



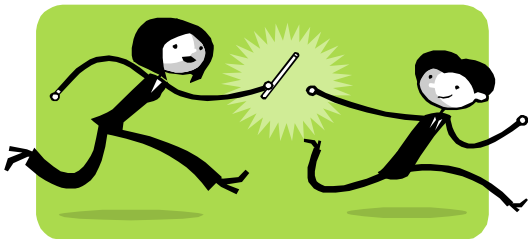
TREASURE CHEST

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

Produced by Children's Ministry Network in W.A.

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

THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON



Before Matthias is chosen as the new disciple.. there were several elimination rounds using another sophisticated selection technique. **Acts 1:12-26**

Used by permission - www.thebackpew.com

QUOTES

Children need strength to lean on, a shoulder to cry on and an example to learn from.

God does not need extraordinary people. He needs ordinary people to do ordinary things extraordinarily well.

Every child is a bundle of potential.

It is easier to build a boy than to mend a man!

The TV is an appliance which changes children from irresistible forces to immovable objects!

A child who is allowed to be disrespectful to his parents, will not have true respect for anyone.

Children may close their ears to advice, but keep their eyes open to example.

Developing young leaders

One of the most important and overlooked ministries in the church is the *identification and development of leaders before the age of 14*. The main reason for this omission is because our culture sees leading as an adult role and so we miss a critical window of leadership training (10-14 year olds). God has wired people from birth with different personality traits – and some of those in our children's ministry will have leadership tendencies. We need to identify those children and help develop their gifting.

Don't confuse leadership with service or discipleship. I am not referring here to **servicing** (*singing on the worship team, handing out bulletins or operating the sound system*) nor **discipleship** (*teaching children to pray, witness or study the Bible*).

Those are important for **all** children, however some of your children have leadership qualities. That is what I am referring to here.

How to develop them ...

Step 1: **Identify** - look for children in your kids' ministry who have the ability to learn leadership faster and easier than the rest. They may be children who are a bit bossy,

strong willed, who lead their friends like a piper or who seem to be in charge of situations or natural influencers – either for good or bad. These qualities are often evident from an early age.

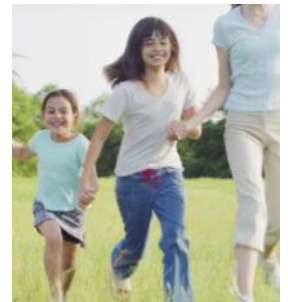
Step 2: **Opportunities** – give those 'leaders' chances to lead, not just serve. Give them specific tasks, let them make decisions and don't fret if they make mistakes. Before, during and after these projects, ask key questions and brainstorm with them. Debrief and reflect on what did or didn't go well. Don't judge or criticise them but make suggestions as to what they might do differently next time.

Step 3: **Coaching** – have an adult or older teenager as a mentor/coach. This person needs to be a leader themselves rather than a manager, teacher or nurturer. **Competency** (decision making, relating to others, planning, etc) and **character** (values, attitudes and their walk with God) are both essential for leadership development.

As well as coaching in leadership skills, it is also important that this up and coming leader is discipled (along with all kids in your ministry).

Alan E Nelson is the author of "KidLead: Growing Great Leaders".

Check out www.kidlead.com to see some practical ways of developing leaders in your church.



Handy Hints for Praying

Have the children hold out one of their hands with the thumb closest to them, and proceed:

1. The thumb is the closest to us, this reminds us to pray for those who are close to us - like our friends, neighbours and ourselves.



2. The index finger is next - sometimes teachers or pastors might point this finger at us when they are teaching us something important. So when we come to this finger, it reminds us to pray for our teachers, pastors and those who help us.

3. The middle finger is the largest one of all; it stands out above the rest. It reminds us to pray for the leaders of our country and those in authority e.g. police, etc.

4. This one is often called the ring finger - a wedding ring reminds us of marriage & families. Pray for your parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and the person who you may marry in the future.

5. The smallest and weakest finger reminds us to pray for the sick, poor and needy.

GAP FILLERS

Sometimes you have a few spare moments during a program when you need a 'gap filler'. Here are some suggestions:



CAN YOU SAY THIS?

Say "Rick whip" ten times very quickly.

Say "Mixed biscuits" ten times very quickly.

Say "She sells sea shells" ten times very quickly.

THE IMPOSSIBLE

• Have a person stand against a wall with their heels touching it. Put a \$2 coin on the floor about 30 cm in front of them. Tell the person that they can have the coin if they can pick it up without moving their heels from the wall or falling forward.

• Have a person stand pressing their left side against a wall (including left cheek, left side of foot, and left leg). Ask them to then raise their right leg.

PAPER, SCISSORS, ROCK

This game is to be played in pairs. On the count of three make one of the following shapes with one hand:

- a fist for rock
- a flat hand for paper
- two fingers for scissors.

Rock beats scissors because rock can smash scissors. Paper beats rock because paper covers a rock. Scissors beat paper because scissors can cut paper.

If you both do the same shape, then it is a draw.

You could play a few rounds and then swap partners.



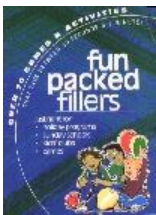
COORDINATION CLAP

Leader: Hold hands out in front, palms facing inwards but not touching. Raise your left hand while at the same time lowering your right hand. Then reverse the action (a chopping motion).

Give instruction to the kids to clap each time the leader's hands pass each other.

Repeat this chopping motion, increasing and decreasing the speed so as to challenge the kids to keep up.

Try tricking them by almost crossing your hands. The kids will clap when they are not supposed to. This can be lots of fun and involves everyone.



Recommended: **Fun Packed Fillers** - \$6.00 plus post.
70 simple games and activities that take between
30 seconds & 3 minutes.

Available from OAC Ministries Box 387 Willetton WA 6955
email: wa@oac.org.au website: www.oacwa.org.au

No Chance - object lesson

Theme: Creation

Point: Nothing God has made comes by chance.

Brief Outline: A child has to mix up 10 numbered pieces of paper, toss them all in the air and cause them to land neatly in order and in a straight line. Even after the child does it a number of times it is clear that by chance it won't happen. The only way for the paper to land in line and in order is to have someone place it there. This is compared to creation.

Key Verse: My hand has made both earth and skies and they are mine, says the Lord. (Isaiah 66:2 TLB)

Needed: 10 pieces of paper each with a number from 1 - 10 on it. Mix them up; Optional - large pictures of a flower, a bird, a person.

Lesson:

Some people say that the earth and everything in it came by chance. They think that it all just happened. Billions & trillions of atoms and molecules bumped around in space and just happened to come together in the right way to make things, like a flower, a bird or a human being (*show optional pictures*). I find that very difficult to understand. Let me show you what I mean. (*Choose a child to come out the front*) I've got 10 pieces of paper here with the numbers 1-10 on them (*show audience*). What I want you to do is to throw them up in the air so that they all come down in the right order - 1,2,3,4, right through to 10 and also to make sure they land in a straight line, with the numbers facing up. (*Get the child to try a few times, making sure you tell the audience what has happened so that, if they can't see what's happened, they will know*). How long do you think it might take for these numbers to get in the right order, up the right way and in line? (*Get responses*) If it's this hard just to get 10 pieces of paper into order by chance, how hard do you think it would be to get the whole world in perfect order so that it runs so well - by chance? (*Ask the child to now line up the numbers in order, in a straight line and all facing up*) It's much easier to get the numbers into the order we want if we use our hands. We no longer rely on chance to put them the way we want them. Someone needs to be in charge to put them together. God is great and powerful. The Bible tells us that He put everything together with His own hands. He thought about what He wanted to make and He knew what He was doing. God left nothing to chance. Every bit of this amazing and wonderful world was planned.



Prayer: We worship you, O great God, the creator of everything. You have done a wonderful job with what you have made.