

# Begin Strong, Stay Strong: Kids' EE as a Ministry

Throughout the world, STRONG Kids' EE churches and clinic bases testify to elements that allow Kids' EE to BEGIN STRONG and STAY STRONG. Pray for and strive for these elements:

## Prayer Focused

God so loves us! He desires that we, adults and children, walk in holiness and dedication to Him. PRAY that our children seek Him with all their hearts. PRAY that God gives each child a heart that is broken for the lost. PRAY that they grow to seek things and ways that are eternal, not temporal.

## Family Centered

Deuteronomy 6 explains this well. In Kids' EE we desire that parents and significant adults walk alongside their children as they are grounded in their faith and are equipped to share Jesus. Scripture assures us that it is the parents' responsibility AND privilege to disciple their children. Fullness of discipleship includes evangelism training and opportunities to share Jesus.

## Lead Teachers

Pray that the Lord appoints one or two adults to be your lead teachers. This provides consistency as the weeks progress. Lead teachers determine when to go back (revisiting concepts) and when to move forward. Lead teachers watch carefully for the dynamics of Kids' EE being RELATIONAL AND INTERACTIVE. Lead teachers encourage relationships, especially the ultimate and eternal relationship between the child and Jesus.

## Connect with Other Church Ministries

Your youth drama club, music ministry, prayer warriors and greeters are potential Kids' EE assistants. The more people you involve, the more people will receive blessings!

When you wonder “Where shall we go for OJT?” consider other church ministries. Evangelistic churches reach out beyond their walls. You have a wealth of opportunities to share the Gospel with others.

## **Equipment Manager**

This is a “blessings to give and blessings received” position in Kids’ EE. An Equipment Manager works with volunteers who are willing to provide skit, illustration, craft, take-home truth, and other materials for each class.

## **Team Time and Team Leaders**

Give your team leaders time each week with their kids. Involve them in skits, illustrations, review, and Scripture interactive learning. Remember, as kids develop positive relationships with their team leaders (love, understanding, patience, listening, encouragement), they will understand God’s love and desire for an intimate relationship with Him.

Expect team leaders to be there to greet their team kids, review Scripture, complete Kids’ EE Passports, and talk with them about their week. Always reserve at least 20 minutes toward the end of class for “Team Time.” Teacher’s Manual lists specific activities for Team Time.

Encourage your team leaders to call kids each week, to pray for their kids and to pray with them. This relationship will NOT be forgotten.

## **Train Team Leaders Before You Begin**

Find a time to train and nurture your team leaders. Often it works best to schedule team leader training prior to the start-up of your Kids’ EE class, on the same day and time that Kids’ EE will be scheduled.

Remember, each team leader is a potential Kids’ EE teacher. In future semesters, team leaders can team up in pairs and multiply by going into neighborhoods, schools, etc. and beginning new Kids’ EE clubs.

## **Commitment**

All involved need to be there, for the kids, knowing that their investment of time is eternal.

One commitment, transporting kids to and from Kids' EE, is essential. Kids are dependent on adults to get them there. If not a parent, use volunteers and team leaders.

## **OJT**

Some churches use Kids' EE without OJT to WIN kids and GROUND kids in Jesus. Yet truly, "Kids' EE is NOT Kids' EE" without opportunities to share Jesus. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead and direct here. Pray that Satan does not hinder God's divine intentions for your Kids' EE club.

## **Take-Home Truths**

Expect kids and team leaders to use them. Insist that they share each week how they used their Take-Home Truth in a constructive way. (If you do not begin with a high level of expectation, kids will not value these "Gospel Sharing" trinkets, crafts and Scriptures.)

Each week, the Take-Home Truth gives kids AND team leaders a natural way to share the Gospel with others around them. At the beginning of each Kids' EE class, always ask for testimonies on how Take-Home Truths were shared.

## **An Ongoing Ministry**

Don't quit! Kids' EE is intended to be taught on a regular, ongoing basis ... one or two semesters per year. Kids LOVE to continue in Kids' EE. They can take on more of a leadership role each semester.

When your core group is trained, consider what more they can do ... a missions trip, VBS centered on Kids' EE, Scripture Fun Fair in a neighborhood, regular visits to a nursing home, orphanage, etc. Use children and adults to extend the ministry. They will develop a heart for evangelism that will last a lifetime.