

Kids Cycle Two-Shift Eleven

(Re)Launch Groups & Faith Development Plan

Primary Objective

With the beginning of a new school or church year, it is important to intentionally launch the classes and/or programs in your Kids Ministry to reach kids.

Secondary Objective

Evaluate and improve your discipleship plan for kids. Determine what strategic opportunities you will provide beyond Sunday morning groups.

How This Can Help You Reach Kids

In his book, *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*, George Barna writes:

Social Scientists have known for years that the moral foundations of children are generally determined by the time the individual reaches age nine. . . . The implication of these finding is clear: anyone who wishes to have significant influence on the development of a person's moral and spiritual foundations had better exert that influence while the person is still open-minded and impressionable – in other words, while the person is still young.¹

If you want to shape a person's life – whether you are most concerned about his or her moral, spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, or economic development – it is during these crucial eight years (5-12 years old) that lifelong habits, values, beliefs and attitudes are formed.²

By being intentional in launching and relaunching Kids Ministry classes (whether they be Sunday School, Wednesday night groups, discipleship groups, new Christians classes, etc.), as a church, you can have significant influence in the spiritual development of children. Through these groups, you can reach kids in your church and community; and intentionally lay Biblical foundations on a weekly basis, that helps kids grow in their faith and come to know Christ.

Suggested Strategy

A church of any size can reach kids and their families through groups and/or classes by providing these five things:

1. Trained teachers who have a love for Christ and kids - Offering training and resources for children's teachers will equip them to help lay intentional spiritual foundations and to share their faith with the kids.

2. A Bible - Children are concrete learners. When we are intentional in having children use their Bibles in class each week, it reinforces the importance of God's Word and helps to develop Bible skills and a love for scripture.

3. Kids – If we are to reach the next generation, our church needs to have a heart for kids and their families. We need to seek ways to plug into the community and develop relationships with young families.

4. An intentional plan to teach about Jesus – As a church, we need to wisely choose curriculum for our classrooms that is age appropriate and lays Biblical foundations in the lives of our kids.

5. A plan to connect and partner with parents/families - Communicate what you are teaching each week, as well as recommend resources that can be used at home.

Alternate Ideas

If your church has additional resources, you might want to consider. . .

- A launch party to register kids. This can include food, inflatables, face painting, fun, games, and activities. During this party, you can register kids and hand out parent information.
- Updating your welcome and classroom areas by repainting, installing better signage, provide welcome area flat screen TVs that keep parents up to date on Kids Ministry announcements, what the kids are studying this month, etc.
- T-shirts for your Wednesday night Kids Ministry leaders that make teachers easy to identify for visitors.
- Additional digital resources for kids and families (Family devotional apps, etc.).

Key Steps for Preparation for Launching Groups

- Determine age groups.

- Pick a launch date.
- Promote the launch date through announcements, mailers, church newsletter, social media, etc.
- Enlist teacher(s) – two to a room.
- Choose and order curriculum.
- Train teachers – teaching kids, how to lead a child to Christ, etc.
- Declutter classrooms, clean out cabinets (throw away or take items to the resource room).
- Prepare lessons.

In addition to Sunday School, a couple of great Wednesday night groups options for your Kids Ministry are:

TeamKID – a great foundational discipleship and missions option for your Kids Ministry.

Bible Drill – a discipleship option for your kids that focuses on intentional development of Bible skills and scripture memory.

Final Important Note

A Sunday morning Bible study experience, like Sunday school and/or a children's worship type experience, is important and can make a big difference. However, that should serve as a starting point and not the whole of your faith development strategy for kids. Gather your key leaders and a representative group of parents together to take a comprehensive look at your faith development strategy for kids. Is it sufficient? Work together to develop a plan that strongly invests in the total discipleship journey of the kids in your church and community.

¹ Barna, George. *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*. Ventura, CA, U.S.A.: Regal, 2003. Print. (p. 47)

² Barna, George. *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*. Ventura, CA, U.S.A.: Regal, 2003. Print. (p. 18)

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