

Biblical Youth and Children's Ministry at Immanuel

In the context of genuine Christian relationships

- Deuteronomy 6 shows that to some extent, the burden of raising children for Christ is shared by the whole church
- In 1 Thessalonians, Paul and Timothy clearly exercise their ministry in a *motherly* and *fatherly* fashion – the context of loving relationship is clear.
- We want the youth and children to know that we love them – that's why we work hard to show them Christ Jesus.

Questions for groups:

What do you make of that four-part summary of youth and children's work? Is there anything you think is missing?

How do these priorities match up with the things that you pray for our churches children and young people? For yourselves?

What part can you play in helping our children and young people to stick with Jesus until the end of their lives? Or what part can you play in helping the parents of those children and young people?

Question: *If you have any experience of what children's and youth ministry looks like elsewhere, how does what we do at Immanuel compare? As far as you can see, what are the pros and cons of doing things the way we do them?*

- Bible Beginners (0-4s)
- Bible Discoverers (4-7s)
- Bible Explorers (7-11s)
- Youth Group (often split into 11-14s and 14-18s)

A summary of our approach:

*Working with parents,
to grow youth and children towards maturity in Christ,
by faithfully and engagingly teaching the Bible,
in the context of genuine Christian relationships.*

Working with parents

*⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ...”
(Deuteronomy 6:5-7)*

“Do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”
(Ephesians 6:4)

- Children primarily learn to love and obey God in family life and in the family home
- We don't want to take spiritual responsibility away from parents, but rather aid and equip them in their task.
- We need to grow in this!

Growing youth and children towards maturity in Christ

“[Christ] we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.”
(Colossians 1:28)

- Christian maturity and standing with Jesus on the last day is the aim – we're playing the long-game.
- We're not here to entertain, and we're not to be worried about huge numbers and being 'busy'.

Faithfully and engagingly teaching the Bible

“Him we proclaim...”
(Colossians 1:28)

“Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life.”
(John 5:24)

- Bible teaching is always at the heart of what we do
- Our leaders are not child-minders, but Bible-teachers – of any age!

Bible Discoverers and Bible Explorers 3-year rolling programme:

YEAR ONE – beginning Sept 2018:

What is the Bible?	5 sessions
The OT story of Jesus part 1	10 sessions
	<i>Christmas</i>
The OT story of Jesus part 1	12 sessions
	<i>Easter</i>
Ephesians	8 sessions
Jonah	4 sessions
Church:	3 sessions

YEAR TWO: - beginning Sept 2019:

Q&A About God	15 sessions
	<i>Christmas</i>
Proverbs (excerpts)	6 sessions
Lord's Prayer/praying	7 sessions
	<i>Easter</i>
Psalms (excerpts)	8 sessions
Esther	4 sessions

YEAR THREE: - beginning Sept 2020:

Mark's Gospel	12 sessions
	<i>Christmas</i>
Acts (excerpts)	13 sessions
Church – mission partners:	1 or 2 sessions
	<i>Easter</i>
Daniel 1-7	7 sessions
End times	4 sessions