

How2: Lead a Small Group



Small groups are an important aspect of so much ministry with children and young people. In holiday clubs and missions, regular clubs on Sundays and during the week small groups are at the core of many activities. When you take a group of young people away for the weekend, or spend a whole week away together at an SU Holiday, the small group takes on an even more significant role, becoming a bit like a temporary family. Being part of a small group can help children to feel they belong and gives them a sense of increased identity. It is an ideal place for building up relationships and ensuring that children are well cared for. It also provides a great environment for exploring the Christian faith together.

Taking care of a small group...

- If you have a 'group' of young people in your care, you must know where they are and what they are doing at all times.
- Ensure that each young person in your group is happy, safe, has his/her own space and is not being bullied.
- Support your fellow team members to the hilt! You may have differences, but don't air them in front of young people.
- At residential events, make sure that young people get enough sleep – help to enforce silence at the lights-out time specified, for everyone's sanity!
- In the event of an incident or accident, inform the event leader immediately.
- Remember you are 'in loco parentis'. As a group leader you can be a friend to young people, but you are also their leader.

Leading a group time...

Good preparation is the key to leading a small group...along with spontaneity! Ask yourself these questions as part of the preparation!!

- Have you understood what you are explaining to the children? What is your goal?
- Do you know how much time you have with your group?
- Do all your group feel comfortable reading from the Bible? Can they all read? Do they have the same translation? Do they know how to find their way around the Bible?
- At group time, does everyone have what they need – Bible, notebook, pen etc?
- Have you thought about questions that might be asked? Have you thought out your answers?
- What background do group members have? Are you using too much spiritual jargon?

- Do you know if there are particularly sensitive issues for anyone in your group that you should be remembering?

These hints and tips were supplied by Elaine Watt, a regular Holidays Team Leader. Many staff and volunteers will have contributed to the thinking that they represent. Elaine is married Phil and lives in the Inverness.

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