



tips for youth workers

SEPTEMBER 2008

## **BOUNCING BACK!**

The lazy, hazy days of summer are behind us. The kids are back in school and our children and youth ministries are almost back into full swing. As you think about the last year in your ministry is there anything that you could have done differently to help keep up your enthusiasm and energy level? Here are a few simple ideas that you might want to try this year.

**Brainstorm Sessions** – Consider getting together once a month or at the beginning of each week with others who teach the same age group or who are involved in the same ministry as you. Over coffee and donuts go through your curriculum and help each other plan out engaging lesson plans.

**Keep a Journal** – Have you ever come across a great idea, but weren't able to use it right away? Then months later you recall reading or doing something, but can't remember how it went. Have a notebook to record what activities worked well and then try them again another time. You may also want a section to keep track of ideas that didn't work well, evaluate why and then try to figure out how you can fix them. When you've mastered the idea add it to the "worked well" section of your notebook.

**Organize Sharing Session** – Get together on a regular basis with other children and youth ministry workers and share ideas that worked well. If there's an idea that you like ask the person who shared it to teach you how to do it. Or invite them to come lead the activity with your group, watch them in action and then in a couple of weeks try the activity yourself with your kids.

**Prayer Partners** – Are there people at your corps/church who might not be able to support you as supply teachers but want to do something to help? Invite them to be your prayer partners. Get together with them occasionally to pray for you, your ministry and your kids. In between times send prayer requests and your lesson topics via e-mail, phone calls or hand written notes.

**Have a Plan** – We all know the saying, "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail". This is certainly true in our ministries. Make plans to spend time each week planning for your lesson. Be familiar with the lesson; discover what it says to you personally; discover the difference its truth can make in the lives of your students; become excited about what you have to teach; have everything you need gathered ahead of time; and plan ways to engage your kids in the lesson. Plan to teach with confidence.

**Show and Tell** – Invite other workers from your corps/church or neighbouring churches to gather together. Spend time praying for your ministries and your work. Then provide a show and tell time where everyone shares their best idea and how they did it. You may also want to build in a question and answer period where each attendee writes down a question or concern. These are read out and the others gathered can offer advice based on their own experience. Make sure it remains a positive sharing time building each other up.

Do you have other ideas on how to keep encouraged and focused on the joys of ministering to children and youth? We'd love to hear them. Send your ideas to:  
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