

Developing an Effective Junior Church Program

Taught by Jason, Howard & Debbie Caldwell (Seeing Truth Ministries)

INTRODUCTION:

The independent Bible believing churches are split on the subject of the junior church program. The major dividing factors are that many pastors consider the junior church program a play time for children and therefore a venue that does not produce spiritual growth or Christian character. Many also believe that the Christian family should worship together under the preaching of the local church pastor and that the junior church defeats this goal. The truth that a poorly run junior church supports the first argument and children sitting in church with their family, coloring, sleeping and being disruptive disproves the second. A properly organized and operated junior church will provide a Bible based foundation for worship of God and victory in the Christian walk.



of the Junior Church

Junior Church is not an entertainment time for children, nor is it a time we set aside just to occupy the children to get them out of the auditorium. It is a time to provide and present a service for young people on their learning level that will promote:

- The evangelization of the lost.
- The edification of the young believer.
- The opportunity for young people to worship.
- The participation and service of young people in the local church.
- The preparation of young people for life and the Christian walk.
- The revelation, promotion and encouragement of talents in young Christian's lives.
- The discipline of Bible reading and memorization in the young people.
- The faith of the young believer through an active prayer life.
- The application of Bible doctrine and truth to life's circumstances on the young people's age level.

of the Junior Church

- *Eph. 2: 8&9, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."* Every junior church worker must have the testimony of having been born again by the Holy Spirit of God and through the blood of Jesus Christ.
- Every junior church worker should cultivate a daily relationship with the Lord through systematic reading of the Scripture and prayer. True spiritual vision for the lost and needs of others is found in living an obedient, holy life unto the Lord.
- Junior Church Director – The director is in charge of the entire junior church ministry for the age group which he/she has been assigned. He/She should work directly under the pastor or assigned assistant pastor in charge of

children's ministry. The pastor's desires and vision should always be reflected in the labor of the junior church director. His/Her responsibilities include:

- a. Maintaining a weekly format and order of service.
 - b. Developing a theme and lesson series for the weekly program.
 - c. Preparing the weekly lesson.
 - d. Recruiting workers according to willingness and talents. (In conjunction with the pastor and church staff).
 - e. Preparing the meeting room for the service. (Set up for service visuals needed.)
 - f. Communicating and coordinating worker responsibilities.
 - g. Giving Gospel invitations and keeping records of decisions made.
 - h. Coordinating baptisms and public decisions with the workers and pastor.
 - i. Keeping the pastor aware and informed of weekly needs and or problems.
 - j. Mirroring to the children what is taught and preached in the pulpit on their level.
 - k. Promoting a spirit of unity by working together harmoniously with all of the ministries of the entire church, especially other junior church directors and workers.
 - l. If you have numerous personnel you can assign them each a specific job.
- Junior Church Volunteer – the volunteer is responsible to assist the director in fulfilling the tasks assigned on a weekly basis so that the objectives of the junior church program are being fulfilled.
 - a. Establishing and maintaining good relationships with students and other workers. (Learn the name and life circumstances of the young people).
 - b. Keeping order and a good behavioral atmosphere during the services.
 - c. Preparing the meeting room(s) for the service. (Clean up after the service)
 - d. Leading a child to Christ when called upon for counseling.
 - e. Promoting a spirit of unity by working together harmoniously with all of the ministries of the entire church.Learn how to use and diversify visuals in all aspects of the junior church program.



of the Junior Church

Every program should be born of prayer, organization and cooperation of workers, labor and a diversity of visuals. The program should be saturated with the Word of God, doctrine, simplicity, repetition and mystery. A general program outline is:

- Welcome
- Greeting
- Explain the rules or expectations (Prizes)



- Songs (Action and Visual)
- Specials (Children's solos, duets, instrumentals, etc.)
- Puppet Greeting
- Offering
- Memory Verse
- Subject Highlight
- Message (Variety of visuals used – Power Point, Flannel graph, Dress up drama, etc.)
- Invitation
- Game Time
- Prize Award Time

It is important to keep the program moving. Assign time limits to each area of the program and make sure there is sufficient time for the message, application and invitation.