



Breakout List CPC21

CPC21 Online - Live Streamed Breakouts

These are the breakout sessions that will be streamed live during CPC21 Online. They will also be available in the CPC21 Online Experience Kit.

Master Planning for Leaders

In Master Planning for Leaders, attendees will learn the 5 P's of Effective Time Management, and how they can be used to most efficiently plan within their ministries.

Speaker: Rachel Price

Category: The Whole Leader

Leading from your Strengths

In this breakout, you will begin to identify your unique contribution as an integral part of the Body of Christ. You will gain a foundational understanding of strength-based leadership and building strength-based teams.

Speaker: Dr. Deb Moncauskas

Category: The Whole Leader

I'm New to Ministry - Now What?

Welcome to ministry my friend! I always say to 101 leaders, "you will be better off 6 months from now!" Join me for this workshop and let's cover the HOW TO's for casting vision, observing and evaluating your programming, finding volunteers, selecting curriculum, and building your team.

Speaker: Byron Ragains

Category: Children's Ministry 101

Pivoting with Purpose

Whether change has come without choice or because you sense God leading you in a new direction, learning to pivot with purpose begins with obedience. Listening, learning and leaning in to God's voice during change is the difference between change for change's sake, and change for the sake of the Kingdom. Are you being asked to pivot? Do you need something to change? Let's ask some tough questions about the discipline of pivoting with purpose (and not just because you have to).

Speaker: Christie Penner-Worden

Category: The Whole Leader

Answering “Why Children’s Ministry?” from the Bible

New children’s ministry leaders need a Biblical foundation for the “Who”, “What,” and “Why” of kidmin. This breakout will get you started on developing a theology of children’s ministry, and it will light your fire, excite your leaders, and align your efforts. This one is a MUST for anyone with under three years in children’s ministry.

Speaker: Larry Fowler

Category: Children’s Ministry 101

A Discipleship Culture That Volunteers Never Leave

Create such an inclusive family feel to your volunteer teams that even if someone has to step away, they are still considered a part of your family. Volunteers come to our teams with a variety of underlying motives, but most of all it is to be a part of something bigger, make an impact, and find community .

Speaker: Sharon Rundell

Category: Volunteer Discipleship

How to Multiply Yourself in Ministry

Success in ministry is NOT what we do. Success in ministry is what would happen if we never returned to our church. Would it fly or would it fail? Ministry Leaders are called to ministry multiplication for the health of our souls, the building up of the body and the furtherance of the gospel. Learn foundational concepts + practical steps.

Speaker: Josh Denhart

Category: Volunteer Discipleship

Breath of Connection

Through recent Global events it has become increasingly more prevalent how connection is air to our lungs. Learn how to create circles of relationships with our volunteers, parents, children, and congregation to create an atmosphere people crave to be apart. Then learn how to expand the benefit of relational bonds to bring more power to how you share God’s Good news.

Speaker: Mercedes Hayes

Category: Coming Alongside Parents and Families

How to Execute a Clear Plan that will Help Your Church Meet New People

Creating a plan to reach new people in your community and having the time to actually follow the plan feels intimidating. Learn the key pieces needed to assemble a clear plan for your children’s ministry that anyone can articulate and own. Discover the joy of running a play that produces consistent results for your children’s ministry.

Speakers: Gabe Norris and Ken Thomas

Category: Community Impact

When I Move, You Move

Have you ever suffered from P. B. P. S overload? Better known as Planning, Brainstorming, Preparing and Strategizing for Children's Ministry overload? Even the best organized Children's ministry planning sessions can be overwhelming. Whether you are brainstorming ideas for Sunday School activities, or planning to regather children in a socially distant service, the struggle to produce a transformative experience is real. So, what can we do? We move! Learn how to equip you and your team to move from the stress of striving by moving with the Holy Spirit and discovering the peace in preparation.

Speaker: Nikki Palmer

Category: The Whole Leader

Leading with Influence

Not only is children's ministry the most important ministry in the church, leading that ministry puts leaders in a strategic place to influence the church at all levels. Come find out if your leadership role is where God has you placed to influence the church as a whole and how to lead with that influence.

Speaker: Melissa MacDonald

Category: The Whole Leader

Developing Meaningful and Influential Conversations with Your Kids

The single biggest missing element in discipleship today is the heartfelt conversations between parents and kids. As Ministry leaders, you must equip parents to have a substantive dialogue. Parents of preschoolers and early elementary age have no problems talking to the curious tiny humans God gave them, but conversations during those teenage years become strained or even non-existent. This session will identify seven barriers in communication and provide a meaningful conversation formula that is not only easy but memorable. Parents can't disciple kids without a relationship, and relationship cannot occur without meaningful conversation.

Speaker: Dr. Ron Hunter

Category: Coming Alongside Parents and Families

Illusions and Creative Object Lessons

Exciting object lessons not only grab kids (and adults) attention, they help make teaching much more effective! Learn simple illusions YOU can do, and how to make simple objects into dynamic lessons!

Speakers: David and Teesha Laflin

Category: Make it Fun

5 Principles for Helping the Next Generation Engage with the Bible

We all want our kids to believe the Bible. We all want them to believe and trust God's Word. So...how do we do it? In this workshop, we'll explore five principles that help the next generation engage with, enjoy, and apply God's Word. Then we'll look at how to apply those principles in homes, churches, and with different age groups.

Speaker: Keith Ferrin

Category: Bible Teaching

Essential Engagement: Preteen's Socialization

After Shelter in Place Preteens are social and they love to gather. 2020's restrictions were especially restrictive for this age group. Learn how both in-person & online events can easily become catalytic and life-changing for preteens. Plus it's easy to turn your preteens into an unstoppable outreach squad as inviting friends to socialize is a natural response for them.

Speaker: Sean Sweet

Category: Essentially Preteens

Creative Ideas for Special Needs Ministry Through the Pandemic and Beyond

The recent pandemic has forced us to reinvent how we do ministry. Many special needs families live in the "pandemic mode" of isolation and never escape that reality. What can we learn from our experience and apply it to find new ways to creatively minister to the special needs community to meet their unique needs?

Speaker: Marie Kuck

Category: Coming Alongside Parents and Families

Connecting Children with God: Spiritual Practices for Children

Trust your children and their Creator to communicate with one another successfully! Move beyond entertainment to spiritual engagement. Experience child-friendly spiritual practices that you can use at home or church to give kids time with God.

Speaker: Gordon West

Category: Spiritual Practices for Children

Special Needs Ministry Across the Phases

Children with special needs are not limited to one phase. They grow older and their needs change. As a church, we have to be ready to meet their needs as they travel from phase to phase. Let's talk through how we walk with a family through the different phases and how we can anticipate their needs as a church before the needs arise.

Speaker: Meaghan Wall

Category: Coming Alongside Parents and Families

Discipling Kids in Worship

Leading worship is more about your leadership ability than your musical ability. It's time to STOP doing songs and START leading worship. The Bible says "people perish for a lack of knowledge". Yancy will share her passion for teaching kids to worship and find their hiding place in His Presence.

Speaker: Yancy Richmond

Category: Discipleship

Protecting Your Church

Securing the most vulnerable areas of your ministry. Practical tools and procedures designed to help you keep your ministry safe and secure.

Speaker: Ryan Carter

Category: Keeping Kids Safe

More than Babysitting: Making Disciples in Early Childhood

In the first 5 years of life, children are absorbing vast amounts of information from the world around them and using that information to establish foundational beliefs about the world that will last many years to come. This is why our preschool ministries must be more than just babysitting! In this breakout, we will discuss how we can lead kids to know more about God and develop faith that will last into adulthood.

Speaker: Matt Morgan

Category: We Love our Littles

Teaching Kids a Theology of Suffering

Trying to make sense of the pain and suffering in our world can drive people to God or away from God. How do we equip kids with the biblical understanding for why God allows suffering and how we as Christians should respond to suffering? Explore a theology of suffering for kids at this Breakout!

Speaker: Coleen Cotton

Category: The Whole Child

Multicultural Latino Family Ministry

Loving and celebrating the families God has called us to serve is a unique privilege and that is exactly what a multicultural vision for family ministry embraces. Gain key insights for what it looks like to model and develop a gospel-centered multicultural Latino Family Ministry where inclusiveness and affirmation are not the only end goal, but the Biblical message is.

Speaker: Luz Figuera

Category: One Size Does Not Fit All

Do You Know Your Neighbor?

Does Your Program Communicate Cultural Competence? Demographics of our cities are rapidly changing. Not every kid in your ministry has a majority culture traditional family story. We will help you gain the skills to be culturally relevant when picking programs and curriculum for your ministry to better attract and engage kids and families in your community and your church.

Speaker: Gloria Lee and Gary Lindsey

Category: One Size Does Not Fit All

Covid19 Conversation – A Panel Discussion

Learn from seasoned kids ministry leaders what they learned during the Covid19 pandemic and how it will impact kids ministry going forward. Topics such as programming, online ministry, partnering with parents and safety practices and more.

Facilitator: Becky Rydman

Panel: Mahogany Dudley-Finley, Esther Moreno, Andrae Jones, Heidi Hensley, Melissa MacDonald

Category: Facing the Future

Take the Church to Them

There are many children that can not attend church due to their living conditions, lack of transportation, a responsible adult to take them, a difficult cultural environment, or a quarantine. Jesus took the church outside the church, Ana with Faith52 will share her experience, ideas and how to “step outside the boat” to serve children outside the church. Who are these kids? Why are they different from regular church attending children? How to minister to them?

Speaker: Ana Zugheri

Category: Community Impact

Let's Talk About Racism

The effects of racism are felt in black communities AND white communities, actually in all communities. Racism is not just a social issue. Racism is the result of sin. Let's use the gospel to train up our kids, leaders and parents to seek justice and defend the oppressed. As followers of Jesus, it's what we're called to do, regardless of our age or skin color.

Speaker: Kim Botto

Category: Facing the Future

Doing Marriage and Ministry Well

Learn helpful tips and ideas to create a beautiful marriage while navigating the joys and challenges of ministry. Come hear practical information from Lydia Randall, who comes with the experience as a pastor's kid, a pastor's wife and is also in full time ministry. Discover dynamic insights and strategies for thriving in both home and ministry.

Speaker: Lydia Randall

Category: Ministry Tensions

Leading Into the Unknown

The world has changed and leaders have to respond. But how can you lead when you don't see the path either, or when others want to argue with your leadership. In this session we will look at leading through anxiety, uncertainty and controversy. We will talk about how a Godly leader moves forward despite the unknown.

Speaker: Dr. Kayla Pray

Category: The Whole Leader

Real Talk: Fear, Vulnerability, Gifts, and Freedom

The only way we can embrace the blessing of our influence is if we are free. As a follower of Jesus and a wife who has led in ministry for the last 20 years, I have come to embrace vulnerability as a pathway towards freedom. Join me as we authentically discuss pathways into real freedom.

Speaker: Sarah Denhart

Category: (En)Courage: Women in Ministry

From Acceptance to Mutuality

Many leaders serve on a church staff that includes both men & women, and much has been said about accepting the voice of women around the leadership table. But, ideally, we should move past mere acceptance, and move towards mutuality. Let's explore what an environment of mutuality looks like, from the unique perspectives of both genders, and look at some practical next steps to move from acceptance to mutuality.

Speakers: Jeff Weldon and Brooke Palmer

Category: (En)Courage: Women in Ministry

Leading Ministry God's Way

If God calls us into ministry then what does it feel like we're alone in it sometimes? The weight of leading a ministry, caring for volunteers, running events and developing strategy for the future can zap the passion and love for ministry... and for God right out of us. There is a better way, His way.

Speaker: Vance Martin

Category: The Whole Leader

Sabbath Keeping for Leaders

Leaders are recognizing their pace in this world is not sustainable, and many express they are hungering for more of God's presence. It is no wonder the practice of Sabbath is getting increasing attention today. But what is sabbath, really? What does Scripture have to say about it? What did Jesus think about Sabbath? What did the apostles do with Sabbath and where does it fit today in our lives and leadership? Join Michayla White and Stephanie SanHamel, two Jewish believers, as they unpack the Sabbath in a conversation from a biblical, culturally Jewish perspective.

Speaker: Michayla White & Stephanie SanHamel

Category: The Whole Leader

Finding your G.I.F.T.S. : How to Grow your Volunteer Base from 3 to 300

God did not plan for us to sit back and wait for volunteers to come to us. In this breakout session you will learn tried and true insights on how to successfully recruit volunteers from passion to purpose using the G.I.F.T.S. method. Gain fresh perspective as you learn how to position yourself to be sensitive to God's voice in order to become an excellent recruiter to accomplish the Kingdom work. Not only will you be able to recruit, but if done correctly you will be able to retain volunteers.

Speaker: Heidi Howard

Category: Volunteers

Global Children's and Family Ministry

God is active and moving around the world in children's and family ministry. It is time for North American leaders to celebrate and learn from our global brothers and sisters and to truly partner with them in God's global movement. This breakout will introduce you to several movements and give you a window into how you can best partner with those who share your passion to serve children and families around the world.

Speaker: Dr. Denise Kjesbo

Category: One Size Does Not Fit All

What's on the Menu? Best Practices for Preschool Ministry

Designing meaningful experiences for preschoolers takes deliberate planning, from the materials you use to the volunteers who offer their time. This session will introduce you to developmentally-appropriate practices for leading and learning with preschoolers. After establishing what ingredients make a great preschool session, we'll explore how to build lessons from a menu of vivid, engaging options.

Speaker: Dawn Rundman

Category: We Love our Littles

Seven Easy Ways to Incorporate Missions in your Children's Ministry

Missions should be a vital part of every healthy children's ministry. Come learn 7 easy ways to engage children in reaching both the local and international community. All attendees will receive an easy to implement missions program framework worksheet to help them develop a missions program in their ministry.

Speaker: Madelene Metcaff

Category: Culture and Community

It's Not Just Sunday School

What we teach kids about the Bible and how we teach them about the Bible is shaped by the cultures we live in. The families we grow up in, the churches we attend, the schools we go to, the neighborhoods we live in, and much more all are a part of the cultural lenses that shape how we see and interpret the world; this includes how we read and teach the Bible. In this workshop we will talk about what it means to contextualize the Bible for children (and ourselves)) that remain faithful to Scripture. You will walk away with concrete strategies on how to better and more courageously teach the Bible to the children in our ministries.

Speaker: Henry Zonio

Category: Bible Teaching

Universal Design for Children's Ministry

Wondering how to set up or reset your Children's Ministry so that every child thrives? Explore the concept of Universal Design, (also introduced in "A Simple Plan to Ensure that Every Child Belongs" session) discover important processes, equipment, and tools to build into your program from the beginning so that each child experiences a place of welcome, safety, and learning.

Speaker: Victoria White

Category: Special Needs Ministry

Closing The Generation Gap Within Kidmin In Today's Church Culture

At no other time in Church history has the balance of power and authority been mixed between younger and older leaders within Kidmin as in today's modern church culture. Old School and New School doesn't have to be either/or. They can learn from each other and work together, in this breakout Kidmin Veteran and Pioneer Jim Wideman will give you seven steps to close the gap and start the process of understanding each other and using the strength of each generation. Whether your an older leader needing to lead younger leaders effectively, or a younger leader needing to lead folks much older than you, you'll walk away with practical wisdom that you can put to use immediately.

Speaker: Jim Wideman

Category: The Whole Leader

5 Challenges Only Woman in Leadership Will Understand

Women in church leadership face unique challenges, such as feeling truly included or having their voice heard at "the table." Here are 5 Challenges that women in church leadership face- and how to face these challenges with confidence!

Speaker: Trisha Peach

Category: (En)Courage: Women in Ministry

CPC21 Online Experience Kit Only - Breakout Library

These are the breakout sessions that will be included in the CPC21 Online Experience Kit. These breakouts will not be streamed during the event.

Trauma Informed Kids Ministry

Millions of American children have experienced trauma. Due to past experiences, traditional discipline simply isn't effective. We'll dig into "why" behind disruptive behavior while learning practical and proven methods to respond to kids with challenging behavior in healthier and more effective ways. Volunteers are empowered, parents feel understood, and kids are better able to understand the love of Jesus.

Speaker: Kim Botto

Category: The Whole Child

How to Show Kids Jesus in the Old Testament

Jesus told us that the Bible is all about him (Lk 24:27; Jn 5:39) but how do we show kids Jesus in the Old Testament in a way that they will understand and that is faithful to the Scriptures? In this breakout we will explore 6 ways we can point our kids to Jesus every time we teach, no matter where we are in the Bible.

Speaker: Brian Dembowczyk

Category: Bible Teaching

Living Your Identity (rather than just morality) – This is based on Ephesians

The Bible is filled with wonderful guidance for how to live lives that honor and glorify Christ. However, without knowing – and believing – what the Bible says about WHO we are, our efforts to live out that guidance will lead to arrogance or defeat. Ephesians covers both. Chapters 1-3 = identity. Chapters 4-6 = application. Let's look at the first...so we can live out the second!

Speaker: Keith Ferrin

Category: The Whole Leader

Don't Just Teach--Reach!

"Discover how to deliver simple, engaging, and interactive Bible experiences for kids. Whether leading in-person or on-screen, you'll take away practical tips for reaching children right where they are with Jesus' love. Plus, you'll discover how video lessons for kids can engage and encourage parents, too!

Speaker: Charity Kauffman

Category: Bible Teaching

Interactive Storytelling Ideas for Elementary Kids

"When a lesson lacks interaction, kids get bored and they disengage. What's the solution? Invite them to be a part of Biblical storytelling. Not only does interactive storytelling keep kids engaged, it helps them retain what they've learned. Join this session and get practical ideas for interactive storytelling methods that your elementary kids will love!

Speaker: David Rausch

Category: Bible Teaching

Life and Verse: Helping Families live life in the Scriptures

Biblical literacy is essential for spiritual growth. Scripture memory is essential for survival in today's culture! How can we as children's ministry leaders help kids and parents embrace Bible skills and scripture memory in the home? Come learn strategies to help you implement this model in your ministry.

Speaker: Jana McGruder

Category: Bible Teaching

The Craft of Storytelling

Stories impact our lives and shape who we are. Stories have the ability to bypass our minds, go to our imagination and then our hearts. Jesus was a master storyteller. He used emotions, and practical situations that related to His audience. 75% of the Bible is written in a story format. Jesus used a big idea, metanarrative, an overarching storyline that flows throughout all the books in the Bible. The Bible may appear to be just a random collection of random stories but there is unity. Knowing God's big-picture helps you teach lessons to children. This breakout is designed to help leaders tell impactful, connecting stories from the Bible so that they will stick in the hearts and minds of children.

Speaker: Kellie Bartley

Category: Bible Teaching

Evidence in the Everyday

Jesus is everywhere and in everything. The kids in our ministries look to us to lead them to know how to look for the evidence. Let's open scripture together then explore creative ways to incorporate every day objects into our teaching. Our time together will equip you to bring new life to the stories you tell about Jesus and His Kingdom.

Speaker: Kim Hudson

Category: Bible Teaching

Children Matter: Gaining the Courage to Speak up on their Behalf!

Children matter! As Children's Pastors we become advocates for children. This seminar provides encouragement and tips to gain the courage and confidence to speak on behalf of your children and ministry. Topics we will cover include child involvement, budgeting, staffing, church wide events, Leadership, child safety, volunteer recruitment, and family ministry. It takes courage to speak on behalf of children.

Speaker: Melodie Bissell

Category: Children's Ministry 101

Organizing Everything from Curriculum to Crayons

Did you take on a Children's Ministry position only to discover you inherited an overwhelming mess? Discover how to inventory your resources, create an organized system, and instill a maintenance plan. Learn step by step, customizable plans you can begin the day you get home!

Speaker: Robyn Tidrick

Category: Children's Ministry 101

Creating an Events Strategy

Are you still doing the same old events and you don't even know why? Learn how to evaluate your current events, breathe new life into old events, and decide which events are important to the families in your ministry.

Speaker: Corinne Noble

Category: Children's Ministry 201

Working with Multiple Generations

In Children's Ministry, we rarely work with just children. From preschool to high school, parents to grandparents; we could be working with five different generations on any given day. Learn about key events and characteristics that shape each generation and discover how to effectively communicate and cooperate with each one.

Speaker: Emily Snider

Category: Children's Ministry 201

How to Lead When You are NOT the Boss

Most of us are NOT the boss! Learn 10 proven strategies on how to Lead Up to senior leaders. Busy bosses do NOT want to solve your problems, they want to approve well constructed plans. Learn these powerful strategies and win big with senior leaders!

Speaker: Josh Denhart

Category: Children's Ministry 201

What Does Your Children's Space Say to Your 1st Time Visitors?

Thoughtfully designed spaces not only increase your attendance, but it conveys your brand. Join Todd Parks from Worlds of Wow as he discusses why looking at your space through the eyes of a first-time visitor is an essential part of a growing your church.

Speaker: Todd Parks

Category: Children's Ministry 201

A Vision That Sticks

Conditions for sharing clear ministry vision are rarely ideal. A few moments in distracting conditions may be all you get. Construct meaningful and memorable vision frameworks that can be shared in 30, 10, and less than two minutes. This workshop is for anyone who wants to communicate a vision with people that stays with them long after they hear it.

Speaker: Jason Tilly

Category: Children's Ministry 201

Insight on Transition: Best Practices When you Leave or Begin

It's not everyday that Kingdom Workers transition in or out of ministry positions and so we rarely make space in our day to ponder and consider how it can best be done. It's the farthest thing from our minds...UNTIL it's your time to leave or begin a new work! Proper planning prevents poor performance and I have some insights specifically for you to help make sure your transition benefits you, your family, those you will serve or served and most importantly the Lord.

Speaker: Kelli Romero

Category: Children's Ministry 201

The Fatherless Factor - Why You Should Focus on the Fatherless and How to Get Started

Fatherlessness is a national epidemic and the number one social issue in the United States. This issue is affecting everyone whether they know or not. Through this talk you will gain insights into what fatherlessness is causing and why we all must do something about it. We will walk through a clear Biblical understanding of what God thinks of the fatherless and what He expects us Christians to do about it. Lastly, you will get clear understanding on how you and your church can get involved in effectively evangelizing and discipling these families.

Speaker: Sean Teis

Category: Coming Alongside Kids and Families

Discipleship of Moms: How Families and Communities can be Reached with the Gospel

Moms are the thermostats of families. They control the room's temperature, they set the schedules, they plan the trips. Through the discipleship of moms, gospel transformations within their own homes as well as their neighbors are just one play-date away.

Speaker: Danelle Schlichenmayer

Category: Coming Alongside Kids and Families

Including, Not Just Occupying Kids

When we invite kids to participate in an intergenerational service, we remind them that they are part of the church now, not just in the future. But what does that look like practically? This session will cover strategies and ideas for including, not just occupying, kids in a family worship service.

Speaker: Brittany Nelson

Category: Discipleship

Helping Grandparents Overcome Barriers

Grandparents desire to make a spiritual impact in their grandkids are often stymied by relational or spiritual barriers—often with the child's parents. They often check out or give up because they lose hope that things can change. In this breakout, you'll learn new strategies and new ideas that will bring hope in even the most difficult situations!

Speaker: Larry Fowler

Category: Coming Alongside Parents and Families

Compassionate Care for Single Parents

What can we do to come alongside parents who are single? This workshop will discuss single parenting and how we can give compassionate support to single parents who are divorced, never married or grieving the loss of their spouse. By supporting single parents we are helping support their children. When a single parent is well-connected at church, we have an on-going opportunity to build meaningful relationships with their children. Even when the families are complicated, they can be stable and well-adjusted.

Speaker: Tammy Daughtry

Category: Coming Alongside Parents and Families

We Have to REACH Families to DISCIPLE Families

Can God help my family? Family felt-needs are some of the top search topics, yet churches don't show up in the answers. If we want to disciple families, we have to reach them. Learn how churches can leverage technology to connect with families who aren't looking for a church, but are searching for answers.

Speaker: Tim Goodyear

Category: Coming Alongside Parents and Families

Engaging Parents in 2021

The most impactful person in the life of a child is his or her parent. In this breakout we will discuss how to effectively engage and equip parents so they can continue to grow and develop their child's faith throughout the week.

Speaker: Jessica Bealer

Category: Coming Alongside Parents and Families (PANEL)

How to Help Children Develop a Biblical Worldview

Learn what worldview is, why it matters and how to help children develop a biblical worldview by teaching four foundational biblical truths. This seminar will equip you to have intentional conversations so that children develop deep, lasting, and culture transforming faith. This seminar is based on Josh's book Biblical Worldview.

Speaker: Josh Mulvihill

Category: Discipleship

Breaking F.R.E.E

Let's set our children FREE from the chains that bind them. This is a simple yet effect discipleship strategy for children to become and make disciples. Come learn how to F.R.E.E children to help change and F.R.E.E their world.

Speaker: Stanley Mearse

Category: Discipleship

Preteen Mental Health

NAMI reports that 50% of people with mental illness begin showing symptoms before the age of 14 but the average delay of treatment is a decade. This breakout helps ministry leaders understand the formative nature of preteen years and the opportunity they have to better serve families in their church with preteens whose emotional and mental wellness is at risk.

Speaker: Paula Mazza

Category: Essentially Preteen

Navigating Preteen Discussions

You know it's true: preteens ask some of the most difficult questions. And sometimes they won't answer even your simplest ones when it comes to discussion time. This breakout will focus on tips and skills that will guide your preteen discussion time into helping your students think critically and deeply as they love God with all their minds.

Speaker: Shaun Stevenson

Category: Essentially Preteen

Children's Spiritual Formation Research

Eager to learn the new and emerging trends in children's ministry? Wondering about the greatest challenges children's ministry leaders are facing? What challenges do parents face in terms of faith formation in their children? How do parents foster faith formation in the home? The United Methodist Publishing House asked these questions and more when they partnered with 5by5 Agency, experts in strategic research, in a research project where they listened and learned from church leaders, parents and children. Together, they will present the findings of their research and discuss how key stakeholders might work together to more effectively meet the spiritual needs of children and their families.

Speaker: Brittany Sky

Category: Facing the Future

Take 5 for Safety - Child Protection Standards for Children's Pastors for Churches

Melodie will provide the five steps to a safe environment for children and unpack the five categories that make up standards of child protection. Whether you are a seasoned leader or just starting, Take 5 for Safety will challenge all participants not to take short cuts but to build a robust, safe ministry where children know they matter!

Speaker: Melodie Bissell

Category: Keeping Kids Safe

Leading Worship when You are Not Musical!

Kids don't care if you are a superstar. They care that you show up! Learn how to use music and hand motions resources to lead kids in meaningful worship times even if you can't play a note or sing. We are all made to worship. I'll show you how we can make it fun and easy

Speaker: Jeff McCullough

Category: Make it Fun!

Which Family is Your Priority?

Growing up as a pastor's kid and being married to a pastor's kid, I have a unique perspective of ministry from the other side. Your children must be the first kids you minister to in the church family.

Speaker: Derek Jones

Category: Ministry Tensions

Impostor is Thy Name

You are the leader, but you have a secret. You have no idea what you're doing and your terrified someone is going to find out. Surely they picked the wrong person and it causes you endless insecurity. You are not alone. Many people struggle with "impostor syndrome" and the anxiety it produces. Lets name it and get rid of it.

Speaker: Dr. Kayla Pray

Category: Ministry Tensions

Childless in Children's Ministry: When Others Question Your Leadership

Ever experience the assumption that because you didn't have kids, you couldn't possibly be able to relate to parents and "what they are going through?" What do we do with this? In this workshop, you will learn different ways of how you can engage and prepare for conversations with parents that have the assumption that 'you don't understand unless you have kids.'

Speaker: Kirsten Hitchcock

Category: Ministry Tensions

Budget Cuts--Now What?

Did the pandemic impact your budget? See how planning and budgeting go hand in hand. Make plans to survive budget cuts and still have a thriving ministry. Ministry on a shoestring budget can still impact the Kingdom.

Speaker: Teresa Huddleston

Category: Ministry Tensions

Christ Before Culture

The oppression facing our black, indiginous, and children of color is painful and prevalent. Going to church should be a place of healing, not added marginalization. We are talking racial injustices, cultural norms, traditions, and more. In this breakout, we'll talk about how to assess and recalibrate ministry back on to Christ and give you tools to honor, celebrate and value every child.

Speakers: Betsy Sentamu and Samuel Porche

Category: One Size Does Not Fit All

Portable Church Best Practices

With my 5+ years of experience doing portable church, I would walk people through some of my best ideas when doing portable church, and facilitate conversations between everyone to share their own best ideas for how we can do portable church better and better for our kids. Topic would be room decor, curriculum, coordinating with your rental space, and safety and security.

Speaker: Kathleen Jaoudi

Category: One Size Does Not Fit All

Small Church In A Big World

Using 1 Samuel 17 as a backdrop - would share practical ways small churches have tried to be big churches (wear Saul's armor) while we neglected what we have (sling, stone, shepherd staff) as a small church. Ending point is that we are not called to make big churches but healthy churches.

Speaker: Ken Baker

Category: One Size Does Not Fit All

Handling Disagreements in a Healthy Way

As leaders, we are only successful when we know how to work with people and manage our relationships. Mastering interpersonal skills, particularly, handling conflict is key. In this breakout, learn how we can skillfully handle and navigate through difficult conversations while showing the love of Jesus.

Speaker: Angie Hooie

Category: The Whole Leader

Building Resilience through teaching Ushering kids into God's Presence

As children's ministry leaders, many of us know the importance of doing what we can to build resilience of faith in children. We also know how important it is to teach children about worship. What if the two went together? Could there be connections between worship and resilience? In this breakout, you will gain new insights on what true worship is and how worship results in a resilience of a child's faith and connection to God.

Speaker: Deborah Addington

Category: Spiritual Practices for Children

The First First Impression: Your Online Presence

That title wasn't a typo. There's a new first impression that visitors have of your church, and they see it before they even walk through your doors: your online presence. We'll discuss 4 questions to evaluate your website as well as share social media strategies that improve engagement and reach to help you make the best first impression.

Speaker: Brittany Nelson

Category: Technically Children's Ministry

8 Healthy Habits for Success in "Leadering" your Ministry

Our personal perspectives & daily habits directly affect our ability to lead a vibrant and healthy ministry. Proper perspective and healthy habits prevent discouragement, distraction and defeatedness and allow leaders to not only endure, but thrive as they face the difficulty that comes with ministry leadership.

Speaker: Chuck Peters

Category: The Whole Leader

Why Valleys are Better Than Mountaintops

Every ministry leader will experience "valley" seasons. What determines if they are better than mountaintops? There are several solid principles that will be discussed to help you make the right steps going forward so that you can grow and be the leader God desires you to be.

Speaker: Tom Bump

Category: The Whole Leader

Small but Mighty: Preschool Worship

How are you creating space for little ones to worship? Scripture tells us "there is power in kids' praise". Let's look at the Word as a guide for how to lead worship. Yancy will share practical tips on how to lead young children to praise their super wonderful God.

Speaker: Yancy Richmond

Category: We Love our Littles

A Year-Long Strategy for Training Volunteers

In this breakout, we'll look at all the elements of a year-long strategy for training volunteers that you can use in your ministry. We'll talk about content, methods, strategy, and even some hacks that will help you walk away with a plan to help your team grow this year.

Speaker: Nick Blevins

Category: Volunteer Discipleship

Creating a Culture Where Parents See Preteen Ministry as Essential

You can hook preteens but they still can't show up without the parents' help. Life is busy and every calendar is full but parents need to understand why now is the time to prioritize the spiritual development of their preteen. Learn the WHYS and the HOWS to win the parents over. It's a critical and short window of time!

Speaker: Sean Sweet

Category: Essentially Preteen

How to Recruit, Train and Keep your Volunteers!

Just because you got them in the door doesn't mean they'll stay! Volunteers are the magic ingredient to an awesome kids' ministry, and in this session we will talk about taking them from an information card to an invested leader!

Speaker: Heidi Hensley

Category: Volunteer Discipleship

Move Over Gen Z...Here Comes Generation Alpha

Generation Alpha is the newest generation to emerge. They represent kids who are born between 2010 and 2025. They are the first generation entirely born within the 21st century. Discover their unique characteristics and be equipped to reach and disciple them.

Speaker: Dale Hudson

Category: Who are these Kids?

Reaching Kids In A Digital Age

Do you feel like you're losing the war to capture the hearts and minds of the digital-natives in your kidmin? In this workshop, learn how to effectively leverage digital technology in the Covid Era to reach the children in your children's church and weekly programming.

Speaker: Esther Moreno

Category: Technically Children's Ministry

Shepherding Your Flock: Leading by Listening

The trust and intimacy between sheep and shepherd was something Jesus called us to as the Good Shepherd himself. But that followership comes from a place of deeply knowing your sheep. What if your next step was determined by what your sheep told you they need? And what if that was enough? Learn to shape your leadership around collaboration and feedback, and how to ask invitational questions that shape a herd culture.

Speaker: Christie Penner Worden

Category: The Whole Leader

Bullies Come to Church Too!

This workshop will address the issue of bullying and how children's ministry leaders can identify it and deal with it in their ministries. It will provide the most current definitions and means of addressing bullying with all those involved, the bully, the target, the by-standers and all the parents involved.

Speaker: Cheryl Smith-Debanné

Category: The Whole Child

Worship in the Home: Helping Parents Become Spiritual Leaders

A worldwide pandemic has reminded us of the centrality of the home in discipleship. Find out how helping parents become spiritual leaders is the best thing we can do for kids. Plus, learn simple, practical steps we can take to lead and support parents along the way.

Speaker: David Ray

Category: Spiritual Practices for Children

Interactive Storytelling Ideas for Elementary Kids

"When a lesson lacks interaction, kids get bored and they disengage. What's the solution? Invite them to be a part of the Biblical storytelling. Not only does interactive storytelling keep kids engaged, it helps them retain what they've learned. Join this session and get practical ideas for interactive storytelling methods that your elementary kids will love!

Speaker: David Rausch

Category: Bible Teaching

Teaching Boys

Teaching and communicating with boys is no easy task. Especially if you don't speak their language. Statistically, most Kidmin teachers are women. This means a large number of boys are not hearing the Bible in their own language. As a women, how do you connect with boys and keep them engaged in the classroom?

Speaker: Jeremy Spicer

Category: Who are these Kids?

Party of One: How to Survive Being Single in Ministry

There's no one to share ministry burdens with, parents think you don't know what you're talking about, and there's that dad that's just a little "too" friendly. How do you navigate complexities of being single, while also called to ministry? From the intensely practical, to the deeply spiritual, there is hope and help for those who are walking the ministry road, seemingly alone.

Speakers: Jennifer Cronk, Melissa MacDonald

Category: The Whole Leader

Writing and Presenting Workshops for Volunteers

One of the best ways to nurture a quality children's ministry is to equip the people who care for kids. This workshop will present simple tips for conducting successful workshops for your team - including choosing topics, setting goals, employing adult teaching strategies, and more. Strategies will be presented for both in-person and virtual training sessions.

Speaker: Amber Lappin

Category: Volunteer Discipleship

Herd the Cat of Communication

Ministry can feel like trying to herd cats. Oftentimes, we find ourselves trying to do many things at once and wind up miscommunicating. I have been in plenty of jams with volunteers and pastors when I make mistakes based on communication. In this session, I will walk you through how to put together clear communication using social media, software, and done-for-you guides.

Speaker: Todd Hixenbaugh

Category: Children's Ministry 101

Little Minds, BIG Questions: Developmentally Appropriate Preschool Planning

Children ages 2-5 are learning and growing rapidly. How can we wade through the short attention spans, emotional meltdowns, and goldfish crackers to impact them in a real way? This workshop explores ways to tap into kids' natural curiosity with practical strategies based on developmental science and strong biblical foundations.

Speaker: Amber Lappin

Category: We Love our Littles

Kids, Trauma, Behavioral Issues -- HELP!

Are kids with trauma history exhibiting big feelings and difficult behaviors in your children's ministry? Are your normal, go-to strategies not working? In this workshop, you'll learn how trauma impacts the brain and body, research-based tools to help every child FEEL safe, and practical takeaways to meet the needs of kids with emotional and behavioral issues.

Speaker: Brianna Kuck Edwards

Category: The Whole Child

Soul Care for Spiritual Leaders in the Home and Church

As spiritual leaders, we can't take anyone to somewhere we have not been. And if our own souls aren't properly nourished, then we may end up doing more harm than good. Discover some personal practices and tools for transforming the way you prepare to lead those you love and those you serve.

Speaker: Gordon West

Category: The Whole Leader

Sticky Volunteers

Do the words 'revolving door' describe how you feel about your volunteer team? Come learn the main reasons volunteers 'exit' a team and some practical strategies you can apply to develop a healthy, consistent team culture that encourages volunteers to 'stick' around.

Speaker: Heather Eichler

Category: Volunteer Discipleship

A Vision That Sticks

Conditions for sharing clear ministry vision are rarely ideal. A few moments in distracting conditions may be all you get. Construct meaningful and memorable vision frameworks that can be shared in 30, 10, and less than two minutes. This workshop is for anyone who wants to communicate a vision with people that stays with them long after they hear it.

Speaker: Jason Tilly

Category: Children's Ministry 201

Making Decisions in Ministry

Changes happen and decisions need to be made. Whether they're events on your calendar or complete philosophical changes, feel confident that you're leading your ministry in the right direction.

Speaker: Jason Tilly

Category: The Whole Leader

Power of Community

Jesus was about community. He worked closely with others and people traveled far and wide to be part of his ministry. Let's look at 5 ways to build community in your ministry both locally and globally just like Jesus. We are better together!

Speaker: Jill Vogel

Category: The Whole Leader

The Waiting Room

To stay spiritually healthy, we can go to "The Waiting Room" of our heart to meet with Jesus, our Great Physician for an examination of the heart. This experiential breakout will help you teach children how to be still and wait on the Lord in prayer using a Creative Prayer Space to illustrate this spiritual principle in Psalm 46:10.

Speaker: Leann Woellk

Category: Spiritual Practices for Children

Faith in the First 3 years: Why Early Childhood Ministry Matters

"It's ministry, not babysitting." If you've ever wondered how to explain the importance of offering ministry for infants, toddlers, and their caregivers, this session is for you! By reviewing research on language, literacy, music, and more, we'll explore how early childhood ministry helps shape young hearts and brains with faith-based experiences. You'll also learn how to weave faith concepts into your nursery and how to host parent-child faith classes.

Speaker: Dawn Rundman

Category: We Love our Littles

Biblical Foundations for Children's Ministry

The Bible is foundational for our ministry with children. But did you know that the Bible is our foundation for the rationale for children's ministry? In this breakout you will gain an overview of the biblical support for and advocacy of children's ministry and be empowered to more confidently lead your ministry anchored in the truths of Scripture.

Speaker: Denise Kjesbo

Category: Bible Teaching

How to Recruit, Train and Keep Your Volunteers!

Just because you got them in the door doesn't mean they'll stay! Volunteers are the magic ingredient to an awesome kids' ministry, and in this session we will talk about taking them from an information card to an invested leader!

Speaker: Heidi Hensley

Category: Volunteer Discipleship

Reaching Virtually Every Child

Like you need a good toothbrush for those hard to reach places, in children's ministry you need to be equipped for those seemingly hard to reach kids with ADHD, Autism, or other differences. Gain flex and reach to connect with kids of all abilities with this session even if your ministry moments are limited to calls, screens, or done from a distance.

Speaker: Victoria White

Category: The Whole Child

Social Media for Elephants

Elephants are incredibly cute and fun creatures, but they take a lot of work to care for. In the same way, children's ministry is amazing but the backend is often a real challenge. Social media is something that often baffles the most savvy leader. In this breakout, we will learn how to take the guesswork out of social media and allow it to be an extension of the ministries we already lead. We'll cover Facebook groups, volunteer pages, and how to effectively create your own posts without asking your teenager (or someone else's) to do it for you.

Speaker: Todd Hixenbaugh

Category: Technically Children's Ministry