



CHILDREN & YOUTH IDEAS

'These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.'

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

These ideas are just a selection of the many that can be used to engage with children and young people in the community around your church.

CHILDREN & YOUTH IDEAS

1 COMMUNITY YOUTH SERVICE



PURPOSE: To gather local young people together for worship, teaching and an evangelistic message.

IDEA: To work in partnership with other churches to ask young people from church youth groups and others to come to a special service 3-4 times per year. Each service could involve a band, teaching, fun activities, free gifts and a good supper afterwards.

2 CHURCH CHILDREN'S TREASURE TRAIL



PURPOSE: To give children a greater understanding of the church building and how each different part of church helps to point to Jesus Christ.

IDEA: To put together a small booklet on the church and different parts to it from the grounds to the baptismal font to the communion rails. At each part of the church you want children to know about ask them to find something of interest such as a date, verses, item of furniture or book. Perhaps have some small chocolate bars or coins hidden as treasure for the children as well. Have someone say a few words about each area as their 'tour guide'. Invite the local school to come along in class groups.

3 EXAM PACKS FOR LOCAL CHILDREN



PURPOSE: To support and pray for local Primary 7 children doing transfer tests.

IDEA: To supply each child in your local Primary school undertaking the transfer tests with a small gift to encourage them and their parents. Perhaps to be given at a school assembly or class. The pack could contain:

- Stationery such as a pencil, pen, rubber, sharpener etc.
- A chocolate bar for completing one of the tests.
- A small bottle of water for one of the tests.
- A gift verse on guidance – perhaps a different one for each pack.

4 CHRISTMAS KIDS' BIG BREAKFAST

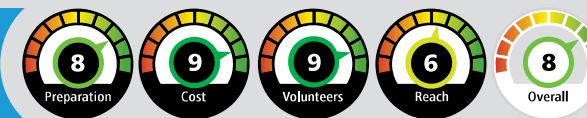


PURPOSE: A one-off event to teach children about Christmas while allowing parents some time for Christmas preparation such as shopping.

IDEA: This event combines a good opportunity to teach local children on the meaning of Christmas while also providing some much needed support for parents in the busy month of December. It covers a whole morning from 9:00am until 12:30pm and includes a breakfast followed by a variety of kids' Christmas activities such as songs, stories, memory verses, games, crafts and DVD's. To help with planning and registration it is wise to encourage most parents to pre-book. It is reasonable to expect a small donation from parents to cover the breakfast, craft material and so on.



5 PANCAKE PARTIES



PURPOSE: To build a connection between the church clergy and youth and children's organisations based in the church.

IDEA: For clergy to take the week before Lent to visit various groups that meet in the hall and help them make pancakes and get to meet various young people. To perhaps take 5 minutes during it to explain a little bit about the meaning of Lent and challenge them about it.

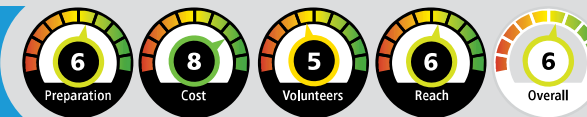
6 HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUBS



PURPOSE: To outreach to the local community children over several days of holiday Bible club.

IDEA: To run an open Bible club available to local children during the summer or Easter holidays. These clubs are very popular and material is available from different sources to help programme one – such as for the teaching, songs, crafts, games and so on. They can be run for a few hours or even all day. Summer clubs usually take place over the course of a week and alongside other local churches that may be running holiday Bible clubs on different weeks.

7 COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB



PURPOSE: To reach out to young people in the local community through a weekly drop-in youth club for over 11's.

IDEA: To run a weekly club open to all young people in the local area and involving games, activities, free time, food, crafts, Bible teaching and so on. To programme the youth club so that every 4-5 weeks the group are taken out for a trip such as to bowling, ice-skating, laser quest, mini-golf, cinema and so on. Youth clubs can also be split into two age groups that meet one after the other on the same night.

8 OPEN YOUTH FELLOWSHIPS



PURPOSE: To run a faith based youth group that both disciples and also attracts new people to attend.

IDEA: To programme a Sunday night Youth fellowship for a full year ahead –with topics, nights out, events and so on that can be put into a simple programme brochure (also including contact numbers, welcome and the purpose of the group). This leaflet can then be used to give to schools, parents, uniformed organizations and so on to invite others to come along. It will also serve as a reminder to leaders in helping them to prepare various topics and nights out.

9 LITTLE CHEF GROUP



PURPOSE: To run a mini cooking course for children to encourage their connection to church.

IDEA: To organise a short-term (6-8 weeks) cooking course for children/young people aged from around 10-13 years aimed at children in the local community. It would involve only around 12 young people as a maximum and could be advertised through local schools, posters and so on. Each session could happen after school for around an hour and have children learning how to bake and cook particular dishes such as apple pies, cup cakes, Bolognese and so on. There would be a cost to the course and each child could be given a certificate from the church for completing it.



10 JUNIOR CHOIRS/ ORCHESTRA



PURPOSE: To encourage children and young people to grow in musical talent and use this to bless others.

IDEA: That a group of older children and teenagers is gathered for seasonal times of the year for several weeks to practice singing and/or playing instruments for a performance. Consider a performance that they might give not just for a special service but also to go out to a residential home or somewhere else. It could also involve a free night out as a treat for all their practice and hard work. The invite to be part of this group could also be extended beyond church members.

11 CRECHE FOR CHURCH



PURPOSE: To provide a place for little ones to come during church to have fun and learn a little about God.

IDEA: To have a room available that is set up with different areas for the children to explore and have fun. Not just to mind children during church but to start sharing the gospel message through songs, stories and play. Crèche rooms can require.

- Table top toys.
- A story corner where you share a bible story with the children or show a short video with a biblical message.
- A messy craft table with one craft.
- A small table for a snack time with the children.



12 WEEKLY KIDS CLUB



PURPOSE: To run an evening club for children across the community to come to for fun and fellowship and to hear the Gospel.

IDEA: It is run like a junior youth club providing space for children to choose what activities they want to do. Run a variety of different activities that will engage the specific children in your community, e.g. football, uni-hock, parachute games, relay games, games consoles, art, music, dance, cookery, crafts. At the end of the night set aside a devotional time. It can also include trips out about three or four times a year e.g. ice skating, cinema, Candy Store etc.

13 UNIFORMED SERVICES

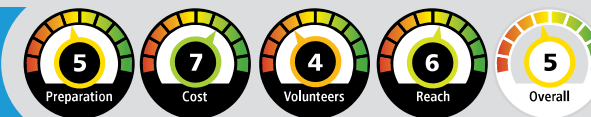


PURPOSE: To support the uniformed organisations that use the church halls.

IDEA: To host an enrolment and/or church service for your uniformed organisations and to be able to pray for them and their leaders. They could take part in the service by:

- Teaching a song.
- Leading the prayers.
- Acting out a drama with the young people.
- Being interviewed to tell the congregation what they do.
- Taking up the collection and being part of the welcome team.

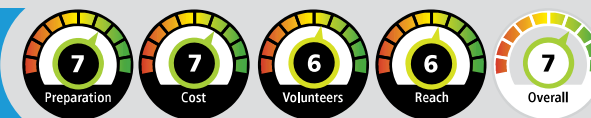
14 AFTER SCHOOL HOMEWORK CLUBS



PURPOSE: Providing a space for children to come together, make crafts, play games and also get help and encouragement with their homework.

IDEA: To set up an after schools homework club. This may take the form of two clubs, one for Key stage one children and one for Key stage two who leave school at different times. Each can be an hour long. This is a great opportunity to build relationships and help the children to love learning by going through homework with them and spending time listening to them read. Good to use older folk or retired people to give of an hour to listen to children read.

15 PUDDING PARTIES



PURPOSE: To celebrate a key event for children/young people with pudding!

IDEA: To celebrate a key event for children/young people with pudding! Idea: To celebrate a particular time for young people such as back to school, half term or end of exams by running a pudding party. The idea would be to have as many different types of pudding as possible and let the young people there try as many as they can! It will be a celebration so there should be some level of extravagance. It could also be used to celebrate children and young people at the end of a youth/uniformed service.

