

RU Kids Club 101 - Back to the Basics

What is the RU Kids Club?

There are four main purposes of the Friday Night RU Kids Club.

1. To provide a service to the local RU Chapter.
2. It provides a children's ministry on Friday Night's for the leaders and workers of the RU Ministry to send their children to so they can be free to work in this ministry
3. It provides a safe place for the children of students who attend on Friday Night to bring their children so that they can attend without any hinderance.
4. And then most importantly, Kids Club is a complete program to teach children from a young age how to have a personal walk and talk relationship with Jesus Christ.

This being said it is important to point out what Kids Club is not.

1. It is not a babysitting service. It should only be open to the children of Friday Night Workers and Students.
2. And it is not a bus ministry. We recommend that you do not bus children in on Friday Nights to a children's program designed to compliment an addiction program.

The Kids Club Culture

Kids Club can best be described as VBS every single Friday Night.

It's a level of intensity, excitement, challenges, competition, and fun. It requires a dedicated staff of leaders and workers. It is to be a safe place designed to put parents at ease about leaving their children in our care. And it is especially designed to teach children about who God is and how to have a personal love relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Weekly Kids Club Meeting

Eagerly greet and welcome children at the entrance. Parents should be made to feel assured that this is a safe and fun environment for their children. The class normally lasts the entire time scheduled for adult activities. The time should be separated into several segments: Listen One, Listen Two, and Listen Three. These time segments will be broken down and explained under the itinerary. The needs of the children will help you decide the order and the length of each segment. Children respond well to consistency, so try to follow the same order each week, except on special occasions.

Kids Club Itinerary

1. Welcome - Listen! Listen! Listen! And the Kids Club Password.

The night begins promptly at 7:00 PM. Even if children continue to sign in you will need to start promptly at 7:00 PM. It is very important to maintain your schedule.

It begins by welcoming the children to Kids Club. Here we must build the excitement for the night. You might begin like this: "But before we get started we need the Password? If you don't know the Password ask the child next to you to whisper it to you. Ok everyone what is the Password!," - "TRUTH FOR YOUTH!"

"Alright that is the password! Now in Kids Club we do three things. What is it Class!" - "LISTEN! LISTEN! LISTEN!" You could at this point have a contest to see which side says it the loudest.

If you need a little filler time this would be the spot to do a few songs.

Go over the Principle of the Day. Using the Flashcards for the 10 Principles spend a few minutes learning the principle and explain what it means and how the children can apply it.

Finally to wrap up the welcome time you might discuss the itinerary: Tonight we are going to have a lot of fun and learn a lot about God, and I will be watching for children who are doing right to pick for Box Mania! So let's all sit us straight and get started!"

2. LISTEN! - God Listens to Us (Through Prayers and Praises)

During this time we will give the children an opportunity to speak. Children actually have some interesting things to say if given the opportunity to offer prayers and praises to God. This teaches them that God is Listening and they can bring their problems to a personal God. Once you have completed collecting prayers and praises pray for them.

3. LISTEN! - We Listen to Each Other (In the Challenge Time)

We recommend that if you have 15 or less children that you operate a single challenge group, but if you have more than 15 then you may want to consider splitting up into more than one group for the challenge time. Typically these groups are split up by age. The 3-4 year olds may be one group. The 5-6 year olds a group. The 7-9 Year Olds might be a group and then the 10-12 year olds would be a group.

All children will begin challenges in the Overcomer and work through the levels of curriculum no matter what age they come in.

The challenge group leader has the responsibility to lead the group in challenges. Filling out the Attendance sheet for the group. And helping children with challenges. It is important that the leaders and the helpers of the group take the time to read the part of the challenges that say Leader/Helper to the child. Doing challenges are an opportunity to teach children one on one. Remember the goal is to help them develop a personal relationship with God.

4. GAME TIME

Game time is organized in two teams. Red vs. Blue. These teams will compete for points in various games of competition for a grand "bragging rights" prize to be awarded to that side for the week. The next week that side will begin Kids Club with that prize on their side and then must defend their title.

5. Break Time

Take a short interval to allow the children to use the restroom and during this time you could also have a snack time. Be sure to follow a bathroom policy with workers to be above reproach. We suggest two workers for each bathroom. Two male workers for the boys room and two female workers for the girls restroom. We suggest that you keep some workers in the Kids Club room for when the children return.

6. Box Mania

Box Mania is not a Game Time game because it is a prize for children who have done well and behaved during the class. Now you can do it during this time right before the third listen or at the end of the third listen depending on how your Adult schedule runs.

7. LISTEN! - We Listen to God (Through the Bible Lesson)

The Kids Club Lesson Plan book contains 52 weeks worth of lesson preparation material. These lessons include lots of game ideas, coloring sheets and more. The lessons are designed to give you a good start on planning your lessons. It is very important that you make these lessons your own.

Once the evening has completed be sure to take the children in an orderly manner to where the adults meet and pass out any awards they earned in the challenge books in front of the adults and then at the end of the award time dismiss the children to their parents before dismissing the adults ensuring that children return home with the parents that brought them. All this is designed to encourage parents to come back the next week.

Consider This:

Kids love to have fun and will beg their parents to go back to something that is fun and exciting.

Parents love seeing their children earn awards and succeed.

Kids Club Safety and Security (Some recommendations)

We recommend that each of your children's workers have background checks on file and be approved to work with children. If your church has a policy concerning this we recommend you follow it.

We recommend that the area that you have Kids Club be well separated from the adult program as much as your building layout allows.

We recommend that no adults accept parents dropping off and picking up and workers be allowed in this area.

We recommend a policy of the parent dropping off be the parent picking up unless they preauthorize someone else to pick up.

We recommend that children be accompanied to the bathroom by two adult workers.

During the award time have a designated area of the auditorium for the Kids Club and workers to sit. Have the parents pick up from there after the awards.

If there is ever a problem take it immediately to your RU Director and follow your church's policy in dealing with those situations. We also recommend that you have an accident/incident report and that you use that to document any issues. A sample report is available on the Director's Dashboard online.

5 Things to Remember About Safety and Security

1. You are Liable, but don't be Negligent.
2. Safety of the Children should be your #1 concern.
3. Love everyone, but be aware.
4. Keep your records up to date.
5. Always Consult your leadership.

RU Kids Club 102 - Introducing the New Kids Club Curriculum

We designed the new curriculum with a few goals in mind. First to create a curriculum that can be fun and challenging for all ages in Kids Club. Secondly that the curriculum would have a high educational value. And finally that the curriculum would accomplish the goals of Kids Club with teaching and training children to have a personal walk and talk dynamic love relationship with Jesus Christ.

The new curriculum will consist of a pre-level coloring book for the children who are unable to read. The coloring book will consist of 52 weeks worth of coloring pages that teaches simple thoughts about God.

Next the new Overcomer has been redesigned to be a full color 3 panel pamphlet that takes children on a journey that introduces them to Kids Club and us to them. This overcomer comes with two sticker awards and a Kids Club Membership Badge.

The new curriculum comes in 4 levels. There is no age group or grade group attached to the level. It is simply levels of difficulty. Every child begins in level one no matter their age or grade and works through all 4 levels. However the challenge groups in second talk will still be divided up by age group.

Each book will have challenges and will allow a child to earn awards. There will be two types of awards. Sticker Badge Awards and Awards. Awards will be the awards given out at the end of class in front of the adults for completing sections and books.

Sticker Badges: These can be earned throughout the curriculum for various challenges.

Awards: These can be earned for completing books and sections.

We have revamped the challenges to be more fun and challenging. We have used teaching methods of gamification, and objective based learning to create a highly educational and child friendly curriculum. Your children will love doing challenges.

There will be challenges where the child has to interact with the group. Group participation challenges. So when a child comes to one of these challenges with permission of the group leader the group pauses and helps the child complete that challenge.

There will be Bible verse memory challenges must always include help in understanding the meaning of a verse. As this is what makes Kidz Club different. What makes Kidz Club different from all other children's ministries that are similar is that we teach the children to not just memorize scripture, but to define it, meditate on it, and to apply it. As the child advances through the various levels they will eventually learn how to dissect and define the bible. The goal being to ease them into journaling which won't be till the later levels. To teach them how to have a personal relationship with God.

Then finally we will need some challenges that involve parents. We want to connect children with their parents as this is the best example that can be set of their relationship with God.

Much of this is still in development. What we have today is a new Overcomer, and 4 Supplemental Challenge Sheets, and a plan for development that we want to get in your hands so you know the direction we are going.

RU Kids Club 103 - Introducing a New Game Time & Supplemental Challenges

Our new game time will be a time of challenging fun and competition. Valuable life lessons are taught with principles of teamwork, and friendship.

We have revamped Game Time. We want Game Time be better planned out and laid out for Kidz Clubs across America to know exactly what to do during Game Time. By having a well laid out Game Time this will help those who don't have a gym or even a lot of space to play.

Red Team vs. Blue Team

Not girls vs. Boys just Red vs. Blue. Each team will have a captain who is a worker that will help facilitate the game time. The leader will be responsible to MC the games.

Each game should be designed to earn points that accumulate towards a win. That team gets a trophy for their side for that week. The trophy is bragging rights and circulates back and forth depending on which team won that night.

We will have game ideas available on the Director's Dashboard. You should do your best to split the teams evenly. Use your captains to pick children to compete in each game. Announce the points each game is worth.

We want to use games that are competitive and fun for the player and the team cheering them on. As each team earns points the stakes get higher till we have a winner. That team gets the trophy for the week.

Supplemental Challenges

Sometimes children forget to bring their books and this creates a problem for the workers. What do you do with them. Do they sit challenge time out? Do they color? Here is the solution:

We are going to offer downloadable supplemental challenge sheets. These sheets will contain challenges that can be printed out at the chapter's discretion for children who forget their books.

Each sheet will give the idea that they are on a scenic route because they didn't bring their book, but that we can still have fun with these challenges, but will include an encouraging reminder to the child to bring their book next week so the adventure can continue.

RU Kids Club 104 - Donor Development for Kids Club

Many local businesses are willing to donate to community programs especially for children. Most of these would not donate to a church or Sunday school, but they would donate to a program reaching out to the community and the children of the addicted. It is very important to emphasize this.

How to procure donations

Procuring donations for your Kids Club ministry helps to support the group's operational costs, activities and events. When acquiring donations you should first speak with members of the church, with permission from your Pastor and RU Director, and then reach out to local community organizations.

Write a procurement letter specifically detailing what you need and why you are making the request. The more honest and detailed you are the more attached the reader will feel to the cause you are explaining. Still, limit your letter to one page. If there are a lot of items you are looking to purchase, add a bulleted list of these items. A sample letter is available on the Director's Dashboard.

Follow up on your letters and emails. Always show appreciation for whatever donation you have received. It is a good idea to have your Kids Club make a thank you note and send a picture of the donated supplies being put to good use. When people feel genuinely connected to a cause, they become repeat givers. Involve your donors in the growth of your Kids Club ministry. Send them updates on the ministry and affirm to them their donation to your Kids Club ministry.

Ideas for Donations

We have had much success with Walgreens. At the end of each major holiday: Christmas, Valentines, and Easter stores such as Walgreens will be donating their supply of candy, prizes, treats, etc. It is a good idea to contact this store and those similar to about 1 ½ - 2 weeks in advance of the holiday concluding.

Typically most Walgreens have a schedule that they try to sell these supplies at a discount, and then at a point about 2-3 weeks following the holiday they will be willing to donate what they could not sell. We have been able to develop a relationship with the district manager for 13 Walgreens in our area which has allowed us to get tons of candy for our Kids Club.

Check with your local grocery stores.

How many Walmarts are in your surrounding neighborhood? Each Wal-Mart operates on different donation budget. Wal-Mart will give you a gift card which you can use on any necessary item for your ministry throughout the store. Many Wal-Mart's will set you up with a continual donation gift card on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. This comes in handy for large contest prizes you may want to purchase or for supplies for your game time.

Praying for Donations

The most important thing in procuring donations is to pray asking the Lord to bless your ministry with its needs.

Teach the children to pray believing that God will supply the needs of Kidz Club.