

HOW TO USE LIVING CHURCH KIDS CHURCH CURRICULUM

Welcome to another term of Kids Church material. First and foremost we've designed our curriculum as a basic toolbox of ideas to use each week. There is, by no means, any expectation that every element of the curriculum will be used each week. Take it and adapt to your church and your kids. You know your kids best and what will work to create a fun and engaging time of exploring the good news of Jesus and applying it to kids' lives.

SPOT LIGHT

Though not outlined in this document, 'Spot Lights' play a key role in our Sunday Services for kids and adults alike. The 'Spot Light' is a short 3-5min segment that introduces the big idea for the day in simple, tangible ways. Spot Lights may be stories, dramas, bible character recounts, interactive object lessons or videos. Whatever form it takes, the Spot Light is a clear set up piece for what's about to be explored both in church and Kids Church. Spot Light resources can be found in the Kids Resources section of our partner churches web page.

KEY CONCEPTS EACH WEEK

You'll find the key concepts for each week in the left hand sidebar of the lesson plans. These key concepts are intended by design to give the program direction and align as closely as possible with the corresponding adult series. Our hope is that families will be learning, growing and discussing their faith journeys together, regardless of age.

- **Big idea.**
This is a kid's version of the big idea from the corresponding adult series. This is the central concept we want our kids to know and understand for the week. A Kids Church leader should use this to guide where they head each week.
- **Application.**
We want our kids to move beyond just head knowledge to applying it to their heart & hands. The application is intended to help Kids Church leaders know where to land with their kids each week.
- **Memory verse.**
We deliberately pick only one memory verse for the whole series. The repetition and reinforcement helps kids really remember it by the end of term. You might choose to teach this in your big group time or in growth groups. At Living Church we alternate from week to week. *(Note: we use the NirV for all our kids ministry.)*

BIG GROUP TIME

At Living Church all our kids start in church with their families. Then at a break in the service following the Kids Spot they come out to Kids Church. We start with Big Group Time where all the kids are together as one community to sing and start to explore the big idea for the week.

- **Songs.**
These are just a couple of suggested songs from our repertoire that fit in with the big idea of the week. Feel free to substitute in songs your kids know and love.
- **Discovery Time.**
This is designed to do with the big group. It is an interactive and engaging way of exploring the story or concept for the week. It is designed so one of your Kids Church team can own this for a specific week and put a good effort into making it engaging and fun for the kids as they start to explore the big idea.

- **Bible Passage Overview.**
This is not designed necessarily to be taught. More than anything it's really just included to help Kids Church leaders breakdown the Bible passage/s for the day. Some bible passages can be taught in a variety of ways, the Bible Passage Overview should help leaders see how the big idea and application specifically can be taught from the passage. Kids Church leaders can use this for their own benefit as they lead their kids and answer any questions that might come up.
- **Linking Question.**
This is a quick question to leave hanging with the kids as they head off to growth groups. You can just leave it hanging or get a few quick answers. Don't spend too much time on this question as it is something that will be explored in growth groups.

GROWTH GROUP TIME

Our curriculum is built around growth group time. These are the small groups where the real discipleship takes place. They are set groups (e.g. grade 3/4 boys) with a set leader who journeys with them each and every week. As relationships form and grow in these groups, kids church can move beyond something that is just teaching head knowledge to real engagement in the hearts of our kids and challenging them to live out the gospel in their daily lives.

As each group will have different kids at different ages and stages of their development both cognitively and in their faith, each Kids Church leader needs to take this material and adapt it to suit their kids. As the discipleship relationship grows they will know more and more what will work best with their kids. We give our kids church leaders lots of freedom to work out how to use this time effectively in an engaging way.

- **Activity.**
An engaging activity that helps the growth groups continue to explore the big idea.
- **Discussion time.**
This is where we open the Bible with kids and continue to explore the big idea. Ideally the questions will move from head to heart and hands. Feel free to cull/simplify/add your own questions.
- **Digging deeper.**
Some extra questions a Kids Church leader may use to go deeper into the topic. It is often used by older grades.
- **Activity sheets.**
These are produced as an extra option for your growth group. They may be something you do in your growth group time, or you may choose to send them home with the kids to do at home. See the attached fact sheet on getting the most out of these activity sheets.
- **Craft & Games.**
These are in the appendix and are optional engaging activities based around the big idea that Kids Church growth group leaders may choose to use.
- **Prayer.**
Some simple prayers that you might use at the end of your growth group time. We would also encourage Kids Church leaders to just use these as a starting point and get creative with how they engage their kids with prayer.

Hopefully this is a helpful little primer on how to use the curriculum. Our prayer is that this is a resource that equips you as leaders and helps you get on with their main task of discipling the kids you have been entrusted with. In time we also pray that it helps all our Kids Church leaders grow in their own ability to creatively engage kids with the life-changing message of Jesus.

God Bless,
The Living Church Kids Team.