



**First Steps
In Junior
Christian
Endeavour**

**12 STARTER
PROGRAMMES**

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Starting a new Christian Endeavour Group

The **aim** of Christian Endeavour is to train the child for service in the Church. The meetings have several aims:

- to encourage participation and the acceptance of responsibility
- to train the child in working with others
- to lead the child to the moment when s/he will decide for Christ and make a public profession of faith in Him
- provide a place where s/he may have the opportunity to witness and to work for Christ

What do I need to get started?

- the co-operation of your local Church Fellowship
- the prayer support of the Church Leader and Church members
- Leaders and helpers with a living faith, enthusiasm, commitment and a love of children (Adhere to the Disclosure regulations.)
- a meeting place
- if singing is planned, a musician or confident singer or CDs and words on overhead projector or "Powerpoint"
- several copies of the same edition of the Bible as this will accelerate Bible search activities as initially the Bible passage can be given as a page number. The Good News translation is recommended for children.
- set a day and time for the meetings
- advertise the launch through the Church fellowship. Prepare invitations to give to local children and their friends. A "Junior" is between the age of 7 and 13 approximately. Keep to the age limit.

Getting Organised

Christian Endeavour was begun by a Church minister for his youth programme so that they would learn to pray and read in public, have experience in organising their own meetings, leading from the front and be able to give a short talk. So it is planned that each week some Juniors will take part in the meeting. It is advisable to write on a slip of paper the 'job' that s/he will be asked to prepare for the next week so that they can take it home as a reminder. A Junior Leader always has to be one week ahead in the programme! It is also a good idea to make a chart which can be filled in each week. This will give a record of who has taken part and what they did. (Print the activities down the left hand side and the dates, for at least the next month, along the top.) Christian Endeavour is a Movement with no strict rules and regulations. There are, however, four Essentials which should be found in the Group:

1. The Covenant
2. The monthly Promise Night
3. The weekly devotional meeting
4. Group Activity

First steps in Junior Christian Endeavour

Twelve starter programmes



The following twelve outlines for weekly meetings aim to gradually introduce elements of responsibility.

☞ denotes a part being taught and introduced

☺ denotes that a Junior is taking this responsibility

The activities and meeting format begin very basically presuming that the young people have had little experience of this type of organisation and of Christian matters. If your Juniors are more advanced than this, the activities can be introduced more quickly. The children will respond to the programmes at their own level of understanding and there will be many levels in one Group. All children are different and it will be the aim of the leader to get to know each one and lead them on to the next step in their spiritual growth. Do not rush the pace. Work with the Holy Spirit. Below is an example of a chart which can be used to keep track of who is taking part and what “job” s/he is doing. Enter the name of the Juniors taking part in the blank boxes.

ACTIVITY	date	date	date	date
Chair Person				
Opening Prayer				
Bible Reading				
Chain Prayer				
Offering				
Sword Drill				
Quiz				
Songs				
Topic				

Overview of Junior meetings in “First Steps in CE”

Number, Title	Teaching method	Activity introduced
1. Bodies	Games discussion	music
2. Friends	mime	Mime Bible reading
3. Speak to me (1)	Games discussion	Chain prayer
4. Books	Activity talk	Lead songs Sword drill
5. Promises	Role play talk	Member’s promise Quiz, role play
6. Giving	Quiz Bible verses	Offering crafts
7. Speak to me (2)	Drama, talk Sword drill	Drama Benediction
8. Spreading the Good News	Bible search Talk, topic	Opening prayer talk
9. Covenant	Bible Buzz Groups	Hymns, Active Member’s Promise
10. The Good News	Guest speaker	Chair person
11. “Worship”	Topic Quizzes	All on their own!
12. Group Work	Discussion of Content	Working in Core Groups