

RESOURCING THE LOCAL CHURCH



FOR YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



# Small groups Resources for Children's Ministry

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## Resources for Children's Ministry

Staring at shelves full of children's ministry resources, contemplating the most suitable resources can be rather overwhelming. There are so many resources but which do you choose? Here are a few suggested resources I hope that you may find useful to meet your particular need.

### Working with a small group of children of various ages

Maybe you are trying your best to work with a small group of children of various ages? How can this be achieved with a certain degree of success? Are there books on the shelves that will meet this need? Yes, there are.

Scripture union produces a resource called Mosaic (part of the *Light* range), Bible based sessions for small groups of children with a wide age range. Terry Clutterham, Ministry Development Director writes **'Small church group with a wide age range? Not a major problem but an amazing opportunity – to grow a close-knit, worshipping, disciple-making community. Mosaic will show you how. Clear and simple.'**

Laura Griffith from Whiteabbey finds Mosaic a very valuable and accessible resource. This is what she has to say:

*We have been using "Mosaic" in our Sunday School for about 3 years. We have a very small group of children, ranging in age from 4yrs to 11yrs. Attendance is also very erratic. Mosaic works really well with all age groups. There are lots of ideas on the theme which runs generally for 4 weeks. There are ideas for the older children, which keeps them interested. There are pages to photo copy for craft and memory verses that can be made into a display. There is also a "Mosaic" book called "Celebrations", which has structured lessons that focus on Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. Lots and lots of ideas and generally we find that we don't have enough time to everything that we have planned.*

Each book contains; 12 sessions, activities suitable for children aged 3 to 14 years, photocopiable resources required to run each session, helpful information for leaders as they lead, a bonus all-age worship for the whole church to enjoy together and advice and tips and wisdom from expert practitioners. Each week by going online you can enhance the weekly sessions with downloads.



There are at least 8 books in the series with 'God is great' featuring sessions on Solomon, Elijah, Daniel and how Jesus shows God's Love while 'God with us' looks at Paul's letters to young churches, Peter and Jesus and Elisha the prophet. Why not check these out as they may just be what you are looking for?

## Leading small groups

If you are looking for some practical advice or wisdom on how best to lead small groups with wide age range how about taking a look at the Top Tips Series. This series is written by various authors who are hugely respected and experienced practitioners and writers in the area of ministry to children. They are low in cost, big on practical advice, and small enough to digest over a cup of coffee. To accompany the Mosaic resource, you may wish to purchase Top Tips on Working with mixed ages. This little book is full of practical advice along with real-life stories, thoughts to challenge and encourage, wisdom and understanding to help practitioners like yourself face for example either the challenges of a mixed age group, working with lads or welcoming special children, the list goes on. One contributor writes *'in reality..... I want to say it's a blessing because it is, really. And I should be happy that these few children are in church at all. But I dread Sunday mornings and I'm so relieved when the group's over. It shouldn't be like that, should it?'* The authors address these anxieties that I'm sure we have all experienced during sometime or other during our ministry with children. One suggestion is with a small group you have the opportunity to get to know each child well. It provides the opportunity to build relationships between leader and children and young people and amongst the group members themselves. It's about belonging and feeling part of the wider church. Important for children to know they are loved and belong.

Other books in this series include; Inspiring all kinds of learners, Welcoming Special Children, Welcoming Children of other Faiths, Working with Lads, Communicating God in Non-book Ways, Encouraging Faith to Grow and others.

I particularly like the accessibility of these little books so why not check them out. I don't think you will not be disappointed!