

CREATIVE WAYS to reach KIDS



Ideas You Can Use!

10 Tips for Reaching Unchurched Kids

1. Advertise your children's ministry to community parents: distribute flyers through the church neighborhood, put information and photographs on your church's website, post a giant sign or banner in front of the church, hang posters in businesses or schools (Be sure to get permission), send information to TV and radio stations that do free public service announcements

2. In your promotional materials, advertise your children's ministry as a resource for building good morals and spiritual values into children. Both Christian and non-Christian parents appreciate help in teaching children values, and many parents want their children exposed to church even if they do not attend.

3. Encourage kids to bring friends. Plan a special "Bring a Friend" meeting with an unusual theme. Invite special guests, such as the local fire department, a unique animal from the zoo, etc.

4. Make a fuss over visitors when they come. Introduce them and have everyone cheer for them. Let visitors choose a small gift from a "Gift Bucket" containing toys and knickknacks. Give them a special button. Then be sure to send them a "Glad You Came" postcard to follow up.

5. Arrange carpooling between unchurched parents and church families. This provides a service and helps parents get to know each other.

6. Get names, addresses, and phone numbers of kids who come to any special events your children ministry's sponsors, and send information about your ministry to their parents.

Children's Ministry Newsletter is published monthly by Children's Ministries of the Church of God of Prophecy

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Volume 7, Issue 5

May 2003

Ministry Direction

Why Reach Out to Kids?

1. We have a mandate from God to reach out to all children.

"In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost." Mt. 18:14

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Mt. 28: 19, 20

2. Every child has a right to hear that God loves them.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Mt. 19:14

3. Hell & Heaven are real places.

"In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare

a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." Jn 14: 2, 3

"Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgement." Heb. 9:27

4. God offers children purpose and hope.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." Jer. 1:5

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." Jer 29:11

5. And, you can make a difference!

Dr. V. Gilbert Beers says it well, " *You cannot hope to realize this side of heaven the impact you will have on one child. Likely you will have an impact on many. But there will be one child who may turn from an impossible life ahead to a profoundly useful one, and by God's grace, you have been the fork in the road... And, you may never know which child it will be.*" But that child will and God will!

7. Sponsor a community event (fun fair, ice cream social, spaghetti dinner, talent show, puppet show, etc.) Have an information table showing your children's ministry activities, kids' projects, and informational brochures. Have children's ministry leaders/teachers staff the table to talk with interested parents.

8. Sponsor a booth about your children's ministry at community events or enter a float in a local parade.

9. Encourage church families to invite kids in their neighborhood. Provide them with invitations that have kid appeal.

10. Meet an existing need. Get involved in a reading program at the local school. Serve a meal at a shelter for abused moms and kids. Plan a game night at a juvenile center.

10 Tips for Reaching Unchurched Parents

1. When relationships are formed with unchurched parents and people from your church, they're more likely to receive Jesus and become involved in church. Sponsor an activity for just the parents. (Examples: Parenting Bible Group, Craft Club, Aerobics, Couples Small Group, Weight Control Class)

2. Encourage church families to invite unchurched kids' parents to church social events

3. Send a "video packet" home with kids to enjoy with their families. (Examples: A Christian family video or a video showing your children's ministry in action. Be sure to include information about upcoming children's ministry and church events, plus contact information.)

4. Add your children's families to your church mailing list and email list.

5. If you hear of a crisis or major event in a child's family, find someone to follow up. Have all the kids and leaders/teachers in the children's ministry make a giant card for the family with drawing and signatures.

6. Recruit a greeter to chat with and get to know the unchurched parents when they drop off and pick up kids for children's ministry.

7. Ask unchurched parents for help in the ministry. (Examples: Bring refreshments, Chaperone an outing, Lead an activity that matches their profession or hobby.)

8. Ask unchurched parents for help in church, in an area where they can work alongside church parents. (Example: Ask a computer whiz to help get your church online, ask a parent to run sound or video equipment for a special program, ask a parent to help with a skit the kids are doing.)

9. Plan a parent/child or family/child event. Allow time for a question and answer session. (Example: Family Talent Show, Homemade Mini-Golf through the church rooms and halls, Indoor Winter Beach Party, Church Picnic, Fireside Chat)

10. Plan to have kids help during a church service. Invite parents to come. Urge church parents to introduce themselves and talk with them. Kids could usher, sing, and make banners to go with the theme of the sermon and so on.

Ideas adopted from CMNews at Pioneer Clubs Organization, www.pioneerclubs.org

6 Stepping Stones that will help kids move from Evangelism outside the church to Discipleship in the Church

1. **Make an initial contact** – i.e. an ongoing outreach ministry such as Sidewalk Sunday School or Neighborhood Bible Clubs.

2. **Build relationships through weekly invitation.** Produce an invitation each week that those doing visitation can give to each child. This provides a reason for knocking on the door. Consistent visitation will develop stronger relationships with the whole family. Without it contact with the child is usually lost.

3. **Enable church attendance by providing transportation.** Pick up by church families in the neighborhood, walk together as a group to church, bring children on a church van or bus

4. **Give them a "First taste" of church by providing a program that is high-energy, relevant and powerful.** This program might be similar to the outreach program the children participate in, such as a club ministry.

5. **Place children in discipleship groups by providing a small group environment where children can share openly, grow in Christ and develop long-term relationships with other Christians.** Small group meetings should be held weekly in a home, if possible. Activities during these meetings might include an interactive game, worship, Bible teaching, sharing and prayer.

6. **Invite the family to family events and special services.**

Adopted from materials written by Steve Neale



Resource Review

Whose Child Is This?

By Bill Wilson
 ISBN: 0884193829
 Published by Charisma House
 Cost: \$11.99



At the age of fourteen, Bill Wilson was abandoned. Now he leads a crusade to rescue children in Brooklyn's "war zone"--and beyond. His dramatic story is more than a life-and-death struggle in the midst of crime, drugs and poverty. It is a vision of hope and promise for America's children. "Lately in the news they've been talking about how likely it is for a black male teenager to get shot and killed--especially in my neighborhood. They say it's even more likely that in a couple of years I'll be carrying a gun. But what they don't know is what a difference God's made in my life. Ever since I was three I've been going to Sunday school, and I've learned about God and His ways. And I made up my mind to follow Jesus. No, you'll never see me with a gun shooting anyone. Ever! Because no matter what's going on around me, I am standing for Jesus."-- Vincent, age 12

40 Ways to Reap A Harvest of Children

By: Kathryn Creasy
 Published by: Children's Ministries
 Cost: \$3.00

This booklet, includes 40 ideas for reaching out to the children of your church and community. Each idea has been tested, and the booklet give step-by-step instructions for beginning each program in your local church.