

discipleship

ideas

SOLUTIONS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL & SMALL GROUP LEADERS

Welcoming Children

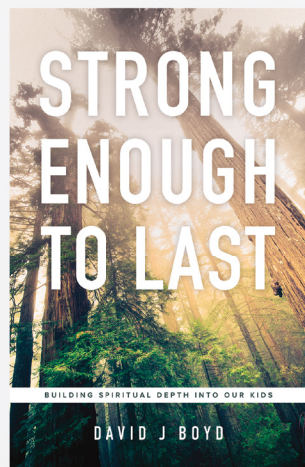
FROM THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

My Hope for the Next Generation

5 COMPONENTS OF EFFECTIVE

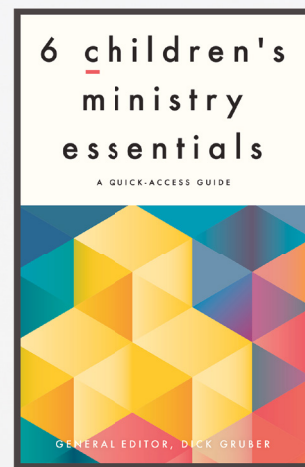
Gender-Specific Discipleship

SEP/OCT/NOV 2017



STRONG ENOUGH TO LAST
DAVID BOYD

Explore the importance of intentionally laying a spiritual foundation for children.

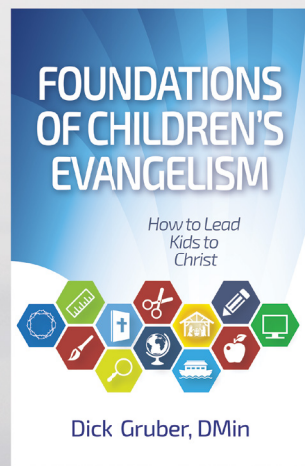


6 CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ESSENTIALS
GENERAL EDITOR, DICK GRUBER

Gain practical tips for any sized church with these valuable insights from Kidmin leaders.

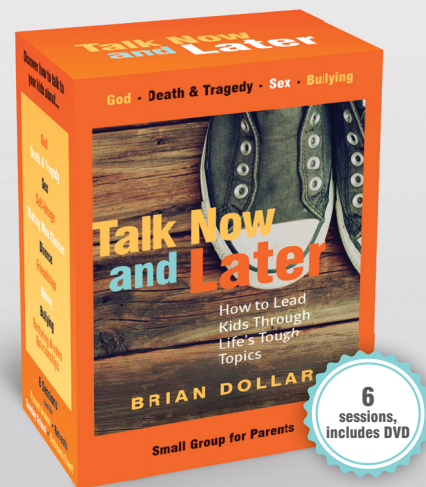
KIDMIN RESOURCES

TO STRENGTHEN YOUR MINISTRY



FOUNDATIONS OF CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM
DICK GRUBER

Find out how to reach children in a way that complements your church's ministry and community.



TALK NOW AND LATER
SMALL GROUP KIT
BRIAN DOLLAR

Equip parents to talk to their kids about tough topics with these six one-hour sessions.

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Discipleship Ideas comes to you every quarter, filled with great resources† for building disciples of all ages. For additional copies of *Discipleship Ideas*, call 1.855.642.2011.

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My Hope for the Next Generation



When I am asked, "George, what is your greatest concern for the future?" my answer is this: "That we successfully hand over our Christian faith and Pentecostal experience to the next generation." Certainly that has been and is a core value for our Fellowship.

We are incredibly rich in young people, with over 34 percent of our almost 3.2 million adherents under the age of twenty-five. Think of it—that's more than a million young people in our 12,900 churches.

We are not the first generation to be concerned with the handover to the next. Look at this reference in the Psalms to the "next generation."

“Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.”

Here is my pastoral concern for churches: Are we intentionally discipling the next generation? One of our principal reasons for being is to resource our ministers, laity, and churches. And at the very top of the resourcing concerns is our effectiveness to provide the very best curriculum and programs for children and youth that can be utilized by the local church.

We are the only Christian publisher that thoroughly integrates our Pentecostal doctrines and the experience of the Holy Spirit throughout our resources. Why should any Pentecostal church attempt to disciple the next generation using non-Pentecostal materials as their primary discipleship resource? I encourage you to ponder that question.

Let me cite an experience I recently had. We've just come out with a totally new digital curriculum for children's church called Tru Fire (MyHealthyChurch.com/TruFire). I was invited to a demonstration class by our children's department and was told, for that session, we were children.

The children's church leader then walked us through the lesson. I learned that the main theme is not any particular character of the Bible because the main theme is God. Each person's story—whether it's Moses, David, Daniel, Esther, Ruth, Peter, or Paul—is a substory to the BIG story. The session engaged us in activity and learning, and gave us time to integrate what the Holy Spirit was saying to us personally. In other words, that lesson—which represents all the lessons—helped us to not only know what the Bible teaches, but how it applies to our life. And throughout the session we were encouraged to encounter the Holy Spirit.

I thought to myself, "It's too bad I'm not a kid again." The material and presentation of Tru Fire was so powerful and applicable that I wish every elementary school child in our Fellowship could experience it during children's church. I believe we owe it to the next generation to provide for them the best of Pentecostal resources and training!

Tru Fire is just one example of the many solid resources for children and youth that we offer from the national office—resources for Sunday School, small groups, children's church, Royal Rangers, Girls Ministries, vacation Bible school, youth curriculum, Fine Arts program—and so many more! You can get a fuller measure of what is offered by going to MyHealthyChurch.com. If we are to have a harvest in the next generation, then we must be willing to plant seed—to strategically invest in the next generation!

GEORGE O. WOOD is general superintendent of the Assemblies of God (USA) and chair of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship.

If we are to have a harvest in the next generation, then we must be willing to plant seed—to strategically invest in the next generation!



Tru Fire Children's Church Curriculum equips you with engaging, Holy Spirit focused lessons that help students respond to God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

- **SPirit-EMPOWERED**
Interactive response times allow students to listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit.
- **GOd-FOCUSED OBJECTIVES**
"Ponder Points" focus on aspects of God's character, making Him the hero of every story.
- **FAMILY MINISTRY**
Take-home resources encourage discipleship beginning in the home.
- **DIGITAL CONTENT**
Digital access to all the materials you need simplifies your preparation each week.

Visit MyHealthyChurch.com/TruFire to purchase or download FREE sample lessons.





5 COMPONENTS OF EFFECTIVE

Gender-Specific Discipleship

If we want to create an environment where each boy and girl in our ministry has the best opportunity to grow as a Spirit-filled disciple, we must value gender-specific mentoring and discipleship. There are many reasons why this is an important aspect of kids ministry.

First, girls and boys learn differently; therefore, for optimal learning and discipleship to occur, each gender needs the methods that work best for them. Second, girls and boys need different topics addressed. Gender-specific mentoring allows you to guide kids in your ministry through separate topics and mentorship opportunities.

Creating gender-specific discipleship opportunities in your ministry will help kids grow as healthy disciples. Here are five components that will maximize those opportunities:

1 DISCIPLESHIP AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS. There's no way you can disciple each

individual child in your ministry. Your Sunday School teachers or small group leaders are on the front lines of helping kids grow. As kids ministry leaders, one of the best things we can do is focus on training leaders to disciple kids rather than simply focusing on how to run a program or use a curriculum. Training and equipping leaders in the areas of role modeling, accountability, bonding, and leading kids through a discipleship process is essential for creating a healthy kids ministry where kids are truly growing. *Strong Enough to Last* by David Boyd explores the eight goals for kids and can show you and your leaders how to lay a faith foundation in Kidmin that will last for your students' entire lives.

2 CREATE SMALL GROUP ENVIRONMENTS WHERE DISCIPLESHIP CAN THRIVE. Breaking larger groups of kids down into groups of five to eight is the best way to ensure each kid has the opportunity to be discipled by a mentor who truly knows them. This also allows your small group leaders to create unique environments based on the kids in their group. The *Fire Bible for Kids 21 Devotions for Boys and Girls* are great gender-based options for your respective groups.

3 HOST GENDER-SPECIFIC MINISTRY OUTREACH EVENTS AS A WAY TO CREATE MOMENTUM. While boys and girls in youth ministry might share the same interests, boys and girls in kids ministry share vastly different interests. One idea is to look for unique ways to create gender-specific outreach events that are geared specifically towards boys or girls. Hosting events that allow boys and girls in your ministry to invite their friends is a great way to build momentum throughout the year. National Girls Ministries sponsors an annual Sleepover event every year where girls learn about the importance of generously giving to missions. For boys, the Ranger Derby is a great opportunity to invite all the boys in the church and the community for a fun competition. You could also host a MEGA Sports Camp outreach with clinics separated by which sport your groups of boys and girls prefer.

4 BUILD A SYSTEM WHERE NUMEROUS STAKEHOLDERS HAVE VESTED INTEREST IN YOUR GENDER-SPECIFIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES. In addition to encouraging parents to buy into the

opportunity, look for staff members or key volunteers in your church who understand the value in gender-specific discipleship and ask for their help. It could be your senior pastor and his wife or a key couple in your church. One important part of building a system of stakeholders is to look for people who can help shape your ministry. Don't just view stakeholders as people who supply money or resources, but look for people who can help shape the direction of your ministry by investing their time and energy. See if there are men's and women's events that can be expanded to include young girls and boys so they can connect with mentors from other generations.

5 MAKE SURE YOU ARE TAKING A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO DISCIPLESHIP FOR BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS IN YOUR MINISTRY. One of the things we believe at My Healthy Church is that a healthy disciple is one who is growing in every area of life: spiritually, relationally, intellectually, emotionally, and physically. As you evaluate your gender-specific discipleship strategies, make sure to evaluate each one based on those five criteria. You might find that your strategy for boys is struggling in one area that your girls ministry is not. Evaluating each separately allows you to ensure that both boys and girls in your ministry are growing towards becoming healthy, Spirit-filled disciples.

As a gender ministries strategist, **CARA RAILEY** provides guidance to the unique ministry needs of both boys and girls.

GENDER-SPECIFIC DISCIPLESHIP OPTIONS



Royal Rangers equips leaders to model Christlike manhood as they mentor boys on a Bible-based, Spirit-empowered journey to maturity in the faith. Boys learn to study and apply what the Bible says about integrity, doctrine, cultural issues, manhood, and service.

For more information, visit RoyalRangers.com.



National Girls Ministries creates a unique discipleship environment where every girl can explore and move forward in her relationship with Jesus. Clubs teach valuable life skills, such as sportsmanship, integrity, and community outreach that girls need to become godly women.

For more information, visit NGM.ag.org.

BY RACHEL PILCHER

Welcoming Children from the Foster Care System

Foster care is the newest phenomenon to hit the local church. Many churches preach sermons on loving the orphan, and they have support groups and special meetings to talk about the need in their local area. Yet when a new foster family shows up on a Sunday morning, the kids team seems to have no idea how to handle this little one.

As members of our churches continue to help in the foster care system, we will continue to encounter more foster children in our ministries on Sundays. So how do we welcome them, their parents, and their special set of needs in our kids ministries? How do we protect them from potential harm on social media, or from their biological parents and further trauma while they are in our care? For answers, I spoke to some foster parents

who are near and dear to my heart. Some of their answers and ideas are below:

Have a clear check-in and check-out procedure. Explain this to parents as they drop off their children. Show parents the security checkpoints you have in place. I personally have security threats with my foster child. So we have communicated to the teachers in her room that only my

husband and I are allowed to pick her up. If anyone else tries, they are to immediately contact our security team.

Provide training for your volunteers for children who have traumatic backgrounds. Many counties provide these trainings for little to no fee. Help volunteers understand that “normal” behavior for many children is not going to happen with kids that have trauma in their background. Have sensitivity for children in the foster care system. Know that many kids have “triggers.” Ask the foster parents to share with you if their child has any.

Tell foster parents the truth about their child’s behavior. They are watching this child’s every move. Each behavior helps them understand more about the child they have in their home. When these children are with you on Sunday, it may be the only time they are playing with a group of children their age. It is great to know which behaviors come out in that setting. These behaviors may even point to more services the child may need.

Understand that we cannot tell you the child’s whole story. Foster parents are not allowed to share everything that has happened to the child in their care. Please know they will tell you all they can, but don’t make them uncomfortable.

Provide support for the whole family. Talk to your church about how you can support these families. Here are some ideas: pray, send notes, arrange meals, provide respite and transportation, send gift cards, etc.

Be careful what you call the foster parents when talking to children. I always ask the foster parent what the child calls them before they leave their child in my care. I heard of a story once

of a preschool teacher telling an upset foster child, “Mommy will be here soon.” When the foster mom walked into room, the child went into a huge meltdown because she thought her biological mommy was coming, not her foster mommy.

No social media policy. State laws differ from state to state, but a good rule of thumb is to not include foster children’s faces in any of your promotional material, including a private Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram page. Some states do allow foster parents to post pictures of their little ones, but due to security risks with biological parents, I would still strongly encourage churches and ministries to steer clear of this practice. You really would not want a biological parent showing up on Sunday morning to see their child.

One of the foster parents I spoke with shared this with me: Out of 12 couples that attend their support group, only two of them attend church. The reason they gave was the lack of security and training of the church volunteers. This makes my heart break. These are Christian folks who want to worship the Lord every weekend but do not feel welcomed in the local church due to the ministry that God has called them to. Welcoming and protecting foster care families into our church is an issue that will not go away. If anything, it will be amplified in the coming months and years. As my husband and I took our classes last fall, almost 50% of our class were Christians and had no prior connection to the foster care system. We are going to have more and more opportunities to minister to these children.

RACHEL PILCHER serves as the children’s pastor at Victory Life Church in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Check out our Fall 2017 unit themes.
Radiant Life curriculum provides a proven way to systematically disciple and educate believers of all ages.

Revise los títulos de nuestras unidades de septiembre 2017 a febrero 2018.
 El currículo paralelo *Radiant Life/Vida Nueva* provee el mismo discipulado de excelente calidad para alumnos de habla hispana de toda edad. Para una descripción de cada unidad, visite www.MyHealthyChurch.com/VidaNueva si necesita ver la tabla de esquemas temáticos de *Vida Nueva*.



- Nursery** · 1yr Cycle
- God Gives Elijah Food
 - Daniel and the Lions
 - Jonah and the Big Fish



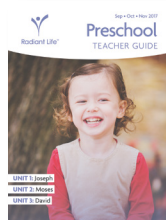
- Toddlers & Twos** · 2yr Cycle
- Thank You, God, We Can Praise You
 - Thank You, God, for My Friends
 - Thank You, God, for My Home
 - Thank You, God, for Water



- Primeros Pasos** · Ciclo de dos años
- SEPTIEMBRE A NOVIEMBRE 2017
- José
 - Moisés
 - David
- DICIEMBRE 2017 A FEBRERO 2018
- El nacimiento de Jesús
 - El ministerio de Jesús
 - Jesús ama a los niños



- Tesoros Del Rey** · Ciclo de dos años
- SEPTIEMBRE A NOVIEMBRE 2017
- Moisés y los israelitas
 - Jesús nos enseña
 - Dios da jueces
- DICIEMBRE 2017 A FEBRERO 2018
- La Navidad
 - La Palabra de Dios
 - Dios ama a todos



- Preschool** · 2yr Cycle
- Joseph
 - Moses
 - David



- Beginning Explorers** · 2yr Cycle
- God Cares for His People



- Mis Amigos** · Ciclo de tres años
- SEPTIEMBRE A NOVIEMBRE 2017
- La iglesia
 - Mujeres de fe
 - Daniel y sus amigos
- DICIEMBRE 2017 A FEBRERO 2018
- Jesús viene a la tierra
 - Jesús comienza su ministerio
 - Jesús ama a los pecadores



- El Compañero** · Ciclo de cuatro años
- SEPTIEMBRE A NOVIEMBRE 2017
- ¿Quién es Dios?
 - El cuidado de Dios
 - El poder de Dios
- DICIEMBRE 2017 A FEBRERO 2018
- Dios con nosotros
 - Dios me ayuda
 - La casa de Dios



- Kindergarten** · 2yr Cycle
- Moses and the Israelites
 - Jesus Teaches Us
 - God Gives Judges



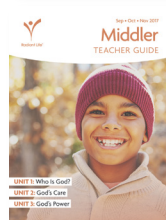
- Primary** · 3yr Cycle
- The Church
 - Women of Faith
 - Daniel and His Friends



- El Explorador** · Ciclo de cuatro años
- SEPTIEMBRE A NOVIEMBRE 2017
- Un Camino
 - Cómo vive un cristiano en un mundo secular
 - Palabras radicales: los dicho duros de Jesús
- DICIEMBRE 2017 A FEBRERO 2018
- No es natural: milagros en la Biblia y hoy
 - Ve y diles: el llamado al evangelismo personal



- El Embajador** · Ciclo de cinco años
- SEPTIEMBRE A NOVIEMBRE 2017
- El cristiano en el ámbito secular
 - El amor de Dios
 - Los cristianos y sus amigos
- DICIEMBRE 2017 A FEBRERO 2018
- Los milagros bíblicos
 - Cómo tratar los cambios en la vida
 - Transformación Cristiana



- Middler** · 2yr Cycle
- Who Is God?
 - God's Care
 - God's Power



- PreTeen** · 2yr Cycle
- Faith
 - My Choices
 - Books of Minor Prophets



- Young Teen** · 3yr Cycle
- Making the Grade
 - Reach Out
 - Costly Conversations



- High School** · 4yr Cycle
- One Way
 - Make an Impact
 - Radical Words



- El Maestro** · Ciclo de siete años
- SEPTIEMBRE A NOVIEMBRE 2017
- La compasión de Jesús: Lucas
 - La Trinidad
- DICIEMBRE 2017 A FEBRERO 2018
- Los reyes de Judá
 - La familia cristiana



- Young Adult** · 7yr Cycle
- The Compassion of Jesus: Luke
 - The Holy Trinity



- Adult** · 7yr Cycle
- The Compassion of Jesus: Luke
 - The Holy Trinity



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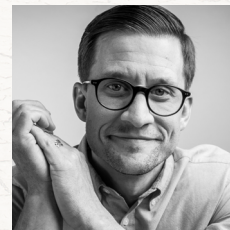
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Explore the importance of sharing Jesus' message and becoming the Gospel-Centered, Spirit-Empowered, and Personally-Responsible Christian God desires!



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in Spanish

Heath is the senior director of the Assemblies of God Youth Ministries. With a growing global platform, he also chairs the World Assemblies of God Fellowship NextGen Commission and cochairs Empowered 21's Next Gen Youth-leaders Network.



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