*Connect Group How To?*

Hey There,

This is not the full training, but a quick get started guide to keep with you or to refer to when running a connect group in kid’s ministry. There is so much to leading people, but honestly, the fact that you have a willing heart to serve and want to honour God by the way you run connect group is such a great start – the function of the group and the abilities there can continue to be taught and practiced over time. I ran my first connect when I was in year seven. I would have made many mistakes, not known answers to even kindy girl questions about God, and probably forgot/ran out of time to even pray during connect sometimes, but I believe that God used that time in my life to not only stretch my faith and capacity but to bless the little girls (who are adults now) and help them stay with Jesus all their days.

Thank you for being a connect group leader! You are going to do such a great job!

Ps Bec

Before Connect

1. Check out the theme for the day.

You can see the story and the working word for the week by heading into the ‘Order of Service’ section on your Planning Center Request.

1. Pray for your children.

Every week, pray for the children on your list. Write their names somewhere you can see them and take the time to pray for each child, each week.

1. Prepare a question or two.

Based on the notes, come prepared with a question you could ask during connect and think of a testimony of your own that could relate to the story. During the message, decide if this matches well or not.

During Connect

1. Focus on the WORD.

Make sure you listened during the message, too! Focus conversation and questions around the story. Take time to find the verse in the Bible together as a group or give opportunity for every child to have a go at finding the Bible verse. There are heaps of Bibles to borrow, and you can encourage your kids to bring their own each week as well.

1. Pray together as a group.

Ask everyone individually or give opportunity for everyone to share something that they would like to pray or praise God for. Then give people opportunity to pray for each other – it is great to do this in a circle or tell specific people to pray for a specific topic that time. If kids don’t have anything to contribute or are still getting to know each other some great prayer points that you could always return to:

* Everyone telling a name of someone who needs to find Jesus to pray for
* School teachers and principals / leaders
* Sickness and healing
* School and Friendships
1. Learn a bit about their week.

Take some time to then facilitate discussion about how kids’ weeks have gone. It is okay to either lead kids to answer your questions or to help include other kids in a group discussion that the kids are having.

After Connect

1. Take attendance.

Download the Church Center app and sign in with your Planning Center email. Please take attendance every week you are in kid’s church. You will also be able to see phone numbers for each child as well.

1. Write in your connect book.

 This is a great way to keep a short record of how your connect is travelling and to be able to have some memories written down! It is also a place to communicate with your connect group leader partner about where kids are up to and who you have contacted outside of kid’s church.