



# TREASURE CHEST

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

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

e: wa@cmn.org.au w: www.cmn.org.au/wa p: (08) 9310 6220



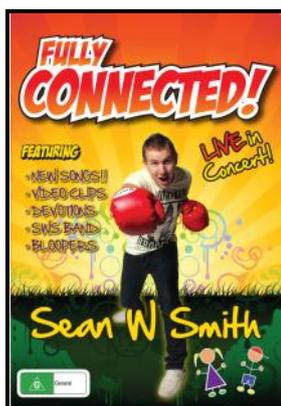
Have you been passing on the baton to the next generation?

## DELEGATE or DIE

I should've listened to the American rock band *Three Dog Night*. They tried to teach me that "one is the loneliest number that you'll ever do," but I just wouldn't listen. Moses also learned the hard way about doing the job alone. In Exodus 18, we're told about how Moses did everything in ministry by himself, and it caused problems on the job. It was tough on the people, Moses, and his family. Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, gave him wise advice and counsel. Simply put ... he told Moses to *delegate or die*.

I know what you're thinking. My volunteers can't teach a class or do children's ministry as well as I can. That may be true, but there was a time in your life when you couldn't minister as well as you can now. Someone allowed you to get better by doing hands-on ministry. And we must give our volunteers the same chance we were given to learn by doing.

Jim Wideman



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## A MINUTE TO BIN IT!

- Each contestant is given 6 small rubber balls in a (storage) bucket.
- Another plastic bucket or bin (the target) is placed 3 metres away from the throwing line (use masking tape).



- Their task is to stand behind the throwing line, take one ball at a time from the storage bucket (which is beside them) and bounce the rubber ball into the target bin. The ball must bounce at least once on the floor before going in to the bin. (*Note: The ball may not bounce well on thick carpet so provide a plastic mat or similar as the bouncing platform.*)

- Have 3 extra children as helpers to collect any balls that **don't go in the bin** and quickly return them to the contestants storage bucket. The contestant keeps throwing/ bouncing balls until either the minute is up or the full 6 balls are in the bin.
- Contestant gets 200 points for each ball that lands in the bucket (& remains in it without bouncing out), therefore a maximum of 1200 points may be obtained.
- The score is recorded and the next player then has his/ her turn

## GO THE DISTANCE



- A metal tape measure (such as those used by a builder, etc) is pulled out and locked at 2.5 metres. The contestant places the hooked end over the lip of a heavy box, and then holds the tape measure on a slight angle in order to make a 2.5m sloping trough/track. The aim is then to roll a ping pong ball down the tape measure track and into the box.
- The contestant has 6 ping pong balls and has to roll them (one at a time) into the box within 1 minute.
- If the ball falls off before entering the box, an assistant (other selected children) can quickly retrieve that ball and return it to the contestant so that they may have another go. This may have to be repeated until that ball goes in.
- Maximum balls into the box is 6 with 200 points gained for each one that goes in the box. Therefore a maximum 1200 points can be gained within the minute.
- At the end of the minute, their score is recorded.
- The next player then has his/her turn.

## Lost the kids attention?

Is one child causing a disruption in your lesson time? Here are some oft-used teacher tricks of the trade to get a child tracking again.

**1. Whisper:** Make every child lean in to hear what you have to say, with the hope that the distracted/distracting child will follow in suit.



**2. Stop Talking:** Briefly stop talking so that just the disrupting child is making a noise. Silence is a good attention grabber.

**3. Stare:** Glance directly at the child and make eye contact, even while you continue your lesson. Hold on glancing until he/she is listening again.

**4. Provide Presence:** While you are speaking, naturally move over to where the child is seated. Continue the lesson from close range. Or, send another adult to sit next to the child using non-verbal cues.

**5. Name Call:** Work the student's name nonchalantly into a relevant story, example, or commendation.

**6. Role Play:** Invite the student in question to act out a scenario with you. Provide the attention the child needs in a positive framework.

**7. Give Responsibility:** Assign the child a task to complete: Pass out papers or Bibles, hold a picture book, distribute other materials, keep time, hold a prop, etc. However remember the other students who are well behaved shouldn't miss out being your helper. Don't be seen to be rewarding misbehaviour.

**8. Special Signals:** This is a technique to discuss with the child ahead of time (prior to your lesson). Teach the child two signals that no one else in the room would catch. One sign would represent encouragement for a job well done; the other would be a warning/challenge issued for just them. The more quietly outlandish the sign, the better. (You'll win a listening ear and a smile at the same time.)

**9. Avoid Public Confrontation and humiliation:** All human beings have feelings and these feelings can determine whether the child has an ongoing positive or negative attitude to God & the gospel. Steer clear of calling a child's name out too much for negative behaviour or humiliating them in front of their peers. Instead, speak to the child after the lesson. Ask them if they can identify how they were a distraction. Tell them what you expect the next time. Use this brief chat to encourage them.

*Kristen Charles (edited)*

## Some reasons why children may misbehave ...

**1. Because They're Kids** -- Proverbs 22:15 (NLT) says "A youngster's heart is filled with foolishness..." Enough said!

Remember that you were once a child, so don't over-react. A misbehaving child is not the end of the world, so relax a bit!

**2. Because They Lack Clear Guidelines** - Kids need guidelines and even want them. Without boundaries, insecurity creeps in and that often leads to misbehavior.

**3. Because They're Bored** -- When we teach inappropriately (not actively or age-appropriately), kids get bored. Boredom leads to misbehavior as kids try to find something else to engage their mind.



**4. Because of Outside Issues** -- I put these issues in four categories:

- **Hunger** -- Some kids come to church hungry, because they either didn't eat enough or they didn't eat nutritious food before arriving.
- **Health** -- Parents will often drop off kids who should be home in bed!
- **Home** -- Some kids deal with so much at home that it inevitably comes out in their behavior.
- **Helplessness** -- Kids often just don't know how to deal with things that happen, whether it's the death of a pet or being bullied at school. This helplessness can lead to misbehavior.

*Greg Baird - children's pastor and director of Kids in Focus*

## EDUTAINMENT ... Disney We're Not !

Here's the truth: The average church can't compete with Disney or Pixar when it comes to entertainment. But Disney can't compete with us on providing caring adults to know, love and nurture each child who comes through the door. Let's focus on our strengths - and that means delivering person-to-person ministry that's warm, engaging and life-changing. **However**, that's no excuse for boring, poorly run programs. But the truth is ... **relationships last longer than entertainment.**

