

Why Club?

There are many good reasons to have club. But those are not the real reasons -- not if I'm honest. Club is good for me. After 20 years of leading meetings, it still isn't easy. I don't know if I will ever get used to the pressure of wondering whether any kids will come. So why do I still do it? Let me try to articulate a few reasons:

- **Club still works** -- at least in our part of the country. At the end of Monday night when club is over, I'm thankful. Kids had a great time, heard about Christ and were with people who love them. I'm convinced this is as powerful as anything we say.
- **Club keeps me honest.** Club and numbers are not THE critical standard, but they are a gauge. They let me know we are reaching a certain group of kids. The challenge is to keep reaching beyond clubs to the different groups of kids that club doesn't appeal to.
- As much as I hate to admit this, **club forces me to deal with the right issues** -- issues that I might be able to avoid if I didn't do club. Issues like being dependent, humble and prayerful.
- **Club is a structure that facilitates other activities in Young Life** that then attract more and/or different kids. It's very hard to sell camp and activities without a platform. I was in Lexington, KY, and for four years could not establish a regular, healthy club. All of the other activities were harder to develop because of that.
- **Club helps others understand what we are doing.** We live in a programmatic world that fundamentally doesn't understand relational ministry. They will never understand the value of contact work (incarnation ministry), which, I believe, is the real power of our ministry. Club helps people understand what we are doing.