

Breakout #1: Wednesday, January 16 10:00-11:00 AM

Unlocking Your Creativity

Description: God has vibrant creativity and precise order. This combination is evident in creation, in the Gospel, and all throughout Scripture. Made in God's image, this creativity and order is part of who we are. Learn seven tools you can use to be creative and fruitful in any ministry situation.

Speaker: Jason Tilley

Category: Creativity in Ministry

The 4 Phases of Finding a Fabulous Curriculum

Description: Choosing the right curriculum is one of the most important decisions you can make for your children's ministry, but very few people know how to do it effectively. This session is not a review of the various published curriculum, it is a guide to assessing, testing, using, and reviewing curriculum options so that you find the best one for your KidMin.

Speaker: David Rausch

Track: Curriculum Management

Preschool Ministry Ideas That Work

Description: No matter how you slice it—preschoolers need Jesus! Learn how to connect with every preschooler Physically, Intellectually, Emotionally, and Spiritually (PIES). You'll experience what these little ones can understand, what they can and can't do, and how you can tell Bible stories in ways that captures their attention!

Speaker: Jennifer Ward

Track: Early Childhood Ministry

Leading Strong as a Female Leader on a Male Dominated Staff

Description: As females, we have the opportunity to bring a different and important perspective to the team. Learn strategies to better relate to or lead the opposite sex in ministry. Develop skills to embrace our "femaleness" while being an amazing and effective leader and awesome teammate to both men and women.

Speaker: Kim Botto

Track: (En)Courage: Women in Ministry Leadership

Big Picture Focus: Being Proactive, Not Reactive

Description: One of the difficulties in children's ministry is that we are always responding to the tyranny of the urgent. When this happens, we sometimes lose sight of the big picture for our children's ministry. Planning our calendar and setting intentional goals for our ministry are important if we want to see our children grow up to be Jesus men and women. Come listen to an "old veteran" who hopefully has learned from her mistakes and points you to God's word and lessons learned to be proactive and not reactive.

Speaker: B.A. Snider

Track: EQUIP: Foundations for Children's Ministry

Expanding Your Family Ministry Vision: Four Influences that can Transform Children's Lives

Description: Learn about the four primary influencers in the life of young people and how you can design a ministry to leverage parents, grandparents, educators, and the church. Gain an understanding of the biblical foundation and practical examples to customize an approach to help you reach and disciple children.

Speaker: Josh Mulvihill

Track: Family & Intergenerational Discipleship

Worship at Home: Teaching Parents to Be Spiritual Leaders

Description: Parents are the primary influencers of every child's faith journey, but many don't feel equipped and prepared to be spiritual leaders. Learn how you can encourage and empower parents to create moments of worship and discipleship at home and become the leaders God has called them to be.

Speaker: David Ray

Category: Family & Intergenerational Discipleship

Think Different For Different Results

Description: Most leaders are looking for different outcomes in their family, their ministry, and their life. Different actions call for different thinking. In this workshop, Jim will help you change your thinking so you can see different results at home, at work, and in your personal life.

Speaker: Jim Wideman Track: Leadership

How to Create an Irresistible Culture of Excellence

Description: People are attracted to excellent products and many churches have a tough time creating one. Learn what effective brands do consistently to achieve excellence and how to apply their principals to your team. Watch how this constant pursuit will not only grab people's attention, but also draw them towards Christ.

Speaker: Gabe Norris Category: Leadership

Supervising Skills: Not for the Faint of Heart

Description: Many think that being the boss is the pinnacle of success. The fact is supervising others can be one of the most difficult challenges we face. This session will explore the causes of those challenges and will offer practical tips and helps toward finding solutions to leading others well.

Speaker: Joy Canupp Category: Leadership

Should I Stay or Should I Go?

Description: One of the biggest questions mankind has pondered from the beginning is "Why am I here?" We all have a deep-seated need to find our purpose and our place. When we face adversity in our current ministry we can question if God sent us or not. Together we'll explore what is God speaking to us about our calling and purpose and help answer the question, "Should I stay or should I go?"

Speaker: Vance Martin Category: Leadership

I'm from the Country and I like it that Way.

Description: No this is not a two-step dance session, but rather a session on how to step out and make an impact in a rural setting. Most churches in the US are 125 people or less, but a majority of people attend larger churches. Hear from Teresa Huddleston, small-town (2,139) girl, and Family Ministry Director at a rural church. How can a rural church host a block party when the block is 1 mile x 1 mile x 1 mile x 1 mile? What are ways rural churches, mega churches, and all those in between can make a BIG impact by doing outreach TOGETHER. Making outreach count through prayer, perseverance, partnerships, and creativity. THINK OUTSIDE the BOX, the CHURCH, and GO.

Speaker: Teresa Huddleston Category: Ministry Models

Why VBS is Essential to Your Church

Description: Ever wonder if VBS is still relevant? Do you plan for outreach but see the same church kids and VBS-hoppers show up? Come discover ways to broaden your VBS vision beyond the status quo to full-blown family ministry that involves not only the parents, but your full church family.

Speaker: Jana Magruder Category: Outreach

Want to Teach Like Jesus? Then You Must Do These Things

Description: There's no question Jesus was the greatest teacher ever. He captivated audiences as the crowds flocked to hear Him speak. Anyone who wants to become an effective teacher would be wise to study not only what Jesus taught, but HOW He taught as well. In this session, we'll uncover the keys to teaching like Jesus. You'll gain practical ideas you can immediately implement.

Speaker: Dale Hudson

Track: Practical Children's Ministry

Supervising Skills: Not for the Faint of Heart

Description: Many think that being the boss is the pinnacle of success. The fact is supervising others can be one of the most difficult challenges we face. This session will explore the causes of those challenges and will offer practical tips and helps toward finding solutions to leading others well.

Speaker: Joy Canupp Category: Leadership

He is in the Waiting

Description: Are you in a season of waiting? God is there. Come and be encouraged to find

Him in the midst of wherever you are in life.

Speaker: Melissa J MacDonald

Track: Soul Care

What Kids with Special Needs Wish You Knew

Description: Often, we develop our special needs ministry the way WE THINK is best for kids with disabilities. But if we knew what was really important to kids with special needs, how would that change our strategy? Join this eye opening session that will help you gain a better understanding about serving God's unique kids.

Speaker: Marie Kuck Track: Special Needs

Spiritual Formation for Children and their Leaders

Description: Spiritual formation is the process of being transformed into the image of Christ for the sake of others. Spiritual formation begins in children as they respond to the formation reflected by those adults who influence them. Spend some time examining your own personal spiritual formation in order to discover a fresh approach that seeks transformation, and not just education. We know that reaching children with the truth that Jesus loves them has become an industry of entertainment, but what about the spiritual health of children? We will explore and understand transformative learning.

Speaker: Luz Gálvez de Figueroa

Track: Spiritual Formation

Discussion on How to Talk to Children About Race

Description: This panel discussion will revolve around how we talk to children about race. Children are naturally curious, tend to have a million questions and don't have the history of knowledge that we do as adults. So how we talk to kids as they start to encounter racial differences or even racial tension in their world is extremely important.

Moderator: Denise Kjesbo Category: Tough Topics

Preteen Ministry Basics

Description: This session will teach you how to effectively connect and disciple today's preteens. Attendees will learn keys to create an amazing space for preteens. One that helps preteens discover, own and live out their relationship with God.

Speaker: Bill Hegedus Track: Tweens & Pre-Teens

Becoming KIDmissional!

Description: Children's Ministry is cross-cultural ministry! To be an effective minister to today's children, you must learn to do it from within the context of their culture. A working knowledge of a kid's world is an inroad to their heart. Learn how to relate to kids and keep up with their everchanging culture. Discover how to find that tricky balance between being childlike while not being childish.

Speaker: Karl Bastian

Track: Understanding and Reaching Today's Kids

10 Game Changers for Volunteer Recruiting

Description: Recruiting volunteers is one of the most important responsibilities we have. However, it's also one of the most challenging. There are tons of principles and practices, but in this breakout we'll look at 10 game changers that can make the biggest impact.

Speaker: Nick Blevins Track: Volunteers

Looking for a Few Good Men!

Description: Men are a valuable tool in reaching the next generation. It is important to both young girls and boys that they have a strong male role model. You will receive keys to attracting, utilizing and retaining men in Children's ministry.

Speaker: Eric Hamp Category: Volunteers

INTENSIVE: 10:00-12:00

Getting Heard - and Supported! - by Your Church's Senior Leadership

Do you feel like you're at the "kids' table" of your church? There are effective ways of communicating your vision, your ideas, and your needs to senior leadership. This workshop will look at extremely practical communication principles and tips that will help prepare and land your message.

Speaker: Keith Farrin

INTENSIVE: 10:00-12:00

Launch—or Relaunch —Your Children's Ministry

Whether you're starting from ground zero or feel it's time to get your ministry back on course, this workshop will walk you through practical steps that include: Creating a mission and vision; Developing your Team; Organizing your Ministry; Navigating Change

Speaker: Gloria Lee

Breakout #2: Wednesday, January 16 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

Using Science in Ministry

Description: Biblical Truth + Hands-On Science = Unforgettable Faith Lessons! Check out this action-packed breakout for science-inspired, Christ-centered lessons that easily illustrate faith, salvation, and the kingdom of God. Leaders and kids will love these science activities! This hands-on and practical breakout is packed with science fun!

Speaker: Josh Denhart

Category: Creativity in Ministry

Object Lesson from Thin Air

Description: Take any object, or any topic and discover one or more ways to share the insights God has laid on your heart without hours of hunting for the perfect object lesson. This simple strategy will unlock object lessons for you in a fresh creative way.

Speaker: Nicki Straza

Category: Creativity in Ministry

Take It, Break It, Make It: How To Hack A Curriculum To Make It Fit Your Needs

Description: Make your curriculum work for you! Led by a previous children's ministry director who has hacked a lot of curriculum and now works in publishing curriculum. Discover how you can get your curriculum to do what you want it to do for your unique ministry context!

Speaker: Kristin Thompson Track: Curriculum Management

Building Faith in Babies

Description: The church nursery should be so much more than a babysitting service while "real ministry" is done! In this workshop, participants will learn practical strategies to build foundations for faith in our youngest congregants. Pairing scripture and developmental science, we'll look at ways to make a lasting impression on the hearts of babies.

Speaker: Amber Lappin

Track: Early Childhood Ministry

How to Raise up Women Leaders

Description: As a woman in leadership, how do you pave the way for the women coming behind you? Learn about ways you can create tracks for other women to follow and the importance of calling out and engaging the gifts of the women around you.

Speaker: Sharon Hodee Miller

Track: (En)Courage: Women in Ministry Leadership

Develop a Strategic Children's Ministry in Your Church

Description: Children's Ministry, as much as or more than any ministry in the church, must be strategic. Learn how to develop vision, mission, values, and goals for your ministry; how to align your strategy with that of your church; and how to engage your leaders, volunteers, and families in that strategy.

Speaker: Greg Baird

Track: EQUIP: Foundations for Children's Ministry

Building A Family Based Ministry

Description: Our calling is to equip the saints for the ministry and to equip parents to disciple their children. This interactive workshop shares three family ministry models and a clear pathway to equipping parents to be the primary developer of faith in their children. Leave this workshop with a clear model!

Speaker: Lois Sherwin

Track: Family & Intergenerational Discipleship

It Takes A Village To Pray For A Child

Description: Every adult in our churches can make a difference in the life of a child through prayer. Every child in our ministries can feel the love of God through the prayers of His people. This seminar will provide proven ways of creating a culture of prayer around our children.

Speaker: Deborah Addington

Category: Family & Intergenerational Discipleship

Biblical Solutions for Human Conflict: How to Reconcile with Others for a Healthy Work Culture

Description: Broken relationships create chaos, destroy teams, and divide families. Come for an informative session on biblical reconciliation techniques that will give you immediate steps to apply in your community and relationships.

Speaker: Beth Guckenberger

Track: Leadership

Pastoring, People Pleasing, and the Real You

Description: Children's Pastors are nurturing people. What happens when your desire to unconditionally care for people leads you to an inauthentic space? How do you know the difference? This session will provide clear steps to identify this pitfall and how to get out of it.

Speaker: Mahogany Dudley-Finley

Category: Leadership

Hype is a Ministry

Description: Transforming urban youth to impact their communities for Christ. How to serve inner-city and urban leaders so they can impact urban youth for the Kingdom by coming alongside and helping those leaders make a difference in their community. See how leaders around the country are making a difference in the inner city from Danielle Stone, who has worked with urban leaders from Detroit to Houston and Philadelphia to LA. Do not try to be something you are not, rather help urban, Christian leaders by encouraging, equipping, and empowering them to GO and get HYPE FOR JESUS!

Speaker: Danielle Stone Category: Ministry Models

Special Events and Outreaches

Description: Sometimes we need to use the right "bait' to go fishing for boys and girls in our community and to keep the ones we have. You will come away with tons of great ideas and resources you can implement now to spice up your weekly ministry or present something new.

Speaker: Eric Hamp Category: Outreach

Keeping Kids Safe and Secure

Description: Are your kids safe? As ministry leaders, you hope the answer is "yes." That's why you keep track of food allergies, develop check-in/checkout procedures, and even practice lockdown scenarios. But are you fully prepared for the most common challenges facing your ministry? Together, we'll explore everyday threats your church may face and discover practical actions you can implement immediately to help serve and protect kids and their families.

Speaker: Gary Lindsay

Track: Practical Children's Ministry

Gospel-Centered Teaching

Description: In this breakout, you will hear practical how to's for communicating the gospel in any sized church to any age kid from three ministry veterans from very different ministry contexts.

Speaker: Sam Luce & Jenny Funderburke Smith

Category: Practical Children's Ministry

Worship: Putting God in His Rightful Place

Description: As leaders, it is so easy to strive to do things on our own power. Engaging in worship, private or corporate, is an opportunity to right size our view of God and ourselves. It is so important for our soul to be reminded of the power and majesty of our God in order to keep a right perspective of our own abilities and worth. Come and learn about the beautiful invitation God has given us to honor Him and be filled by the reminder He is God and we are not.

Speaker: Megan Whittow

Track: Soul Care

ADHD: What it is and How to Help

Description: Whether you know or suspect a child may have AD/HD, it's important to be equipped with some information and many practical ideas to try within your Sunday, weeknight, or outreach offerings for children. Leave with an education as well as an overflowing toolbox!

Speaker: Barbara Newman Track: Special Needs

Why Kids Are Smarter Than You Think: Teaching Theology to Kids

Description: Teaching kids theology can seem like an intimidating task. We fear it will be boring or too hard to understand. Join us in this session as we look at why kids are smarter than we think, and how we can teach them theology in an engaging way!

Speaker: Julia Ball

Track: Spiritual Formation

Creating a Worship Environment

Description: How can I build a worship experience in my ministry? Let's learn together how to build a worship team, develop a culture of teamwork, and bring people into the presence of God.

Speaker: Brian Friberg

Track: The Worship Experience

Helping Hurting Children: What to Say and Do to Help a Child in Crisis

Description: Children hurt deeply because of life's emergencies and crisis, but people often don't know what to say, or say the wrong things, sometimes hurting a child's faith. Find out what we as teachers and Children's Pastors can say and do – or NOT say – to care for a child in pain

Speaker: Coleen Cotton Category: Tough Topics

The Preteen Bubble

Description: They really don't fit in the kids ministry, but are far from finding their place in student ministry. Preteens/tweens teeter on the bubble of in-between which requires specific ministry to meet them right where they are. Together we will discuss this group's special needs and creative ways to not only equip them with faith, but to creatively engage them to grapple with truth during this special time. You'll leave not only with info, but ideas to immediately apply back home.

Speaker: Danielle Bell Track: Tweens & Pre-Teens

Generation Alpha

Description: They are the new kids on the block in our preschool and children's ministry. Their parents are millennials and their older siblings are Gen Z. Their unique characteristics will impact how we design ministries and curriculum to reach them. Join the conversation as we consider best practices in ministry to Gen Alpha.

Speaker: Shelly Melia

Track: Understanding and Reaching Today's Kids

The Recipe for a Thriving Volunteer Culture

Description: Volunteers are amazing! They are the hands and feet of our ministry! But every leader needs to know how to recruit them, train them, keep them, appreciate them, mentor them, and dare I say...sometimes fire them. Join us for a fun session of learning how to create a volunteer culture that will help your ministry thrive.

Speaker: Heidi Hensley Track: Volunteers

Breakout #3: Wednesday, January 16 2:00-3:00 PM

Theme Nights 101

Description: Kids want a reason to come to church; so give it to them. This workshop will feature ideas on 30 theme nights that you can use in your ministry this coming year. We will also brainstorm other ideas that we can all use in our ministries.

Speaker: Michael Summy Category: Creativity in Ministry

Evaluating Ministry for a Disconnect

Description: You've purchased curriculum, edited lessons, prepared supplies, and scheduled leaders, but Sunday ministry is still missing the mark. It is said passionate leaders "woo" but strong leaders "why." Discover how to evaluate curriculum and its effects on a "why" perspective that will set your ministry on the path to greatness.

Speaker: Dawn Heckert

Track: Curriculum Management

Those Terrific Two's

Description: No longer babies, yet not quite preschoolers, the terrific two-year olds are ready for little learning moments and big Bible adventures. Tune into their physical, emotional, cognitive and spiritual development to teach them about Jesus. Set the stage. Build relationships. Shepherd their hearts.

Speaker: Karen Apple

Track: Early Childhood Ministry

Networking: Unlocking the Key to What's Holding You Back

As women, we've made significant progress owning our gifts, embracing God's design for us, and acknowledging what we're capable of. But when we walk into that room full of other leaders, we can often be held back from truly utilizing the networking opportunities in front of us. In this breakout, we'll explore what might be holding you back and how you might unlock that next level in your leadership journey!

Speaker: Melanie Hester

Track: (En)Courage: Women in Ministry Leadership

Organization 101 for the Messy, Overwhelmed and Stretched Thin

Description: Are you constantly trying to catch up in the fast paced, understaffed, incessantly busy job that is Children's Ministry? Clear the piles so you can find next week's lesson that's buried under last week's craft. Clean up your clutter with tips to organize supplies, curriculum, and your schedule.

Speaker: Robyn Tidrick

Track: EQUIP: Foundations for Children's Ministry

Dynamic Intergenerational Ministry

Description: This session will provide you with the tools to develop a strategic intergenerational discipleship culture for your church. Learn how to maximize the potential of all generations and the influence they can have on each other.

Speaker: Bill Hegedus

Track: Family & Intergenerational Discipleship

A Simple Strategy and Roadmap for Partnering With Parents

Description: A thriving family ministry is built on partnering with parents, but what does that look like? In this breakout, we'll look at a simple strategy and a roadmap of practical ways your church can equip parents to help them lead their families well.

Speaker: Nick Blevins

Category: Family & Intergenerational Discipleship

Leading Through Change

Description: Change happens constantly. Senior pastor taking your church in a new direction? Rolling out something new? Getting rid of something old? How you lead through it will make all the difference. Join us for 3 essential tools that will help you to win your people over and lead change successfully.

Speaker: Gary Lindsay & John Garrison

Track: Leadership

Single in Ministry

Description: The single life can be tough in any context and especially in ministry! There are challenges and blessings to being a single ministry leader. We will explore our unique perspective and gain an understanding of how God can use the single person to guide children and their families.

Speaker: Taryn Cleaves Category: Leadership

Rooted Kids Ministry for the Church Plant

Description: Church planting is an exciting adventure with lots of twists and turns! Come and join us as we talk about how the kids ministry at your church plant can be purposefully rooted in God's truth and practically set up for exceptional growth.

Speaker: Lindsey Bush Category: Ministry Models

Teaching Children About God's Heart for the Nations

Description: In this breakout, children's pastors will be encouraged and equipped with practical ideas, and activities that are designed to educate and engage today's children. We will talk about how to share in age appropriate ways the experience of vulnerable children around the world.

Speaker: Beth Guckenberger

Category: Outreach

Law and Order: KidMin Edition

Description: There's a fine line between being a KidMin leader and a zookeeper. Behavior problems can wear you and your volunteers down and distract kids from hearing the most important message ever. This session will give you practical ideas for managing kids so that you can go from surviving to thriving.

Speaker: David Rausch

Track: Practical Children's Ministry

The Master Storyteller Master Class

We all know one too many people who secretly think reading the Bible is about as interesting as watching paint dry while memorizing math facts. And let's be honest here ~ the actual problem isn't with Holy Writ (with the exception of Leviticus!), it's with the uninspired communication style of boring, albeit usually well-intentioned, preachers and teachers, isn't it? In this breakout we'll explore a few of the stories Jesus told in the synoptic gospels and the compelling way in which He told them. Because learning from the Master storyteller will better equip us to help our kids truly engage, apply and appreciate redemptive narrative so they won't grow up and become disenfranchised adolescents and adults who think God's Word is boring. Instead we'll get to play a part in developing a whole new tribe of Bible ninjas!

Speaker: Lisa Harper

Category: Practical Children's Ministry

Prayer and Planning: The Critical Practice of Time Away

Description: The demands of ministry can keep us in a rhythm of constant activity, but that rhythm can lead to dangerous places. The importance of intentional time away is critical to both your spiritual health and the and the health of your ministry. Come discover how you can plan time to refresh your soul and plan for the future of your ministry.

Speaker: B.A. Snider Track: Soul Care

Small STEPS for SPECIAL NEEDS

Description: Launching a special needs ministry can be daunting. But here are some small steps you can take right now to START a quality special needs ministry at YOUR church.

Speaker: Trisha Peach Track: Special Needs

Impacting the 5 Key Spheres of a Child's Life

Description: What can we do for a church full of kids? We can make significant impact on the five key spheres of life that shape and mold them. Discover incredible ways to cause spiritual growth for whole children, by transforming the child's heart, soul, mind, strength, and relationships.

Speaker: Gordon and Becki West

Track: Spiritual Formation

Creative Prayer Spaces

Description: Many who lead children have vivid pictures during devotions and prayer times. Learn how to create sensory environments based on scripture where kids can visually and experimentally learn spiritual truths and grow in their relationship with God. Come encounter meeting with Jesus where His word comes alive!

Speaker: Leann Woelk

Track: The Worship Experience

Concrete Angels: The Spiritual Crisis of Bullying

Description: Even with the heightened awareness of bullying and the implementation of prevention programs, statistics show it is only escalating especially with the added dimension of cyberbullying. It is time to realize that bullying in all forms is a 100% preventable disease that is destroying the hearts and confidence of our children and also creating within their souls a spiritual crisis.

Speaker: Barbara Price Category: Tough Topics

Preteen Bible Engagement: Shaping Identity When It Really Counts

Description: When it comes to culture, preteens ask questions ... but do they know how to find answers? How do we influence preteens to engage with Scripture in ways that shape identity and worldview? Dive into questions preteens have and discover ways to lead them to the Bible for the answers.

Speaker: Courtney Wilson & JamieLyn Heim

Track: Tweens & Pre-Teens

Ministering To (and With) Generation Z

Description: The children you serve, and the students who volunteer in your ministry, are part of the unique Generation Z. This generation has a distinct view on life and culture. They are also producers who have unprecedented access to the world. Learn how to serve and partner with this unique generation.

Speaker: Jason Tilley

Track: Understanding and Reaching Today's Kids

Training that Honours

Description: Imagine training meetings that your leaders do not want to miss! As primary leaders, our job is to equip and honour our servant leaders well. Is there a way to do both at once? Let's explore training times that excel at both honour and growth.

Speaker: Lisa Mitchell Track: Volunteers

Expand the Kingdom By Growing Student Leaders

Description: Student Volunteers are the secret sauce of a thriving and energetic kids ministry. Grow your preteens and teens into effective leaders and disciple-makers. Gain practical ideas on how to lead, grow and challenge these lively and important volunteers. With some intentional coaching, students can be your best team members.

Speaker: Kim Botto Category: Volunteers

Breakout #4: Thursday, January 17 10:00-11:00 AM

Creative Environments on a Budget

Description: Creative environments are not only for large churches with big budgets. Let me show you how to take your environments to the next level and give you the resources you need to make it happen. We will talk about creating temporary set designs, essential tools to have on hand, and how to utilize technology in your environments.

Speaker: Corinne Noble

Category: Creativity in Ministry

Integrating Spiritual Formation into Your Kidmin Curriculum

Description: Help kids get to know God, not just know about him. Learn to balance the knowledge-based focus of your curriculum with practices that help kids build a personal relationship with Jesus.

Speaker: Gordon and Becki West Track: Curriculum Management

"But I Can't Even Read It!" Fun Ways To Do Scripture Memory With Kids Who Can't Read

Description: The idea of memorizing words on a page can be rough for non-readers, but with these tips and tricks both leaders and kids will be able to do Bible verse memory and enjoy the process. Leave with some freebie Scripture memory games to put into practice!

Charles With Some freede Scripture memory games to put into practice

Speaker: Kristin Thompson Track: Early Childhood Ministry

Finding Your Voice

Description: You were created by God for a purpose. If you're having trouble finding that purpose, or finding your voice this breakout is for you!

Speaker: Melissa J MacDonald

Track: (En)Courage: Women in Ministry Leadership

Policy Writing 101

Description: Writing policies for your ministry isn't the most exciting thing to do, but it is one that we must all take do. This workshop will go through the basics of writing a policy and some policies that are common in most children's ministries.

Speaker: Michael Summy

Track: EQUIP: Foundations for Children's Ministry

Understanding the Role of Grandparents in the Spiritual Formation of Children

Description: Learn how to recruit and equip one of the most mature, motivated, and over-looked groups in your church for the discipleship of children: grandparents. Gain a laser-like focus on a grandparent's role, gain new volunteers, energize your church, and walk away with practical how-to's to make your church more intergenerational.

Speaker: Josh Mulvihill

Track: Family & Intergenerational Discipleship

Loving the Team You Have

Description: Ministry teams usually aren't a product of assembling everyone at once. More than likely you have people with tenure, newbies, interns, and creatives that have gradually come together as the years have passed. So how do you find cohesion? Unity? Effectiveness? In this session we will look at 10 things your team should have as you get to know your people. Great for leaders of staff or volunteers.

Speaker: Heidi Hensley Track: Leadership

Being a Man in Children's Ministry

Description: As men, we have a unique ability that sets us apart from women; the ability to father the next generation of kids. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 4:15, "For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers." Being exposed to a true spiritual father is one of the most refreshing and empowering relationships a child could ever have. In this breakout, we will learn about the role of a spiritual father and how these characteristics could impact the heart of each child under your care.

Speaker: Chad Owens

Track: Men of Children's Ministry

Ministry That Moves: Creating a Portable Sunday School

Description: When your church is renting or sharing space, Children's Ministry is often required to be fully portable. Learn to "box up" your ministry to set up absolutely anywhere! Go from overwhelmed to organized as you customize this method for your specific situation & brainstorm with others in your shoes!

Speaker: Robyn Tidrick
Category: Ministry Models

Training And Equipping Children

Description: Children are not too young to do great things for God! Find out how to prepare and train children and families to do the work of the ministry around the world.

Speaker: John Tasch Category: Outreach

Creating a safe haven

Description: Child abuse is a growing issue nationwide. Church is one of the top three places that abuse occurs. Abuse is not often violent and can happen for month's right in front of staff. Learn how to keep your ministry safe and create a safe haven for God's kids.

Speaker: Dr. Kayla Pray

Track: Practical Children's Ministry

Living Moment by Moment: Why caring for your soul matters more than you could imagine

Soul care for me is about synergistic nature of sanctification. Soul Care deals with who we are becoming. So often we approach the topic of personal growth as a goal to be achieved or measured. I think that personal growth and soul care are more analogous to a garden to be tended and a battle to be waged.

Speaker: Sam Luce Track: Soul Care

Invaluable Tools for Each Valuable Child

Description: Let's face it. Our children's ministry area is filled with children of varied abilities. From a child with AD/HD, Down syndrome, or one who experienced trauma, we are diverse. Learn about some important tools and procedures you can have in place to make your time together a GREAT experience.

Speaker: Barbara Newman Track: Special Needs

Rooted Together: The Impact of Small Groups on a Child's Spiritual Formation

Description: It is essential for the roots of a disciple to grow deep. In children's ministry that means cultivating small groups that are rooted in community, the Scriptures, and in Christ. This workshop will focus on ten highly practical and essential skills that children's ministry small group leaders can use in the spiritual formation of their youngest disciples.

Speaker: Christopher Marchand Track: Spiritual Formation

Internet and Technology Safety

Description: Children are immersed in technology daily - how can we protect them online? How can we teach them to be safe, what sites or apps should we be aware of, how can we prevent cyberbullying and how can we teach our children to be good cyber citizens?

Speaker: Victoria Bissel

Category: Technology & Media

Getting Boys to Sing and Problem Solving Your Worship Challenges

Description: Getting boys to sing? Engaging preteens? Finding leaders? What challenges are keep you from successfully leading kids in worship? Yancy will share some insight and tips from her years of experience in this area to help you. Time will be allotted to answer your specific questions also.

Speaker: Yancy Richmond Track: The Worship Experience

10 Ways to Protect Young Minds from Pornography

Description: Even young children can develop their own internal filter when parents and pastors teach them what pornography is, how it can hurt them, and what to do when they see it. This class will present 10 powerful strategies and skills to help kids protect themselves from addiction and sexual exploitation.

Speaker: Kristen Jenson Category: Tough Topics

Best Media Practices for Preteen Ministry

Description: The technology landscape changes quickly. When was the last time you took a close look at your preteen ministry's media policies, practices, and challenges? In this breakout, you'll assess your own setting and then develop a framework for deliberate, meaningful media usage. Dawn will share fresh ideas and usable tools.

Speaker: Dawn Rundman Track: Tweens & Pre-Teens

Sheep-herding 101

Description: Leading your flock on Sunday morning can feel more like herding cats than shepherding sheep. But what did Jesus mean when he referred to us as sheep anyway? Together we will unpack intentional discipleship for kids, no matter their fit in the flock.

Speaker: Christie Penner Worden

Track: Understanding and Reaching Today's Kids

7 Keys to Reaching Today's Young Families

Description: Any church that wants to thrive must reach young families. In fact, I'd go as far as to say any church that wants to exist in the future, must reach young families. Discover the 7 keys to connecting with and reaching the young families in your community.

Speaker: Dale Hudson

Track: Understanding and Reaching Today's Parents

Creating a Leadership Pipeline: More than just filling gaps

Description: If you're tired of just trying to find enough warm bodies to fill the weekly needs, this session is for you! Join us as we discuss how to create a Leadership Pipeline that recognizes the individual's gifts and equips them to be the leaders God wants and your ministry needs.

Speaker: Matt Morgan Track: Volunteers

Men-istry [Verb]: The act of having fellas serving on your team.

Description: We are at our best when we all serve together. However, sometimes, not as many men volunteer on our teams as we would like. Join us to discover 7 surprising ways that you might be missing out on 50% of potential volunteers in your church.

Speaker: Gary Lindsay & John Garrison

Category: Volunteers

INTENSIVE: 10:00-12:00

Getting Heard - and Supported! - by Your Church's Senior Leadership

Do you feel like you're at the "kids' table" of your church? There are effective ways of communicating your vision, your ideas, and your needs to senior leadership. This workshop will look at extremely practical communication principles and tips that will help prepare and land your message.

Speaker: Keith Farrin

INTENSIVE: 10:00-12:00

Launch—or Relaunch —Your Children's Ministry

Whether you're starting from ground zero or feel it's time to get your ministry back on course, this workshop will walk you through practical steps that include: Creating a mission and vision;

Developing your Team; Organizing your Ministry; Navigating Change

Speaker: Gloria Lee

Breakout #5: Thursday, January 17 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

Every Detail Speaks

Description: When Walt Disney envisioned Disneyland, his philosophy was that every detail communicates something to completely immerse you in the 'story'. Likewise, every detail within our church building communicates something; whether those things are intentional or not. Let's look at what is 'speaking' and the messages being communicated week to week.

Speaker: Lisa Mitchell

Category: Creativity in Ministry

Join the Story: Interactive Storytelling Ideas for Preschool Kids

Description: What's the best way to battle boredom and behavior problems in your preschool room? Invite kids to be a part of the Biblical storytelling. Not only does interactive storytelling keep kids engaged, it helps them retain what they've learned. Discover practical ideas for helping preschool kids join the story through this workshop.

Speaker: David Rausch

Track: Early Childhood Ministry

Above the Noise: Making your voice heard

Description: Do you struggle with being heard in your leadership as a woman? Do you feel invaluable and invisible? Join us as we provide practical ways for you to overcome fear and intimidation so that your ministry voice be confident and influential.

Speaker: Kathie Philips

Track: (En)Courage: Women in Ministry Leadership

Kidmin Communication Secrets!

Description: Marketing and Communication in children's ministry is both challenging and critical. Getting information out is more challenging than ever in an information saturated world and getting responses even harder. How do we communicate, explain, invite, confirm, schedule and celebrate all that is going on in our ministries without it just becoming more noise? Come enjoy this FUN "Press Conference" experience on how to keep your parents and volunteers "in the know!"

Speaker: Karl Bastian

Track: EQUIP: Foundations for Children's Ministry

Gospel for Kids and families

Description: While Deuteronomy 6 clearly defines the important of faith training in the family setting, we cannot claim that as an exemption to partner with parents to encourage, guide, challenge, and help families and kids experience, understand and grasp the life-changing truths of the Gospel. In this session we will discover ways to build the bridge from Gospel-centered teaching in the church to the home. We just won't talk about ideas we will experience some together that you can immediately implement in your ministries.

Speaker: Danielle Bell

Track: Family & Intergenerational Discipleship

"Nothing Less": Childhood Indicators of Spiritually Mature Adults

Based on the A.W. Tozier quote, "Nothing less than a whole Bible can make a whole Christian," this research-based breakout will explore how biblical literacy is on a steep decline in the current generation. Discover what the church can do to equip parents with the information they need to make wise parenting choices that will greatly impact the spiritual health of their children and teens – as they mature into adults.

Speaker: Jana Magruder

Category: Family & Intergenerational Discipleship

Be A Leader You Would Follow

Description: Pause for a moment. Ask yourself, why do people follow me? Or, why not? Within our context there are key attributes of a leader worth following. Unravel the art of relational leadership and etching a distinct vision. Walk away with the audacity to evaluate and an unquenchable thirst to advance.

Speaker: Byron Ragains

Track: Leadership

Give me 5! 5 steps for new Children's Ministry leaders

Description: Children's Ministry is unlike any other profession. What practical steps should you take as a young professional to ensure financial, personal, and spiritual stability? The first 5 years are crucial. Learn 5 steps in this breakout that will help you set a foundation for longevity in ministry.

Speaker: Mahogany Dudley-Finley

Category: Leadership

Finding the kid within the role of the male children's minister

Description: Being a man in children's ministry, your role can either roar or soar. Come discover eight habits that will help cultivate both your ministry and personal worlds so that your soaring will connect to the hearts of kids and your colleagues. By rediscovering "for such is the Kingdom," Christ's admonition suggests that a child-like attitude may contain some insight on how to approach ministry.

Speaker: Ron Hunter

Track: Men of Children's Ministry

Large, Mega, and Multi-Site Ministry

Description: Come and hear from a panel of leaders involved in children's ministry in some of the largest churches and multi-site campuses. We'll talk about things like how to manage large pools of volunteers, effective communication and leveraging influence in the community.

Moderator: Heidi Hensley Category: Ministry Models

Sports as a Ministry

Description: Sports is a major part of our current culture. It also seems to pull families away from the local church. How can the Church take a cultural tool and apply it to ministry and create effective, lasting, change in the lives of families and their communities.

Speaker: Drew Hester Category: Outreach

Volunteer Policies for the Modern Kidmin

Description: This workshop provides an in-depth review of current policies and their role in the overall safety plan. Obtain a good understanding of the top risks to your ministry, the importance of having a child protection policy, the keys to effective volunteer guidelines, and what a comprehensive screening process should include.

Speaker: Angela Lewton

Track: Practical Children's Ministry

Full Schedule, Fruitful Life: Tips to Make the Most of Your Busy Life

Description: Do you ever find yourself thinking about church work while playing with your kids at home? Do you wish you could get your creative juices flowing easier and more often? Has it been a while since you felt an all-out belly laugh? If so, then you will enjoy these top 5 tips of having a busy, yet *very* rewarding life. We will talk about neuroscience and spiritual disciplines. We will talk about phone apps and your social life. And most importantly, we are going to talk about Y-O-U and the tools that help you do you best!

Speaker: Meg Calvin Track: Soul Care

Tips and Tools to Take Your Special Needs Ministry to the Next Level

Description: You've got the basics down, but are ready for more! This workshop is for you! Come get acquainted with great tools, resources, sensory rooms and ministry models, including respite care, that will take your ministry to new levels beyond Sunday morning.

Speaker: Marie Kuck Track: Special Needs

Little Servants: Training our Kids to Have a Service-Minded Walk with God

Description: Kidmin is often centered on how much enjoyment a lesson, a craft, or an activity will bring. While enjoyment isn't bad, we must remember that kids are at church to grow in their faith and serve. How can we turn Kidmin on its head and find ways for little hands and hearts to help, serve, and even lead?

Speaker: Brittany Hochstaetter
Track: Spiritual Formation

Low-Cost and No-Cost Digital Tools For Ministry

Description: Why buy expensive digital tools when low-cost or no-cost options can do what you need? Free tools free up ministry dollars to be used elsewhere. Learn powerful features you may have overlooked in commonly used software, and learn about new or new to you solutions you may never have heard of.

Speaker: John Tillman

Category: Technology & Media

Pulling Preschoolers into PRAISE!

Description: The Bible is specific in describing the activity of praising God. Discover exactly what "praise" is, how it fits into a lifestyle of worship, and practice fresh ways to draw little children into enthusiastic activity, preparing them to have an encounter with GOD!

Speaker: Jean Thomason Track: The Worship Experience

Caring for Victims of Childhood Sexual Abuse

Description: What role can the church have in providing pastoral care to children and their families after the trauma of abuse? Discussion will include appropriate and caring response, recognizing triggers, and helping to find healthy coping strategies. This seminar is designed to work effectively and sensitively with survivors of childhood abuse.

Speaker: Melodie Bissell Category: Tough Topics

Help! I've Got Snarky Preteens in My Children's Ministry

Description: Get the key strategies for moving preteens from "Checked-Out" to "Engaged." Discover the mysteries behind the thinking & brain processing of 4th, 5th & 6th graders. Learn practical ways you can develop effective ministry in multiple types of environments.

Speaker: Sean Sweet Track: Tweens & Pre-Teens

Beautiful Boring: gospel fluency for kids who don't "need" Jesus

Description:It is time to celebrate the beautiful, boring stories of the ones who struggle to find themselves worthy in an amplified world. For the church kid being raised in a culture that hyperbolizes daily encounters, it is time we reclaim the simplicity of the gospel so that those being protected and prayed into the Kingdom might know Jesus for exactly who he is: loving, good and complete salvation no matter the story of your first encounter with him.

Speaker: Christie Warden

Track: Understanding and Reaching Today's Kids

What They Wish They Knew: Partnering with Millennial Parents

Description: Millennial parents (and non-millennials) often need a cheerleader, an equipper, a challenger, a teacher, a leader, and that means you've got to be intentional about investing in them. Dive deeper into the needs of Millennial Parents and discover practical ways to encourage parents to spiritually lead at home. It will change your Children's Ministry for good.

Speaker: Julie Giles & Sarah Turner

Track: Understanding and Reaching Today's Parents

Building Teams Who Thrive and Stay

Description: Encourage and build into your volunteers so they get the most out of serving, understand the vision and thrive in their volunteer role. Increase your volunteer retention by learning new ways to onboard, encourage and equip your teams so they have fun, can identify a win and naturally invite others to join the team.

Speaker: Kim Botto Track: Volunteers

Breakout #6: Thursday, January 17 2:00-3:00 PM

Doing Church Differently-Reconnecting to Fellowship

Description: Statistics show that church attendance is falling and this disconnect directly affects children. Let's explore some creative ways to reconnect the whole family through unique fellowship and online approaches.

Speaker: Jeroll Rodgers

Category: Creativity in Ministry

Extreme Church Nursery Makeover

Description: Ever look around your church nursery and think, "This place could use a refresh"? This breakout will provide tools for participants to assess current space; review new ideas for toys, furniture, and decorating; and integrate faith messages throughout. By the end you'll have a plan for action for your nursery.

Speaker: Dawn Rundman

Track: Early Childhood Ministry

Influence: The Art and Practice of Using your Unique Influence

Description: Leadership is all about influence. But influence looks different in each person because of the unique ways that God has created. Come discover a bit more about what your unique influence looks like and how to leverage it more effectively.

Speaker: Megan Whittow

Track: (En)Courage: Women in Ministry Leadership

THRIVE: How to Create a Systematic Evaluation Process to Keep Your Ministry Thriving

Description: Evaluation is critical, yet few leaders have a systematic process in place to understand the health of their ministry. (And your ministry's health is so important!) Join us for a framework, including take-away tools, for you to continually and effectively assess the health of your ministry, in order to THRIVE.

Speaker: Greg Baird

Track: EQUIP: Foundations for Children's Ministry

Family Milestones: Equipping Parents for Every Season

Description: As children's ministry leaders, we have a unique opportunity to encourage and equip parents at key moments in their child's life. From Baby Dedication to High School Graduation, this session will help you discover how you can help parents intentionally disciple their children in every season.

Speaker: Matt Morgan

Track: Family & Intergenerational Discipleship

4 Keys to Building an Effective Lead Team

Description: I've learned this important truth in Children's Ministry, that there is an art to building teams and developing leaders. In this breakout, we will talk about the 4 key components on building and establishing a leadership team. I will also share practical tools on creating a culture of leadership development within your department.

Speaker: Chad Owens Track: Leadership

Men of Children's Ministry Panel

Description: Hear from a group of men currently serving or leading in children's ministry. Listen as they talk about the unique challenges, opportunities and responsibilities that come with being a man in the children's ministry world.

Moderator: Eric Hamp

Track: Men of Children's Ministry

How To Transition to Multiple Services

Description: So your church is growing, and they want to add a new service! That's great! What steps need to be considered to make this move seamless? How do you staff and recruit? How do you plan lessons? This session will help ministries looking to add a service to their week.

Speaker: Aaron Granade Category: Ministry Models

Reaching the Surrounding Community Through Schools

Description: This workshop will challenge you to think outside the church walls and come into the hallways of your local school. Hear successful stories of church/school partnerships and learn strategies designed to connect you with students and families in your community

Speaker: Becky Rydman Category: Outreach

How to Talk to Your Lead Pastor About KidMin

Description: Children's ministry is a different animal, and working with church leaders who don't come from a background of children's ministry can be frustrating and overwhelming. Let's talk about some ways you can bring the conversation to your lead pastor (or executive pastor, or church board) in a way that offers shared language and vision. How can you advocate for children's ministry? How can you create an advocate out of other church leaders?

Speaker: Kyle Tyler

Track: Practical Children's Ministry

Age-Appropriate Bible Teaching: Unpacking The "Levels of Biblical Learning"

Description: The Levels of Biblical Learning is a framework that outlines how kids at 6 different developmental ages levels can comprehend truths in 10 biblical concept categories and identifies age-appropriate language that teachers can use to communicate God's Word clearly at each stage.

Speaker: Jana Magruder

Category: Practical Children's Ministry

Managing the Chaos: Establishing Discipline in Kidmin

Dealing with children's behavior is one of the most challenging parts of serving in children's ministry. It is also a challenge that never goes away. This workshop will identify the purpose of discipline in kids' ministry and identify practical ways to structure the ministry and the classroom environments to develop a positive culture of behavior.

Speaker: Jenny Funderburke Smith Category: Practical Children's Ministry

Wounded Servant to Determined Warrior

Description: During this breakout we'll discuss 4 keys from moving from hurting to healing to healthy leadership. Our ministries need us to be able to not only walk ourselves through this process but to help those we serve when they become wounded.

Speaker: Tom Bump Track: Soul Care

Remember God

Christians love to talk about how God is in control, but that's harder to grasp when things aren't going like you thought they would, when your life looks quite different than you imagined. But God is who He says He is. He is kinder than you imagine. Let's explore what it looks like to remember who God is in the midst of uncertainty.

Speaker: Annie F. Downs Category: Soul Care

Leading Elementary & Preteens Kids to Worship Like David

Description: This is THE workshop about worship you want to attend. It will be a GAME CHANGER for how you lead kids in worship. You have to do more than just press play on a song to help kids learn how to worship. With a passion for teaching kids to be the worshippers God created them to be, Yancy will help you look at David's life and example of worship and share practical steps that will help you LEAD KIDS into God's presence.

Speaker: Yancy Richmond Track: Spiritual Formation

Back to the Altar - Effectively Connecting kids to the Holy Spirit

Description: The Holy Spirit...not the easiest thing to communicate and understand but is essential for us in experiencing all of God's power and presence in our lives. In this breakout, we will explore ways to bring kids into closer and deeper understanding of the very person Jesus left to guide and empower us.

Speaker: Preston Plentl Category: Spiritual Formation

Worship Nights for Kids

Description: Let's talk about a unique event that is all about worship for kids. Kids will learn about worship through large group teaching, small group activities, and an extended worship experience.

Speaker: Corinne Noble

Track: The Worship Experience

Informed: The Ever-Changing Landscape of Gender Issues

Regardless of your church's position on issues related to gender, it's critical for you as the leader to be informed regarding the range of definitions and laws related to this topic. We'll take a look at current terms and definitions, laws currently in place you need to be aware of, and tools that will help you speak intelligently about this topic within your ministry context.

Category: Tough Topics

Is Social Networking Destroying Empathy in Our Children?

Description: Empathy allows a person to understand and experience the emotions of others. The invention of social media has resulted in a preference for mediated communication over personal. This disconnectedness is eroding the capacity for empathy in our children. As ministers, it is important to follow the example of Christ bringing forth the need to create experiences that will enhance the growth of empathy.

Speaker: Barbara Price Track: Tweens & Pre-Teens

Square Peg, Round Hole, Solutions for Kids who Don't Seem to Fit

Description: The children who seem the most unlovable can often be our biggest blessings! This workshop will focus on problem-solving ways to help and learn to love children with specific behavior issues and bad habits. Focus will be on fresh perspectives, practical solutions, and support.

Speaker: Amber Leppin

Track: Understanding and Reaching Today's Kids

The Four C's of Parenting: Launching Your Kids into Adulthood

Help the parents of your children not to get stuck in one of the four C's of parenting: Caregiver, Cop, Coach, or Consultant. The child needs intentionality from each phase but typically the parent fails to transition to the next season of parenting. Dr. Hunter explains each phase and then spends time with stories and visuals to help you remember what to do and why.

Speaker: Ron Hunter

Track: Understanding and Reaching Today's Parents

3 Keys to Attracting Millennial Volunteers

Description: By 2025, the Millennials will be 75% of working age people. Ministries that are going to thrive in the next 10 years must attract Millennial volunteers. Which leads us to the question, "How do I attract Millennial volunteers to my team? There are 3 big keys to seeing Millennials join your volunteer team. In this session, you'll discover how to see your ministry filled with them.

Speaker: Dale Hudson Track: Volunteers