

## I. Families First

- ◆ Families should be encouraged/equipped to nurture their children
  - Parents encouraged to complete age appropriate parenting classes
  - Parents assume primary responsibility for their kids spiritual growth
  - Parents model their discipleship through family devotions and sharing
  - Each family in cell encouraged to use Family Walk or Youth Walk
- ◆ Children should be incorporated into the life of the cell meeting
  - The Welcome and Worship portions are particularly good for all kids
  - Include older children in the Work portion and cell outreaches
- ◆ Each cell should have a Children's Coordinator (if the cell has children)
  - Works with the other cell members to develop their PFK
  - Responsible to organize children's time among cell members
- ◆ Children Coordinators should attend a Children Coordinator Training
- ◆ Cells should purchase materials for use with children
  - Every cell should have one subscription to Family Walk (or Youth Walk) as a focus to build the children's time around
  - Visit the Resource Center for other resources that are available
- ◆ Share testimonies about what God is doing with children in cell
  - Direct special concerns to Cell Leader and note on the Cell Report

## II. Plan For Kids (PFK)

- ◆ Tailored to the needs of the children using a TARPS
- ◆ Flexible enough to accommodate various age groups (Family Walk or Youth Walk provide an excellent lesson guide, and reinforce family devotions)
- ◆ Emphasize relationship building activities that are fun
- ◆ Emphasize learning to pray for and minister to each other
- ◆ Follow "House Rules" for Children in Cells
- ◆ Rotate coordinating children activities among cell members
- ◆ Incorporate older, responsible teens in children activities

## III. Use TARPS as a Guide for the Children's Time

- ◆ **T = Transition:** Move kids in an orderly way to their activity after worship
- ◆ **A = Affirmation:** Affirm and bless each child present that week
  - Give honor for special recognition and birthdays
- ◆ **R = Review:** Review the lesson/activity to get all the children involved
- ◆ **P = Pray:** Pray for each child and encourage them to pray for one another
  - Encourage the use of the gifts
- ◆ **S = Straighten:** Straighten the venue when finished

## IV. TIPS & TOOLS

- ◆ **Think Family, Family, Family**
  - Reinforce parental involvement in spiritual nurture at home
  - Have Q & A on how to have family devotions. What's working?
  - Draw alongside and encourage every family to have a devotional time

◆ **Approaches to Children in Cells**

- Rotation: Responsibility to guide activity/teach shared by members
- Family Night: Build cell around family activities
- Children's Night: Build cell around children in cell
- Hire a Sitter: Cell shares cost of hiring a sitter for small children
- Youth Assistant: Use teens to help guide activities/teach the children

◆ **Set Expectations for Giving Directions**

- Who: Whoever is designated to be in charge at that meeting
- When: As kids arrive; before any transition; before giving a handout or supplies; when an activity changes; after you have everyone's attention; when someone doesn't understand; before new projects
- How: Assertively; Calmly; Simply; Clearly; Lovingly
- Why: If you don't take charge, kid's will!

◆ **Establish House Rules with Cell Members**

- Agreed upon by all cell members
- Involve the children in making the house rules for the cell
- Inform newcomers of the house rules; update every 3-6 months
- We walk in the house--keep our feet on the floor, not on the furniture
- We ask permission to go into the kitchen or to open a closed door
- We keep our hands to ourselves--leave TVs and other objects alone
- We put things away before leaving and always thank the host family

**IV. Life Application**