



tips for youth workers

JANUARY 2010

PLAN(T) NOW FOR SPRING GROWTH

Yes, its true winter has just really arrived with all the snow, freezing temperatures and frosty noses and toes, but spring is just around the corner. Now is the time to start considering ways to boost attendance and to invite new children and families into your church. What are you going to plan(t) for spring growth?

1. **Plan(t) a March Break Day Camp.** Provide quality childcare for families in your community by running a day camp during work hours. Put together an active program using the resources of your church building, local area attractions and a great Bible program.
2. **Plan(t) a Spring Break VBS.** VBS kits are now available for previewing and ordering. Be sure to visit: saministrycatalogue.ca to order one of the following companies' kits: WordAction's "Deep Sea Adventure", David C. Cook's "Live It Out", Gospel Light's "SonQuest Rainforest", Standard Publishing's "Hero Headquarters" and Group Publishing's "Egypt: Joseph's Journey From Prison to Palace" and "High Seas Expedition". Plan(t) for a half day or a full day Vacation Bible School program. Be sure to advertise and recruit your workers well in advance and ensure you plan(t) your most successful VBS yet.
3. **Plan(t) a Youth Mission Trip.** It's too late now to plan(t) a mission trip outside of the country to one of our partners-in-mission countries, but it's not too late to plan(t) a Mission Trip within your own or a neighbouring community. Rally your teens to run a VBS or Day Camp out of your church building, in a community centre or a school. Give them the Mission Trip experience by having them all stay overnight together in a couple of homes or in the church building. Plan(t) team building exercises for them and don't forget to develop a stretch and grow discipleship program.
4. **Plan(t) an All-in-the-Family Ministry Week.** For families in your church and community who are unable to get away, host a series of events out of your church building. These could include a Family Sports Night, Family Games (board games) Night, Family Discipleship Night (with Bible studies for each age group or an interactive intergenerational Bible study), a Family Movie Night, and a Family Smorgasbord (Pot-Luck Dinner) Night. Plan(t) something for each night of the week to provide families with something they can do together.
5. **Plan(t) a Sports Ministry.** Plan(t) and run a sports intensive week for the young people in your community. Focus on one sport for the week or a different sport each day. Provide opportunity for young people to exercise, develop skills and team build through sports. A devotional time should also be provided to encourage spiritual development as well as physical development.

This spring take the challenge to plan(t) a new ministry, to invite new families into your church and to grow your congregation in numbers, but more importantly to grow in their relationship with God.