



TREASURE CHEST

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e-NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE INVOLVED IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY.

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Have you been passing on the baton to the next generation?

AIM HIGH!

"We're not going to talk down to the kids ... Let's aim for the 12 year old. The younger ones will watch ... they'll want to see what their older brothers and sisters are looking at."

- Walt Disney, *An American Original*

Due to lack of leaders or room availability, some kid's ministries find it difficult to split into several age groups. So what do you do when you have a wide age range in your primary kids ministry and they are all together for their combined session?

The 'Aim High' principle is helpful to consider.

- * Target the older children in the group. However, if there are only a few of them, then have them act as junior leaders and then you can lower the target age.
- * Choose music that will appeal to the older kids in the group. Nothing will turn off your group quicker than playing songs that sound too 'babyish.'
- * Feature older kids in your promotional graphics and videos.
- * Use video clips, humour & other programming that appeals to older kids. That way you will engage with all the ages.

This doesn't mean you ignore the younger ones. You are just making sure that the older ones aren't lost because "our kids program is just for little kids!" Generally speaking, the younger kids will enjoy an older age program whereas the older kids will be turned off by a younger age program.

EFFECTIVE LEADERS

Here are a few tips to consider as a leader.

Listen -- Always listen to what's going on around you -- not just verbally but nonverbally. When people make a sly comment, listen! - as there may be a deeper issue that needs to be dealt with.

Endure -- I'm talking about the long haul. Many children's ministers resign their positions because they let the pressure get to them, or they don't want to confront a difficult issue. Discouragement can also be a killer! Don't let it win. Remember - it's lonely at the top! So keep refreshed & close to God.

Advance -- Leaders are always learning. Advance your skills and knowledge by reading books, surfing the net, listening to others and reading magazines. If you're coasting in your personal growth, you're going downhill because you can't coast uphill.

Direct -- Leaders need to know where they & their ministry are going so that they can impart that vision into those they are leading. Write down your plans and bounce the ideas around with others on your team. They want to feel part of the vision as well. Delegate & share responsibilities with your fellow workers. Celebrate victories with them, and graciously talk through failures. A great leader is a great encourager.



Empower -- Effective leaders empower, equip, mentor, and coach others to reach their full potential. See 1 Peter 5:2-6 about the role of a leader. Invest yourself in others. However, it will mean time, preparation, risk and commitment! Remember those who poured themselves into you in the past. Well, go thou and do likewise! Pass on the baton!

Relate -- Treat your co-workers as humans with feelings and not just as cheap labour! Romans 12:15 says to "rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn." Take a personal interest in each of them. Talk to them about things that they are interested in.

Serve -- What Jesus sees as a leader is different from what we think of as a leader. Jesus said, "The first will be last," "Consider others more important than yourself," and "Love your neighbour as yourself." Go the extra mile to help your co-workers grow in their walk with Jesus as well as helping them to develop in their ministry skills and abilities.

Easter

FILLER GAME

A great game for Palm Sunday:
Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

SHOE THE DONKEY

IN BRIEF

Two contestants have to run to a pile of shoes and individually put them under each one of the four legs of their chair, and then sit on it.

YOU WILL NEED

- 2 contestants (donkey blacksmiths)
- 2 chairs with 4 legs each (donkeys)
- 8 shoes



HOW TO PLAY

The 2 chairs are placed about 1.5 metres apart. A pile of 8 shoes is placed equal distance away from the 'donkeys', say 4 metres. The contestants must be sitting on the donkey. On "Go", they run to the pile of shoes and get one each. They then race back to their 'donkey' and put it under one of the legs. Then back to the pile for the next shoe, with which they put under their donkey's next leg. This is repeated until all 4 legs of their chair (donkey) have shoes under them. The contestant must then sit on his donkey and call out "Champion Donkey Shoe-er". First one is the winner.

TIPS

- Make sure the contestants know that the shoes must actually go under each leg and not just sit under the chair.

Christ died for our sins ... was buried ... and came alive again.
1 Corinthians 15:3,4

Song - to the tune of 'Battle Hymn of the Republic' Key Bb

Jesus died and rose again to take our sins away.
Jesus died and rose again to take our sins away.
Jesus died and rose again to take our sins away.
So that's what Easter is about.

Glory, glory Hallelujah.
Glory, glory Hallelujah.
Glory, glory Hallelujah.
So that's what Easter is about.



(sung brightly)

FREE RESOURCES

www.max7.org

A great website that has heaps of free resources for kids ministry.

When you go to their website, just type 'Easter' in the search panel (*top left of screen*) and you will have access to heaps of Easter goodies - dramas, stories, puppet scripts, video clips (for use on computer/ data projector), lessons, etc.



E.A.S.T.E.R Acrostic

Have 6 stations set up around the room with objects on a small table at each station. Move a small group of children (8 - 10 at a time) from station to station as you explain some of the events of Easter in chronological order. Spend just 30 - 45 seconds at each station asking questions and describing that Easter event as you refer to the object(s). (Ensure you have prepared your questions/ description beforehand.)

E - Eats. *Cup of grape juice/ wine and wafers/ bread.* Jesus enters Jerusalem and eats the last supper.



A - Arrested. *Spear, sword, bag of silver coins.* While Jesus is praying in the garden of Gethsemane, Judas betrays Jesus for 30 pieces of silver and soldiers arrest him.



S - Sentenced. *Wooden Gavel.*

Jesus was put on trial several times before Pilate (Roman Governor) and King Herod before he was sentenced to death by Pilate.

T - Tortured. *Cat o' nine tails/ Whip.* Jesus was mocked, laughed at, spat upon, whipped and made to carry his cross.

E - Executed. *Cross/ Hot Cross Bun/ Large spikes/* His death was 'carried out' when he was crucified on a cross between 2 thieves. Explain the words of Jesus (e.g. forgiveness).



R - Raised. *Easter egg (symbolising New Life).*



On the 3rd day, after being buried in the tomb, God raised Jesus from the dead as proof that he is the son of God. (Romans 1:4) The angel said, "He is not here, he is risen".

The presenter will have to expand on each point at the level that your children can understand.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



While being crucified, Jesus prays to God the Father.. these amazing PERFECT words of love and compassion. **Luke 23:34**