

Emmanuel Bible College
ED241AA Ministry to Children

Instructor:

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Winter Semester, 2009

EMMANUEL BIBLE COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Emmanuel Bible College provides Bible-based post-secondary education equipping women and men to think, live, serve and lead as mature Christians in the Church and in the world.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A Study of the nature and needs of children and the philosophical and practical issues of ministry to them. Consideration of suitable methods, materials, and programs for use in children's ministries.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Cognitive:

1. Understand and apply knowledge of children's cognitive and spiritual developmental stages into a ministry setting.
2. Understand the structure of children's ministry

Affective:

1. Understand why ministry to children is important
2. Consider ministry to children today and its effectiveness

Skills:

1. Understand the process of developing, implementing and leading a ministry to children within a church setting.
2. Learn some basic skills and techniques of ministry to children.
3. Consider methods of teaching children in a way that is relevant to their age and culture

COURSE INSTRUCTOR – CAROLYN BURGE

Carolyn is the Children's Pastor at Calvary Pentecostal Assembly in Cambridge, and has been there for 11 years. She has also worked as a children's pastor in Toronto, and in Halifax, NS. Carolyn has spoken at conferences and workshops across Canada about how to effectively minister to children and work with a team of volunteers. She is an ordained minister with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. She is married and has 2 children.

TEXTBOOKS

Children's Ministry Leadership – the you can do it guide

Jim Wideman - Loveland: Group, 2003

Leadership Essentials for Children's Ministry

Craig Jutila - Loveland: Group, 2002

Attendance

- Expectation: attendance at every class
- One class missed – no penalty
- Three classes missed – automatically fail the course
- Extenuating circumstances – must be arranged and authorized by Academic Dean
- 6:45 p.m. Class begins – after 6:45 p.m. is marked as late
- 4 times late=one class missed
- If you miss a class, YOU are responsible to get any notes, handouts from a classmate. The instructor will not go over missed material.

Assignments – Grading scheme

1. **Tests** - There will be 2 major tests, a Mid Term and a Final Exam, **each worth 20 % of your total mark.**

The Mid Term questions will relate to material covered up to the test date. The Final Exam will focus mainly on the material covered after the Mid Term date through to the end of the course.

2. **Discussion/Reading** - Your input, thoughts and opinions are considered valuable. Most weeks will have specific pages of the text which you are expected to have read before arriving at that class. During class you are encouraged to share your thoughts on these passages, and/or material the instructor has presented. Your participation in class and completed reading log are worth **10% of your total mark.**
3. **Written Assignments** - There will be three assignments to hand in throughout the course. These will relate to topics touched on in class, but not necessarily covered in depth. You will have a choice of 2 subjects for each of the smaller assignments. The **smaller assignments will be worth 15%** and the **Major Project will be worth 20% of your total mark.**

You will be asked to make a 10 minute presentation to the class on the Major assignment. If you have a preference of presenting on March 29 or April 5, you may make this known to the instructor at the beginning of the course, otherwise the instructor will assign a date for your presentation.

Assignment #1 – Due Feb. 8th

Worth 15% of total mark.

CHOICE OF “A” or “B”

Your completed paper should be 4-6 pages, double spaced.

A) Developing a Ministry to Children

You are being interviewed by a small church (150 members) to develop a new ministry to children ages Infant – Grade 6.

Their history has been to have one service on Sunday morning at which children up to age 3 are cared for in a Nursery (rotation of workers) and the other children (ages 4-11) are dismissed half way through the service for a Children’s Church time. These children are all together in a Large Group setting. No mid week ministry exists at this point, but is desired.

What questions would you ask the Search Team as you consider this job possibility? Considering you are hired, describe what your first steps would be to work towards developing a more vital ministry to children at this church. Include your ideas for affecting change, developing a vision and mission statement (include a sample of the statement and how it was arrived at) and strategies for implementing a more effective teaching/outreach to children in that community.

OR

B) Is Children’s Ministry Relevant to Today’s Child?

Today’s children are surrounded in a culture that is different from years ago. The message we want to teach them is still the same, but perhaps the method of teaching them is not.

Explain some of the methods that are used to teach children today, based on their current culture. How can these methods be used to teach children in a church setting? Do you think that these methods can be effectively used to teach the Bible to children?

Give examples of churches that have a thriving, growing children’s ministry, and explain what methods they use to teach the Bible to children and make it relevant to them.

Assignment #2 – Due March 15th

Worth 15% of total mark.

CHOICE OF “A” or “B”

Your completed paper should be 4-6 pages, double spaced.

A) Read the Book – Courageous Leadership by Bill Hybels

When you are a leader in Children’s Ministry, it is important to raise up a team of leaders who will help you implement the vision of Children’s Ministry at your church.

Describe 5 key things that you learned from this book and how they would be important as a Children’s Ministry Leader. Be sure to use quotes from the book for each idea, and document them accordingly.

OR

B) Read the Book – The Fabulous Reinvention of Sunday School by Aaron Reynolds

Effective, relevant, creative Kids Ministry Programs are not the same as they were when you were a kid. In his book, Aaron gives many ideas on how to be creative and effective when it comes to teaching kids.

Choose 5 ideas that Aaron describes in his book and discuss why you agree or disagree with them. Be sure to use quotes from the book for each idea, and document them accordingly.

Major Project – Due March 29th

Worth 20% of total mark.

There are many different curriculum options available today for children's ministry. Some are designed for small groups of children, and others for large groups. Some require photocopies and others are media driven.

Research:

Interview 3 people who teach children at a church on a regular basis. Each of these people should be from a different church. Your interview questions should include the following:

- why do they use that curriculum
- is it effective in their class setting
- is it relevant to the children they teach
- does it include some kind of written communication for parents
- how user friendly is it for the teacher to prepare
- what is the cost of the curriculum
- what is the size of their church
- ask for a sample of a lesson

Then, research 3 different companies from the internet that produce curriculum for children. You should be able to view media samples, or download sample lessons.

The written portion of this assignment should be 4-6 pages and should include the following:

- the answers to the interview questions
- an analysis of the pros and cons of the curriculum in that setting
- a comparison of any 3 different curriculums with strengths and weaknesses

Class Presentation:

Choose a lesson that you think would be effective to teach in a church today. Be sure to provide a copy of your lesson plan to submit to the instructor. You will be graded on your presentation, creativity and use of visuals for your lesson. Classmates will also evaluate your presentation to offer encouragement and ideas for improvement. Your presentation should be 5-10 minutes in length.

You will present your lesson in class on March 29 or April 5.

Course Outline

January 11	Course Outline Importance of Children's Ministry Children – ages & stages
January 18	Organized Ministry to Children Vision / Values / Mission Statement Leadership Essentials pp. 5-39
January 25	Field Trip to Calvary Assembly, Cambridge Guest Speaker: Paul Williams – Outreach to Kids Leadership Essentials pp. 40-75
February 1	Guest Speaker Leadership Essentials pp. 76-110
February 8	Assignment #1 Due Creating Excellence / Customer service / Marketing your ministry Leadership Essentials pp. 111- 142
February 15	Family Day
February 22	Reading Week
March 1	Models of Ministry / Org Charts / Structure Job Descriptions / The Role of the Children's Ministry Leader
March 8	Mid Term Exam Recruiting & Retaining Volunteers Safety Policies / Volunteer Screening / Volunteer Training
March 15	Assignment #2 Due The Kids Ministry Environment Children's Ministry Leadership pp. 9-39
March 22	Creative Bible Teaching Children's Ministry Leadership pp. 40-66
March 29	Leading a Children's Ministry Presentations – 1 st half of class – Creative Bible Stories Children's Ministry Leadership pp. 67-108
April 5	Preschool Ministry Presentations – 2 nd half of class – Creative Bible Stories Children's Ministry Leadership pp. 109-144
April 12	Creating Events Textbook Reading Log Due

Bibliography

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