



Why Does Your Local Church Need a Children's Ministry Team? **Sue Jakes**

Strengthening the Impact that you Can Have on the Next Generation of the Church

The Very Nature of His Church *'And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children...Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.'* Ephesians 4:11-16

A Few Principles of Leadership Including others in the development of the vision:

1. Will give ownership
2. Will improve their participation in making it happen
3. Will be more likely to bring long term commitment
4. Will create a broader picture of whole community involvement
5. Will be more likely to work through changes with ease

Who Should Serve on The Children's Ministry Team? When forming your team consider the following possible members:

1. A deacon who is a father of young children
2. An elder who has a special relationship with children in the congregation or oversees the ministry
3. A woman with experience in education and teaching children
4. A teen who has grown up in your church and loves working with kids
5. A Sunday school teacher who does not have to be reenlisted every year
6. An entire family who enjoys children's ministry work

Before asking anyone to serve on this team, ask your elders and other prayer partners to pray for the right choices to be made and for the willing hearts of those you are led to ask.

First team meeting •Pray •Begin Developing a Philosophy of Ministry Statement that fits into the Church's Philosophy of Ministry. •Ask the Questions: What are we trying to produce? What is a Kingdom Disciple? •Name a 4-year-old in your church. What do you want to see in him/her when age 14? •What do we begin doing now to encourage that kind of discipleship?



REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE ON THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

•Church membership •Session approval •Active participation in meetings •Active participation in ministry to children •Willingness to pray and make changes as the team is led

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

May include:

•Attend regularly scheduled meetings •Get to know the needs of the children in the church (as a group and individually) •Pray for the needs of the children in the church and send prayer requests to the Session •Listen to the families of the church and be sensitive to their needs and desires for disciple-making •Place appropriate workers in all the programs •Plan for the training of these workers •Adopt a budget for the overall ministry •Participate in hands-on ministry to children •Help design long-term plans •Write job descriptions and covenants for staff, teachers, and nursery workers •Help interview and select children's ministry staff members when needed

GREAT CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM RESOURCE – CM 101 <http://www.pcabookstore.com>

- Share the reading of some of the recommended resources in each chapter.
- Assign a different chapter to each member. Have them come back to the meeting with a summary and ideas that were gleaned from this reading.
- Open and honest discussion as a team or committee should spark a vision for what you should and can do in the building of kingdom disciples in your church.

What I tell all Children's Ministry leaders:

"If you leave out this foundational part of your structure you will find that you will be constantly striving to bring people on board. If it is their vision, they will help you carry it through. If it is your vision alone, you will feel alone and you will become highly frustrated. Discipleship happens in the context of covenant community and forming a Children's Ministry Team helps to integrate all that you do into that context." Sue Jakes

Why does your Local Church need a Children's Ministry Team?

"That the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God but keep his commandments". Psalm 78:6-7