

Session Notes :

“Small Advantage” Children and Youth Ministry Workshop at Rural Ministry Symposium

Notes are ideas from two group in three areas.. Experiential, Relational, and Applicable Ministry ideas.

RELATIONAL: Group One. (Tuesday pm)

- Conversation:
 - ⇒ talk to your pew-mates - not just the adults, but adult child
 - ⇒ children pass out items to congregation, eg. butterfly, chocolate, cards, baking
 - ⇒ adults share part of their life/faith with children – eg. ancestors,informal, at coffee hour
- Pick up pageant on Christmas Eve, mixing the “groups” – child, adult, senior
- Peace/hug passing – sharing love
- Talk about school, 4-H etc. – their life beyond Sunday a.m
- Children as part of pastoral visiting
- Explaining symbols, and parts of the liturgy, volunteer actions/gifts.
- New spaces patterns for worship

RELATIONAL: Group Two. (Wednesday am)

- Secret pal
- Blessing of the animals -Connection with pet’s leads leads to connection between congregations
- Intergenerational movie
- Skating party – rent ice for an hour
- Sharing food
- P.D. days – opportunity for minister to connect with kids.- 10am-3pm – pizza, icecream sundaes
- Seniors tea – pd day – kids entertain and serve tea
- Sat before Advent – All ages event 2-4 – drama, crafts, chili supper

EXPERIENTIAL: Group One. (Tuesday pm)

- Smell and see frankincense, myrrh, gold
- Multi-voice scripture reading/storytelling
- Costume –simple
- Monologues – liturgical drama
- Narrative preaching- story-telling sermon
- Multi-media Presentations
- Intergenerational Activities
- Extravagant use of symbols – baptism!
- All souls day – prayer –release
- Bread-maker in church – for communion
- Earth Day litany... bring forth earth, water, air - With offering

EXPERIENTIAL: Group Two. (Wednesday am)

- Marketplace
- Live Nativity

- Confirmation Retreat
- Children's time- puzzle- cooperation
 - ⇒ manger scene
 - ⇒ DOING something
- Parade float for Harvest Fest
 - ⇒ a church/parish float -intergenerational
- Musical/Drama
- Fish Fry – youth helping as part of a team
- Litter pick up.

APPLICABLE: Group One. (Tuesday pm)

- Shoe box missions
- Mitten tree
- Outreach to local groups
- Pop Culture Theology – song lyrics, appropriate stories that share teaching from scripture
- Make thankyou cards – gratitude
- Debrief of dramatizations
- Godly Play integrative, self-selected learning
 - ⇒ No clear answers
 - ⇒ Open ended invitation to wonder
- Have to know them, be willing to listen in order to know what is applicable
- Willing to let go of your agenda/plan as leader

APPLICABLE: Group Two. (Wednesday am)

Passions

- Environment – ecology, nature
- Friendships
- Technology
- Sports
- Music
- Justice, fairness
- Animals

Activities...

- Identity – water bottles
- Gift exchanges
- Christmas Ornaments
- Grow gardens
- Neighbourhood field trips
- Discovery Adventures
- Sports Activities
- Teamwork