**7 Kids that Ride Your Bus**

Throughout the course of serving in bus ministry, you will find that different kids can be labeled into different categories, if not verbally, at least mentally.

* Those you get really close to and others you don’t.
* Some who stay faithful for years, while others are a flash in the pan.
* A few who you can really see God working in their lives, and others who you simply wonder.

I want to talk to you about 7 kids that ride your bus. You’ll recognize some of these kids. They are each important, equally as important to God, and should be as well to us.

**1. Disappearing Dan**

* Dan is the kids who comes as a first time visitor and then seemingly vanishes into thin air.
* He may even come a few weeks faithfully in a row, but then for whatever reason never comes back.
* He seems to have had a good time and yet, no matter how hard you try, he is either never home again or just simply never again rides the bus.
* Dissappearing Dan is a kid that you have to let go of, realizing that God may have put him in your path for a brief time only with no future influence, and truly, only God knows why.

**2. Lots a Lyin’ Lucy**

* “My first Saturday in the bus ministry, I thought we were going to have 100 on the bus the next day… that’s before I knew kids lied to you on Saturday.” – Larry Hipps
* Always promises to come each week, but hasn’t stepped foot on the bus in the past year.
* Lucy is the kid that you hate to stop visiting because you always hope for the best each and every Saturday when you visit, but get disappointed each and every Sunday.
* Sometimes Lucy likes to tell you she’s going to come because she likes the candy you bring on Saturdays or simply because she likes the attention, although she may have no intention of actually riding the bus the next day.
* Lot’s a Lyin’ Lucy’s are very difficult to let go of, because there is a conflict in our heart, but yet there sometimes does come that time. (Bro. Helm)

**3. Hit and Miss Molly**

* Molly enjoys riding the bus to church, but you just never know if and when she will.
* She many come three for four weeks in a row, then miss the next two months before returning.
* Often Molly lives a home that greatly lacks structure or consistency. If she comes at all, it’s because she has gotten herself up and ready without any support from her parents, and honestly, that’s very commendable.
* Sometimes the reason she hits and misses is because she seems to move every other month and it takes you weeks at a time just to track her down again.
* Hit and Miss Holly needs a place like the church to give her the love and attention that she so desperately needs but seldom receives throughout the week.

**4. Flip Floppin’ Philip**

* Philip comes to church faithfully, maybe even for years at a time.
* However, one day, seemingly out of the blue, he tells you he can’t come anymore because their family is going to another church now.
* You may not see Philip for a couple of months or even years other than when it’s a big day or promotion.
* Philip has become the one who likes to attend whatever church has the biggest thing going at the time. He may attend your church for a while and then another for a while. Sometimes this is due to things out of his control (Catholic confirmation, moves away then back again.)
* Sometimes we feel like we’ve forever lost our influence with Philip, yet sometimes, even after years, he comes back, and God uses the spiritual seeds we planted early on in his life.
* Flip Floppin’ Philip needs to know that he always has a home at our church, no matter where’s he’s been or what he’s done, we love him.

**5. Crazy Lazy Daisy**

* Genuinely wants to come to church, but just can’t seem to ever get out of bed in time.
* You often wake Daisy up on Sunday mornings when you arrive to pick her up.
* Sometimes you have to help her finish getting ready in order for her to be able to ride the bus.
* Sometimes she comes, but you have to come back a little later to pick her up.
* Crazy Lazy Daisy is worth picking up even despite the inconvenience. Who ever said the bus ministry had to be convenient?

**6. Always Regular Ralph**

* Ralph is on the bus almost every week.
* He comes to every big day. If there’s a promotion, you can count on him being there.
* Sometimes Ralph brings friends and often times maybe even brings his Bible.
* Riders like Always Regular Ralph are a blessing.

**7. Forever Faithful Fred**

* Fred’s on the bus are the kids who are very few and far between.
* They are like gold in the bus ministry.
* If they don’t come on a Sunday, you’re literally worried about what’s wrong, because they’re just that faithful. They don’t miss church for anything, so when they do, it worries you.

Most of all your kids that ride on your bus probably fit into one of these categories in some way.

* All of them need love.
* All of them need Jesus.
* All of them need you.
  + They need you to talk to them weekly, pray for them weekly, invest in them weekly.

They require work, inconvenience, a certain level of frustration at times and a whole lot of the love of Jesus flowing through us. Jesus loved all people the same, the lovely and the unlovable, the faithful and the not so.

We aren’t the ones who get to know who God will use and who He won’t or how we have made an eternal difference. We just get to be faithful, believing in a faithful God who promised us in I Thess. 5:24, “Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.”