



Why start “Dangerous Club”

Before using our Dangerous Club materials, it might be helpful to understand why and how we run the 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 have started to look ahead to secondary school. They feel more mature, approaching friendships differently and wanting activities to be more sophisticated. In church we want to help our older children learn to serve and care for the younger ones. That said, they will always prefer to be around older children while guests will often avoid a club with younger children present. Dangerous Club is aimed at older children, usually those in school years 4-6 (8-11 year olds). Each Church can decide which age group to focus on.
2. **Older children can be evangelists.** Older children understand that their salvation by Jesus Christ is precious, while wanting their friends, who are not Christians, to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. These children understand how to pray for their friends, how to invite their friends and how to care for their friends at Dangerous Club. This club can be a way to help our children to reach their friends with the gospel
3. **Older children are at a pivotal age.** Statistically children usually decide between the ages of 8-13 whether to continue attending church. This age is transitional. The child, through puberty, is changing from a child into a young adult. As a result, the child in this age range is deciding whether they want Christianity to be part of their life as they consider who they will be and how others will see them. 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 each week.



What is “Dangerous Club”?

Each Church is free to make what they wish of Dangerous Club, but the following components have proven to be helpful:

1. **For those in year 4-6:** because this age group feels older than the younger primary school children, and this club can cater for the specific needs of this age range.
2. **On a Friday evening:** because the children want to feel like they’re being treated as young teenagers rather than children. So the evening slot (6.30-8pm) on a Friday feels more “grown-up” than an after-school slot (3.30-5pm).
3. **Once a month during term time:** because it is impossible to make a weekly club really excellent. By making it a monthly event, the children look forward to it, plan to come and invite their friends. If planned properly and led well it can be made to feel like a monthly highlight.
4. **Where the Bible is taught:** because from the start the club’s greatest thrill is the Bible teaching, when a leader will present, explain and apply a Bible story. A well prepared leader can grip the children for 10-15 minutes. Normally, it is helpful to teach a story from one of the gospels so that those children who do not normally come to church get to meet Jesus Christ.
5. **Where children can discuss in small groups:** because children engage personally with Jesus Christ when they get to individually discuss the passage and ask their questions. Ideally 6-10 children will be split into small groups with a leader, who will ask half a dozen questions for 10 minutes. At the end of the discussion, each child can be encouraged to pray in response to the discussion, with a sentence prayer of thanks. The discussion groups can gain wonderful momentum if the leader has the same group of children at each club.
6. **With a quality activity:** because this age group are enthusiastic and want 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 reality is that activities don’t need to be at all dangerous, but they do need to feel different and exciting. This can be achieved with careful preparation.



Start with a vision for Dangerous Club

What will the club look like in 5 years? 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?

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. Invite their involvement.

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. Are they excited to serve in this way?

Establish the practical steps to achieve this vision

- Dangerous Club takes place once a month in term time, to allow a higher quality, better prepared evening.
- We will teach the Bible to the best of our ability, expecting the Spirit to deepen faith in Jesus Christ.
- Have fixed small groups, to allow for meaningful discussion in caring relationships with leaders.
- Ask leaders to make the club a priority as we expect the same from the children.
- 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.
- Encourage Church families to prayerfully consider which friends they invite and to partner with you in loving the whole family.



Plan the program

Time	Activity	Who
5 p.m.	Set up the building ready for the evening	Any volunteers who are available, not necessarily DC leaders. Teenagers?
6 p.m.	Leaders arrive. Briefing and prayer.	Overall Leader
6:30 p.m.	Doors open. Registration , Name labels (if payment taken, collect money with a discount for term payment)	Leaders allocated to registration
	Starter Activity. Organised all-inclusive game to ensure that every child there (however new to the club) is immediately involved. E.g. parachute games. Not ball games.	Leaders allocated to starter activity
6:40 p.m.	Welcome. Talk through the program for the evening. Explain that the talk and the discussion are the highlight of the evening. Pray for concentration, understanding and that we would understand more about Jesus Christ.	Overall Leader
	Talk: e.g. Luke 12:13-21 (10-15 minutes) Use visual aids. Illustrate with real world examples that children can relate to. Help the children to see the implications of this passage for them.	Speaker
6:55 p.m.	Discussion in groups. In single gender groups with 1-2 leaders per group with 6-10 kids in a group. Where possible have the same leaders with the same children each month.	All Leaders



7:10 p.m.	<p>Fun Activity. Aim to have activities that they could not do in school that have a whiff of danger or novelty. Risk Assessments and careful preparation ensure that nothing is actually dangerous. E.g. The animal man, Food and fire, Agility games, Games in the dark.</p>	Some leaders run activities. All other leaders join in with their groups.
8 p.m.	<p>Parents Collect</p>	Leaders hand out termly flyers/invites to events and chat to guests parents
8:30 p.m.	<p>Clear up and Feedback. Ask each leader for one encouragement or difficulty from their group time and one way to improve the activity. Thank those leaders who played key roles.</p>	Leaders

Choosing a Teaching Program

- It is possible to link the story and the activity, but not a necessity.
- The gospels are a good choice for non-church children to be introduced to Jesus.
- The stories could follow the Christian calendar. For instance, Nativity stories from the gospels in the lead up to Christmas; Jesus’ life from the gospels post-Christmas; the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus before Easter.
- Suggested themes could include “People Jesus met”, “Parables Jesus told”, “Who will be King?”



How to run Discussion Groups

The objectives for our discussion groups are:

- We want the children to do most of the talking. Leaders will mostly ask questions.
- We hear what the children have understood and remember.
- We can stretch them to learn more.
- We can explore together how the passage will lead to our transformed lives.
- We get to know them better; because there are just 6-10 children and we're talking about our lives.
- We pray together.

Include 3 types of Questions:

(NOTE: Send out the passage and questions to leaders a week before the club)

- Did you spot it? (whizz through these)
Recap the facts of the story. Every child should be able to remember something from the Bible story.
E.g. what did the magi do when they met Jesus? What was Levi's job?
- Brain Drain... (spend some time on these)
Confirm the meaning of the passage. Help the children understand the big truth that God is communicating about Himself and people through the passage.
E.g. What did the Magi get right about Jesus that Herod didn't? Why did Jesus spend time with "sinners"?
- So what? (spend most of your time here)
Apply the truth. The aim is to challenge each child's heart. These are more open-ended questions helping them see why it matters to them and urging them to love and obey Jesus.



E.g. who around us are like the magi - “strangers” to Jesus and the God of the Bible? Do you think you are more like Levi or the Pharisees? How would tomorrow be different if we understood this about Jesus Christ?

2 Techniques for Managing Discussion Groups (with a contract for behaviour):

- 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. When children are listening well and answering questions, add pasta to the jar without speaking. Remove pasta when it goes less well. The aim is to get all 20 in the jar to get a sweet reward at the end of the group time.