



## What is Dangerous Club?

Dangerous Club is a monthly church-run club for children in school years 4–6 (8–11 year olds). At the centre of the club is a short, clear, evangelistic Bible talk which aims to show children more of Jesus and their need for him in their lives. The activities are big, fun and high energy. Despite its name, there is no real danger involved, but it feels exciting!

## Why run Dangerous Club?

- 1 **Older children prefer not to be around younger children.** Children in the latter years of primary school feel much older than the younger children. They approach friendships differently and want activities to be more sophisticated. In church we want to help our older children learn to serve and care for the younger ones. But in Dangerous Club we want to give older children an opportunity to invite their friends to a club that is specifically aimed at their age group.

- 2 **Older children can be evangelists.** Older children understand that their salvation by Jesus Christ is precious, and want friends who are not Christians, to hear the gospel. Dangerous Club helps children learn how to pray for their friends, invite them to a church event and care for them when they come along.
- 3 **Older children are at a pivotal age.** Statistically children usually decide whether to continue attending church between the ages of 8 and 13. This age is transitional. The child, through puberty, is changing into a young adult. Children in this age range are deciding whether they want Jesus Christ to be part of their lives. Dangerous Club can be a great opportunity to teach the Bible in an age specific context. It can also be a fun club to enjoy with their friends, where their church can gain credibility. Finally, it is also an opportunity for new role models to play a part in their life, as leaders care for them and discuss the Bible passage with them.

## Vision

### Start with a vision

Take some time to pray and think about your vision for your church's Dangerous Club.

- What will the club look like in 5 years?
- How will children feel about it?
- What will parents say about it?
- What will its reputation be in your community?
- How do you pray that the Lord will use Dangerous Club?

Dream big!



Here's an example from a church we know that has run Dangerous Club for a number of years.

*Our vision for Dangerous Club is that we will witness to make and grow disciples.*

*Practically that means that we want to make every aspect of Dangerous Club as good as it can be. We want it to be the children's favourite commitment. We want children to feel completely safe and cared for. We pray for children to become disciples of Jesus Christ. The club is not just a signpost to church, it is a place where children can meet with Jesus Christ in the pages of the Bible.*

### Communicate that vision to leaders and parents

Meet with leaders (preferably over food!) to explain the vision. Paint a picture for them of what the club can be. Let them own the club with you - ask for their ideas and invite their involvement. Delegate different roles so that they can take ownership of their area and be more invested in the club.

Explain to the parents in your church why you're running the club. Ask them to pray with their children about who they could invite to the club. Ask them to prepare their children to be the hosts at the club, serving their friends so that their friends have the best night they can. Some of the parents might need to be your leaders. Think about how you can encourage them to be excited about serving in this way.

## Planning

### Design your Dangerous Club

Once you've established your vision, you need to plan your Dangerous Club. Many churches have found the following components to be helpful, but you need to consider what best suits your particular circumstances and the children you are intending to reach:

- 1 **Children in school years 4-6:** This age group feels older than the younger primary school children, and the club can cater for their specific needs.
- 2 **Friday evening:** A Friday evening slot (6:30-8pm) feels more 'grown-up' than an after-school slot (3:30-5pm). The time slot needs to work for leaders too. Consider what time they finish work on a Friday, and the typical length of their commute etc.
- 3 **Once a month during term time:** It is very difficult to make a weekly club feel big, excellent and consistently exciting. By making it a monthly event, the children look forward to it, and can plan to come themselves and invite their friends. Our package of Dangerous Club resources contains material for 10 sessions spread across one year. We suggest you don't run a club in April (Easter school holiday) or August (summer school holiday).



**4** **The Bible is taught:** The aim is for the children to meet Jesus Christ, so the Bible should be taught as well as possible, prayerfully expecting the Holy Spirit to be at work creating and deepening faith. A well-prepared leader with good visual aids can hold the children's attention for 10-15 minutes as they explain and apply the Bible story. We recommend teaching passages from the gospels in order to easily show children, who may have little or no Bible knowledge, more of Jesus.

**5** **Small group discussions:** Children will be more able to personally engage with Jesus Christ if they can discuss the passage and ask their questions. This discussion time helps them see how Jesus makes a difference to their individual lives. The discussion groups can gain wonderful momentum if the leader has the same group of children at each club.

**6** **Quality activities:** This age group is enthusiastic and wants to be kept busy. Aim for activities where every child can be involved from the start to the finish. Avoid activities with a lot of watching or listening. Although this club is called 'Dangerous', the activities don't need to be - but they do need to feel different and exciting. This can be achieved with careful preparation. Safety must always be part of that preparation - risk assess each activity to ensure it is safe.

**7** **Committed leaders:** Regular leaders will be able to build a meaningful and caring relationship with the children. Ask leaders to make the club a priority, just as they expect the children to do. Encourage them to look for every opportunity to get to know the children - when they walk through the door, as they participate in the small group discussion and as they enjoy the activities.

**8** **Praying families:** Encourage church families to prayerfully consider which friends they invite and to partner with you in loving the whole family.

**9** **Safeguarding:** As with any other church activity, you will need to comply with your safeguarding policy. Your church safeguarding officer will be able to assist you with this.

## Timetable

### Plan your timetable

Use the example and questions below to guide you as you create your own timetable. For each activity, consider:

- What resources do we have or need?
- Who could do this role?
- Where can this be done?



Time	Activity	Who
17:00	Set up the building ready for the evening.	Any volunteers who are available, not necessarily DC leaders. Youth group?
18:00	Leaders arrive. Briefing and prayer.	Overall Leader.
18:30	Doors open for registration.	Leaders/parents.
	Starter activity for children to get involved in as they arrive.	Some leaders.
18:40	Welcome.	Overall Leader.
18:45	Talk.	Speaker.
18:55	Discussion in small groups.	All Leaders.
19:10	Activities.	Some leaders run activities. All other leaders join in with their small groups.
20:00	Parents collect their children.	Leaders hand out termly flyers/invites to events and chat to guest parents.
20:00	Clear up, feedback and prayer.	Leaders.

## Registration

Registration is the first point of contact between guests and your church. It needs to be welcoming but also efficient. Set up a desk/table at the entrance with enough space for new guests to fill out forms while returning children are registered. Have pens and sticky labels for children to write their names. Allocate the same leaders (or parents) to registration each month so that they become familiar faces to guest parents/carers as well as enabling the process to run smoothly. If payment is taken for the club then collect money at this time - you could give a discount for a term payment.

Create a registration list so that you can keep a record of attendance for each month. Create a registration form of important information (e.g. parent/carer contact details, child's medical information/allergies etc.) which must be filled out for each new child. Update this information each year.

## Welcome

This is an important moment to set the tone for everything that follows. Aim to create a calm but enthusiastic atmosphere. Talk through the programme so that children know what to expect, explaining why the talk and discussion time are the highlight. Give clear behaviour expectations. Pray briefly for concentration and to understand more about Jesus Christ.





## Talk

As part of our Dangerous Club package, we provide a suggested teaching programme which consists of 10 sessions. It includes a full script, with visual aid notes, for a 10-15 minute talk plus discussion questions. The talks can be used as they are or adapted to best suit your group of children. The teaching programme introduces the children to Jesus, explains why he came to earth and why he is worth following.

### Space for notes



Pause



Smile



Breathe



Visual Aid

The Bible talk is the highlight of Dangerous Club. Do everything you can to make it the most engaging and interesting part of the club. Practise the talk so that you are confident in what you are saying and how to use your visual aids. Think about how to use your voice well so the children keep listening - is there a part that you need to shout or whisper? Does a sentence need to be said very slowly? Do you need to stop and pause to let a sentence sink in? Make presentation notes in the script as a visual cue to help you deliver your talk in this engaging way.

Are there leaders who you could train up to give talks? Many leaders may not feel confident enough to write and deliver their own talk. By providing them with an existing talk script, you have the opportunity to get your leaders up front and teaching the Bible to a group of children. Give them feedback (many encouragements and one thing to improve on) and help them develop their Bible teaching and presentation skills.

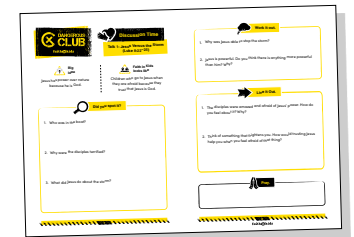


## Discussion Time

This time in small groups is to help the children apply what they have heard to their own lives. If possible, have the same leaders and children together each month to allow for better discussion as they get to know each other. We suggest single gender groups of 6-10 children with 1-2 leaders. The Discussion Time sheets in this package are for leaders - they are not worksheets for children to fill in.

### Objectives:

- Children do most of the talking. Leaders mostly ask questions.
- Hear what the children have understood and remembered.
- Stretch them to learn more.
- Explore together how the passage will lead to transformed lives.
- Get to know them better because you are talking about your lives together.
- Pray together.



### Questions:

Send the Bible passage and questions to your leaders a week before the club so they can prepare.



- **Did you spot it?** These are observation questions to recap the facts of the story. Whizz through these quickly. Every child should be able to remember something from the Bible story.



- **Work it Out** These questions unpack the meaning of the passage. Spend a bit more time on these questions. Help the children understand the big truth that God is communicating about himself and people through the passage.



- **Live it out** These questions help you to apply the truth to their lives. Spend the most time on these questions. The aim is to challenge each child's heart. These are more open-ended questions helping them to see why this big truth matters and urging them to love and obey Jesus.

### Managing Discussion Groups:

- **Ask the same question more than once:** Children don't necessarily listen to each other's answers, and it enables everyone to be involved.
- **Throwing a ball:** Ask a question to children in a circle, throwing the ball to the person you want an answer from. No one needs to put their hand up. The ball always goes back to you. You decide who gets the ball. This works particularly well for boisterous boys.
- **Pasta shells:** Start the time with 20 pieces of dry pasta, an empty jam jar and a jar of Smarties. Explain that having all 20 pieces of pasta in the jar will lead to a sweet reward at the end. When children are listening well and answering questions, add pasta to the jar (without commenting on what you are doing). Remove a piece of pasta when it goes less well.



### Activities

#### Starter Activity:

As children arrive you want them to be immediately involved in a fun activity. There are various ways to do this. Some children want to be active while others may want to sit and do a quiet activity (e.g. craft, brain teaser) - consider running 2 activities in different spaces. Or have a big all inclusive game that is simple enough for everyone to get involved in (e.g. parachute games, volleyball (use a giant inflatable beach ball), tag, Danish longball). The starter activity could be created to match the main activity plan theme.

Whatever you decide, keep it simple and fun so that every child (however new to the club) is included and engaged from the moment they arrive.

### Activity Plans:

As part of our Dangerous Club package, we provide 10 themed activity plans. If you decide to plan your own activities then aim for things that children could not do in school that have a whiff of danger or novelty.



### Running the activities:

- Use the activities as they are or adapt them to better suit your group of children, space and budget.
- Prepare carefully and risk assess your activities to ensure that nothing is actually dangerous.
- Ensure you have a suitably-stocked first aid kit. Access to ice, or a bag of frozen peas, is useful for bumps. Do any of your leaders have first aid training? Do all of your leaders know what to do if first aid is needed?
- Consider the abilities and additional needs of the children in your group - have you adapted your activities so that they serve all of the children in your group? Be alert to any medical conditions or allergies that would prevent a child from being able to take part.
- If possible, have the same groups for activities and discussion time to build good relationships between the children and the leaders.
- If you have a large group complete the games as a circuit to score points before a Grand Finale Showdown between the 2 highest-scoring teams, whilst others watch. Groups may have to do the activities at the same time.
- If you have a small group complete the activities together as a big group or rotate between the 5 activities in smaller teams. Scoring is optional. The highest scoring team could receive a prize at the end.



## Collection of Children

Have a leader at the door to check that children only leave with the correct adult. The end of the club is another opportunity to bridge the gap between guests and church families. Ask church-going parents to be intentional about being 5-10 minutes early to collect their children so that they can have conversations with guest parents (who usually arrive early to collect their children from a new club). Have flyers for different church events/courses to invite guests to. Hand out Dangerous Club invitations for the next club (printable invitations are included in our Dangerous Club resources pack).



## Leaders' Feedback and Prayer

Ask each leader to share one encouragement and/or difficulty from their group time and one way in which the activities could have been improved. Thank leaders for their involvement and pray together.

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'All for the glory of God alone' (1 Corinthians 10:31)



## Feedback

This package has been created to give you the foundation for starting and running your own Dangerous Club. We'd love to hear your thoughts and experience if you use this package or any component of it. Email us at [info@faithinkids.org](mailto:info@faithinkids.org) or click the link [here](#) or in the Feedback section in the pdfs to go directly to a feedback form. Thank you!