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

HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE

KIDS CHURCH SHEPHERD

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

The level of your spiritual maturity and priorities set the pace for the entire team. Don’t expect to impact kids’ lives without praying for all those in your ministry area. Depend on God to be the one who will do a mighty work, because he is a gracious and mighty God!

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. Read the Bible portion of the lesson as part of your personal devotions.

1. **Gather beforehand.**

Gather with the director and other shepherds beforehand to get an overview of the morning. In Kids Church 4-5-K, each shepherd will be assigned a different activity station, or role, so that children can move from activity to activity, reinforcing the learning point of the day. In Kids Church Grades 1-4, assistance is needed in crowd control, the learning game, and support roles in the Large Group Presentation.

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. **Encourage kids to participate**.

The best way to encourage participation is to model it yourself. When the group is singing and doing actions, sing and do actions, as well. When it is time to share how the lesson applies to your life, share your story as an example for the children to share theirs. Continually invite children to be active in their worship participation.

1. **During Kids Church, focus on the kids and their needs.**

Though you may not be with the same small group of children throughout the morning, you will have an opportunity to have personal interaction with children. As you interact with the children, review the Bible event and help the kids discover how God’s truth applies to their lives. Be relational. Have fun with your kids. Call them by name. Pray for them during the week.

1. **Help with “crowd control.”**

During large group presentations help the children stay attentive and focused, by moving around the room and sitting next to children who are distracted. Be as unobtrusive as possible. With gentle taps to shoulders or with eye contact, some children will quickly respond when they know they are misbehaving. If any of the children continue to misbehave or distract the group, remove them from the group and sit with them outside the group, after explaining to them the behavior that was inappropriate.

1. **Watch for new children.**

Kids Church can be a scary and intimidating place for some children when they don’t know anyone. Connect with new children personally and help them find an activity that interests them. Find them a partner to be their special friend and escort for the day.

1. **Communicate with your director.**

Leadership needs your feedback to help the ministry grow and reach more kids. Talk to the director about special questions or needs that you have. Be open to the training and empowering events provided for you, as well. Please communicate with the director if you are going to miss a Sunday and need a substitute.

1. **Invite other adults to join the team.**

Your leaders need help in sharing with others how exciting children’s ministry can be. Please invite your friends to join you in observing Kids Church, so that they might be encouraged to participate as a ministry partner themselves.