



Midweek Ministry



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STEP 1: Define the “Why” (Before You Plan Anything)

⇒ Meet with your core team and pray through a 1–2 sentence vision statement. (What is God calling you to do through this midweek ministry?)

Examples:

- “A safe, fun place where kids learn God’s Word and build friendships midweek.”
- “A midweek discipleship night for kids to grow in faith through Bible teaching, worship, games, and small groups.”

This becomes your filter for every decision to ensure everything lines up with the vision.

⇒ It is important to decide if this is going to be an “in-reach” (children already attending your church) or “outreach” (children already attending your church + others that may only attend for midweek) program. Depending on your vision, in-reach and outreach programs run differently.

⇒ Will there be a fee to attend? If you choose a handbook program—more info below—there will be an investment required. If you choose to use a free/minimal fee program and/or provide a t-shirt/vest, you may want to offset the cost by charging a small fee or maybe your church has the budget to make it free!

Some families may not be able to afford a program that is not free so your church may want to consider a scholarship program to allow your midweek program to be accessible to all, if you decide to charge.

STEP 2: Choose the Best Night + Time

⇒ Pick the night based on your church rhythm.

Most common:

- **Wednesday 6:30–8:00pm**
- **Wednesday 6:00–7:30pm**
- Or whatever matches the adult and/or youth groups meeting nights.

Pro Tip: Keep it to 75–90 minutes. Longer gets rough fast for elementary kids.



STEP 3: Decide the Program Format (Keep It Simple)

⇒ Plan something consistent and repeatable. Kids are typically not as energized as they are on Sunday mornings so a more relaxed approach typically works best.

A great starter format:

1. **Check-in + activities (10 min)**
 2. **Worship (10 min)**
 3. **Bible lesson (15 min)**
 4. **Game/activity (15 min)**
 5. **Small groups (15–20 min)**
 6. **Wrap-up + pick-up (5–10 min)**
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STEP 4: Set Your Age Grouping Plan

⇒ How many rooms do you have available? Are you including preschool to start?

⇒ Elementary can be separated by individual grade or grouped different ways:

Option A (simplest):

- K–2
- 3–5

Option B (if you have enough leaders):

- K–1
- 2–3
- 4–5

⇒ Start simple. You can always add classes later.

⇒ You may also want to consider providing a nursery/preschool class solely for the children of volunteers so you can have a bigger pool of parents to partner with.

STEP 5: Choose Your Curriculum (or Plan)

Option 1: Use Digital Curriculum (fastest)

- This is best for launching quickly and staying consistent. Doing a new theme each month or every 6 weeks helps to keep things fresh. If you would like to use a program with handbooks & rewards, AWANA or Adventure Club both work well.

Option 2: Create Your Own Lessons

- This works well if your Sunday lessons and midweek lessons are meant to match.

Midweek Curriculum Suggestions:

- ⇒ **Adventure Club** / gracecurriculum.org / handbooks / preschool to 5th grade
- ⇒ **AWANA** / awana.org / handbooks / preschool to 8th grade
- ⇒ **Calvary Curriculum** / calvarycurriculum.com / topical curriculum / elementary
- ⇒ **Children's Ministry Deals** / childrens-ministry-deals.com / themed curriculum / preschool thru teen
- ⇒ **Trueway Kids** / truewaykids.com / themed programs / preschool thru teen

Best practice: Keep midweek lessons more interactive than Sunday so it feels like a Bible "club". Games help to get some wiggles out but if you have a particularly rowdy group, you may want to save games for last so it does not detract from the Bible Message being shared. When the games *match the theme*, kids remember the Bible lesson much better because their bodies are doing what their brains are learning

STEP 6: Build a Volunteer Team (Minimum Viable Team)

- ⇒ Don't wait for a "perfect" team. Start with a minimum viable team.

Minimum recommended for 10–20 kids:

- 1 check-in / welcome person
- 1 large group leader
- 2 small group leaders
- 1 floater/helper
- 1 security / hallway person (if your church does that)

Rule of thumb: 1 adult per 6–8 kids for elementary age.

STEP 7: Recruit With Purpose (Not Desperation Recruiting)

Recruit with:

- A clear role and specifically why they are needed
- A time commitment (include prayer & clean-up time / 30 minutes before & after)
- Volunteer commitment (are they serving weekly, bi-weekly, for 6 months, etc.)

Example:

- "We're launching Midweek Kids in 4 weeks. We need 6 adults who can serve weekly from September to December. You will get to help make an eternal difference in the lives of children as you help kids learn God's Word & feel seen."

Pro Tip: Start by offering the *same commitment expectation for everyone* (ex: weekly or bi-weekly), then make as few exceptions as necessary. When volunteers are on a wide variety of schedules, it becomes harder to track, harder to plan, and easier for gaps to happen. If someone cannot meet the commitment, offer them a sub or on-call role.

STEP 8: Put Safety + Check-In Systems in Place

One month before your launch, confirm:

- Background checks (ministry application, LiveScan/fingerprinting, reference checks, etc. as required by your church) have been completed for every person
- Check-in system is ready (even a simple paper system is fine)
- Parent pick-up process is clear (passwords, parent tags, assigned numbers, etc)
- Bathroom policy in place (2 adults, hallway monitor, etc.) Designated restrooms?

Midweek gets chaotic fast without systems. It's important to train the volunteers AND the parents on the safety systems *before* the first night. (Lots & lots of reminders! ☺)

STEP 9: Create a Nightly Schedule (Minute-by-Minute)

⇒ Create a one-page leader schedule (easy to print and post or hand out) and a mini version sized to tuck behind/inside a name tag.

Example:

- 6:30 Team Prayer & Updates
- 6:45 Doors open / check-in / classrooms
- 7:00 Transition to Main Sanctuary
- 7:05 Welcome & Prayer / main sanctuary
- 7:10 Worship / main sanctuary
- 7:25 Bible lesson / main sanctuary / *no restroom breaks, unless it's urgent
- 7:45 Transition to Games / upper parking lot
- 7:50 Games / upper parking lot
- 8:10 Small Groups / Review & Reflection Questions / Prayer Requests/ classrooms
- 8:25 Wrap-up / classrooms
- 8:30 Child Pick-up / classrooms
- 8:45 Classroom clean-up (wipe down tables, put away supplies, take out the trash, vacuum, turn off heaters/air conditioners, lock doors, etc)
- 9:00 Depart campus

This reduces confusion, keeps the night moving, and reminds volunteers when to be where.

You also want to set a precedence of beginning with prayer—our most powerful tool—and ending with collective clean-up so you are not stuck being the last person there, doing everything on your own. "Many hands make the work light!" ☺

STEP 10: Plan Your First 4 Weeks (Not Your Whole Year)

Do not overbuild. Start simple so you can accomplish your vision without getting overwhelmed with too many details to take care of as you are acclimating to a new program.

Plan:

- Week 1: Kickoff / Vision / Fun / Meet your leader
- Week 2: Bible theme begins
- Week 3: Build consistency
- Week 4: “bring a friend”, “crazy hair”, “crazy socks”, neon night” etc., to create excitement after finishing each themed month / 6 weeks

⇒ Keep the first month easy, energetic, and predictable, then add to it and make adjustments as you see the need. Once you have a feel for the flow, you can plan several months in advance and distribute calendars for parents’ use (and to build kids’ excitement for special nights!).

STEP 11: Promote Your Midweek for 3 Weeks Before Launch

Use multiple channels to generate excitement and awareness of this new addition:

- Sunday announcements
 - Church email
 - Kids ministry parent text group
 - Social media graphic
 - Flyers at check-in
 - Leaders personally inviting families
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STEP 12: Host a Volunteer Training (try to keep it at 1 hour)

⇒ Do this 1–2 weeks before launch, preferably on the same night you will be hosting your midweek program.

Discuss:

- Vision + Goals so the volunteers know and understand their part in the program
- Schedule walkthrough
- Safety policies
- How small groups will work
- Discipline approach
- Check-in/pick-up procedures

STEP 12: Host a Volunteer Training (60 minutes) / CONTINUED

- ⇒ If your program is going to function as an outreach, your volunteers will need a little extra preparation. They should be trained to extend **extra grace** to children who may have never been in church before. In the beginning, behavior may feel more challenging as kids adjust to new expectations and begin learning what “church” even is.
- ⇒ A helpful reminder for volunteers is: **“Before we correct behavior, we build trust.”** Kids cannot meet expectations they do not yet understand — and often, they are testing whether they are safe and accepted first.

Give leaders confidence by sharing as many details as possible so they feel equipped.

STEP 13: Launch Night = Keep It Fun and Smooth

For the first night:

- Don't try anything complicated
 - Plan extra games
 - Keep lesson short
 - Give kids something to take home (treat, glow sticks, stickers, t-shirt, etc)
 - Have extra helpers ready and in key positions (greeters, info desk, safety)
- ⇒ A “win” on Launch Night is having all the kids excited to return the following week to learn more about Jesus! Set your team up for success by meeting 30 minutes before doors open for prayer, encouragement, and any last-minute updates.
 - ⇒ **The most important goal of the first night is simple: help kids feel loved by God and by you, safe, and excited to be there** — and make sure they have a whole lot of fun along the way! If the program is too rigid, it will feel more like another day of school and the kids will most likely not want to return.
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STEP 14: Follow Up With Parents:

That same night or next morning, send a warm text/email:

- Share what the kids learned
- Mention next week's lesson / theme
- Invite feedback

Parents are more likely to return if they feel informed and their child/ren are supported.

STEP 15: Debrief With Volunteers (in person or by text/email):

Good questions to ask:

- What went well?
- What felt messy?
- Any kids we should follow up with?
- What needs to change next week?

Small tweaks weekly help the ministry to stay stable and continue to improve!

What Makes Midweek Kids Ministry Successful:

Midweek works best when it has:

- ♥ **Prayer** (pray for leaders, volunteers, kids, and parents regularly!!)
 - ♥ **Consistency** (same flow each week)
 - ♥ **High energy** (games + engagement)
 - ♥ **Strong small groups** (kids feel known)
 - ♥ **Clear parent communication** (builds parent trust)
 - ♥ **Leader joy** (not burnout)
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And leaders—take heart as you step into something new or strengthen what you have already started. Midweek ministries can feel stretching, but you are not doing this in your own strength. God is already at work in the hearts of the children and families you encounter, and He will faithfully equip you for every moment that you didn't see coming. When you lead with prayer, love, and consistency, you create a place where kids can belong before they believe—and that is powerful Kingdom work that can change a young child's life for ETERNITY!!!!

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. ~Romans 15:13

With JOY,
♥ Tami

If you have any questions and/or would like more support, please feel free to contact me at: tami@reliancechurch.org