

WHERE TO NEXT?

The importance of going

I am going to assume that because you are reading this document, you see there is value in ministering to children. I am also going to assume that when we say “minister to children,” you immediately think of Children’s Church on a Sunday. Sundays are a great opportunity to reach our children. It’s a space where they can encounter Jesus in a way that is meaningful and accessible to them. But thankfully, reaching children doesn’t only happen on a Sunday.

For me personally, someone visited my school and told me about Jesus, and this was a huge starting point to my relationship with Him. For others, it may have been at a kids’ camp or Junior Youth. We cannot ignore the value of ministering to children at every opportunity we have. So in this section, we are going to ask the question, “Where to next?”

The Bible makes it clear in Matthew 28 that we need to be going! While our children may look like cute little sweethearts, the truth is they are sinners like us too. They need to call on Jesus to save them. Romans 10:14 (NLT) says, “But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?”

Where to start?

So if God is calling you to minister to children, again we ask the question, “Where to next?” A great place to start is to look at moments where you are already asked to “babysit” children, or where you see parents shushing their children rather than letting them be part of the church. For example, if your church meets to pray, gather your children and let them have a prayer meeting too.

Another option is to start up a Junior Youth or Friday evening program where kids can have fun with other Christians and have opportunities to invite friends who wouldn’t otherwise be able to. This could grow into kids’ camps and weekend events.

Reach out to schools to try and visit on a weekly basis. A lot of schools have a Bible club which meets at break or after school for you to support. If they don’t, then why not start one?

We have guided workbooks that you can use for this, please get in touch if you are interested.

You can also contact the children's homes in your area. You will be surprised how open the community can be to the love and support of churches, but make sure that if you start something, you see it through.

These things may seem overwhelming, but remember, we do this with God! And so we get to dream even bigger with Him. Your "where to next" may be to run a big outreach like camps, kids' conferences at your church or community centres, and mission trips in surrounding areas. There are so many opportunities to reach His kids!

How do you run an event?

Now we know that we can reach children anywhere, any time of the week. What do we do with this information? We want to start impacting our community, but we don't even know the first thing about running an event. We have put together a basic template to follow whenever we run an event, from a big children's conference to a Saturday afternoon at a children's home. Here are some of the key tools that we use to make space to encounter Jesus in a way that is meaningful and accessible.

Let's get first things first: we do nothing in our own strength. Each idea is a God idea. What is inspired by God will impact the children that God needs to reach, from the two children who show up to the two hundred.

When planning an event, we can sometimes get too caught up in the fluff: the decorations, the good music, the inflatables, or the cool theme. One question you should ask yourself throughout the planning process is, "What are the children walking away with? What is the one key truth that rings throughout everything, that a child will walk away remembering and sharing with their friends and family?" This key truth will inspire and reinforce everything you do, from the worship song to the décor to the games. Everything will lead back to biblical truth that the children will walk away with. Too much fluff and too many points, and the heart of the event will be lost.

But how do we find this one truth the children should walk away with? We pray. We pray, and we pray, and we pray. We pray alone, we pray together, we pray with our eldership team, and we pray with the others who want to get involved. We pour Jesus into the

centre of everything we choose to do.

Then we have a generic formula that we use, which can be adapted to any size group or any venue. It keeps the children engaging with the truth of Jesus in an accessible and meaningful way.

Example of a day plan

It is helpful to have a plan of who will do what for how long and where. Even more importantly what each of these parts will teach and how they will link back to the main idea you want the children to leave with.

Structure has a huge benefit of getting to the end goal **but** remember we need to be flexible to change when God says.

(SATURDAY) Zimbabwe 2026 - DAY PLAN						
Start time	End Time	Activity	Location	Duration	Responsible	Comments
9:00	9:45	Registration/ free time	Outside	0:45	The Rock	Arrival games
9:45	9:50	Welcome & Open in prayer	Hall	0:05	The Rock	
9:50	10:00	Worship	Hall	0:10	Tyler and Alex	2 songs
10:00	10:10	Skit/Message: King of all Kings	Hall	0:10	The Rock	Skit and Boxes with posters
10:10	10:15	Split into teams	Hall	0:05	The Rock	Hand out strips
10:15	10:55	Rotation 1	Various	0:40	Game leaders below	See table below
10:55	11:35	Rotation 2	Various	0:40	Game leaders below	See table below
11:35	11:45	Worship	Hall	0:10	Tyler and Alex	2 songs End - King of my Heart
11:45	11:50	Message: Choose your King	Hall	0:05	The Rock	Felt and crowns
11:50	12:35	Devotional	Various	0:45	The Rock (ALL)	Need Playdough and Rock
12:35	13:35	Lunch	Outside	1:00	The Rock	Arrival games after eaten
13:35	13:50	Worship	Hall	0:15	Tyler and Alex	
13:50	14:30	Rotation 3	Various	0:40	Game leaders below	
14:30	14:35	Object lesson: Mr Ketchup	Hall	0:05	Bailey	Take extra Ketchup and bottles
14:35	14:50	Skits: Do what the King says	Hall	0:15	ALL	Skits
14:50	15:00	Message: Do what the King Says	Hall	0:15	Brenda	Peter and John (Acts 3 & 4)
15:05	15:10	Salvation Colouring	Hall	0:05	Cindy	
15:10	15:25	Craft: Salvation Bracelet	Hall	0:15	ALL	
15:25	15:35	Game: Share the Gospel	Outside	0:10	Steve	Posters & Song: King of Kings
15:35	15:50	Worship	Hall	0:15	Tyler and Alex	
15:50	16:00	Game: River Bank	Hall	0:10	Steve	(If needed)

Game Rotation				Game Rotation		Game 3	
	Kings Call + (Truth about Jesus Yes and No)	Kingdom (God's Kingdom lasts forever)	Bricks	Obstacle Course (Jesus is Necklace)			
Game leaders	Tyler & Bailey	Steve , Cindy Matthew & Hope		Alex, Brenda & Michelle			

We start with “free play.” Free play means that we set up small interactive games that the children can play while everyone goes through registration. Each game is manned by a leader who invites children in and facilitates the game. This allows the children to connect with the leader and also be given the opportunity to make new friends.

We then bring all the children together with a welcome and pray together. This points the focus back to Jesus.

Worship is a great way for children to get excited and to speak the truth of Jesus Christ for themselves. We usually have three to five songs that are repeated three to four times throughout the day so that the children can learn the words and remember these truths even after they have left, as they sing them in the car on the way home and show their friends and families the dances.

We do something called “game rotations.” This allows you to break up the group of children into three smaller groups, which makes it easier for them to listen and engage with the message of the game. Each group is assigned a colour and they split up into the three game stations. Once the time is up, each team moves on to the next game. By the end of three rotations, each child should have had the opportunity to play each of the three games and learnt the lesson at that game.

We also set time aside to a small Bible study or devotional together. Each child receives a booklet that guides them through Scripture. They split into small groups with a leader who then leads them, encouraging them to get used to studying their Bibles. These quieter times are so vital in ensuring that each child understands the truth of the Gospel. This space gives them room to process, ask questions, and learn.

When we talk about reaching children anywhere and anytime, this is what it can look like in practice. It doesn't have to be complicated, perfect, or big. It just has to be centred on Jesus, led by prayer, and shaped with intention. When we create space, whether for two children or two hundred, God does the work. Our role is simply to be faithful, to be available, and to keep pointing everything back to the truth of who Jesus is. When we do that, every moment becomes an opportunity for a child to encounter Him, remember Him, and carry that truth into their world.

Why are we waiting? It's time to go

So we go back to the question, “Where to next?”

And we all nod and say, “Yes, Lord. Where are you going to send the person next to me? Where are you sending my team leader? Where are you sending the people that clearly know so

much about Your Word?" But let me ask it in a different way: "Where are **you** going to next?"

These events or outreaches don't happen by themselves, and they don't just happen because someone more knowledgeable or experienced is in charge. They happen because each of us chooses to follow what God has called us to do, and that is to make disciples of all nations. These events don't happen with one person; they happen with a team. God has given us all a unique perspective and gifts that only we can use.

It's time to take the leap of faith. It's time to take ownership and responsibility for the mission we are called to. We are all here to support one another. If you're unsure, call someone. We can all learn from and support each other.

Need ideas, activities, or resources? We have a website full of resources and videos that you can use. It is full of object lessons, games and a section called "Run an event". Download what you need, make it your own and reach the kids we may never be able to.

<https://kids.cornerstonechurch.co.za/events/>

<https://kids.cornerstonechurch.co.za>

So I ask again, "Where is God sending you to next?"