



WHAT'S UP WITH MIDWEEK MINISTRY?

NEWSLETTER

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Ministry Direction



Midweek ministry isn't Sunday school. It isn't children's worship. If not these things, what is it?

Midweek ministry is ministry that doesn't happen on the weekend. It is an additional ministry opportunity.

Why have midweek ministry?

- Complements adult/ youth midweek ministries
- Provides additional instruction time
- Allows more emphasis on student involvement and practical application

What will be the focus of your midweek ministry? What do you hope to achieve?

- **Discipleship and/or Equipping**
 - a) Do you want this time of ministry to help the children develop a more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ through training in the spiritual disciplines, practical Christian living, and lifestyle evangelism?
 - b) Do you want this time of ministry to equip the children for ministry and acts of service?
- **Service and ministry**
 - a) Do you want this time of ministry to provide opportunities to serve and minister in the local church, the community, and the world?
- **Outreach for the purpose of evangelism**
 - a) Do you want to bring non-churched children into the church for a time of evangelism? Or, do you want to go out to an on-site location to do evangelistic ministry?



Worship

Perhaps children's worship is not provided to the children in your ministry on Sunday. Midweek ministry might be the time when you provide a worship experience.

What ministry model will most effectively accomplish this focus?

Large Group. There would be only two age-level groupings: preschool and elementary. This is appropriate for times of corporate worship and evangelism.

Age-level Grouping. There would be several age or grade level groupings such as nursery, preschool, kindergarten, primary, middler, and preteen or junior. Age-level groupings are appropriate for instruction and training related to discipleship and equipping.

Small Group. A small group consists of an adult or youth and three to five children.



excellent as a complement to age-level discipleship and equipping instruction. The small group offers relational ministry and accountability. Small groups also complement age-level equipping ministries. The small group provides opportunities to use the skills received during training.

Mentoring Relationships. To provide training, supervision, and accountability related to discipleship, equipping, service and/or ministry, pair a child up with an adult. If you want your children to learn how to serve pair them up with servants in your church such as ushers, hostesses, nursery ministers, etc. If you want your children to be involved in ministry pair them up with the worship leader, pastor, children's

pastor, adult small group leader, home visitation director, outreach director, etc.

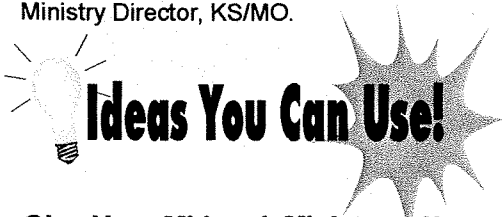
Club Ministry. A club ministry curriculum usually emphasizes evangelism and Christian growth. Children are encouraged to work for badges and ranks.



A Ministry Model

Our children's ministry chose the theme of a sports club for the mid-week ministry. The first and third sessions of the month were centered on Bible instruction and fun. Then on the second and fourth sessions of the month were centered on discipleship and equipping. Each weekly session included a large group time of worship (10-15 minutes). The children were divided into Major (8-11 year olds) and Minor (4-7 year olds) League Teams. Each team chose a team name. On the first and third weeks these teams participated in Bible Baseball Playoffs and other interactive events that stressed Bible knowledge and fun. On the second and fourth weeks these teams participated in instruction, training, service and ministry.

When the Sports Club began there were 25-30 children participating. Within 8 to 10 weeks, the attendance grew to 100!—Teresa Adams, Regional Children's Ministry Director, KS/MO.



Give Your Midweek Ministry a Name.

Remember, kids want to belong! They want to be proud of what they are a part of so choose a name that fits for your midweek ministry. Here are some ideas:

ADVENTURERS. Theme: Living for Jesus is an Adventure. Decorating theme: jungle, expedition.

CHAMPIONS FOR CHRIST – ALL STARS FOR JESUS. Theme: We are winners through Christ. Decorating Theme: Any sport.

CONSTRUCTION ZONE. Theme: God's at work in me. Decorating theme: construction site.

JOYSHIP. Theme: Jesus, then others, and then you. Decorating theme: Space.

TREASURE ISLAND. Theme: Searching for His Treasures! Decorating theme: Tropical Island.

NOTE: For ideas on Bible murals visit www.PainterofFun.com

Take your name to the limit! Develop a logo with your name. Create postcards, bookmarks, and greeting cards with your logo. Print t-shirts with you name and logo for your staff and the kids too. Encourage them to wear the t-shirts during ministry events. Create a banner with your name and logo. Hang it in your meeting place and in the sanctuary on Children's Day or at other times when the children are featured.

Be relevant!

Teach Bible truths that lead to life application rather than Bible stories. Bible stories were given to help us understand Bible truths. Determine what truths the children in your ministry need to learn and apply, then determine what Bible stories will best illustrate these truths. Here's some examples:

Unit Topic	Bible Truth	Bible Story	Behavior Desired
What does it mean to be a Christian?	A Christian is one who repents.	Zaccheus	Restitution
God's plan for my Family.	I am to respect my parents.	Jesus at the temple.	Proper words, attitudes and actions toward parents.
Authority	All authority comes From God.	Nebuchadnezzar defeats Israel.	Respect for all authority.



Resource Review

MIDWEEK CURRICULA

Here are just a few of the midweek curricula that are currently available. Call or e-mail the publishers for free sample lessons.

ALL STARS FOR JESUS. This curriculum has interactive Bible learning activities, crafts, and games — all set in a club atmosphere with colorful T-shirts, baseball caps, pennants, and an optional awards program. Available through Christian Ed Warehouse, 9230 Trade Place, San Diego, CA 92126; 800-854-1531; www.ChristianEdWarehouse.com

DISCIPLELAND. An undated, ungraded curriculum for school-age children. Children who complete all six levels will have studied the major themes and stories of the entire Bible. A preschool curricula for ages 2 through 5 is also available. Available from Through the Bible Publishers, 1133 Riverside Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80524; 800-284-0158; www.ThroughTheBible.com

FAITH WEAVER FRIENDS. This curriculum focuses on helping children build relationships with God, peers, and caring adults. Available through Group Publishing, Inc., PO Box 481, Loveland, CO 80539; 800-447-1070; www.fwfriends.com

FUNDAMENTALS. This is a series of undated, short-term advanced Bible study resources for children in grades 1-6. The series focuses on learning, living (life application), and leading (equipping for leadership). Available through Lifeway Church Resources 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, TN 372324; 800-458-2772; www.lifeway.com

TEAM KID. This recreation-based club program for children in grades 1-6 and preschoolers 3-Kindergarten is focused on discipleship. Available through Lifeway Church Resources 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, TN 372324; 800-458-2772; www.lifeway.com