

12. GROUP WORK

Group activity is one of the Four Essentials. In these groups the Juniors receive vital training in the proper conduct of committee work. Each Junior should be a member of a group. The older members will be the office bearers. The number of groups will depend on the number of Juniors and their experience and capabilities, and the number of adult leaders. To begin with, each group should have an adult present who would be the Convener of the group for this first meeting. Point out to the Juniors that one of them will be chairing the meeting next time they meet.

Each group should appoint a Convener and a Minute Secretary (and a letter writer and treasurer if this seems appropriate). The Minute Secretary will take notes of what is discussed (guidance will be needed initially) and write it up in full in a minute book at home. The Convener will draw up an Agenda for the meeting. (If you are at sea with this procedure, speak to your Church Secretary). Each group should meet once a month, and be opened and closed in prayer.

There are four main groups, described here in order of importance. Decide which ones you and your Group can cope with. This first Group Night will be mainly for discussion of the role of each group and hopefully make plans for what you and the Juniors will do at next month's meeting.



PROGRAMME PLANNING GROUP

This group proposes the programme for the next month. Remember that the Four Essentials must be included, so you will have a Promise/ Covenant meeting once a month and also a Group Night once a month. To your Promise night, it is good to invite an outside speaker – this is where your Letter Writer comes in. (Give guidance here on the content and layout of the letter by showing an example letter.). The Juniors can decide on who your Guest Speaker will be and what the content of the other two meetings will be.

If you have a Missionary Group, be prepared to have a Missionary meeting. If you have a Social Activity Group, perhaps they will be making suggestions for a recreation/ party type meeting.

It really is essential to make a chart which shows the date, programme items and who is doing what. This will ensure that everyone is getting a fair share of responsibility.



LOOKOUT GROUP

This group **looks out** for new members, **looks after** the members it already has and **looks up** to Jesus for help and strength. Ideas for activities follow.

1. Write out an intimation to be read in the Sunday School and Church publicising the Christian Endeavour Meeting. This announcement should be interesting and varied in approach.
2. Make invitations and use them to invite children from Sunday School and other Church organisations. Don't forget - What? When? Where?
3. Arrange an "Open" or "Visitors" evening and invite children of Junior age.
4. Encourage all Juniors to wear their Christian Endeavour badges. Remember that C.E. will be judged by those wearing the badges.
5. Make a list of your Juniors and divide them into teams. Each team appoints a member who is responsible for getting in touch with a Junior when he/she misses a meeting. If the Junior is ill, he/she should tell the Leader or Minister and a get well card could be sent.
6. Arrange an attendance competition between the teams of Juniors.
7. Think of ways to encourage Juniors to come punctually and making sure the meetings start on time.
8. Pray for the Group and its members. Pray for those who are invited to come. Pray that the Juniors will approach others in the right way and that Jesus will give them the right words to say.

MISSIONARY GROUP

This group should try to create an interest in Missionary work and to encourage prayer and giving.

1. Write a letter to a Missionary who the Church supports; the Juniors have met; who is on furlough asking them to your meeting. Later letters or emails, CDs and photographs could be sent out.
2. Adopt a child overseas. Tear Fund are one agency for this. Write to him/her, send Christmas and Birthday cards and collect money to support him/her and most importantly pray for him/her.
3. Collect information about Christian Endeavour in other countries. Read it to the Juniors and keep a scrapbook.
4. Introduce a Missionary news flash in the weekly meeting.
5. Pin a World map on the wall and at the side stick photographs of Missionaries in whom the Juniors are interested, with ribbons pinned to the place where they work.
6. Collect a Missionary library of books and magazines which the Juniors could borrow. Appoint a Librarian.



7. Make a prayer list for use in chain prayer. Items can come from news flashes, magazines and prayer letters.
8. Part of the Junior's training should be in Stewardship. Think how to do this in your Group e.g. a once-a-month missionary box, "do without offering" or collect the smallest coin.
9. Arrange a Missionary party. Take imaginary trips to other lands, playing games from that land, dressing up in the local costume and eating the food of that country.
10. Choose a video/ DVD from a Missionary Society catalogue to be used on a Missionary night.
11. Write to a Missionary Agency asking for their ideas and projects for the children to do.

USEFUL ADDRESSES:

Tear Fund, 9 Canal Street, Glasgow, G4 0AD. 0141 332 3621 www.tearfund.org

WEC, Bulstrode, Gerrards Cross, Bucks, SL9 8SZ

Baptist Missionary Society, P.O. Box 49, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 8XA www.bmsworldmission.org

YWAM, 23 Royal Exchange Square, Glasgow, G1 3AJ. 0141 221 8721

Mission Aviation Fellowship, 29 Canal Street, Glasgow G4 0AD www.maf-uk.org

The Leprosy Mission, Suite2, Earlsgate Lodge, Livilands, Stirling FK8 2BG www.tlm.org.uk

SOCIAL ACTIVITY GROUP

1. Plan a Social evening inviting people from the Church fellowship e.g. the minister, Church leadership, parents, Sunday School superintendent and boys and girls in the church who do not yet come to Junior C.E. Plan the programme thinking of suitable games, quizzes and food.
2. Provide flowers for the monthly Promise night and then give them to a sick or elderly friend.
3. Make a list of all the Juniors and their birthday dates. Include the minister and other members of the fellowship who are interested in your Group. Make Birthday cards and post or deliver them personally.
4. Plan a seasonal activity - Pancake Night, Christmas Party, Harvest Festival, Easter Egg Hunt or a Fireworks Night.
5. Plan a get-together with other groups in the area, e.g. another C.E. Group, a school S.U. group, a school for children with special needs, Senior citizens group from the Church. Arrange the programme, invitations and transport if needed.
6. Make a Group games book giving ideas for your social activities. Classify the games under headings such as Noisy, Quiet, Team Games and Quizzes.

