyone below.

Jonny is one of our Sunday school students. I prayed for him on March 11th, around 6 to 6:25pm. This was at a congregational retreat, during which we were having a separate service for the Sunday school students. Jonny has been with our program since he was a toddler and is now in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. He's been avoiding Sunday school recently. He even ducked out of our first service at the retreat, Friday night, so on Saturday I wanted to have a chance to pray for him. The interview step didn't go well. I got a little stonewalled. As I prayed for him, I had the words "belonging" and "identity" come up. However, in the moment I wasn't sure what to do with that. It seemed obvious to me that something was clouding Jonny's view of himself and of the church. He thanked me after we finished, but nothing miraculous happened. Since then, Jonny's mother invited all of the Sunday School teachers over for dinner in April. It was a very sweet act of appreciation and a lovely dinner. Jonny's parents are divorced, which I knew already, but we got a better view of how things function for Jonny at his mother's house. There was, in my opinion, a lot of negativities towards Jonny's father, and a lot of finger pointing. It came up naturally, and didn't last a long time, but from the fact that it came up at all at a dinner party, with people she doesn't know very intimately (a handful of our teachers are new this year) I imagine that this kind of conversation comes up a lot at home. As I'm writing this, I'm realizing that I may want to talk to her, although for now I'm letting the fear of Korean church politics stop me. As for Jonny, we saw an improvement in his attitude, up until two weeks ago. Two weeks ago he started getting to church really early, so I would see him before our service started,

get a chance to say hi. However, even though I know he was in the building the whole time, he's been coming late to Sunday school, hanging out by himself until we can send a teacher to go find him. This behavior concerns me, but I'm trusting in his classroom teacher to be there for him, as his classroom teacher is closer with him than me. I'll be monitoring the situation for now.

Billy is another student who attends our Sunday school. I prayed for him, also, on March 11<sup>th</sup>, around 6:30 to 6:50. Billy is one of those students who has always been a handful. He's incredibly smart and clever, but he's also insatiable. He always needs to get a word in and needs to be the star of the show. That Saturday we had an incident where Billy (who is a 5<sup>th</sup> grader) slapped a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader in the face. That's something we don't take lightly. It's unfortunate that this happened at a point where the parents were supposed to be looking after their own children, as this snowballed into drama between families. I think I botched this one, but that's why I'm including him as one of my people for this paper. I want to be able to learn from my mistakes. He also stonewalled me during the interview stage, much more than Jonny did. I didn't really have a tentative diagnosis, I'm still not sure that I do. I prayed for him anyway, and while I was praying for him, he kept playing with his hands, wringing his fingers together. I told him I was thankful to have the chance to pray with him one on one when we finished, unfortunately his mother came to pick him up early, and they left the retreat early. Since then I've realized that Billy was definitely not feeling the love of God at that moment, I'm sure there was a lot of dread in his heart. We haven't seen any major changes with Billy since then.

Michael is another adoptee at my church. I was introduced to him because I've completed a birth search before, and Michael is about to do one this summer. He shared a lot of things, how he's feeling about his trip to look for his birthmother, his girlfriend moving to another state, and his desire to stay in the city and at our church although he feels that he has to move. I got the

feeling he is already stretched and weary, and I really wanted to ask him to reconsider the birth search right now, but he's so excited for it that all I could tell him was to think very carefully before doing his search. Looking back on our talk and prayer, I think that God wanted me to tell him to be where he'll seek God the most.

Douglas is a student of mine. I am one of many extracurriculars that he has. During the interview Douglas told me that he wants God to help him stay healthy. Douglas is a student who gets hurt, a lot. Thankfully nothing ever very serious. I asked him why he thinks he gets hurt so often, and his response was "I dunno." I did get the sense that he likes the attention. When I prayed for him, it was the goal provided in the lecture video, I prayed for him to really feel the love of God, especially while he worships and reads his Bible. It's interesting looking back on this prayer session, because at the time, I thought to myself that his desire for attention might come from the fact that his parents are busy a lot, but they really dote on him and spend a lot of time with him. I think that the love of God may be the only love able to fill his appetite. He does use that energy well in other ways. He's always interested in improving himself, and he really does try his best, and he's growing in leaps and bounds.

Diego is one of our Sunday school teachers. He's been dealing with some depression issues and has been having some ups and downs lately. I know God's heart for him is for him to see himself the way that God does. That's also the heart that our Sunday school staff have for him too. He's a loyal, diligent, kind, caring individual. Can't speak well enough about him.