



SMBC

SYDNEY MISSIONARY & BIBLE COLLEGE

2024 CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CONFERENCE

SMALL GROUPS Big GAINS

CREATING A CULTURE OF
DELIBERATE DISCIPLESHIP

SMALL GROUPS BIG GAINS

CREATING A CULTURE OF DELIBERATE DISCIPLESHIP

We love the large scale events – the kids’ clubs, the holiday camps, the all-in events. But you don’t need a big event to make a big impact in your children’s ministry.

Small groups can be places where God’s love, God’s word and God’s life are shared. They can be places where children discover God’s word for themselves, where they grow as disciples, and where they can even serve one another in love.

Today, we’re inviting you to come and discover the treasure of Small as we serve our Big God.



Program

- 9.00am **Bible Talk** – Alan Thompson
Presentation – Quiz Worx
- 10.10am **Morning Tea**
- 10.45am **Talk** – Sandy Galea
- 12.00pm **Lunch**
- 12.50pm **Seminar 1:**
Small groups that engage every child – Sandy Galea
- 2.00pm **Afternoon Tea**
- 2.25pm **Seminar 2:**
Small groups with big issues – Naomi de Vries + Robyn Turton
- 3.30pm **Finish**

Access the Recording

Link: vimeo.com/showcase/2024cmc

We apologise for the recorded audio quality during Seminar 1, the start of Seminar 2 and one of the songs.

EPHESIANS 5:1-2

¹ Follow God's example, therefore, as
dearly loved children ² and walk in the
way of love, just as Christ loved us and
gave himself up for us as a fragrant
offering and sacrifice to God.

(NIV)

WALK IN LOVE - *Alan Thompson*

1. The basis

2. The cost

3. The goal

PRESENTATION

Quiz Worx

Notes:



SMALL GROUPS, BIG GAINS - *Sandy Galea*

1. What's the small?

Discipleship model of ministry

Introduce children to Jesus, through the Word, in the context of loving relationships

Jesus is interested in growing fully devoted disciples

– Disciples who want to know more about him

– Disciples who want to grow more like him

A word of caution

Learn to be good conductors not composers

Lesson structure

Introductory Activities

Joint Group Time

Small Group Time

Games | Crafts | Science Experiments | Drama Activities

Context Activity | Memory Verse | Singing | Story | Prayer

Our focus for today



Small group definition

- Option 1: one leader consistently leading a group of children over a year
(Mary, Martha model for a multi-service church)
- Option 2: two leaders sharing leadership a group of children over a year
(for a single-service church)
- Consistent group of children in each group

What's the small?

- Aged 3 and 4 – one adult leader to every five children
- Ages 5-11 – one adult leader to every seven children
(Note: it's the same ratio as your safe ministry ratios)



2. What's the gain?

Which children are most helped by small groups?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The Gains

- Consistent leadership is more likely to lead to consistent kids.

Consistent leadership is not a silver bullet. Onboarding the right leaders is a critical first step

- Children see what it looks like to live as a fully devoted disciple of Christ
- Children are more likely to pray



Boys are more likely to pray in a single sex group with a male leader who prays personal prayers

- Children are more likely to ask questions
- Children experience leaders who pastorally care for them
- Children can love children in their group and be loved by children in their group
- Children can serve children in their group
- A small group can serve others as a group
- Children transition better as a group

The family is the most significant small group in your church

3. What does good look like?

Leaders talk less, children talk more

- Circles are better than rows
 - Aim: children talk 70%, leader talks 30%
- Break the ice (icebreakers)
- Think Pair Share
- Finger on the ground
- Stop the ping pong

Alternatives to the ping pong

- Jenga Tower Quiz
- Group retells the story using same equipment as the joint time story:
 - set of duplo
 - set of small pictures
 - small felt board and felt shapes



Active learning

- Five words to describe (Pharisee, Tax Collector)
- Cartoon the story (parable of the two sons)
- Cartoon the verse (Romans 6:23)
- Map the journey (Ruth 1)
- Five pointed star (the second coming)
- Flip the order (craft in small group time, MV flipper flapper)
- Mime a fruit of the Spirit
- Card game (find baby Moses and baby Jesus)
- Prayer Cubes



Application

- Head
- Heart
- Hands

Importance of confidentiality. Confidentiality is never at the expense of safety

Do you know the 'why'?

Not information transfer, but transformed hearts

So pray

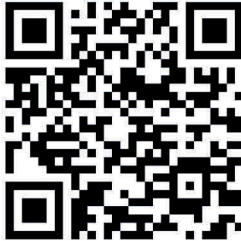
- What's your next step?

- What's one thing you can put into practice in the next two weeks?

Resources



• kidswise Academy
(online training for parents and volunteers)



• kidswise Articles



• kidswise Masterclass



• kidswise Resources
Ages 1-2



• kidswise Resources
Ages 3-4



• kidswise Stories
Ages 5-11



• kidswise Stories



• kidswise Training



• kidswise Products

- Show Them Jesus, *Jack Klumpenhower*
- Zeal Without Burnout, *Christopher Ash*
- Raise The Bar When Teaching Children, *Nancy Guthrie interviews David and Sally Michaels (Gospel Coalition)*

SEMINAR 1

SMALL GROUPS THAT ENGAGE EVERY CHILD - Sandy Galea

Diversity is God's idea

EXERCISE #1

1. Think of two children in your group.
2. What is one thing each child enjoys doing?
3. What is one thing each child struggles to do?

Children have _____ attention spans
so each lesson needs _____ activities
that teach the _____ big idea.

Children _____ in different ways
so each lesson needs different _____ of activities
that teach the _____ big idea.

We change for the sake of others

*I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means
I might save some.*

~1 Corinthians 9:22b

SEMINAR 1

1. How we learn

Auditory | Hearing

Visual | Seeing

Kinaesthetic | Moving, Touching

Theory of Multiple Intelligences | Howard Gardener

EXERCISE #2

1. Read through the seven lists. Which three lists best describe how you learn?
2. Think back to your last three lessons. What types of activities did you use the most in those lessons?
3. What do you notice about your answers to question 1 and 2?

SEMINAR 1

WORD storytelling writing jokes reading speaking word puzzles poetry action rhymes rhymes debating write a list asking questions journaling	BODY controlling movements actions for songs dancing playing sport acting making things fixing things manipulating team games miming active learning	MATHS & LOGIC making predictions analysing ordering reasoning calculating categorising research sequencing experimenting solving mazes problem solving comparing logical arguments	MUSIC memorising tunes rhythm creating sound effects pitch song writing chants raps singing
SPACE & VISION visual storytelling navigation making patterns making mazes painting doodling making diagrams drawing photography mapping graphing designing cartooning	SELF expressing feelings self-understanding goal setting self-awareness identifying own strengths & weaknesses self- discipline meditation reflection creating mental pictures	INTERPERSONAL cooperation understanding behaviour encouragement understanding motivation negotiation empathy organising others social interactions leadership sensitivity to others	

SEMINAR 1

2. Creative ideas for small groups

WORD INTELLIGENCE	BODY INTELLIGENCE	MUSIC INTELLIGENCE	MATHS & LOGIC INTELLIGENCE
Dramatic reading (group, Audio Bible)	Frozen statues (Good Samaritan)	Raps (Temptation Rap)	Analyse similarities & differences (Adam & Eve)
Poetry (Jesus The King)	Movie making (Daniel Lego movie)	Add another verse (Psalm 75:1)	Sequence pictures (God's Promised King)
Invitation to heaven (The Great Banquet)	Body expressions: (show me how...)	Arrange a verse (for the term)	Find the pattern (Judge's Cycle)
Business cards (Pharisee, Tax Collector)	Body percussion (walk, march, rain...)	Create sound effect Guess sound effect (Exodus plagues)	Compare characters (Ananias & Sapphira vs Barnabas, Herod & Wise men)
Word puzzles (forgive, divided kingdom)	Dough (creation)		
	Craft (origami rooster)		
SPACE & VISION INTELLIGENCE	SELF INTELLIGENCE	INTERPERSONAL INTELLIGENCE	
Timeline (Bible's Big Story)	Self-Aware (What are my gifts?)	Get-To-Know-You Activities (child of the week)	
Navigation (The Wandering Sheep maze)	Goal Setting (this week, this year)	Understanding Behaviour & Motivation (What time was it? Where were they? What did they say? How did they feel?)	
Graph (Joseph's Life)	Journaling (What did I learn? My prayer)	Cooperation (paired work)	
Colouring (Jesus' name means God saves)	How was your week? (Tell me your high, Tell me your low)	Encouragement (card to a Pastor)	

SEMINAR 1

Icebreakers	Intelligence
Think Pair Share	Intelligence
Finger On The Ground	Intelligence
Five words to describe (Pharisee, Tax Collector)	Intelligence
Cartoon the story (parable of the two sons)	Intelligence
Cartoon the verse (Romans 6:23)	Intelligence
Map the journey (Ruth 1)	Intelligence
Five pointed star (the second coming)	Intelligence
MV flipper flapper	Intelligence
Mime a fruit of the Spirit	Intelligence
Card game (find baby Moses and baby Jesus)	Intelligence
Prayer Cubes	Intelligence

Writers write according to their bias

Teachers teach according to their bias

EXERCISE #3

1. Circle one thing from each intelligence (either from the table or list above from the morning session) you'd like to try with your children in the next month.

2. In pairs, pray for the children you teach, that you will be both clear and engaging as you teach God's truth and that they may see Jesus and follow him.

SEMINAR 1

Resources



●●kidswise Academy
(live training for parents and volunteers)



●●kidswise Articles



●●kidswise Masterclass



●●kidswise Resources
Ages 1-2



●●kidswise Resources
Ages 3-4



●●kidswise Stories
Ages 5-11



●●kidswise Stories



●●kidswise Training



●●kidswise Products

• Teaching The Bible Creatively, *Bill McNabb & Steven Mabry*
(written for youth context, but lots of ideas you can adapt for children ages 7 plus)

SEMINAR 2

SMALL GROUPS WITH BIG ISSUES

- Naomi de Vries + Robyn Turton

Introduction

ACTIVITY: Share one thing you love about small groups with your neighbour.

REFLECT: My goal for a small group is to _____

Unpacking

1. What's in a child's backpack?

- We don't know what children bring with them emotionally to our small groups, so we need to be sensitive and caring.

2. The landscape:

- Trauma awareness.
- Adverse childhood experiences.
- Mental health stats.

3. What's in our backpack?

SEMINAR 2

Settling in

4. Setting the tone

- How we start our groups sets the tone and expectations. We want to make sure that everyone feels safe, welcome and supported.

REFLECT: What are the first things you say and/or do when you are starting a small group? Why?

Exploring – Staying Connected

5. Emotions and behaviour:

- All behaviour is telling us something
- Triggers
- Fight Flight Freeze??
- Name it to tame it!

SEMINAR 2

Exploring –Staying safe

6. Dealing with difficult topics

- Difficult conversations are guaranteed to come up when we create a safe environment for children in our groups.
- When children ask a sensitive question or share a personal matter, they need a caring, balanced response that is not shutting them down too quickly, or delving too deeply.

ACTIVITY: Brainstorm Sensitive or difficult topics that may come up in a small group

7. Helpful steps to follow when difficult topics are raised

REFLECT: Would these be the steps I would follow in my small group?
Why/Why not?

SEMINAR 2

Packing up

8. Finishing and follow up.

Getting ready to go again

9. Tips for setting up your small groups for success

ACTIVITY 1: Sample Group Script – to practice

“In our Kids Church groups everyone is welcome, and we want you to feel safe and cared for. Our group values are that we listen, love, and learn. That means we listen well to one another, taking it in turns to talk, we love each other by showing kindness and respect to each other, and we want to learn together from God and each other. If you need help today you can ask

What we discuss in our group can be personal, so we keep it in our group and don't share people's stories outside the group, without their permission. HOWEVER, there are a few exceptions

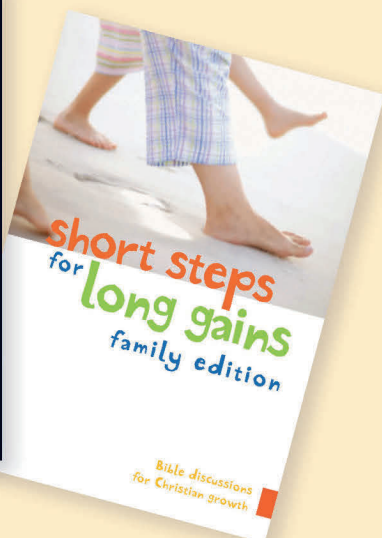
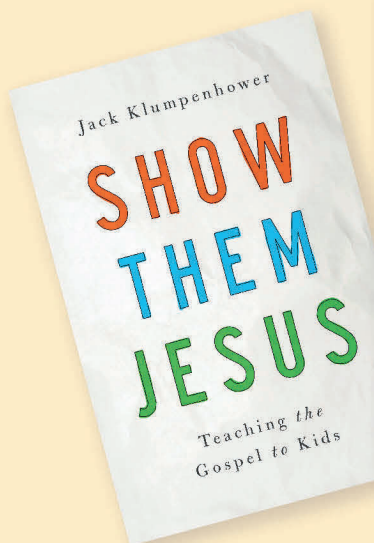
If I feel like you are not safe or someone else you talk about is not safe, I will need to talk about this to another safe adult. That's my responsibility, I will let you know what I'm doing.

And if you are ever uncomfortable, worried or confused about something we talked about in a group, please come and tell me or talk to me or talk to a trusted adult like your mum or dad, or”

SEMINAR 2

ACTIVITY 2: Write your own small group intro

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



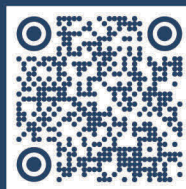
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Sandy Galea
Founder & Director of Kidswise

Consult

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masterclass



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JOSH GOSCOMBE!



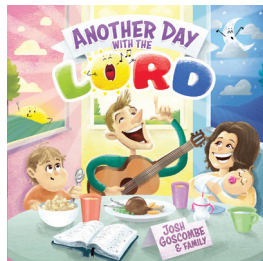
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Josh Goscombe is a Christian musician and performer who loves helping kids praise God!

Josh brings his experience in Children's ministry, his theological training and his fun, light-hearted personality into all the songs he writes and all the audiences he performs to. As a parent, Josh longs to help families sing and praise God together in their home, no matter how crazy life gets.

Josh has released music for children of all ages. His unique contribution comes in the form of songs about the everyday mundane moments of young family life - like eating breakfast, brushing teeth, packing toys away and more. These songs provide easy opportunities for parents to keep discipling their kids.

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Shows: Josh would love to partner with you and your church in sharing the gospel. Josh grabs the attention and excitement of kids through his interactive and engaging songs, and then uses that excitement to show everyone what God has done for them through Jesus.

Get in touch at www.joshgoscombe.com



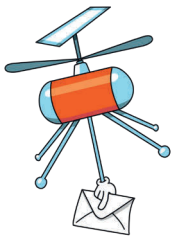
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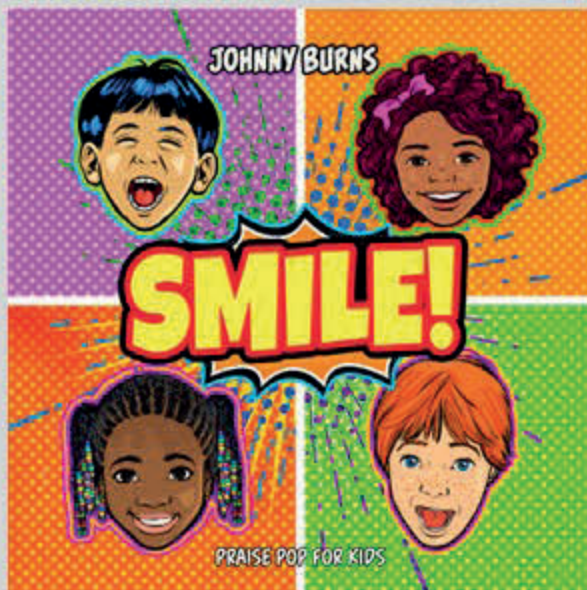
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