

7 Shaping Faith at Church

Essential Experiences



Shaping Faith at Church

As you plan to give the children in your church the experiences they need for life-long faith, have a look at the following checklist and tick off how many practices you do. Put a star beside those that as a church you want to do.

Service and Mission

- Encourage children and families to build friendships with people living near them.
- Provide opportunities and resources for families to serve others together – home, neighbourhood; church; world.
- Provide opportunities for children to respond with compassion and generosity.
- Provide resources and opportunities for children to share their faith story.
- Provide outreach opportunities with and for children.

Homes Empowered

- Synergise church, home and school strategies so that all have the same vision and purpose.
- Partner with and support families- help them build strong marriages and quality family relationships by not over scheduling too many church programs.
- Equip and resource them for every Milestone or life stage of their children.
- Demonstrate family faith practices and traditions and provide at home resources.
- Resource and equip parents to become authentic disciples of Jesus.

Authentic Relationships

- Provide positive role models and mentors from all generations.
- Equip parents as role models and mentors.
- Ensure leaders of programs build quality relationships and model God's grace.

- Provide pro-social places for positive peer connections.
- Ensure safe environments and implement child protection policies.

Participation

- Be intentional about allowing children to be a part of the church community.
- Welcome children into intergenerational worship.
- Ensure that they participate, use their gifts and feel that they belong.
- Give children equal opportunity to contribute and have a voice.
- Guide and mentor them to participate in meaningful ways.

Intergenerational Connections

- Plan for and engage children in shared experiences with all generations and their families.
- Create opportunities for children to build relationships with all generations.
- Plan for and allow generations to worship together
- Provide opportunities for generations to celebrate faith milestones and spiritual anchors together.
- Provide opportunities for children to learn and serve alongside their family and other generations.

Noteworthy Memory Events

- Resource and equip homes to create special daily, weekly and yearly rituals and traditions.
- Be intentional about creating memory events for children and families at church such as Milestone celebrations, kids rallies, concerts and family camps.
- Support children as they participate in Conference wide memory events such as Camps.
- Provide events that allow children to respond to God's call on their lives.
- Provide events that allow children to be inspired by people with a vibrant faith.

God Encounters

- Provide Provide an environment and experiences that allow children to encounter Jesus intimately, personally and regularly through prayer and reflection.
- Use learning activities that are experiential, multisensory, engaging, and varied in learning styles.
- Tell awesome Bible stories and stories of faith that reach the heart and the mind.
- Provide opportunities for children to experience and imagine how their personal story is intertwined with the big picture of the Bible.
- Help children to enter into the wonder and mystery of the Bible through discussion and questioning and respond using their individual gifts such as art, music, construction or drama.

