

Capernaum Notes...

- ☑ Treat every kid as an individual. Be careful not to lump them all together in one category.
- ☑ Just like all kids, Capernaum kids are looking for a deeper purpose and come alive when it is offered to them... They, too, were made for this. They are not the exception to the rule.
- ☑ Be careful what you say kids aren't capable of. NEVER underestimate them.
- ☑ Giving kids a reputation to grow into is huge... see past the outward appearance and into what God created them to be.
- ☑ Just like we say "a t-shirt is not just a t-shirt, it's about relationship", we have to remember and communicate to parents that we are not just offering another "program" for their kids to fill time or get them out of the house but that leaders really want a friendship with their kids. That is very different from so many other things they are offered.
- ☑ In the ministry strategy we say that kids don't read post cards, but parents do. Post Cards sent home are a big hit with Capernaum kids. Getting something in the mail can make their week.
- ☑ Gathering kids at the beginning of the semester who have been involved previously is also a big deal. Let them be "in the know" about what is coming up. Being the first to get a shirt, invitation to club, or the scoop on what is coming up can give them a sense of ownership, belonging, and even vision.
- ☑ Song leading can be difficult as sometimes you wind up with everyone leading and no one in the crowd.
- ☑ Some kids are capable of giving testimonies in club.
- ☑ The "10 Key Moms" system that is discussed in the Wyldlife notes can be effective here as well as parents of special needs kids are a small network and if something is working with one kid, the others will know it and want to know more. Having parents wear t-shirts and distribute flyers can be effective.
- ☑ Key Parents talking into their specific niche of Special Needs kids is similar to key kids bringing their specific niche of kids to traditional club.

- ☑ Instead of Seniors giving rides, a parent carpool system is needed.
- ☑ Keeping a “Drop Box” of Fact Sheets for parent downloading is helpful. Ask very specific, thorough questions about the kids but realize that parents are sometimes not honest as they fear their kid will be turned away if they are.
- ☑ A Committee person should be available at club to answer any questions and meet parents.
- ☑ When thinking about a Ministry Strategy with Capernaum kids, you cannot leave out the parents. Too often we assume they are worn out and need a break when often they need someone to step in and minister to them as well. Too many have been burned by the church and might welcome an atmosphere to hear the truth spoken into their lives.
- ☑ Having a place for parents to gather after dropping off their child can be a welcome thing. Have a committee person host and answer questions, offer light refreshments, and have the club leader join in for a short devotional/lesson while the other leaders lead activities in the club room for kids. This is certainly optional as far as parents staying but you might be surprised at how many do stick around and welcome the opportunity for fellowship.
- ☑ Give out as much “face to face” information as possible.
- ☑ Contact work at school needs to be worked out with the Special Needs Teacher. Leaders need to plan visits to make sure that they are a welcome help and not a distraction to kids.
- ☑ Volunteering for lunch duty is often welcome by the school as many special needs kids feels they are isolated on an island during lunch.

A couple of summers ago, Sean Mann brought a group of Capernaum kids to Windy Gap when I was speaking. On night five, after sharing the message of Jesus dying on the cross for our sins I had the privilege of sitting in on their cabin time. Sean asked them to sit down and write a letter to God. I think as we think about Ministry Strategy for these kids, their words might be a refreshing reminder to us all that they really were made for this...



"I love Jesus. He is my Daddy. He helps me make new friends. He loves me so much. I feel him in my heart. Thank you for dying for my sins on the cross. Thank you for Mommy. Help me not to be sad. Help me to make new friends that will play with me. Help me to love you. I love you. Thank you for letting me be born again in Christ."

Julie

"Thank you for loving me, for my family and for taking our sins."

Constance

"I love you. I praise you. Thanks for letting me play at your house. I like Jesus. I think he's pretty cool. God is the most beautiful person in the world. Thank you God for Jesus."

Ben

"Thank you. I really don't know what to say. This is a lot to think about."

David

"Jesus, I love you. I like you. Thank you for dying for us."

Michael

"I like Jesus in my heart. I want to be a better friend to you. I love you Jesus!"

Vicky

"Jesus is the reason! Hallelujah! Come back to celebrate! Think about your love! I think about your love and goodness. God is good all the time. Deep thanks to God. I have a grateful heart. I love you Lord. I lift my voice to you. You love us softly and tenderly. Thank you for that. Jesus is calling. We are coming home. Trust God."

Paul



"Hi Jesus! How are you? I am fine but I miss my dogs, Jules, and my family. But I am having a good time at Windy Gap camp. I can't wait to tell you. I made new friends. If I am sad I call you name Jesus. I can't wait to see you. God is a savior so I can go to heaven." Monica

"How big was the tree you were on? Thank you for dying for me. I know you love me." Michael

"Dear Jesus, thank you for dying for me. I love you. Thank you for my horses. Thank you for salvation and for heaven. It makes me feel happy to talk to you. Thank you for being with me all the time." Jessica

"I love God because he is wonderful and super powers and kind." Julia

"Thank you for love. God is life. Life is God. Thank you many times." Buddy

At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.

Matthew 11:25

He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:2-4