SWBA Church Planting and Evangelism Conference 2024.

Growing Discipleship Communities from Children's, Youth & Families Outreach

Seminar Notes

Introduction

Many churches have a long standing CYF Outreach, in fact it may be their most pro-active area of outreach. Some of the smallest SWBA churches have a well-attended toddler group – and certainly many churches do.

What's is for: Meeting a need?

Trying to get families to come to church?

An opportunity to share the gospel?

Where are we now?

Celebrating? Praying? Disappointed?

Well established Messy Church that have larger Congregation than 'actual' church. Questions of funding, future of the church, charity status etc?

Family Ministry vs Children's Ministry

What happens as the children grow up?

Toddler groups that create a warm affection from local people and gives the church a good reputation.

When we Invited them to a Church Event – they never came back?

ASKING WHY? What did the event look like from each perspective? Was it child-friendly or an unrealistic transition? What was the welcome like from child-height?

Was there something for the adults, or were they just supervising?

The older siblings left thinking, this isn't meant for me?

Holiday Clubs that don't look like anything else in the year

The Importance of Team

CYM Research 'Taking the Pulse' reported CYF volunteers feel the same isolation, not being part of the vision and lack of value the same as CYF workers.

Who do you have? Connect with every generation, e.g. Grandparenting For Faith (CFtF) Essentials Courses. (Children, Youth & Family)

Consumer mentality – What are the GENUINE roles for the young people & their families in your current context or in moving towards church models. Junior PCC? Being on a rota? Not the same reluctance that old time church goers (like us!) have. A desire to belong.

Volunteers should be: Well trained, well resourced, well managed, always free to step down! Who is resourced in your context to do this?

Return to the Original Vision with the team:

*Messy Church – for all. Re-define the boundaries.

*Toddler group – why was it started

Compare this to NOW!

Moving Forwards

Resourcing our team. Toddler Groups – PLAYTIME (Care for the Family) Inspire, value, short term goals.

Setting Up Something New?

Practical and Real: Day/Time/Venue Check. Ask the questions. What day/time would you come? (Example of a seaside town that has Rugby & Surf Life Saving Club on Sunday mornings).

Asking the questions in the slots you have?

Use the spaces already created! CFtF – Parenting Course, Alpha. A beginning and end date!

Holiday Clubs - Reconnecting with the same theme

The Journey VS The Destination

Steve Hollinghurst 'Mission Shaped Evengelism'

CONNECT NOT CORRECT!

It is Christian culture NOT faith that has been rejected. Recent surveys suggest an increase in interest in Spirituality amongst young people.

Goals VS exploring together. Listen to the stories of our Pioneers.

Bill Hybels: "The local church is the hope of the world, and it's future rests primarily in the hands of it's YOUTH leaders"

Pete Hughes: Church Planter of KXC "The local church is the hope of the world, and it's future rests primarily in the hands of it's YOUTH leaders" *'All Things New'*

Whatever stage you are at...

*LOVE

*PRAYER

*CULTURALLY COMPETANT

*CULTURALLY RELEVANT

*(INTENTIONALLY) RELATIONAL

TO CLOSE – PIPE CLEANER PRAYERS. All age is real, is possible and may be the only way forward.