

## Expectations of a leader

We are so thankful that you have given up your time to partner in this ministry. Your involvement is an answer to prayer and makes it possible for many children to hear the Gospel for the first time.

Here are a few general guidelines to follow to help the Holiday Club run smoothly and for the kids to enjoy themselves:

- **Be prepared:** If you have to prepare anything in advance, please ensure this is done in good time and not as the session is starting. Ask another leader or the overall leader for help if needed.
- **Be engaged:** Take part in the whole session, in the same way that we want the children to. Sit amongst your group during the all-together sessions. Listen to the talk - this will guide the group time. Join in with songs and actions (if you are able). Avoid using your phone unless in an emergency. Get involved in all of the games and activities - even if you can only manage to cheer them on from the sidelines, make sure that you are present and part of the group.
- **Be willing:** Over the Holiday Club, you may find yourself asked to do something outside of your comfort zone or beyond the role you initially signed up for. Go for it! We want to be a team who help and support each other wherever possible.
- **Most importantly, be prayerful!** Before, during and after the Holiday Club. Please pray that God will work through our efforts. Pray that we will make wise decisions as opportunities, choices and the unforeseen occur. Pray that the children will enjoy themselves in a safe environment as they hear the wonderful news about Jesus.

## The Bible content

This is the most important part of the Holiday Club, therefore almost all of what we do aims to help the children understand the Bible teaching. Each day the story from the Bible will be told and there will be a short talk to help the children grasp the main point of the Bible passage. This will then be followed up by time in small groups, where the aim is to make sure that the children have understood what they have heard and to think through what it means for them as individuals.

All leaders involved with groups have an important role to play in helping the children understand and respond to the Bible teaching. Before the Holiday Club starts, try to spend some time reading through the Bible passages. You may want to be thinking about the types of questions that you could ask your particular age group to confirm their understanding. Similarly, look through the worksheets and think how they help the children to apply the teaching – what questions might you focus on? Are there additional questions you might ask?

Above all, please be praying that the children in your group will understand and respond to the good news of Jesus.



### Notes

# Building relationships with children



*“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4*

## 1. Smile!

We are aiming to offer the children the best week of the year. Our success does not come from expense, technology or even preparation. Our greatest impact comes from each leader loving individual children enough to give them the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ in a way that they can respond to. That is life changing. That is worth smiling about.

## 2. Show that you're interested in them

- Children, just like adults, want to be loved. Children know when you don't really care. Treat them with the care and respect you would show to adults. They will love being cared for!
- Ask them open questions about themselves - What do you like about Brownies, books?
- Care for them and their needs. Try to discern moans from real issues.

## 3. Be open with them

Children love to feel that they are getting to know you and what you are like. Particularly when doing the worksheets, offer examples from your own life so that they find out what the Gospel lived looks like.

## 4. Be fair

Whatever you feel about an individual child, remember the Biblical model of not showing favouritism.

## 5. No gossip

If you need to discuss a child, please keep it within your group leadership, or express concerns to the overall leader.

# Discipline

We want to provide loving discipline in order for the children to have a good, safe Holiday Club where they can learn. Children flourish when the boundaries are clear and they see other children receiving loving discipline. We need to provide positive encouragement when behaviour is good, and not be scared of correcting children when their behaviour falls below expectations.

- Enjoy the club yourself – children will take their attitude-lead from you.
- Look for opportunities to *catch* a child doing the right thing. Praise them. Others will notice.
- Get to know the children, then they will mostly want to please their leaders.
- Remember their names.
- Include the whole group, including shy children – the children will see how you respect every member of the group and will imitate you.
- Split up disruption – just quietly move or sit between children who are less engaged.
- Don't shout to get attention – devise a signal. Keep your voice firm but low.
- Have a discipline procedure ready for situations where one child prevents



- others from enjoying the session.
- The children are the priority at the Holiday Club. Safety and security are key issues. Please refer all safety issues to the Overall Leader and report all accidents to them.
- Ensure that you comply with your organisation's safeguarding policy.

Please make sure that you are aware of the policy to manage unacceptable behaviour and that you follow this if a situation arises. It is important that any instances of unacceptable behaviour are dealt with in the same way. If you are unclear about the policy, please speak to the Overall Leader before the Holiday Club begins.

## Leading group time

Group time is one of the most important elements of the Holiday Club. This is where children can ask questions, grow in their understanding and start to apply what they are hearing to their own lives.

Begin by retelling the whole Bible story of the day. The worksheet may only focus on a few verses but make sure the children hear the whole story. With younger children think of a creative and interactive way to tell the story visually. With older children read from the Bible.

We have provided worksheets at three levels of difficulty. A is designed for ages 4-6, B for ages 7-8 and C for ages 9-11. This is a guideline only so please use the one you feel is most applicable for your group. Encourage all of the children to complete at least some of the tasks. Try to involve all of the children in discussion and give everyone a chance to speak. Ask additional questions if you want to, or if you think it will help your group to understand the teaching. It doesn't matter if the worksheets aren't finished, the discussion is the most important thing.

End the group time with prayer. If the children in your group are not from a Christian home and don't attend church regularly, explain what you are doing. Don't assume they know what prayer is or that they are comfortable joining in. Do encourage everyone to sit still and quietly. Pray clearly and briefly. If the children want to pray aloud themselves let them do so but make sure that nobody feels under any pressure.

## Explaining Christian truth to children

### 1. Involve the family

We want to share the good news with the child's wider family. When we present big truths of salvation, the child will naturally talk to their parents about this. We want to be in partnership with their parents too. So;

- Only share with a child what you would be happy to share with their parents.
- Encourage the child to share what they have done and learnt with their parents. Taking the worksheets home each day will be the normal way this can be done.
- Ensure that every child is loved no matter how much they understand or care about the teaching.
- Make sure the parents get all the relevant information about family events.
- Try to get to know the parents over the week. We want to love whole families.



## 2. Don't assume anything

Don't assume that a child has any prior Christian teaching of any kind. We start from square one this week.

## 3. Talk in a way they will understand

The younger the child is, the more they think in concrete, literal terms. As adults we need to speak in a way that they can understand, without Christian jargon.

## 4. Explain the Gospel in terms of relationship

All children understand relationships. It is probably the most important and powerful influence in their lives. It makes sense to a child to hear about wanting to be friends with Jesus.

## 5. Don't just talk at the children, but ask them questions

Don't keep talking when they don't seem to understand! Have confidence to stop. Start work on the activity sheets and come alongside them, listen to their sticking points, help them vocalise what they have learnt. They will remember a lot more this way. They will value us being interested and listening to them.



Faith in Kids exists to encourage, inspire and equip influencers of faith in children with support, training and resources.

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