

Kids Cycle One-Shift Three

Team Day @ Church & Parent Focus

Primary Objective

To utilize the power of the invitation in encouraging sports teams to participate in worship. Also, to encourage children to invite their teammates/teams to be their guests in Bible study and worship.

Secondary Objective

To help parents be the best parents they can be with concern for the spiritual development of their children, as well as socially, physically, and academically.

How This Can Help You Reach Kids

This event will help you reach kids and their families, by providing an opportunity for the unchurched to “come” to church and “see” Christ lifted up; and to hear the Gospel preached. It will be a great opportunity for kids and families to invite their unchurched teammates and friends to attend church with them.

Suggested Strategy

- Place “Team Day @ Church” on church calendar.
- Enlist a planning team to brainstorm, develop, and implement ideas; and to draw from those that are listed here.
- Design invitation cards to for each child to invite their teammates, coaches, club members, parents, etc.
- Make contact with your local city/county recreation department and work with them in sending invitations to all spring sports leagues (baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, tennis, golf, etc.). Invite the coaches to bring their teams. Invite them to bring the kids and parents to the Team Day @ Your Church event.
- Provide refreshments/snacks for each team at least once at the beginning of the season. Include invitations to the Team Day @ Your Church event with each snack pack. An alternative plan is for the church to volunteer to “adopt” a team or several teams, to provide snacks for, and invite to Team Day.

- Churches may not have many children. Find some way to make connections with the community recreation department and try to utilize community connections. Adults may know a coach, who could invite their team members to Team Day.
- Adult groups can “adopt” a recreation team.
- Go to recreation fields and hand out invitations with a bottle of water.
- Offer to provide game snacks/refreshments for the team before or after game/match/competition.
- Encourage friends from neighborhoods closest to the church to participate.
- Kids can invite their friends that play sports to attend with them and wear their jerseys or uniforms to church.
- Parents that coach, encourage teams to attend church with you.
- Teach children the importance of a personal invitation to a friend.
- Parents, offer to pick up teammates, if their parents cannot or have chosen not to participate.
- Have a challenge for parents with kids in sports.
- Have parents and adults wear their favorite team jersey. Also, children that do not participate in organized team sports can wear their favorite sports team jersey!
- Consider making picture for groups and teams.
- Use this opportunity to be a preview of Lifeway’s VBS 2018, Game On – Gearing Up for Life’s Big Game! Theme verse 2 Peter 1:3. Motto: Gear Up! Get Ready! Game On.
 - Hand out invitations during Vacation Bible School at Team Day @ Church!
 - Allow parents to pre-register their kids for VBS that summer.

Extra Mile Suggestions (for churches with greater resources)

- Have a well-known Christian athlete come in and speak to a church (or just to the children and parents).
- Plan an All-Star luncheon with ball park food (hamburgers, hotdogs, popcorn, soft-drinks/water, etc.) for after church. Invite all children and families to participate.
 - Have a brief devotional in which the Gospel is presented.
- Have volunteers to serve as table hosts to make sure all guests have someone to host them. The host can take this opportunity to get contact info from the parents/children.

- Volunteer to provide snacks to all teams (in a particular sport) at least once during the season. Do this in time to include invitations to Team Day @ Your Church.
- Adopt a team from each spring sport, provide refreshments for at least one game, and invite to Team Day.
- Assist every child/family participating in team sports with resources to invite their teammates, coaches, and parents to attend Team Day.

Key Steps for Preparation

- Pray for Team Day; Enlist prayer partners to pray for the evangelistic effectiveness of the event.
- Set target date for April-May.
- Place Team Day @ Church and Parent Focus on the church calendar at least 6 months prior to the event.
- Enlist and train a planning team, including parents of children and children's ministry leadership.
- Have promotion plan in place at least 3 months before the event.
- Plan special emphasis for each Sunday School/Small group. Assist teachers with preparation, promotion, and outreach.
- Plan Worship service with team theme. Pastor to share Gospel in worship.
- Contact local recreation leagues, asking them to partner with you in getting the word out and inviting the sports teams to participate.
- Promotion on Social Media is very effective. If the church has a Facebook page, you can place an ad to run in the targeted area for a certain amount of time. The cost will be determined by your budget and how often and how long you want the ad to run.
- Have welcome signs for teams/guests on Team Day.
- Have signage pointing the way for guest to go before Sunday School and Worship.
- Pastor, have a special message for the Teams (and parents).
- Have an All-Star Session (all children join Sunday School), have a special lesson, and present the Gospel.
- Execute a Follow-up Plan with families that do participate.

Resources

- *The Gospel: God's Plan for Me* is \$4.99 for a package of 10. (Lifeway's suggested booklet)
- *The ABCs of Becoming a Christian Tract for Children* is \$6.99 for a package of 25.
- Fellowship of Christian Athlete's *More than Winning* Gospel presentation can be found at <http://fcaresources.com/ministry-tool/more-winning-presentation-85-x-11>.

Looking Ahead

Preview: (5) (Re)Launch Groups & Faith Development Plan

Plan: (4) VBS or Summer Surge