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# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



# EFFECTIVE CHILDREN CHURCH



## The questions:

- \* Why do so many children leave the church when they arrive at adolescence?
- \* Why do many children sleep during the worship service?
- \* Why do so many distract their parents from listening to the sermon and testimonies during the service?

**Answer:** No Children Church

## What is children Church?

- \* A place formed with children who meet to conduct worship service in a suitable location.
- \* An arm of the church second to the adult church where service is being conducted to give the children a spiritual activity appropriate for their age and ability.
- \* A place where the church of the future is formed in the childhood experience of today.

## Aim:

- \* To get the children be born again.
- \* To give children the appropriate attention.
- \* To equip children with efficient tools to fight against destructive elements that attempt to confuse their lives during a period of intellectual, physical, and emotional development.
- \* For the child to know, love and serve the Lord.

## Need for Children Church

- \* The instruction designed for adults is confusing to children. Their tender minds are not ready for complex, structure's truth.
- \* Children need pastoral care. They are part of God's family. God wants them to be cared for (Mk.10: 14)
- \* Need to hear God's word, learn how to worship Him and serve Him.
- \* Need to belong and associate with other

children.

- \* Opportunity to discover, develop and use their talent in a constructive way.

## REQUIREMENTS.

### 1 The human element - The Minister.

#### Must be:

- A mature Christian with a clear understanding of the doctrine of faith of Christ.
- Have a clean Christian testimony. (Love, holiness, patience, wisdom, etc.)
- Have a calling
- FAT

#### Responsibility

- Direct worship
- Visitation
- Follow-up

#### Need for self development

- Training. Seminars, short term, Basic course, Advance course, Diploma course
- Learn by experience- Good practice makes perfect.

### 2. Appropriate location:

- \* Free from distraction
- \* Well ventilated. Be decorated with bright and attractive drawing.

### 3. Materials needed:

- \* Enough Chairs & Mats.
- \* Drinkable water & cups. (Snacks to be given periodically)
- \* Chalk board, White board and or Flannel board.
- \* Television and Visual Aids.(multi media projector)
- \* Register for children.



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# EFFECTIVE TEENAGER CHURCH

**Introduction:** Teenagers need pastoral care and attention; and these can hardly be adequately provided in both the adult and children's church. Hence the need for Teens church. Not many churches have teenagers' church simply because they have not seen the need for it and/or because they don't know how to go about it. Consequent upon this, many Teenagers have drifted away from Christ and Church. Many have been caught in the web of worldliness and entangled by the enemy. The things of the Spirit is of less importance to many of them though they still attend church services. They have the form of Godliness but have denied the power thereof.

## **Why do we need Teenagers' Church?**

- \* To strengthen the foundation of faith laid in the Children's church - provides continuity
- \* Provides a worship experience that is suitable for their age
- \* It provides opportunity for those who have not received Christ Jesus as Lord and Saviour to encounter God.
- \* It is the place where the future leaders of the Church are groomed.
- \* It allows for supervision and accountability.
- \* They can creatively deplore their talents

and gifts to serving God.

- \* Their gifts are discovered and nurtured
- \* Teens have more time with their peers during teens' Church
- \* With a teens' Church, the Church sends a message to the teens that it cares enough for them to have a separate service.

If they are happy coming to Church, they are more likely to make a commitment to Christ.

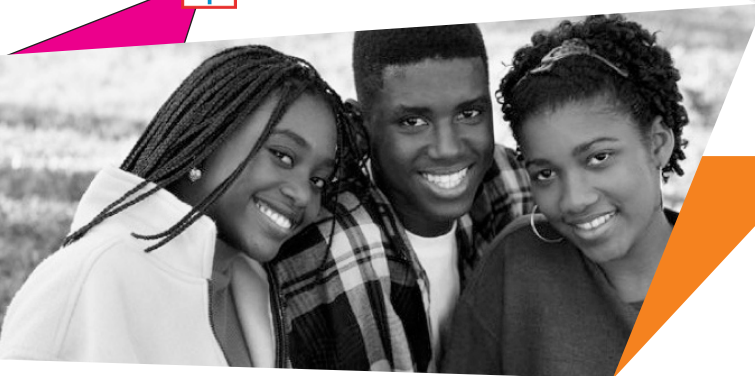
## **Organizing a Teens' Church**

When asked what is required to start good Teens' Church, answers would likely include: Programs, Money, Big events, a band, lots of teens, and different classes on a variety of subjects. These are necessary. But in addition to these, Teens' Church should be seen as:

**A Personal Ministry:** Knowing every teen by name, attending their special programmes, talking to every teen each Sunday at Church, spending one-on-one time with each teen. So one can impact their lives through a personal ministry instead of a program or event oriented ministry?

**Personal Discipleship:** An opportunity for a close interaction between teachers and teenagers in





and outside the Church environment. Teacher can invite the teens to his home every week for a discipleship programme followed by food and games leading to personal relationship.

### Teenagers' Church versus Adult Church

An arrangement can also be made for teenagers to worship either monthly or quarterly in the adult Church. This will help to remind them that they are a part / unit of a larger congregation. They are not on their own, therefore whatever they do will affect the whole church.

Also, it provides opportunity for them to understudy the adults with reference to how worship is done and the acceptable conduct in the church with particular reference with the specific denomination where they belong.

Since today's teenagers church is tomorrow's adult church, it is important that they understand the doctrines and belief of the church.

### Tips for Starting a Teens' Church

- \* The Church must see the need for a Teens' Church. You cannot start a Teens' Church no matter how passionate you are without the approval and support of the Pastor and the Elders.
- \* Burden is required for those that will pioneer the vision.
- \* Prayerfully go about every step.
- \* Logistics: You need a suitable location (accommodation, hall), Public Address system, etc.
- \* Schedule a day to start. The church must be carried along through several announcements and adequate information, and the teens' must be involved in the process that lead to the birth of the church designed for them.
- \* Prayerfully get a competent, dynamic and Spirit-filled Teens' church pastor. It is necessary he/she is someone that the teens love and they

can relate with.

- \* The new church must be given freedom to operate, but the Senior Pastor must be adequately informed of every program and activities of the Teens' church.
- \* The worship service must be patterned after the adult church with little difference to accommodate the Teens' interest.
- \* Where a church does not have a separate accommodation / hall that can be used, it can start with a monthly Teens service or fellowship on a Saturday.
- \* The church must be officially launched with the Senior Pastor taking the opening sermon/message.

### The Teens' Church Teacher

- \* Must have and maintain a growing relationship with Christ.
- \* In line with Acts 6:3,4, he must be of honest report, Spirit-filled, and a person of wisdom. He must be devoted to prayer and the Word of God.
- \* He must be to the Teenagers:
  - A Model: 1 Cor. 11:1
  - An Encourager: Col. 4:6
  - A Mentor: Phil 4:9
  - A Counselor: Isa 50:4
  - A Friend: John 15:15, Prov. 18:24

### Activities of the Teens' Church

- \* Life Transforming Teachings & Bible Study
- \* Prayers - dynamic prayer life is cultivated
- \* Discipleship
- \* Service: through the use of gifts and talents. They can serve in Choir, Ushering, Visitation, decoration, etc units.
- \* Visit to orphanage and Remand homes can be organized.
- \* Other activities: debates, treasure hunt, picnic, sports, games, discussion on social issues, film, Bible Quiz, Seminar, discovery sessions, etc can also be carried out in the Teens' Church.

**Conclusion:** Teens' Church leader must be conscious of the tendency within the natural Teens to display carnality in their activities. High level of discipline and spirituality must be maintained within the Teens' church. And don't assume that they are all saved simply because they passed through the Children's church. They need to be helped to know Christ and grow in His knowledge.



## ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE CHILDREN BIBLE CLUB

**MARY:** Joe, why don't you start a children Bible Club in your house, seeing there are many unreached boys and girls in this area?

**JOE:** What do you mean by a children Bible Club?

**MARY:** It simply means a Bible Class organized weekly for children in their neighbourhood. It can be held in sitting rooms, car parks, under a tree, in a balcony, verandah etc. The children sing and learn new songs, hear a story, learn Bible verses and are taught a visualized Bible lesson.

**JOE:** Mary, of what importance is the children Bible Club, seeing there are Sunday Schools here and there?

**MARY:** Joe, don't you know that many children you see around do not go to church, and that when they do, the majority do not go to Bible believing churches? In the Bible Club such children have the opportunity to be born again. And because the Club is not held in a Church premises many parents from different denominations permit their children to attend.

**JOE:** So children Bible Clubs are only for children from non-believing churches?

**MARY:** No, Children from believing Churches are further taught to stand in the faith. The Children Bible Club further reinforces the work of Sunday School Teachers.

**JOE:** I can perceive that through the Bible Clubs children from different religious beliefs can come together and interact with one another. Is that right Mary?

**MARY:** Absolutely correct. As I was telling you last week, you must have an aim in what you do. My aims for organizing a Bible Club for children also include the following:

1. To lead the unsaved children to Christ.
2. To teach them to grow in the Lord.
3. To get them established in the faith and
4. To make disciples of them as well as making them leaders of the Church tomorrow. That is how we can get a disciplined society.

**JOE:** But Mary, I think that for one to achieve all these, he needs to have love and burden for children. But I don't love children. Besides, I lack the burden for this work.

**MARY:** I was like you, Joe, but after being challenged from a C.E.M. Training, I started praying for love and burden for children. The Lord heard my prayers and I now run two Bible Clubs in two locations weekly.

**JOE:** But I do not think that I will have the time.

**MARY:** You will if you prayerfully ask the Lord to help you plan your time and re-order your priorities. Even bank workers, nurses and nursing mothers run children Bible Clubs.

**JOE:** But how do I get started?

**MARY:** Listen, and you can write it down, if you like:

- a. You need a suitable location where the children can sit down, away from distractions.
- b. Arrange for a comfortable sitting position.
- c. Pray and get a helper who will help you in maintaining discipline. He/she also will be



your prayer partner. He also helps you to invite children to the club as well as visit them in their homes.

**JOE:** No one will agree to be my helper so how can I get one?

**MARY:** You have not prayed yet. Even if there is no helper the Holy Spirit will be with you.

**JOE:** But Mary, you have not told me how to publicise the Bible Club for children to know about it and attend.

**MARY:** Thank you for reminding me.

First of all when you want to establish a children Bible Club, you want to dispossess the devil of his false and illegal hold on children. The Lord Jesus says to bind the strong man first. Bind and cast out into a designated place denominational, territorial, mermaid spirits and other demons that are likely to interfere with the Club. You can claim Luke 10:19.

**JOE:** But how do I get the permission of the parents?

**MARY:** I have not finished talking, Joseph. You also prayerfully prepare the minds of the parents. Then you go from house to house, introduce yourself to them and the vision God has given you for children. Tell them the location, time of the club and that it lasts only one hour every week on a specified day. Remind the parents of the stubbornness, lying, stealing and other misbehaviour prevalent in children these days and what the word of God can do to mould their lives.

**JOE:** Thank you Mary, I can also take a ball and be playing with the children, or meet them where they are playing or gathered together. Then, tell them how God has invested in them great potentials and talents; how Jesus loves and desires the best for their lives, and how I will help them discover God's plan for their lives in a Bible Club. I can even tell them to bring their friends when they come, with a promise of prize to the person who brings most children.

**MARY:** Joe, it was as if you knew my mind about what I was to say further.

**JOE:** Thank you Mary, can I go now?

**MARY:** Just a minute Joseph. There are some

other things you will bear in mind:

- i. A Bible Club teacher must be born again. He/She must know that prayerfulness will bring enthusiasm and sustain the interest of the children in the club.
- ii. Do not speak big English words, except you will explain them.
- iii. Visualize your lesson.
- iv. Be lively, cheerful and friendly; encourage the children to feel free to visit your home and share their problems with you.
- v. Keep a register of attendance, and try to know each child by name.
- vi. Do not forget to lead children to Christ after you have clearly presented the Gospel message.

**JOE:** Assuming there are children who already have received Jesus as their Saviour, what do I do with them?

**MARY:** You teach them at the same time things that will help to stabilize their walk with God. There must be a distinct challenge, message or assignment such children should live out from your lesson.

**JOE:** Thank you Mary, I will by His grace start my own children Bible Club this week.

#### (SOME WEEKS AFTER)

**JOE:** Mary, the children were very interested in the Club. Many are now born again. Many of them turned out the first 3 weeks. But after about 5 weeks the number of this children started decreasing. And right from the first day I got scared of the noise and restlessness in children. I am getting discouraged.

**MARY:** Joe, do not give in to the devil's strategy of discouragement. Do not give up. Have a positive attitude for victory and tell the devil that those children are the Lord's. About the number depreciating, do not give up after you sincerely have prayed. Visit the children and bear in mind that God has a plan for a multitude as well as for few. Do not relent in your prayer life. Cleanse the environment, the location, the



children and your self before and after the club with the blood of Jesus.

**JOE:** I also discovered that I could not keep to the one hour. We were singing songs and before I knew it 40 minutes have elapsed. Do you have any advice for me?

**MARY:** Do not be like one of those teachers who waste all the time singing and shouting "Praise the Lord Alleluiah." Now take the format below.

*(You may adjust it to suit your purpose)*

Opening prayer.....	2 minutes
Songs interwoven (throughout the club hour) .....	10minutes
Visualized (Missionary) story .....	10 minutes
Bible verse for the day .....	10 minutes
Prayer .....	3 minutes
Bible lesson (plus invitation to receive Christ) .....	20 minutes
Roll call, announcement and closing prayer .....	5 minutes.

**JOE:** What about counselling those who have received Christ?

**MARY:** Do all kinds of counselling after the Bible Club hour and lest I forget, the Children Evangelism Ministry keeps a record of all Bible Clubs in the town. You will register your Club with the Bible Club Secretary or with your State Co-ordinator.

**JOE:** Thank you Mary, May the Lord find us faithful in this unique assignment.

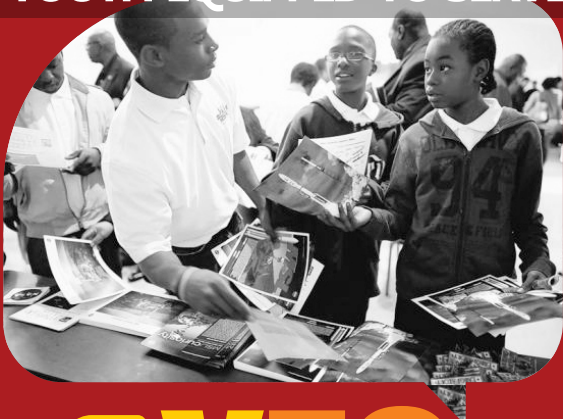
**MARY:-** Amen.







## YOUTH EQUIPPED TO SERVE



**YES**  
CLUB

Key verse: (1 Tim 4:12) 'Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.'

**Introduction:**

This is a weekly interdenominational Christian programme for teenagers (13-19 years) held in a godly atmosphere in their neighbourhood. It is a forum for meeting the needs of children who have outgrown the children club. At this stage the participants are no more being fed with the 'milk' but the 'bones' of the word of God. They are made to discover themselves and challenged to do greater things for God.

A teens' club must hold at a time convenient to most of the teens to prevent irregularity in a good venue that attracts the eyes of teens.

**The YES Vision**

Discipleship and creating opportunity for Teenagers to discover their place of service in God's vineyard. 1 John 2:4

**The YES Goal**

• To evangelise the unreached teens for Christ by providing a good Christian foundation, re-direct their vision and help them to set positive goals for themselves.

• To reach the young men with a balance; mental, social, spiritual and physical programme that will help them grow into balanced Christian adults.

• To send the young men to the harvest field to fish men for the Kingdom of heaven.

## THE 5 D'S FOR YES CLUB TEACHER:

**Discover** who they are.

**Disciple** them to be like Jesus,

**Develop** their skills, ability, potential, knowledge, academics, language, **Demand** to spend their time & talent for God and humanity.

**Discipline** in love when necessary.

**TEN Ps' OF STARTING A TEENS' CLUB**

**Pray:** This is the first step—and last, and every step in between—toward starting a club. Ask God to lead you, to pave the way, and to draw teens to the club.

**Pick:** You can start a club alone, but it's better to have a small group of teens to help. Actively seek the support of parents, teens' leaders and at least one patron.

**Purpose:** Don't rush. Define a purpose for the club. Ask: Why do I want to do this? What are my goals? What will we do at meetings? Bible study? Sing? Pray? Socialize? Should we invite non-Christians to attend? When will we meet? Where? How often?

**Pay attention:** If possible, visit another Christian club. Learn what works, and what doesn't and listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to you.

**Probe:** Understand your calling. Know all about teens as much as possible.

**Pillar:** Involve some adults and ask them to donate to the club's treasury. It'll cost some money to get the club started—fliers and posters to promote it, study materials for meetings, and, of course, item 7!

**Publish:** Get the word out—by word-of-mouth, fliers, posters and visitation, by whatever means. Ensure you meet parents of intended teens.

**Present:** Now it's time for your first meeting! Which should be more of a social event, where you present yourself, plans, desires, motive, burden, focus etc wisely and people get to know each other and discuss why they're there. Ensure you read a Scripture passage and pray for one another.

**Push on:** Your second meeting will likely be smaller than the first, but don't be discouraged. Some teens may attend the first meeting just to check it out, then quit coming.

Pray until something happens (PUSH), and continue to meet.





**Promote:** Advance your club through Holy Spirit inspired adverts, programmes and right lifestyles.

### YES Club General Programme:

**A. Evangelism:** To evangelise the young men and get them commit their hearts to Jesus through social activities, Bible and academic competitions, games, recreations, film shows, musical concerts etc.

**B. Discipleship:** A systematic relationship that ensure a proper feeding on how to follow God and live for Him.

Create opportunity for sound biblical teachings.

Follow them up by listening to them, praying with them and showing them Godly example

Take them through regular weekly Bible study.

Regular conference, retreats and workshops/seminars

### C. Training:

Train them for soul winning. They can be encouraged to attend Basic course in Child Evangelism.

How to serve in God's house such as; ushering, praying, choir, Technical, musical.

Expose them to ministry and spiritual gifts. Let them desire to receive these gifts.

Expose them to skills acquisition training. How they can be useful to themselves and survive without too much dependency on their parents.

**D. Involving/sending:** be involved practically in evangelising others.

They can be helpers in Children Bible club.

Involve them in planning Children & YES club special activities.

Involve them in out-reaches and village evangelism.

Play leadership role in the YES club.

Form them into activities groups like drama, music, prayer, evangelism group etc

Let them contribute/ give towards evangelistic project.

### OUTLINE OF A TYPICAL TEENS' CLUB WEEKLY PROGRAMME

- Opening prayer
- Praise and worship
- Introduction/Attention catcher/Ice breaker
- Testimony/Special ministrations
- Prayer time
- Main programme for the day
- Offering/Announcement Closing

### SUGGESTED YES GROUP PROJECTS

A one day Valentine Programme-Joy

Academic seminar

Musical competition

Academic tutorials

Excursion

### THE 5 C'S OF HOW A CLUB CAN BE SUSTAINED:

**Consistency** in programs, follow up, involvement of teens

**Concern** for the TOTAL welfare of the teens and their family

**Current** in knowledge and technical 'know how' of teens' ministry

**Counsel** regularly

**Creativity** in programs, venue décoration, administration, presentation.



### REQUIREMENTS IN A TEENS' CLUB:

- Register for attendance and weekly records
- Notice board
- Decorations
- Different subgroups e.g. choir, drama, decoration...
- Uniform- not necessary
- Library
- Account book

### GAMES THAT CAN BE PLAYED IN CLUBS:

- Give group members a chapter in the Bible to memorize within certain minutes to see how many verses they can memorize. The person who can memorize the most Bible verses in the set amount of time, wins. You can also play this as a team; the group who can memorize the most verses will win.
- Give each team the exact same passages to read and learn about. Separate the teams to study. After a set amount of time, they will meet again and sit at separate tables. The youth leaders will ask the teams a set number of questions about the chapter they have studied. The team, who answers the most questions correctly, wins. They can respond to the questions by raising their hand or by using a bell. The team who signals first is allowed to answer first, if they are wrong, the second team who has their hand raised (or rings the bell) gets to answer, and so on. The team that answers the most questions correctly wins.

Yes club song

### YOUTHS OF VALOUR

For we are:

Youths of Valour

Youths of Vigour

Youth of Value

Youth of Vision

Youth of Virtue

And Vitality