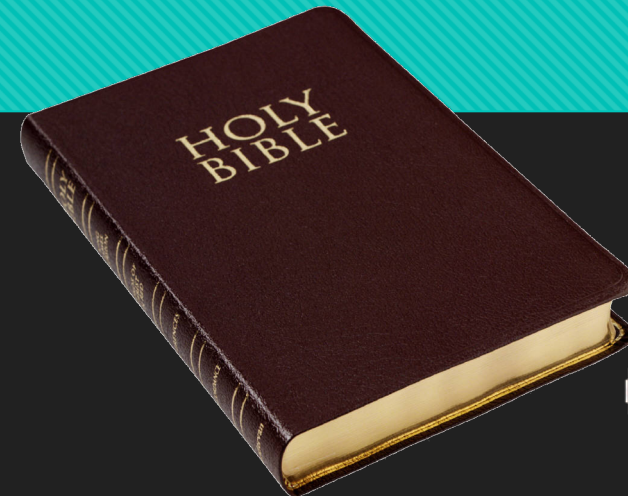




10 Ministry Lessons From Walt Disney

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GC Children's Ministries



#1 BIG DREAMS (VISION)



Proverbs 29:18

“Where there is no vision, the people perish...”

Vision into Action



- Formulate a plan that will bring your vision into reality.
- Communicate your vision with passion.
- Keep revisiting the vision even when faced with obstacles & snags along the way.
- Stick with the vision.

#2 COOL ENVIRONMENTS



Create eye-catching backdrops



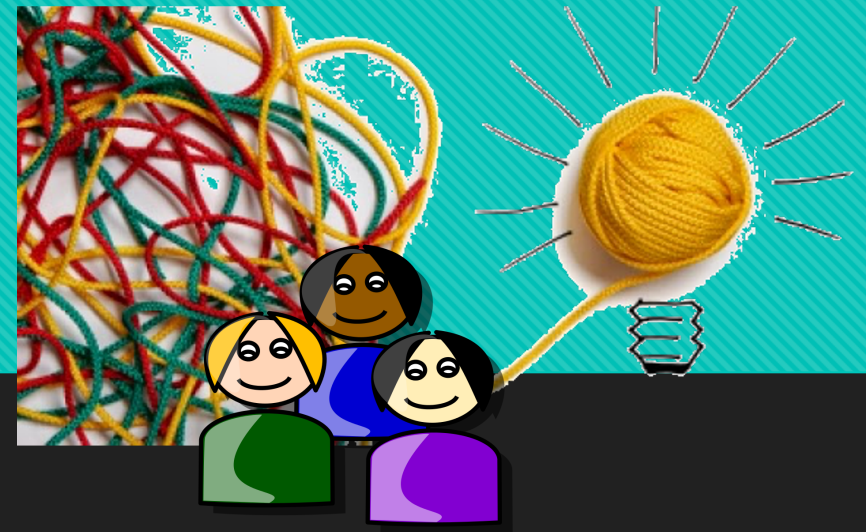
Cool Environments



#3 CREATIVITY



Creativity into Action



- Research – internet is a great source; type in tag words that reflects your thoughts and ideas.
- Brainstorm! – keep an open mind.
- Name it and Brand it – create a logo.



- Give your old ideas a new and fresh look.
- Don't be afraid to discard traditional ideas and methods of doing things.
- Create meaningful new ideas, forms, methods, and interpretations.



#4 SEEING WITH KIDS' EYES

Kid-Friendly Things

- Add bright colors to your rooms.
- Decorate different areas with child-friendly pictures, designs, toys, etc.
- Build props to enhance the worship areas.



Kid-friendly Things

- Use 3-D elements to bring your environment to life.
- Add mural artwork.
- Use kid-friendly furniture like throw pillows, bean bags, mats, etc.



#5 FIRST-CLASS CUSTOMER SERVICE



Customer Service



- Formulate an effective system to give guests a first-class touch.
- Enlist greeters to give guests special attention. Choose friendly, caring people who can make guests feel at ease. Station these people at key entrances.



- Be Happy...make eye contact and smile!
- Greet and welcome each and every guest.
- Train your team to personally walk guests to the rooms rather than pointing the way.
- Give volunteers authority to make your guests happy empowers them.



- It's important that people come before policy.
- Leaders must set the example of good customer service themselves.
- Customer service is an opportunity to shine; a moment to show that you genuinely care.

Use These Phrases:

- Let me find out for you.
- It's my pleasure.
- I would be happy to show you. Follow me.
- Let me find the person responsible for that.
- He's currently teaching our kids' class. I would be more than happy to let him know you stopped by and give him your message.

#6 CAPTURE KIDS' ATTENTION



How to Capture Their Attention?



- Aim High – gear your lessons and music to the oldest kids in your room.
- Honor their Attention Span – it's shrinking today.
- Make it Fun – with exciting, interactive activities.
- Tell Stories.

Capture Attention...



- Use Visuals and Sound.
- Interactive and Participatory.
- Get Emotional.
- Leverage Technology.

#7 CONNECT WITH FAMILIES



#7: CONNECT WITH FAMILIES



- Parents and children have fun together.
- Parents and children can spend time together.
- Parents and children create memories.
- Both are highly engaged and involved in activities.

Barna's Research on Faith Building



○ Children between 5-13

32% probability of accepting Jesus

○ Children 14-18

4% probability of accepting Jesus

○ Those older than 18

6% probability of accepting Jesus

Ken Ham and Britt Beemer's Reports on Church Dropouts

95% attended regularly during elementary/middle school

55% attended during high school

11% were still going during college



Alarming Picture:



- 40% of these children dropped out during their elementary and middle school years.
- We failed to make an impact during their elementary and middle school years.

Impact of Families



- Parents have far more time with their children: 3,000 hours per year; church has 40/50 hours.
- If we want to reach children, we must engage with parents, connecting them spiritually with their children and equipping them to lead their families in the things of God.

#8 TEAMWORK

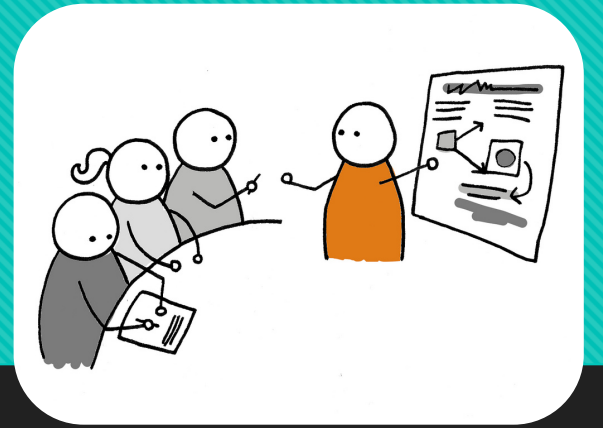


How to be a Team?



- Work hard to create a culture of family and fun within your team.
- Take time to share the philosophy and mission of your ministry with new team members before placing them in service.
- Give your new team members a spiritual gift and personality test so you can help them find their unique places of service. This leads to people enjoying their place of service and gives them “stickability.”

Teamwork...



- Provide regular training for your team to help them grow in their leadership and ministry skills.
- Keep communication lines open with your team. Give team members opportunities to give you feedback and share their ideas.
- Regularly honor, encourage, and award team members.

#9 COMMITMENT TO



Importance of



- Excellence honors God (Col. 3:23; 1 Cor. 10:31).
- Excellence inspires people.
- Excellence doesn't mean expensive

Excellence is...



- Orderly classroom with everything in place.
- Clear and easy to read signs.
- Children's space is clean.
- Schedule regular walk-throughs of your buildings. Go through classroom areas and restrooms and make notes of areas that need special attention. Prioritize that list and knock it out one item at a time.

Excellence is...

- Training people by example to pick up pieces of paper lying on the ground.
- Organizing a work day to do spring cleaning at the church.
- Programming should be age-specific.
- Taking care of little things like name badges, welcoming, follow through, etc.

#10 CHANGE

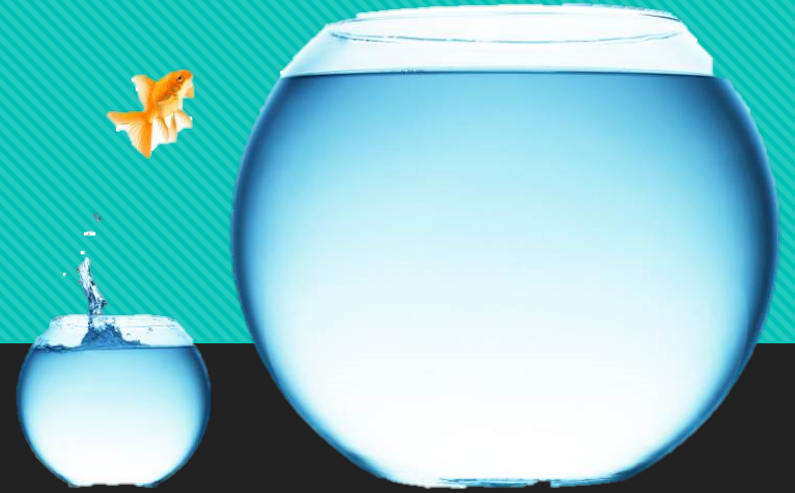


Prepare to Change



- Honor the past and learn from the past—but look to the future.
- Update, revise, replace, and change what's not working.
- Constantly look for ways to improve what is working.

Change...



- Are you willing to look for fresh ideas outside your comfort zone?
- Is your ministry changing? Is it adapting? Does it speak the language of today's kids or is it stuck in the past?

Phrases you won't hear today's Kids say:

- Hang up the phone
- Look in the yellow pages
- Check the TV guide
- Check the map to find our direction
- My Walkman keeps skipping!
- Let me drop off this film to be developed



Change...

- Evaluate, evaluate, evaluate after each event.
- Gather feedback.
- Never graduate.
- Resist complacency.



Walt Disney

*“Past traditions are important...but
CHANGE is the dynamic that sparks
growth.”*