

Volunteer Church Service Plan

Many Companies have the opportunity of being able to go take part in their Church's services. When successful this can result in new volunteers.

What's the service plan for?

This service plan provides you with ideas that can be used in full or adapted to help you plan a special service to explore the recruitment of new volunteers. The purpose of the service is to:

- Praise God for the work of The Boys' Brigade in reaching out to children and young people in your community.
- Look at the need to sustain and expand the vision for engaging children and young people with the Jesus story.
- Begin to prompt for people who want to join the vision, and support BB through prayer, financial giving or volunteering.

TIP! This is not designed as a family service, but is targeted at potential adult volunteers.

Things to consider:

1. Think carefully about what you do. Many people might not know what it is The Boys' Brigade does, so take the opportunity to highlight your motivation, the impact your group has made, what your volunteering needs are and how new volunteers will make a difference.
2. Adapt the volunteer presentation as a basis for any talk, but remember to use personal stories of your experiences.
3. Get children & young people talking about their experiences, and why they think people should volunteer to help out at BB.

TIP! Would it be possible to run BB taster session? You could invite potential volunteers along to see what happen.

Service Plan

10:30 Welcome

Explain that the service will be a time of reflection looking at the church's outreach to children and young people in your community through The Boys' Brigade.

10:32 Let's Pray

Commit the service to God, and pray that he will speak to everyone present today.

10:33 Hymn/ Song

10:37 Reading Mark 5:25-34

10:40 **Can't touch this!?**

Ask for a volunteer. Explain that there are some things that people don't like touching. Some people have phobias about touching anything from cotton wool to snakes and spiders. Place three boxes in front of the volunteer, and ask them to feel inside of them and try and guess what they are?

There are also some things that we feel we should touch but that we don't enjoy. Just ask dog owners. If we are honest, there might also be some people we wouldn't want to go near. This might be due to our upbringing, our perceptions or misperceptions, the things we read and hear about in the media, previous bad experiences or even a prejudice. Sometimes as a church we would like to have more contact with children & young people in our community, but are not sure what would happen if we did. They are intriguingly attractive, but we approach with hesitancy.

There was a woman in Jesus' time who should have been afraid to touch Jesus. However, she overcame her fear and got healed of a crippling disease. In Jesus' time, this woman would not have been allowed to touch him because of her gender and her medical condition - it was forbidden under Jewish law. However, by so doing, she was healed.

Sometimes, we can be afraid to even talk to young people. However we know that in our communities there are thousands of children and young people who are desperate for a healing touch. 83% of young people believe that the community does not care about them, and yet 59% of churches have no one attending aged between 15 and 19. Even more importantly 80% of people who come to faith do so before the age of 25. (Source: Turning the Tide).

Maybe we will have to break some of our rules and cultural restraints in order to reach out to young people and bring healing. Ask the congregation to get into small groups and discuss:

- What barriers might stop you engaging with children and young people?
- What things could you and your church do to help overcome these barriers?

In 1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NLT) we hear Paul say, "We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives". That's what children and young people need as they journey from childhood to adulthood. Not just adults who will tell them about the gospel, but those that want to spend time with them, who want to help them to harness their potential and avoid any pitfalls. People who firstly engage children and young people and make a positive impact in their lives, and then form strong relationships through which their lives will speak even louder than words. 1 Timothy 4:12 says "Be an example to everyone with your words, your actions, your love, your faith, and your life." As a Boys' Brigade we need people who want to help children & young people discover more about themselves, and then find a relationship with Jesus that will last them a lifetime and beyond!

Explain to the group what it is that you do. Many people might not know what it is The Boys' Brigade does, so take the opportunity to highlight your motivation, the impact your group has made, what your volunteering needs are and how new volunteers will make a difference.

Highlight like the lady in the story we heard about these young people are positive about contact with adults and the church. They just need the opportunity and when it happens it can transform lives.

As a church if we want to reach children and young people, then we need to prioritise our time and finances, and most importantly our volunteers accordingly. For some of you God will have spoken to you really powerfully today, and you will want to volunteer working towards this project and we want to pray for you. However there are also those who will feel able to pray, support the initiative financially, or offer practical volunteering (e.g. make tea and coffee, tidy up afterwards etc.) After the following time of worship, as a Church I want you to commit to support this work through saying a few words together.

11:20 **Songs**

11:30 **Response**

Minister: The whole Church shares in caring for the children and young people in their community, loving them as part of their own body, and so sharing with them the good news of Jesus. In this Church we want to seek together to fulfil this mission.

Today, we want to promise to support volunteers who have dedicated themselves to this work, and to the children & young people in our community to whom we seek to reach out.

We hear in your word a call to serve the least, the last and the lost. God has called us to share our very lives with children and young people in our community. Now we ask that God would prompt us by his Holy Spirit to stand with courage to be an example to children and young people with our words, our actions, our love, our faith, and our life.

Being called by God to the work of caring for and challenging children & young people, will you, by your word and example, seek in this place to create a community of Christian love through which our Saviour, Jesus Christ, may make himself known, so that the young may grow in the knowledge and love of God?

Church: With God's help we will.

Minister: Will you be as Jesus to these young people, committing yourself in preparation and as role models in all aspects of your life.

Leaders: With God's help we will.

Minister: People of this congregation. Do you commit to sustain all those who work among children and young people in this place, with your encouragement, prayers and this Church's resources?

Church: With God's help we will.

Minister: Father, we thank you that in you we are one and the same family. We pray that we may learn from each other, give and receive your love, and serve you with one heart and mind.

As we leave this place Lord we declare our love for you and our desire to serve you not only in this building, but with all our lives. We pray that this excitement through you, will produce fruit. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

11:20 Final Song

11:45 Dismissal

Tell the congregation that if anyone would like to talk to further about volunteering in BB that you will be around afterwards.

<p>TIP! Why not invite anyone interested to a meeting designed to unpack what being a volunteer is?</p>
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