

Ministry Info

Children's Ministry Team

Why is this ministry important to Riverside?

Riverside is a church that loves young people. We earnestly desire that they come to know and experience God's love and truth from an early age. We believe that children *can* come to know God and His love for them and have a real relationship with Him. Part of our mission statement is to root people in Christ, and we believe this applies to children as well as adults.

We have various programmes and facilities available on Sundays aimed at meeting the needs of parents and their children, starting with babies and going up to grade 8. Our programmes are designed to invite kids into an understanding of how to grow in relationship with Jesus. Our curriculum is constructed to meet our children where they are cognitively, spiritually, physically, emotionally and socially. Through age-appropriate activities and discussions children build and grow their spiritual foundation so that by the time they leave Children's Church they have a sound, and still growing, understanding of who God is and who they are in relation to Him.

What does volunteering for this ministry entail?

Within each Children's Church ministry there are various roles that enable the successful and effective running of the ministry.

BUDDIES

1. Teacher:
This person prepares the entire lesson and does the main teaching. This includes story-telling, leading singing time and craft time. They are responsible for everything that happens on the day with assistants to help with the various activities. The curriculum and lesson plan is pre-prepared via a resource we have chosen to follow. However personal preparation is vital as it is the leader's role to make the lesson come alive for the children.
2. Assistant:
The assistant's role is to support the teacher by sitting with the kids (crowd control), helping kids with craft time, pouring and serving juice & biscuits, pre-lesson preparation (e.g. cutting, sticking etc.), sometimes filling in when the teacher has to do something, e.g. if the teacher is dressing up for the story the assistant keeps the children busy with a song, short discussions, getting them ready on the carpet etc. The assistants work closely with the teacher to ensure smooth running of the morning.
3. Desired Rolls:
We would love to have other volunteers fulfil the following roles.
 - ✓ A dedicated person/s to do singing time with musical instruments and/or CD player
 - ✓ An occasional fun, dressed-up character to visit (e.g. postman, baker, nurse etc....)
 - ✓ More male teachers

LIFEHOUSE

The curriculum and lesson plan is pre-prepared via a resource we have chosen to follow. Lesson content, story line, Scripture outlines etc. is all set out for the volunteers. However personal preparation is vital as it is the leaders' role to make the lesson come alive for the children.

1. Large Group Leader (LGL)
Prepares and runs the large group time which includes singing (worship time), story time and memory verse. The LGL also assists small group leaders while they teach if and where necessary.
2. Small Group Leader
Teaches a small group of kids (8-15). This involves preparing and teaching the lesson and interacting personally with the kids.

3. Desired Roles

- ✓ Audio / visual operator – this person would set up, operate and pack up the audio/visual equipment.
- ✓ General Set up – Person/s who help with moving, packing, unpacking school desks and chairs before the programme begins, and packs up afterwards.

SOLID GROUND

1. Main leader / teacher:

Prepares the lesson/discussion time and facilitates the discussion. Both a male and female leader teaches and prepares each Sunday. The lesson topic and basic content is guided by the Children's Director. The leader is responsible to put together a lesson with biblical texts, thought provoking questions and take away challenges that are appropriate for pre-teens. Teaching material is made available by the Children's Director for leaders who may need it, and they prepare the discussion in consultation with her.

2. Assistant:

Assists in the lesson with discussions and practical things wherever needed.
(Leaders and assistants sometimes alternate rolls if both are prepared to do so).

What is expected of a volunteer in this ministry?

All Children's Church volunteers work around a rostered schedule. The more volunteers available the more frequently they are able to alternate teaching responsibilities. It is very rare that a volunteer is on for two weeks in a row.

Buddies

- Teachers arrive at 08:30 to unlock the venue and prepare the necessary items for the assistants to help with when they arrive.
- Assistants arrive by 08:45.
- All final prep is done by 09:10.
- The team meets for devotion and prayer until just before the Buddies arrive at 09:25.

Lifehouse

- All volunteers meet at 08:45 for set up and final prep.
- Gather at 09:00 for devotions and prayer until 09:20. The kids start arriving from then and teachers then meet, greet and spend time with the kids.
- The age groups are divided into 3 classes; Gr 0-1, Gr 2-3, Gr 4-5. Most age groups have 2 teachers.
- The teacher's alternate being on the roster. For example, some groups alternate teaching every second week, other groups alternate teaching monthly and others prefer to alternate quarterly. This is arranged and discussed between the teachers in consultation with the Children's Director.
- Volunteers also have an opportunity to share a devotion with the team occasionally.

Solid Ground

- Pre-teens remain in the church service for the duration of the worship time. They then move to their venue for the some teaching and discussion, sometimes in a large group and other times split into smaller (boys/girls) groups for more intimate discussions.
- The Volunteers 'on duty' meet with the Lifehouse leaders at 09:00 for devotions and prayer.

What do I need to consider before I commit to this ministry?

- ✓ Be a committed follower of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Love and enjoy kids.
- ✓ Be willing to serve in whatever way is needed.
- ✓ Be open to being trained, taught, and guided by the leadership of the church and this ministry.
- ✓ Anyone wishing to join needs to have been attending Riverside regularly for at least 6 months.
- ✓ Attend services regularly when you are not on the team.
- ✓ Be willing to commit to volunteering on this team for at least 1 year.

Who do I contact?

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