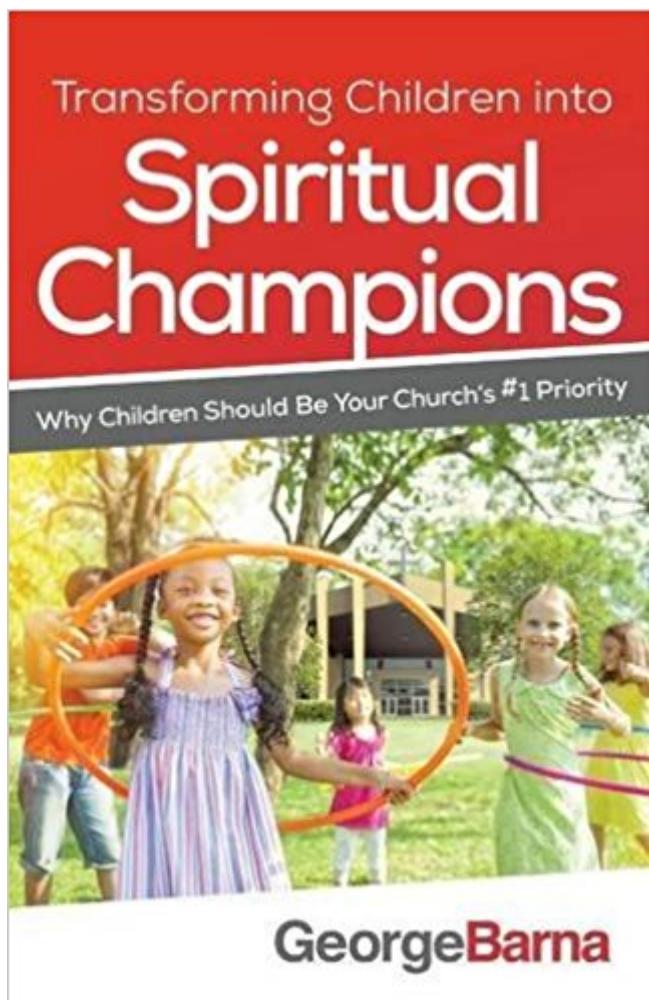


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# Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions: Why Children Should Be Your Church's #1 Priority



## **Synopsis**

No one can deny our culture is opposed to Christian values, and the influences bombarding our children's moral development are difficult to contend with. But few parents and church leaders realize that a child's moral development is set by the age of nine. It is therefore critical to start developing a child's biblical worldview from the very earliest years of life. The problem is complex: parents who themselves did not receive early spiritual training leave their children's training to the church. Yet the church often focuses on older children. The answer is for churches to come alongside parents to provide them biblical worldview training, parenting information, and counseling that will equip them to help their children become the spiritually mature church of tomorrow. This helpful and hopeful book unpacks just how to develop this kind of dynamic church/parent relationship and includes profiles of churches that are effectively ministering to children and winning the war for their hearts and minds.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Baker Books; Reprint edition (January 19, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 080101879X

ISBN-13: 978-0801018794

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.4 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ (67 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #121,294 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Ministry & Evangelism > Children's Ministry #77 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Church Growth #323 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Pastoral Resources

## **Customer Reviews**

I have never read anything by George Barna, though I have heard a great deal about him, as his statistics seem to be quoted by every Christian speaker under the sun. From that perspective, I expected great things from this book. Truthfully, I was disappointed. To be fair, he does present a solid case that God cares deeply about children, so the church should care about children, too. But that's not something that any reasonable church leader would dispute. His description of what effective churches are doing was compelling and caused me to consider those various strategies.

However, I wish that he had been more specific through that chapter, to identity what specific churches had done in detail. Instead, he chose to speak in very general platitudes. Again, with such generalities, it is hard to disagree, but it also tends to be much less instructive to the reader. My first primary criticism of the book is that, as mentioned in some other reviews, the statistical data seemed to be rather sparse. The book served largely as a forum for Barna to sermonize about ministering to children. Though he had some good things to say, his reputation suggests that he comes from a very objective place of analytical research. That did not seem to be the primary thrust of this book. Maybe I had unreasonable expectations, but this book is not a statistical analysis of the state of contemporary church ministries to children. A few stats are mentioned (and even repeated) throughout, but I wanted more. I also felt like his claim that children's ministries should be THE primary focus of church ministry was a stretch, and not well-supported. That churches should make ministry to children ONE OF THE primary focal points is something worth articulating.

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