*Edit this page to fit your ministry setting. Then remove this note.*

HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE

KINGDOM QUEST SHEPHERD

1. **Pray, pray, pray.**

The level of your spiritual maturity and priorities are vital to giving an high impact discipleship experience to your kids.It will be helpful to keep a prayer journal for your kids and their prayer needs. This also helps you keep track of when they are missing and how you can encourage them by making a phone call or sending a note when they have been absent for a while.

1. **Spend time reading the Bible devotionally.**

Resist the temptation to read the Bible only as a preparation for shepherding. Read it to discover what God wants to communicate to you personally. If you have a *Shepherd’s Path,* use it. Otherwise, read the Bible portion of the lesson as part of your personal devotions.

1. **Read over the lesson.**

Before you arrive on Sunday, take time to read your lesson and think of what you might share from your own life that applies to that particular truth.

1. **Arrange the seating in a circle.**

When you arrive, please don’t overlook the importance of having everyone in a circle sitting on the floor or having furniture situated in a round circle. If you have rectangular tables, circle seating may not be possible. But as much as possible arrange your group so that everyone can see one another. Avoid leaving any one person outside the group. It is very important to create an environment where no one is seated outside the group in such a way that he or she is between the shepherd and another person.

1. **Make your expectations simple and clear.**

That might sound like this: “I’m looking forward to all of us having a chance to participate in Kingdom Quest today. Let’s remember to respect each other when they are talking. We can do that by not distracting others, listening to what is being said, and being good friends to each other. I am sure that God has something special he wants to say to each and every one of us. Let’s make sure we are able to listen to his voice when he speaks to us in his word.”

1. **Listen to your kids.**

Before you help your kids apply God’s truth to their lives, you must listen and understand their world. Even a small amount of attention goes a long way. Kids feel valued when an adult shows interest, asks personal questions and seeks to understand what that child’s world is like.

1. **Help the kids apply the truth, not just know it.**

You are doing something more than simply imparting information. You are challenging kids to apply God’s truth to their world. Check on their progress. Ask about how they applied last week’s lesson.

1. **Give time for kids to think and contemplate.**

Don’t be afraid of quiet or thinking you need to answer all the questions. Give the children time to consider what they think or to listen to what God is speaking to their hearts. It is helpful for them to process what they are learning, so don’t feel in a hurry.

1. **Follow-up.**

Youwill have a huge impact with your kids when you show special attention outside of class. Any special follow-up such as a phone call or a postcard to the child when absent or sick for a while… or when they celebrate a special victory… is greatly appreciated. When you arrive on Sunday morning, be prayed up and ready to focus on the kids and their lives.

1. **Stay connected to the team**.

If you have frustrations or victories, share them with your coach and other shepherds. The team has much to share with each other and it is vitally important to encourage one another.