

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR PRINCIPLES

1. The Weekly Devotional Meeting

This can be varied but there should always be an opportunity for participation in reading the Bible aloud, praying with and for others, choosing and singing Christian songs, and listening to / telling about / learning about / Christ or Christian living.

Planning

A Programme of Meetings is best drawn up by the members themselves (see part 4 “Group work: Programme Planning”) The Programme should be balanced in terms of content and variety in presentation to satisfy the needs of Juniors at various stages of Christian development, whilst retaining the interest of newer Juniors, some of whom will have had no personal experience of Jesus Christ. With systematic planning, every member can have the opportunity to participate in all tasks within their capabilities. Using a “Monthly Planner” (an example is included in “First Steps in Christian Endeavour”) can help you see at a glance who is participating when and how. **It is important for the children to realise that all the jobs need preparation and practice.**



1. Bible Reading You may ask a Junior to choose a reading or give him/her one, but this should always be done the week before so that he/she may practise reading it aloud slowly and clearly and become familiar with all the words at home (see “Public Bible Reading” award)

2. Choosing the Songs

You may wish to ask the Junior to choose songs which fit with your topic or not. The Junior may choose ones which everyone knows or be prepared to teach the Group a new one. (See the “Singer” Award)

3. Prayer

There are different types of prayer and several opportunities for the Juniors to participate. So a ‘prayer job’ may be for the opening of the Meeting, thinking about others, thanking God for the Offering/Collection, or leading with ideas for Chain Prayer. Again give the Junior/s time to think about what they are going to say and encourage them to write it out and read it clearly if they are unsure.

4. Topic

Bible picture books, colouring books, computer downloads, acetates, flip charts or ‘Powerpoint’ presentations can be a help to the Junior to remind them of the story and make it more interesting for the listeners. Let the Junior understand that they do not need to speak for a long time. It is better to give a short Bible story told in their own words (using pictures) than reading a long article which may not sound so interesting. (See the “Speaker” award)



5. Quizzes / Games

The Leader or Junior must always prepare the questions in advance. The person in charge must know the rules and know how to score or win and be able to explain this clearly. (See “ Games /Quizmaster” award details)

6. Chairperson

The Agenda needs to be made in advance. There is no need to follow the same order each week, but it is a good idea to think about quiet activities and active ones and arrange them alternately. The Chairman must know who is taking part and doing what. He /she can practise reading the programme aloud to him /herself before the meeting so that they know exactly how to introduce each item. (See the “ Chairman” award)

7. Preparing / clearing up

This job involves arranging chairs and giving out any books or Bibles. Make sure all electrical equipment is working and cables are safe. Collect and tidy up all materials in a manner showing care and respect. (See “Meeting Room Attendant’ award.)

8, 9, 10..... More ingredients for meetings.

DVD, drama, a visiting speaker or Missionary, craft work, sports and games. Award project activities

Varying the Meeting

Boys only / girls only

All the jobs go to the boys and on another date , all the jobs go to the girls.

Sealed orders / Snowball night

Each individual item for the Programme is in an envelope / inside a cotton wool ball as a “ snowball”. No-one knows what they are going to do until they receive their envelope / snowball. Allow a little time in the Meeting for preparation.

Shipwreck

Pretend you are on a desert island and your Bibles, song books, and equipment have not been washed up with you.- everything must be done from memory! If your chairs and musical instruments are missing also, you will need to sit on the floor and sing unaccompanied!

