



Course Title

Children's Ministry – Creative Lab

Course Description

Children are our future spiritual leaders, so we need to nurture their faith formation rooted in biblical understanding and child development. In today's fast-moving world, we put much effort into staying current with the world in which we are called to minister. However, the principles of ministry today are the same as when Jesus first referred to them. Children's Ministry leaders and teachers need to keep up with the pace of the society while still remain true to Bible's core teaching.

This course will affirm us with the mission of Children's Ministry and children's potential of experiencing God. Through lecturing, hands-on activities and small group discussions, students will be introduced to practical approaches and creative ways for designing programs that respond to the spiritual needs of children and nurture their growth.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, a student should:

- Gain a basic understanding and vision for ministry to children
- Explore children in the context of family and faith community
- Realize the potential of children in experiencing God
- Learn practical approaches and creative alternatives on
 - Effective communication in Bible story-telling
 - Sharing Gospel with children
 - Leading children in music worship
- Enhance classroom discipline with love
- Understand how to support children from single parent families
- Understand how to support children with ADHD
- Design a children program based on the learned materials

Course Requirements

Text Book

May, Scottie, Beth Posterski, Catherine Stonehouse and Linda Cannell. Children Matter: Celebrating Their Place in the Church, Family, and Community. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2005.

Recommended Reading

Stonehouse, Catherine. Joining Children on the Spiritual Journey: Nurturing a Life of Faith. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2001.

Assignments

1. Class Participation and Attendance – 20%
This course is designed for significant discussion and in-class participation. Students are expected to attend each of the 8 classes in order to gain the greatest benefit. To complete this course successfully, participants must not miss more than 2 classes. A 1-2 page report (**) is to be submitted on the assigned reading for each missing class.
2. Reflection Paper on the Text Book – 30% (due by May 5, 2016)
The student must read the text book and write a 3-4 page report (**) on any two themes of the book, to give a summary and response to the subject.
3. Showcase Presentation – 30% (May 19, 2016) + 20% (reflection paper due by May 31, 2016)
Each student will be assigned to a small group, responsible to design a Children Sunday School program for a specific age group (Preschooler, Gr.1-3, Gr.4-6). It should include all the components of a Sunday program, such as, music worship, Bible story, game, craft, prayer, and classroom discipline, etc. Other groups have to observe and give insightful comments. A 2 page response paper (**) is to be submitted to summarize insights gained from the experience.

** Note: For all the reports → double line spacing, fonts 12, Times New Roman

Course Schedule

1. Mar 31: Mission and Vision of Children's Ministry
2. Apr 07: Children's Experience with God
3. Apr 14: I Love to Tell the Story: Creative Ways of Telling Bible Story
(includes Effective Communication in Story Telling)
4. Apr 21: Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord: Creative Children Music Worship
5. Apr 28: Sharing Gospel with Children (includes 1:1 Counselling to Converted Children)
6. May 05: Discipline with Love: Classroom Discipline
7. May 12: Supporting Children from Single Parent Families & Children with Special Needs
8. May 19: Show Cases from Group Presentations