

From Start to Finish



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Your small church Children's Ministry gathers for 45 minutes on a Sunday morning in a shared space. How do you cover all the Bible basics for Grade 1 - 6, have fun, and stay on budget? This interactive breakout will teach you how to start well, avoid the obstacles and road blocks that often can leave you feeling discouraged and frustrated and how to cross the finish line for the win! Come and learn how to start implementing these strategies this coming week and bring home a victory!

Romans 1:17

What is your favorite part about doing children's ministry?

What is your least favorite part about doing children's ministry?

The Starting Line

- Teach to the older and the younger will take what they need (Romans 10:17; Isaiah 55:11)
- Interactive sensory lesson. Sight, sound, touch, taste, smell.
- 5 Pillars of Children's Ministry
 - Administration
 - Hospitality
 - Teaching
 - Worship
 - Outbound

Obstacles; Barriers and Road Blocks

- Budgets
 - Get creative
 - Repurpose
 - Find sales
 - Share and borrow
 - Reuse curriculum
- No Volunteers
 - Junior Leaders

- Ask, Seek and Knock – Matthew 7:7&8
- Build relationships
- Empower them
- Shared Space
 - Communicate
 - Collaboration
 - Removable decorations
 - Organized bins
- Christmas; Easter, End of Year
 - Presentation not a performance
 - No practices
 - 6 weeks – You present Jesus to the kids
 - Presentation – Kids present Jesus to the adults

Crossing the Finish Line

Consider this outline if you have your families stay together for your song service and then the elementary kids are released to the Sunday School Class. This would be a 45-minute class.

10:00 – Church song service as a family.

- Sign in at lobby (Administration)
- Greet the child by name; Ask them what was the best part of your week; Say hello to their siblings and the parents (Hospitality)
- Meeting new families and checking them in and introducing them to another family with kids the same age. (Outbound and Hospitality)
- Offering/tithes could be given when they sign in (Worship)

10:30 – Kids released to their classroom

- Last minute sign in; new families (Administration)
- Greeting kids and connecting new kids (Lego blocks idea); hug; fist bumps; high fives; atmosphere is fun; room is clean and safe; team leaders ready for kids; same teams each week with mixed ages (Hospitality)

- High energy music; offering given as they enter classroom if not done in the lobby (Worship)

10:45 - Welcome, Honor System and Declaration (Hospitality and Teaching)

- Say kids' names; introduce leaders; have kids stand for this time

10:50 - Object Lesson (Teaching)

- New Living Translation; small props; Interactive experience using their senses

11:00 - Song (Worship)

- Goes with the theme; Use scripture songs; high energy and with actions

11:05 - Prayer Lesson (Teaching and Worship)

- New Living Translation – Stop and Go Prayers

11:15 - Song (Worship)

- Use a simple song that have a lot of repetition; soft and gentle music; dim the lights; use battery operated candles or fiber optics lamp

11:20 - Activity (Outbound)

- Decorate paper lunch bags for the lunches that will be packed for their good program; have kids help prepare giveaways for your towns local summer festival (candy bags with church business cards); you could also do a fun interactive game that has a connection to the theme of the day.
- [Lapbooks](#) are a wonderful activity to do review and have something to give to the parents at the end of the series.

11:30 – Closing (Worship and Administration)

- Have music playing in the background. Have the kids pause for a moment from what they are doing and speak a blessing or prayer over them. Have them continue to be working on their projects or playing the game as parents come to pick them up and they are safely back with parents.

Take Action!

1. Take one idea you learned here and implement it into your Children's Ministry this Sunday!

2. Take one hour this Sunday afternoon to evaluate your children's ministry class time with the suggestions you have been given today and create a framework to move forward in your ministry. If you need suggestions of what to add, ask the kids!