



Breakout 1 - Tuesday, January 11 - 10:45am-11:35am

The World has Failed Kids with Special Needs - What About the Church? - Marie Kuck

Experts say it will be decades before the impact of the pandemic goes away for kids with special needs. How can your church help bridge the gap? Come hear from church leaders how they are stepping up and taking ministry to the next level.

Training Volunteers: A Radically Different Approach - Josh Denhart

There is a big problem: No one is willing to show up to another evening meeting. Those who do show up could probably lead the meeting for you! Learn new and out-of-the-box strategies to effectively train volunteers. Your job WILL instantly become easier if you attend this breakout...trust me.

Preteen Mental Health - Paula Mazza

NAMI reports that 50% of people with mental illness begin showing symptoms before the age of 14 but the average delay of treatment is a decade. This breakout helps ministry leaders understand the formative nature of preteen years and the opportunity they have to better serve families in their church with preteens whose emotional and mental wellness is at risk.

Connecting Gen Z Girls in a Disconnected World - Cindy Bultema

Girls are hyper-connected via technology and social media, yet have never been more isolated, anxious, or lonely. In this relevant breakout, we will explore practical tips to connect your girls with God and with one another. You'll see loneliness dissipate, isolation eradicated, and real, meaningful relationships built—one girl at a time.

Helping Children Learn to BE the Body of Christ to One Another - Coleen Cotton

Relationships are KEY to keeping children involved and engaged at church and in their walks with Jesus. Oftentimes, children are unclear about what it really means to function as the Body of Christ. How do we teach them to deeply know, serve, encourage, and be the Body of Christ to one another? In this breakout, explore practical ideas for helping kids embrace their role in the family of God.

What to Do When Church Hurts - Jeff Weldon

It's inevitable. At some point, leading in the church is going to hurt. We've all been there. In fact, maybe you're there right now. It can lead us to despair, tear down our families, and even take us right out of ministry. In this breakout session, we'll talk together about the journey through church hurt, how to move through it, and experience the healing that God desires for you. You'll leave this session equipped with simple tools that will help you respond to hurt in healthy, God-honoring ways – and you'll also leave knowing that you're not alone!

Dealing with Discipline - Jennifer McWilliams

Jesus loves all the little children of the world, no matter what. Yet you can't let that kid throw chairs across the room either. How do you balance grace and love while also keeping everyone safe? What's at the root of a child's behavior and what is the most Christlike approach? Where is "the line?" We'll take a look at various strategies and approaches to help you find what best suits the needs of your ministry.

The Power Button...of Worship - Yancy

We're all looking for that new thing that's going to transform our ministry. We normally look to a resource or technology for this transformation. What if we told you the answer you've been searching for has been here the whole time? Worship has power. The worship of children is powerful, even silencing the enemy. How do we know? The Bible tells us so. Yancy is passionate about raising disciples through worship. She will share how your church can create a rhythm of worship through discipleship. Teaching kids to worship is the secret sauce you've been looking for.

Engaging Ways to Teach the Gospel to Students with Learning Differences - Beth Golik

Whether you are in an inclusive classroom setting or providing one-on-one buddy support, we all face the same challenge: we have the biblical mandate to share the Gospel with all people, including our students with learning differences. This hands-on breakout will provide practical tools and strategies to make the truth of God accessible to everyone, whether you are using pre-packaged curriculum or creating your own. Participants will be equipped to share key Bible truths in a manner that will engage students with a variety of learning differences including those with visual impairments, non-verbal or limited speech, sensory differences, intellectual disabilities, or common hidden disabilities.

Bite-Sized Training Tips for Small Group Leaders - David Rausch

Developing volunteers into dynamic small group leaders can be tough! Where do you find the time to train them and what do you train them on? This breakout tackles both of those challenges by giving you practical small group leading tips that you can implement in two minutes or less.

Finding Your Ministry Tribe- Panel - Joon Kim, Becky Rydman, Stanley Mearse, Amy Reger

INCM Recommended Leadership Track

Going alone in ministry can lead to burnout and more but when other leaders are there for you, you're more likely to stay in the game, grow as a leader, and keep following Jesus. In this breakout, you will have a conversation with a panel of seasoned leaders who have cultivated their tribes in the children's ministry world in order to grow personally and receive the support and encouragement they need to sustain them in ministry for the long haul.

KidMin Admin 101 - Brittany Nelson

Administration provides the solid framework in which your ministry functions, and without it, things crumble. Whether administration is your spiritual gift or your worst nightmare, we will talk about tools and ideas to help you excel in the administrative aspect of your role as a ministry leader.

Essential Ingredients for Great Guest Services - Dale Hudson

Guest Families decide if they are going to return to your church in the first eight minutes. Great guest service is essential if you want to see families return. Discover the guest service ingredients that will not just meet, but exceed, families' expectations.

Small Church Budget, Enormous Church Impact - Ken Baker

Let's face it, as small churches, our budgets are small, if anything. Together, we will look at ways you can leave CPC with a plan on how to have an impact on your community with no money. Speaker Ken Baker has served in large-sized churches, medium-sized churches, and currently in a very small church. He shares his secrets on having a kingdom impact while operating on a shoestring budget.

Communicating in the Digital Age - Rachel Price

Technology is changing the way we live: from online shopping to grocery delivery, to transportation, even communication. Learn steps for leveraging technology in communication with children, parents, and team members.

New to Children's Ministry: A Four-Part Mini-Course (101) - Identifying Vision, Mission, Purpose, and Core values - Dr. Chris Corbett

This is the first of a four-part series for those who are new to children's and family ministry with three years or less experience. Attendees will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the course. **All four sessions must be taken to complete the course.**

No matter how you arrived at your "yes" to children's ministry leadership, you have probably identified there are areas you might need more development. The first three years of your journey are critical and will determine how you show up in your leadership for years to come. How could your next ministry year with kids and families look different if you opted into joining a safe and nurturing space of learning at CPC designed to help build a strong foundation for your future in children's ministry? You are invited to consider adding the very first "New to Children's Ministry Mini-Course/Cohort to your schedule at CPC. INCM is committed to cheering for you and helping you build a strong foundation because we believe in the impact your leadership has on the future of the church. We look forward to joining you in this unique way!

When Sundays are Hard: Welcoming Young Families - Julia Ball

How do young families feel when they walk into your church on Sunday? Tired, overwhelmed, wondering what they're doing there? Chances are, it's all of the above! In this session, we will walk through practical ways you can champion the young families in your church and welcome them as a vital part of your church family.

Take Care of My Sheep: Safeguarding as a Ministry - Melodie Bissel

In this session, we will inspire attendees to approach safeguarding not only as a requirement of insurance companies but also as a response to Jesus' admonition to Peter. In this session, you will be equipped and encouraged to take care of Jesus' precious lambs. Learn seven best practices in safeguarding and three timely tips for discipling your leaders and workers to care for the sheep entrusted into their care, protecting their minds, hearts, and innocence from the dangers they face in our society today.

Saying YES to a Special Needs Ministry - Meaghan Wall

There are children with special needs in your church. Some might have physical disabilities, some developmental disabilities, and even some hidden disabilities, but there are children with special needs in your church. As a church, we are called to love all God's children and point them towards a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It might look different for children with special needs but it is possible....and they are worth it! We'll start at the beginning and give you the basics for establishing a Special Needs Ministry within your church to fit your church culture, nothing overwhelming, just the basics. Take the first step and say yes.

Volunteer Multiplication - Kenny Conley

Volunteer addition is great... but volunteer multiplication is better. Too many churches rely on an undeveloped strategy of slowly adding volunteers to their ministries. Volunteer multiplication happens when a ministry implements a diversified strategy for recruiting, onboarding, and development. Multiplication happens when the strategy is shared by a team of ministry leaders united in a well-developed process. A reason many churches never have enough volunteers is because they fail to recruit volunteers quickly enough to build the required momentum. Volunteer multiplication should be your strategy for building the volunteer teams your church needs.

Creating a Thriving Volunteer Culture Through Discipleship - Byron Ragains, Michele Baird

Join ministry veterans Michele Baird and Byron Ragains as they lead and create conversations around casting a new vision for nurturing and spiritually developing volunteers through discipleship efforts. Imagine what new ministry outcomes could surface with a greater use of several new ideas and approaches in creating a community of volunteers where spiritual formation is the primary focus.

Breakout 2 - Tuesday, January 11 - 2:00pm-2:50pm

Throw the First Punch: Understanding the Role Spiritual Warfare Plays in our Story - Beth Guckenberger

This breakout will cover tactics the enemy employs to destroy our families, ministries, and stunt our spiritual growth. Instead of standing in a defense posture, let's attack him with the tools and principles the Bible teaches. Beth will share her vulnerability in her journey as a mother, missionary, and lessons she learned when facing the enemy.

Nursery Matters: Building Positive First Experiences in Children's Ministry - Meredith Brower

One's first impressions of church are lasting, especially for the youngest among us. Want to create a nursery experience that fosters love, safety, and peace? Discover how to turn your nursery space into a warm ministry environment that will win the hearts of the children (and parents!) in your church.

KidMin, Trauma, and Neuroscience: What You Need to Know - Brianna Edwards

What do you know about the brain? The nervous system? Trauma? Every child who walks into your kids ministry has a brain and nervous system – many of which have been conditioned by trauma. This affects their emotions, behaviors, and ability to engage in relationship, leading to BIG BEHAVIORS and BIG FEELINGS. Do you know what you need to know to effectively reach them? This breakout will give you easy-to-understand facts about neuroscience, as well as relevant, practical, and creative ideas to meet the needs of kids with trauma history who walk through your door.

Teaching Preschoolers God's Word in a Way that Sticks - B.A. Snider

Everything works together in the preschool environment to reinforce the Biblical truth we share with our littlest disciples. We have an opportunity to lay a foundation at the preschool age for their spiritual growth throughout the rest of their lives. Discover simple ways to teach preschoolers the Word of God in a way that sticks.

Partnering with Other Churches in Your Community - Aaron Collier

The Church should be unified in making the gospel known within our communities. Let's explore tips for partnering well with other churches and discover ways we can be FOR one another in the advancement of the gospel.

Discipleship Strategies for an Urban Ministry Context - Aaliyah Pitts

As children's ministry leaders, we know that our discipleship methods and culture need to reflect our ministry context in order for it to be authentic. Leading kids to Jesus in an urban ministry setting has uniquenesses that affect the disciple-making journey. These distinctions, though challenging at times, can provide an opportunity for creativity and richness in the way you lead. In this breakout, learn helpful insights and practical strategies for discipling children in an urban ministry context.

How Can Midweek Programming Foster Relational Discipleship? - Tim Sandvall

No one argues the importance of and need to disciple children and youth, but what exactly does that mean? Where is it most likely to happen? Discipleship happens when a loving, caring adult takes time to intentionally invest in the lives of children and youth. Sunday mornings can be busy, or even a little chaotic at times. Sometimes, in that hurried hour together, it can be difficult to create an atmosphere of discipleship. Could there be a better way? Let's talk about what it could mean to slow down with midweek programming and help our children and youth understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and to live a life that honors Him.

Restore My Joy! - Amy Nehlsen

Is it possible to wake up in the midst of Children's Ministry and sense that the joy we once experienced is fading? How can we rediscover passion as we once knew it? Does life require us to pivot, reverse, and shift more than we sense that we are able? How can I stay sharp and resilient in the face of demanding ministry? Let's look at some key principles and strategies to unlocking JOY for this journey as we identify some joy-busters and take time to unpack ways that God can help us to return to joy.

Interactive Storytelling Ideas for Kids - David Rausch

When a lesson lacks interaction, kids get bored and disengage. What's the solution? Invite them to be a part of the Biblical storytelling. Not only does interactive storytelling keep kids engaged, but it also helps them retain what they've learned and helps them develop an excitement for God's Word. Join this session and get practical ideas for interactive storytelling methods that your elementary kids will love!

Soul Care for Singles - Jennifer Cronk, Melissa J. MacDonald

Being single in ministry is hard and oftentimes lonely. Learn how to take good care of your soul so that you can stay committed to God's calling and enjoy the process.

The Importance of Effective Time Management - Rachel Price

As leaders, parents, team members, and adults always on the go, we have to be intentional with the time we are given. While we can't add hours to our day, we can make the most of every moment with the Five P's of Time Management.

AGILE Leadership- Dr. Shelly Melia

Ministry leaders have had to be AGILE in order to pivot during uncertain and ever-changing times. This session will unpack five key components for agile leadership that will help you become more equipped in your approach to ministry leadership. This session will look back at lessons learned during Covid-19 and look ahead towards the future of ministry with special attention to local church ministry implications.

Navigating Challenging Team Conversations - Panel - Vance Martin, Sarah Ables, Taryn Cleaves **INCM Recommended Leadership Track**

We all work in teams. Your team might include three people or 30. Regardless of the size of your team, at some point, you will find yourself in a challenging conversation with the people you work with or serve. For many leaders, engaging in challenging conversations can be intimidating. However, all leaders need to cultivate their ability to engage in diplomatic, humble, and Christ-empowered conversations to move from standstill to forward. In this breakout, experienced leaders will help you discover the power of engaging in challenging conversations and provide tips on how to manage your own emotions to have productive and helpful conversations.

Assessing Curriculum and its Effectiveness in Your Ministry - Dr. Mimi Larson

Do we really care if children can think biblically? While the church deeply cares for children to learn and be spiritually formed, oftentimes the curriculum used in our ministry programs actually can hinder our endeavors. Whether you write your own curriculum or purchase it from a publisher, this session, led by Dr. Mimi Larson, will equip participants in how to assess their ministry curriculum. To ensure that biblical instruction actually supports a child's faith formation, a child should be engaged in higher levels of thinking. We will discuss the ways children learn, how thinking moves from the simple to complex, and how curriculum actually helps or hinders this process. Suggestions will be given on how to encourage children into higher levels of thinking.

Does my Non-seminary Voice Count? - Mercedes Hayes

Moses, God formally trained for leadership underneath a pharaoh. Joseph, God trained in a completely different way. Both were great leaders for God's people and purpose. If you do not have a formal ministry degree and feel devalued during ministry conversations or sometimes you question if you belong at the ministry table, this breakout is for you.

New to Children's Ministry: A Four-Part Mini-Course (102) - Building Healthy and Intentional Relationships - Dr. Chris Corbett, Caiti Corbett Salmon

This is the second of a four-part series for those who are new to children's and family ministry with three years or less experience. Attendees will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the course. All four sessions must be taken to complete the course.

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Including Grandparents in the Rhythm of Ministry - Jane Larsen

Connecting grandparents in your ministry is not only essential, it's fun! Grandparents are one of the most delightful groups to serve with. Many have more opportunities to give their time, great wisdom, and have an abundance of love to share. Learn how to weave them into your ministry and see what an impact they will have. Participants will leave with a template to execute an event and build into your ministry with grandparents.

Family Ministry: Where Do I Begin? - Kathleen Jaoudi

Interested in doing Family Ministry but not sure where to begin? Come join this session where we will talk about the basics of family ministry and ways you can begin to integrate it into your church. We will cover the definitions of family ministry and discuss small steps if you have yet to even begin and big ones for those that are ready to take the dive in.

Navigating Parent Partnerships when Parents Aren't Actively Involved - Sharon Rundell

Ministry to kids is not static, it is ministry to the entire family. In this breakout we will discover ideas to help you connect with families who are on the margins of your ministry; families who bring their kids occasionally, families who have disappeared during the Covid health crisis, and families who have gone through personal trauma and have dropped out of church. We will share concrete tools to help your ministry team reach out to these families as well as share with one another some things that might be working around the country.

Starting an Inclusion Ministry - Angie Hooie

Because all children matter to Jesus, they matter to us. This includes those that can't sit still, the nonverbal, the ones with trauma, and kids with exceptionalities. In this breakout, let's explore why you should start an inclusion ministry at your church and how to get started.

Breakout 3 - Wednesday, January 12 - 10:30am-11:20am

Events: The Secret Sauce for Your Preteen Ministry - Sean Sweet

Preteens are social and they love to gather now more than ever. Your special events will easily become catalytic and life-changing, full of real conversations that naturally happen while relationships build at a rapid rate. Learn how easy it is to turn your preteens into an unstoppable outreach squad as inviting friends to special events is a natural response for this age group. Special Bonus Content: How to fire up and win big with VBS...Preteen Style!

What's in a Name?- Dr. Kayla Pray

Asexual, Bisexual, Pan-sexual, Transgender, Non-Binary, and more. Our culture currently recognizes 76 different types of sexuality with six different forms of attraction and many more niche and specific identities being carved out. In current culture, what's in a name is everything. Come and learn some of the major terms and definitions being used in today's culture to be prepared to serve your community.

From Start to Finish - Leann Woelk

Your small church Children's Ministry gathers for a small amount of time on a Sunday morning in a shared space. How do you cover all the Bible basics for Grade 1 - 6, have fun, and stay on budget? This interactive breakout will teach you how to start well, avoid the obstacles and roadblocks that often can leave you feeling discouraged and frustrated, and how to cross the finish line for the win! Come and learn how to start implementing these strategies this coming week and bring home a victory!

21st Century Realities and Opportunities- Zach Fay

This session helps parents and children's ministry leaders better understand the digital and media landscape confronting kids. In today's highly connected digital world, it is more difficult than ever for kids to have meaningful conversations with the people who care about them. As moments of authentic interaction are increasingly difficult to come by, there is a need to leverage the screen time so as to maximize the quality time. Though the challenges are many, there is hope and a path forward.

Developing a Discipleship Plan for all Ages of NextGen Ministry - Jana Magruder

If you are a leader in preschool, children, preteen, or youth ministry, you know that a critical part of your role is discipleship planning. Having a wise plan in place anchors everything else in your ministry and sets up families to partner with you in a successful church and home model. Join Jana to learn how to set a plan in place that works for every age and every stage in your ministry.

For Seasoned Leaders: A Panel Discussion - Panel - Scott Larsen, Deborah Addington, Teresa Huddleston, Eric Hamp, Susan Cutshall

Children's ministry leadership is amazing and challenging all at the same time. Though the majority of leaders can likely relate to the same challenges and triumphs, some aspects of the leadership journey are unique to those who have served for decades. In this breakout, join the discussion with seasoned leaders as they tackle topics like mentoring the next generation of leaders, staying relevant while staying true to yourself, and more. You'll have the opportunity to hear how your peers are processing this season of leadership and be encouraged to keep going strong!

Creating a Video People Want to Watch- Ana Zugheri

After 2020, Zoom, Facebook live, YouTube, and other forms of video content are here to stay. During this session, learn five simple tips to better online video creation, hosting, and interaction. Whether you have a camera phone, computer integrated camera, or the Canon M50, your set up can make a difference in creating fun and effective experiences for your audience. Light adjustments and backgrounds are also important, and then...your content. Create a video that people will want to watch, like, and share with these simple but effective tips.

Upgrade Your Graphics in Less Time with Canva - Nick Blevins

In this hands-on session you'll learn how to use Canva, a powerful web-based tool for creating eye-popping graphics in less time. There is a learning curve to Canva and we'll overcome that curve and learn some tips and hacks to help you walk away with the ability to use Canva like a pro.

Steering Change Without Losing People - Heidi Hensley

If you are not the original leader that came with the groundbreaking ceremony of your church, you have most likely had to change some things about your ministry. Even the most necessary changes can throw people overboard and cause division if not handled well. In this session, we will survey the kinds of changes we often see in ministry and look at a step by step approach to achieving them well.

The Good. The Bad. The Ugly - Josh Denhart

Josh and Sarah Denhart have been in ministry for more than 20 years and their experiences range from Good to Bad to downright Ugly. We need to unload our ministry hurts but who is safe enough to listen? Josh and Sarah have ministered to 100's of ministry families who felt they had no one with whom they could speak. Join us, feel understood, and know you are not alone.

Know When it's Time to Move On and How to Leave Well - Kelly Norris, Matt Steen

Of all the ministry decisions you make, leaving your position will be the toughest. In this session, we will discuss when you know it is time to leave your ministry and how to leave well. Matt Steen and Kelly Norris of Chemistry Staffing will share what they have learned through their own ministry experiences and those of the ministers that they have coached through the years.

Senior Pastor Transitions - Taryn Cleaves

Your church just got a new senior pastor. Regardless of your relationship with the former, now you feel like you have to start all over again with relationship, vision, and finding your groove. What if they don't support or validate children's ministry? What if they ask you to change things you love? What if they just don't understand what all you do? In this session, we'll explore ways to prepare for and manage well, the senior pastor transition for the good of the children's ministry.

Giving and Receiving Mentorship- Dr. Denise Kjesbo

INCM Recommended Leadership Track

In church leadership, there are people who have gone before you and who are coming after you, but the pace of ministry can crowd out these vital relationships and keep you from growing personally. What would happen if you linked arms with leaders ahead or behind you? In this breakout, veteran leaders will encourage you with the "why" and "how" of mentorship. They will also give examples of mentorship and help you develop a plan for finding a mentor when you get back from CPC. Ministry is hard. Going together makes it better.

Mapping Out Your Ministry Year - Brittany Nelson

Bring your calendar and a pencil to this breakout! We will be taking a look at the year ahead, discussing best practices for developing a year-long ministry strategy, and mapping out potential dates for the entire year. You will walk away from this breakout with a balanced ministry calendar that will help you lead and disciple the families in your ministry without causing burnout for you or them.

Five Things Every Gen Alpha Child Needs from Church and Home - Dr. Shelly Melia

Our children have been through a lot and the events of the past two years will shape their generation for years to come. How do we think about the needs of generation alpha differently than previous generations? What unique needs will they have and what emerging strengths should we celebrate? This session will unpack five components of an effective ministry to children with an emphasis on both the church and home.

How to Lead Staff Effectively - Vance Martin

You've got paid staff in Children's Ministry, now what? Leading a staff team or an individual is an amazing privilege. Leading people is one of the most important and impactful responsibilities you may have. Learn how to care, love, challenge, and communicate effectively to help those you lead to make the biggest impact.

New to Children's Ministry: A Four-Part Mini-Course (103) - Communicating Biblical Truth Dr. Chris Corbett

This is the third of a four-part series for those who are new to children's and family ministry with three years or less experience. Attendees will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the course. All four sessions must be taken to complete the course.

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Providing Remarkable Experiences to Help Your Church Meet New People - Gabe Norris

Every parent is looking for remarkable experiences for their family and most are finding them outside of the church. Learn what effective brands do to create defining moments for their customers. Discover how your church can proactively anticipate the needs of the people in your community and produce the type of experiences that will ultimately help your children's ministry grow.

Better Conversations, Greater Impact - Jessica Bealer

Clear communication is key to success in ministry but there are certain conversations that matter more. In this breakout, we'll discuss practical ways to better connect with kids, students, parents, and leaders.

Breakout 4 - Wednesday, January 12 - 11:35am-12:25pm

Being and Making Disciples - Samuel Porcha

Our primary responsibility is to be and make disciples fulfilling The Great Commission. Jesus was very clear and straightforward to his disciples on what he wanted them to do. Disciple-making is the Christ-commanded, Spirit-empowered duty of every disciple of Jesus Christ. In this breakout, we will evaluate and identify what it looks like to be a disciple and challenge ourselves to become what we are supposed to help produce.

Screen Kids: A Radical Approach to Parenting Children in the Digital Age - Arlene Pellicane

The average child is spending six hours per day in front of a screen not to be educated but to be entertained. What is this screen time doing to a child's brain, emotional, and spiritual development? The same technology that has improved our lives has the potential to wreck family relationships if unchecked. How can you successfully delay addictive technologies such as smartphones, social media, and video games? Based on her book, "Screen Kids: 5 Relational Skills Every Child Needs in a Tech-Driven World," Arlene will equip parents to set counter-cultural technology goals because parents should be the main disciplers in a child's life, not screens. You'll also be introduced to the Five A+ relational skills needed in this modern world.

Teaching Kids the Fundamentals of Their Kingdom Identity - Christie Penner Worden

The gospel is the center of where we find our identity. Every child needs to know who they are. In this breakout, we will consider some fundamentals of identity and be empowered to help every child claim the fullness of their Kingdom citizenship.

Nurturing Spiritual Formation for Kids - Maureen Berger, Becky McAllister

Evaluate current personal habits and ministry practices with the goal of deep relational connection to God. Gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for spiritual formation for children - and the adults who lead them. Consider how your ministry might be impacted by a focus on formational practices.

Illusions and Amazing Object Lessons - David Laflin

Object Lessons capture the minds and imagination of kids and adults alike. They are also fantastic teaching tools! Learn amazing illusions and object lessons that you can do and discover how to be creative even when you are not.

What Kids Need From Games - Deane Hartzel

Multiple years of teaching Elementary Physical Education and leading sports camps did not fully prepare me for ministry. The fun kids had was not enough. Learning, changing, and growing came through teaching. I discovered other elements that needed to be considered in creating, presenting, and closing a game. Acceptance, Affection, Approval, and other words will be discussed in this breakout as they relate to game play. Through playing and learning various games, we will talk about equipment, the flow of games, the transition from game to game, and incorporating the spiritual element into a game environment. You will leave with multiple game ideas, things to remember as you lead games, variations of these games, and ideas on adding the spiritual element to your activities.

Redefining the Wins: How To Face Discouragement - Shaun Stevenson

As churches went through the last couple of years, Children's Pastors have seen it all: budget cuts, families leaving, stressful decisions, and more. So how do we face discouragement in such a difficult season? Perhaps it's all about how you "define the win." What does it look like when your Children's Ministry is "winning?" In this session, we'll face discouragement head-on and look at how and where we find our peace in the midst of the storm.

A Goal Setting Strategy That Works - Panel - Lindsey Bush, Cera Telemantes, Tracey Mayo **INCM Recommended Leadership Track**

Have you desired to set goals but haven't really known how to implement or execute them in your ministry? Are you waiting for your lead pastor to tell you what to do? You need Objectives and Key Results (OKRs). In this breakout session, we will teach you how to set goals for your ministry and create key results to getting them done. You will clarify the work you need to accomplish in the next three months so that you can be more productive and feel satisfied in the work you are doing. This technique will help you to say YES to your mission and say NO to what isn't yours to do.

Building a Children's Ministry That Unchurched Kids Love - Jeff Weldon

Who wants to see more kids who don't know Jesus coming through the doors of our church? Silly question, right? Whether your church is large, small, or in-between, you can build a ministry that unchurched kids will love and families will love spreading the word about. It's all about building the right culture. In this session, you'll learn simple, practical ways you can build a culture that helps attract unchurched families, engages unchurched kids, and makes kids excited to keep coming back.

Finding Your Identity in a Multi-Site World - Sarah Ball

There are many reasons a church will establish a multi-site approach or merge a struggling church into another one. Churches that utilize this approach soon discover the phrase, 'one church, multiple campuses' doesn't quite hold true. While sharing leadership, resources, and an overall vision of the church over multiple sites is perceived as being a good steward, when everything is "shared" or "replicated," a campus can easily lose its identity and appeal. In this session, attendees will learn how to oversee children's ministry through a multi-site church. We will discuss what should be shared or replicated and what can be different, including experiences between campuses, in an effort to help you identify and cultivate the culture of your individual site.

New to Children's Ministry: A Four-Part Mini-Course (104) - Caring for Families

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No matter how you arrived at your "yes" to children's ministry leadership, you have probably identified there are areas you might need more development. The first three years of your journey are critical and will determine how you show up in your leadership for years to come. How could your next ministry year with kids and families look different if you opted into joining a safe and nurturing space of learning at CPC designed to help build a strong foundation for your future in children's ministry? You are invited to consider adding the very first New to Children's Ministry Mini-Course/Cohort to your schedule at CPC. INCM is committed to cheering for you and helping you build a strong foundation because we believe in the impact your leadership has on the future of the church. We look forward to joining you in this unique way!

Developing a WOW Kids Ministry Event - Cynthia Dixson

Looking to plan a WOW Kids Ministry event? You have come to the right place. You'll come away with ideas and resources you can implement to have the best Kids Ministry event no matter the size of your Kids Ministry. You can develop the most awesome kids event that leaves kids excited and wanting more. Open your mind to the possibilities of your kids event as a community outreach ministry. Learn how you can ensure that every part of your kids Ministry event is optimized for success and develop a plan of action. Bring your pen, notebook, iPad, and event imagination to learn how to be an innovative event coordinator.

Holy Spirit Led Discipleship - Amy Reger

The amazing thing about children is that they have the ability to be led by the Holy Spirit just like adults. Part of our job as leaders is to empower parents to create space for the Holy Spirit to speak to children and teach them how to respond in obedience. It's a key element of discipleship. In this breakout, learn practical ways to help parents encourage the practice of listening and responding to the Holy Spirit at home.

Building a Family Ministry From the Ground Up- Lena Wooten

You want to build a family ministry in your church but where oh where do you begin? In this session, you will learn practical steps to build your family ministry. You will walk away with steps that you can begin to use immediately.

Tapping into the Goodness of Grandparents for Your Ministry - Tony Souder

Did you know that grandparents are the second most influential adults in the life of a young person right behind their parents? What if, when we looked at the young people in our churches, we began to see grandchildren? This would be totally appropriate since every child in the church is the grandchild of someone. How can we help Christian grandparents who want to see their grandchildren trust and treasure Christ for a lifetime, deepen, and expand their influence? Grandparents are often one of the greatest untapped resources you have available to you in nurturing the next generation. This session will explore how to tap into the goodness of Grandparents for your ministry.

Family Intentionality Through Holy Days - Trey Brooks

Usually, leading up to Christmas Day and Easter Sunday are busy times of school presentations, additional church services, community activities, and family travel. Many people want to make spiritual traditions that are meaningful during these times but are too busy to "fit" it into the schedule. We will talk about simple yet meaningful and impactful ways for families to be intentional during Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter.

Good Grief: How to Help Children with Death and Dying - Cheryl Smith Debanne

When death comes into a child's life there is no set script or program we can follow to help them grieve. Each child and each situation is unique. In this breakout, you will gain best practices, language, and tools for you and your volunteers to come alongside grieving children and their families. We will explore how to address issues of death and dying for various age groups, including having to face the death of a child within your ministry context.

Preschool Ministry that Brings Kids (and Families) Back For More - Sharon Stratmoen

Leading young children can be as easy as 1...2...3! Get ready to channel your inner four-year-old for a fun and memorable Bible learning experience. You'll walk away with three tried-and-true ways to engage and delight preschool children as you introduce them to their forever friend, Jesus.

Breakout 5 - Wednesday, January 12 - 2:45pm-3:35pm

Ten Skills You Need to Be an Effective Children's Ministry Leader - Dale Hudson

Whether you are a new or veteran leader, there are 10 skills you need to be growing in. They are key if you want to be an effective children's ministry leader.

How to Help Families Love the Bible Together - Keith Ferrin

We all feel like we "should" read the Bible as a family. As family ministry leaders we know we "should" equip families to do it. But how? In this breakout we'll explore how to get the conversation started with families (including your own) as well as practical tips for helping them start strong, build consistency, and enjoy it at the same time! We will also share ideas for families who are brand new to the Bible as well as families with kids at various ages.

The Kingdom Impact of Effective Ministry to Boys - Adam Sculnik

Churches across North America and beyond are struggling to find strong male leaders and wondering what they'll do if they can't find any. However, the training ground for leaders is not the church, it's the home. Discipleship doesn't begin with Sunday school or with youth groups, but with family ministry. What does it look like to form a strong male leader in a world that is telling our sons they can choose their gender, God is dead, and their parents are not in charge? For that matter, what can churches do if they play a secondary role? To build the kingdom, we need confident, gospel-centered teachers, engaging dialogue, and a culture that boys want to be a part of, have a role within, and tell the world about. Truly effective boys ministry in the local church will do all of that and more. It can flip the cultural norm upside down, bring more people back to church, create more leaders than ever before, and set Gen Z boys on fire for Christ.

How to Walk-Alongside: Practical Discipleship and Mentorship - Sarah Denhart

Walking alongside someone in the day-to-day of real life is something we know we're called to do but what are some practical ways to implement this in a ministry context? What can discipleship with volunteers and beyond look like? Come hear some personal experiences of how people have walked alongside me and how I have done the same for others, sometimes for a season, and sometimes long-term.

The Long Haul - Emily Snider

Many Children and Youth Ministers stay at a church for 3-5 years before moving on. While starting over every few years can be challenging, being at the same church for 5+ years presents its own unique perspectives and challenges. How do you stay relevant and not get stuck in a routine? How do you pace yourself and not get burned out? In this session, we will look at how to adapt to the changing seasons of ministry and how to stick with it for the long haul.

Six Ready-to-Go Family Outreach Projects - Becky Rydman

Inspire families to impact their community through great family outreach projects. These activities are proven to do three things: minister to the community, create memories for families, and strengthen partnerships with parents in your church. You'll be inspired by stories of how family events have impacted lives and will come away from this workshop with at least six ready-to-go events. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to have families on mission.

Pitch Perfect Praise- Tiffany Henderson

Sing unto the Lord a new song! Whether you are tone deaf or can sing on key, it does not matter, the Bible says we must sing a new song. When teaching a lesson in Sunday School, VBS, or weekly Bible study, using the wonder of music and the perfect tone and measure of the Word of God, you can transform a child's life. In this interactive session, you will learn a new song and learn how to create expressive new songs based entirely upon the scriptures to help the children memorize, thus internalize, the Word of God. The perfect pitch of the Word of God creates perfect praise!

Mutuality: Men and Women Together in Ministry (Panel) - Brooke Palmer, Jeff Weldon, Dr. Denise Muir-Kjesbo, Barbara and Mark Wilkinson

Male and female leaders – let's get real. Now that we're together around the leadership table, how do we relate to each other in ways that honor and build each other up? It's time to move the discussion beyond simply who can be around the table and talk about how we lead together in mutuality. In this panel discussion, come prepared with your questions, concerns, and be ready for a great conversation about men and women leading together. You'll leave this interactive experience with practical ways to serve together in wholeness and holiness!

Let's Talk: A Conversation with Young Leaders- Caiti Corbett Salmon

We teach kids they are not too young to be used by God. We tell them to dream big because God is using them for greatness no matter their age - and we truly mean it. But somewhere along the journey we stop applying that logic to ourselves and we limit our own leadership abilities on the basis of being "too young." This breakout seeks to encourage young leaders as they find their voices and feel encouraged in their callings. We will begin with an open discussion of the challenges involved in leading parents, volunteers, and other leaders, and end with practical solutions for those challenges.

The Ripple Effect of Obedience - Yancy Richmond

Who is in your caravan cheering you on? You may feel surrounded and covered or you may feel alone on an island. As ministry leaders we can often view the work we do through a short-sighted lens. Yancy has spent her entire life in the church and has a unique long range view. This session isn't about learning an action point for you to implement but rather about championing your heart that what you do matters. This session is a *selah* moment, an intermission, if you will, so you can pick back up and run the race that God has called you to until you make it to the finish line. What you do isn't just about Sunday. It's about their future.

Networking Skills Lab - Ana Zugheri, Melia Warren

INCM Recommended Leadership Track

How do you find the people who can help you solve a problem in your ministry or find commonalities to receive support and encouragement? It happens through networking. In this breakout, you will learn the tips and tricks to networking with other leaders and get a chance to practice with others. Come with your business card and get ready to level up your networking game.

How to Upgrade Your Large Group Space - Christen Clark

Does your large group ministry space need an update? Should you overhaul the whole thing or just paint the walls? What about sound, video, or lights? Where do you start, what should you buy, and how do you know who to buy from? In this session, you will consider recommendations for environment, stage, and technology, as well as tips and tricks to elevate your space no matter your church size.

Large Groups: Captivate Kids and be a Dynamic Teacher! - David and Teesha Laflin

Success in large group presentations is more than just being a good presenter. Learn how you can best set up your room, organize your service, add creative elements to your teaching and more in this fun and fast-paced breakout.

Stepping Into a Turnaround Situation - Jeremy O'Neill

Sometimes you step into a new role at a new church that's healthy and thriving, but what happens if the ministry you're walking into is struggling and in decline? A full-on rebuild is no easy task and shifting the culture is a huge endeavor. Find out how to navigate a turnaround situation, how to get buy in, and how to manufacture momentum in your new ministry.

Compassionate Support for Single Parents - Tammy Daughtry

What can we do to come alongside parents who are single? This session will discuss single parenting and how we can give compassionate support to single parents who are divorced, never married, or grieving the loss of their spouse. By supporting single parents we are helping support their children. When a single parent is well-connected at church, we have an on-going opportunity to build meaningful relationships with their children. Even when the families are complicated, they can be stable and well-adjusted.

Grab the EpiPen! - Jeremy Spicer

More and more we are seeing children come to church with epinephrine auto-injectors, AKA EpiPens. Odds are you've seen these in your own ministry. Do you know how and when to use an auto-injector? This session is all about the growing threat of severe life threatening allergic reactions. Know the signs, when to respond, and how to react. This session includes an epinephrine auto-injector certification through Rescue Care Training.

Responding to a Crisis Within Your Ministry - Melodie Bissel

It's not if but when a crisis occurs. You never know when you will receive a phone call, hear an allegation of abuse, or learn of a fatal injury. As a children's pastor, you never received training in being a crisis responder. How does one prepare to deal with the pain and attention a crisis will bring to your ministry? This breakout is designed to equip you and your team with a plan of action when the crisis hits including before the storm, facing the storm, in the eye of the storm, and after the storm happens.

Mental Health Inclusion Strategies Any Children's Ministry Can Do! - Dr. Stephen Grcevich

Mental health disorders are the leading cause of disability among children and teens in the U.S., and common conditions such as depression, anxiety disorders, ADHD, and disruptive behavior disorders significantly impact church attendance. This breakout is designed for any church, pastor, ministry leader, staff member, or volunteer interested in becoming more intentional in outreach and inclusion with families impacted by mental illness. Participants will be provided with the resources to initiate a mental health ministry plan and be introduced to a series of mental health inclusion strategies that have been implemented in churches of all sizes and denominations. Examples of innovative ministry strategies from churches throughout the U.S. will be shared.

Grow Your Team with Teen Volunteers - Crystal Mazzuca

Teen volunteers can be one of the most incredible, teachable, faithful demographics in our churches. Not only do they bless our ministries with volunteering, the very act of serving helps them grow in their faith and feel connection and purpose. In this breakout, you will explore the value of having teens serve on your team and give you practical ideas on how to recruit, equip, and utilize their God-given talents to impact the Kingdom of God.

Breakout 6 - Thursday, January 13 - 10L30am-11:20am

There's No Junior Holy Spirit - Jim Wideman

He was sent by Jesus to be our helper. He's the third person of the Godhead, yet in many churches, He's not talked about much, He's underutilized and He's somewhat devalued. In this practical breakout, Jim will give you 21 ways he uses to introduce, teach, and help kids from preschoolers through middle schoolers understand the workings, power, and fruits of the Holy Spirit and help them walk in the promises of His power. No matter your church background or denomination, the Holy Spirit wants to be a part of your church to help you reach the next generation and empower you to successfully make Jesus known to all. There's not a different Holy Spirit for children than adults and He wants to help them now.

Soul Care for the KidMin Leader - Gordon and Maria West

Encounter encouragement to pursue environments where you will find true Soul Care. Consider practices and life habits which bring awareness of God's nearness and deepen your enjoyment of his friendship. Remember, we cannot lead our children where we haven't journeyed ourselves.

Beyond the Church Walls: Fostering Real Connections Between Sundays - Kim Hudson

Creating events and experiences so that the littlest humans in our ministries are included, not just entertained, will naturally facilitate connections for their grownups. Connections that will foster real relationships during the week. Relationships that are essential to create community both inside and outside of the church walls. We will explore events and experiences that will nurture casual gatherings, fun celebrations, and focused spiritual development specific to early childhood while encouraging grown-ups to find their community.

Pulling Preschoolers Into Praise - Jean Thomason

Exactly what is 'praise?' How is that different from 'worship?' Take a deep, biblical look at God's definitions and methods, then learn seven specific ways from Hebrew words to practice praise for yourself AND for little ones. Jesus began our model of prayer with PRAISE and reminded his disciples, "Out of the mouths of babes and infants, God ordains praise." It is amazing that perfected praises rise to God from children and babies, the weakest of humanity. Come learn to be their song teachers!

Stop Teaching and Add Response Time for Preteens - Sean Sweet

Preteens crave time to process. It is how they learn as they move out of concrete thinking but it won't happen as long as you are teaching. Pausing really is the game-changing solution and learning to structure your time with response stations will create a seismic shift in attitude and engagement in your preteens. In this breakout, learn effective ways to structure response time and watch preteens jump in and participate as you've never seen before.

Developing a Ministry Culture of Ethnic Diversity - Christen Clark, Chad Owens

When it comes to celebrating ethnicity, there are two extremes to avoid: idolatry and apathy. Can we pursue peace and unity in the Kingdom of God without elevating ethnicity above the Gospel? How can we learn to celebrate every tribe, tongue, and people (as Revelation 5:9 proclaims) within our family ministries if our church congregation does not reflect this? Discover the intentional steps you can take toward changing the culture of your ministry to celebrate ethnic diversity. Whether your church is already diverse or beginning to get there, let's explore how you can make your ministry feel welcoming and safe for various people of color and cultures.

Helping a Child Develop a Biblical Worldview - Josh Mulvihill

Learn what worldview is, why it matters, and how to help a child develop a biblical worldview by teaching four foundational biblical truths. Participants will learn to identify strong cultural messages that threaten to distort and destroy faith in Christ. This session will help you gain confidence and equip you to have intentional conversations so that children develop deep, lasting, and culture-transforming faith. This seminar is based on Josh's book, "Biblical Worldview."

Engaging Children in Prayer - Karen Whiting

Discover and try a dozen ways to engage children in prayer that will excite them and help them understand it. Participants will become pray-ers in demonstrating several ways to pray including dishing up prayer, concentric circle prayers to pray for others, overflowing blessings, pow-wows, hand stacks, ball prayers, and four gifts of forgiveness. In addition, other methods of prayer will be shared with handouts and explanations including sphere of influence to show children how much their prayers can reach out, envelope corner village prayers for peace, prayer walk ideas for inside and outside, handy enemy/bully prayers, and become RICHER acrostic from praying scriptures.

Engaging Kids in the Bible - Kellie Bartley

Do your kids ever ask questions like, "Is the Bible out of date?" or "What does the Bible mean for me?" We will address these questions and more as we explore and put into practice how to engage kids in the Bible. This breakout is designed to help you tell impactful, connecting stories from the Bible so that they will stick in the hearts and minds of children.

Grief in the New World - Dr. Kayla Pray

What is grief and why do we grieve? How do you hold and process such a complex emotion? How do you teach that emotion to the next generation in a post-pandemic world? What does it mean to move forward and trust God when grief permeates our very culture? Let's talk.

How to Persevere in Ministry When Life is Hard - Robyn Tidrick

When your teenager rebels, your marriage is rocky, or a loved one is fighting cancer or addiction, trying to balance your personal life with ministry responsibilities can be overwhelming. Adversity and suffering can cast a dark shadow over our lives and we are often tempted to quit our calling to ministry to ease the strain. Our Great God is not shaken by the circumstances that threaten to knock us off our feet! Learn to uncover His light during our darkest moments and tap into His strength to keep us standing. Revisit what God's Word has to say about our trials and how to persevere; discern how to hear His voice for your specific situation. Be emboldened to navigate life's storms, persevere in your call to ministry, and maintain a healthy, hopeful perspective through difficult seasons.

Networking Skills Lab - Christa Quail, Ken Baker

INCM Recommended Leadership Track

How do you find the people who can help you solve a problem in your ministry or find commonalities to receive support and encouragement? It happens through networking. In this breakout, you will learn the tips and tricks to networking with other leaders and get a chance to practice with others. Come with your business card and get ready to level up your networking game.

Ten Game-Changing Media Ideas for Kids Worship - Carl Barnhill

Do you need a fresh way to use media in your children's ministry environment? In this session, learn 10 practical ways you can use media content to enhance your physical and online kid's worship experiences. Explore how to use media content in a powerful way and get ready to bring your kid's worship to life!

Bridging Six Gaps Between Kids and Student Ministry- Chuck Peters, Jana Magruder

If we aren't careful we can lose families into the gaps that exist between the kids and student ministries within a church. As ministry leaders, we need to come together around a common mission, purpose, and strategy as we minister to kids, students, and families. Ultimately, each specific ministry within a congregation should share the common and consistent culture of the overall church. Evaluate your gaps and take active steps to build bridges that set kids and families up for success and satisfaction as they grow.

A Fallow Season: Your Ministry Needs a Time of Quiet to Thrive - Mary Cady Bolin

Good growth can happen in slow seasons but we have trouble taking time off in Children's Ministry. While it seems as though other areas of the church can take a breather, Children's Ministry seems like the train that cannot stop. Jesus said that He will give us rest but we have to make intentional space for that rest to occur. Years ago our leadership decided to take the summertime off from Children's Ministry with the exception of our Vacation Bible School and childcare for 0-5 on Sundays only. That shift in mindset, while not a typical one, has nurtured families and provided space for worship and connection in ways that are now essential to our ministry. If you'd like to hear about what a fallow season is and why it's good for crops and even better for kids and families, this is the session for you.

Connecting with the School Kids - Darnisha Thomas

Whether it's at a church or a christian school your congregation is affiliated with, week of prayer programs are a great tool to connect with the kids attending the school. In this session, we will discuss theme selection, using object lessons, prepping the message, building momentum, and following up when the week of prayer is over.

Healthy and Happy Marriage in Ministry - Arlene Pellicane

Being in ministry doesn't exempt you from marriage struggles with money, communication, intimacy, or parenting. In fact, you can probably add ministry fatigue and overcommitment to the list. How can you tend to your marriage while tending to those in your church? Is it selfish to prioritize your marriage? Arlene shares principles from her book, "31 Days to a Happy Husband" to help you keep on the right track of love and respect. Every day you are either building up your marriage or tearing it down. A strong marriage in ministry is not a product of chance. In this session, you'll be encouraged to keep dreaming, giving the next generation, and your congregation, an example of what a healthy, happy marriage looks like.

How Do Kids with Special Needs Fit in Your Ministry? - Marie Kuck

You don't need a "program" to minister to kids that are differently abled but where do you start? Come learn some of the ABC's of getting equipped including practical tips, tools, and available resources to help you minister to kids with all abilities.

How to Create and Automate an Effective Volunteer System - Boyd Pelly

With today's technology, you know there has to be a way to seamlessly automate the entire administrative process for everything related to volunteers. In this breakout, we will discuss how to use technology to help you recruit, interview, verify, train, schedule, track, and care for volunteers. We will offer practical advice and best practices to help you spend less time on administration and more time relating to and loving your volunteers.

Building Strengths-Based Teams - Dr. Deb Moncauskas

You know your ministry team members better than anyone. But do you know why they do what they do, what motivates them or when they're at their best? This breakout will help the participant understand the value and benefits of Strength-based ministry teams. You will learn how to go about building effective teams that provide encouragement, accountability, and affirmation.

Breakout 7 - Thursday, January 13 - 11:35am-12:25pm

Courageous Conversations- Guy and Esther Moreno

Racism and injustice have an increasingly pronounced space and influence in mainstream culture in the US. As children's ministry leaders, it's our responsibility to be bold and lead those we serve in God-honoring conversations around these topics. In this breakout, learn how to courageously lead others in mindful, informed, biblically-based conversations where all can walk away better equipped to represent Christ in the world.

Emotional Intelligence For Leaders - Stephanie Williams O'Brien

"Emotional Intelligence" easily beats "Intellectual Intelligence" when it comes to leadership. In order to lead people well we need to engage our emotions for the good of our leadership and those we lead. We have many processes to help us grow intellectually but at times we fail to put as much intention into growing our Emotional Intelligence. This breakout will discuss the E.I. Competencies and offer tools to train others in growth in this area as well.

Bible Memory that Goes From the Head to the Heart - Charity Kaufmann

Help kids hide God's Word in their hearts for more than a few minutes. Discover how repetition, movement, and visual connections can help kids remember Bible verses AND understand why those Ancient words matter in their everyday lives.

Talk Less, Listen More - Melissa J. MacDonald

As leaders we are quick to use our voices to problem solve, direct, and lead. But what if some of our best leadership moments took place while listening instead of talking? Come learn some practical ways to talk less and listen more. Hear from Mel as she shares how listening has redefined her ministry and approach to discipleship.

The Essentials of a Prayer Life - Preston Plentl

We all know we are SUPPOSED to pray, and it is assumed that we as pastors and leaders DO pray, but it's shocking how many of us struggle with making it a regular routine. If that's not an issue, then what about your teams? There is nothing more important and unifying to the teams we lead, the kids, and our ministries than to have an established prayer routine. Let's get real and talk about how to take our personal prayer life seriously and how to teach our teams scripturally the importance of doing the same.

Lead As You Wish To Be Led - Melissa Hendrickson

Every year that you serve is another year that you grow and develop as a leader. Pause and consider which leaders have influenced you and your journey and then consider what rising leaders you know who might grow and learn from you. Mentoring rising leaders is an essential part of discipleship. Forming friendships that allow for honest dialogue and feedback creates a safe space for young leaders to wrestle with hard questions, learn from your experiences, and give you a glimpse into their gifts as a leader. In this session, we will look at healthy ways to mentor rising leaders.

Women in Ministry: A Panel Discussion

Being a woman in ministry leadership has unique blessings and challenges. It's important that these uniquenesses be stewarded from a perspective rooted in wisdom and the truth of God's Word. In this breakout, learn from experienced women in ministry who have courageously navigated their leadership journeys while remaining rooted and unwavering in their calling.

How to Get a Church Job - Matt Steen

Whether you're searching for a new position now or will be in the near future, preparing for and finding a church job is not an easy undertaking. Where do you even begin? In this session, Kelly Norris will be pulling back to the curtain to share with you the secrets of creating a killer resume, improving your interviewing skills, negotiating a salary package, and more.

Raising up the NOW GENERATION - Rick Olmstead

Over and over again we hear talk about raising up the next generation. The message our kids and young people continue to hear over and over again is that your day is never today but always tomorrow, and for many of them, tomorrow never comes. That is a risk we cannot afford. We need to send a new message that they are not the next generation but the NOW GENERATION and we need to equip the church with tools to make that a reality. In this breakout, we will identify ways God is using kids today in extraordinary ways and how we can release them in our churches. Key strategies like Reaching them NOW, Rescuing them NOW, Rooting them NOW, and releasing them NOW will be explored.

Healthy Leadership Rhythms - Kim Huson, Angie Hooie

INCM Recommended Leadership Track

In the midst of ministry it can be impossible to find time to receive ministry ourselves. We have so many to-do's and important tasks to successfully run our ministry, that we can forget our own personal care and time with God. Join this group of leaders who have found leadership rhythms that honor their personal leadership, as well as their families and ministries, through taking vacation, Sabbath, practices of prayer, scripture reading, solitude, and silence.

A Leadership Tool for Growth: SWOT - Sharon Rundell, Mercedes Hayes, Heather Eichler
INCM Recommended Leadership Track

Ministry leadership and life can be overwhelming. How do we know what changes to make and where we can improve personally and in our ministries? We need a tool to analyze what areas we need to tackle first. The SWOT is a tool that helps you bring awareness to your strengths and weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to recognize where you need breakthrough or are experiencing failure. This breakout will teach you how to use the SWOT in your everyday leadership in order to move to breakthrough in the battles and frustrations of your life.

Putting Emphasis on the Right Things: Discovering Your Vision for Ministry - Kirsten Hitchcock, Mimi Larsen

What's the vision for your ministry? Do your ministry methods reflect the goals you have for children? Often times, our answers reflect more of the details within the ministry; the details of the HOW, rather than the ultimate purpose of WHY your ministry exists. Using an adapted framework of the William Frankena model, learn how to map out a clear ministry vision and the next steps of your ministry, ensuring that you are putting emphasis on the right things.

Time for the Talk? Equipping Parents for Sex Education - Dr. Denise Kjesbo, Donna Sugano

Teaching their children about sex can leave parents feeling ill-equipped, inadequate, and unsure. Fighting our culture's messages on sexuality makes the job of sex education even more difficult and all the more crucial. This breakout will help provide an overall vision for parents to help them have an end goal in mind for each age and stage of development as well as practical ideas and resources for them to utilize. Rather than simply providing children with a list of dos and don'ts, we are instead guiding them into healthy and God-honoring patterns of living and being. This approach to sex education covers far more than sex and helps children think through how to treat others and themselves with a Biblical ethic from the preschool years all the way through high school.

Evaluating the Blind Spots in Your Family Ministry Model - Marta Cortez

Is your family ministry set up to reach all families in your community? How do you assess your current model and make the necessary adjustments for a broader ministry reach? In this breakout, learn how to evaluate the effectiveness of your family ministry and discover ways to strengthen your impact with families.

Closing the Gaps in Your Protection Policy - Ryan Carter

Maintaining the safety and security of your church and those you serve is paramount. The single most effective step in establishing and maintaining a safe environment is a comprehensive background check program for all staff and volunteers. However, not all background checks are created equal and there could be gaps in your screening program. In this breakout, attendees will learn what should be included in a thorough background check, the pros and cons of specific searches, and how to close the gaps to protect those you serve. Attendees will receive actionable takeaways and resources that can be implemented immediately.

Monday is Coming - Meaghan Wall

Weekends are typically the most engaging part of ministry. People come to your location and you are able to love on them and invite them to a worship experience. Then Monday comes. Though it feels like it comes without warning, there is a Monday following every Sunday. Mondays are when families raising children with special needs start fighting their battles, looking for resources, and searching for any amount of hope they can find to help them make it through the next five days. What if we switched from thinking the weekends were our power hour and started being intentional about walking with families on Monday morning? How can the church walk in step with the special needs family to provide resources, encouragement, and hope throughout the week?

The Four C's of Leading Volunteers - Andrae Jones

If we want healthy volunteers then we need to ensure they are cared for, connected, confirmed, and celebrated. In this breakout, we will learn how to practice these four principles regularly so our volunteers and ministries have the opportunity to grow.

How to Re-Engage Your Volunteer Base - Jessica Bealer

The most challenging feat ministry leaders are currently facing is re-engaging their volunteer base. In the aftermath of Covid-19, many are looking at empty volunteer rosters and are struggling to know where to begin. In this session, we will discuss practical steps to re-engage volunteers who have not yet renewed their service commitment and examine how we can create a ministry that will attract new volunteers as well.

Breakout 8 - Thursday, January 13 - 2:24pm-3:35pm

Inside the Mind of a Kid - Melissa J. MacDonald

Have you ever wondered what kids are asking God for or wondered what they really believe to be true about God? Come take a peek inside the mind of a kid. Using handwritten notes that kids have written to God, real-life examples, and stories that will leave you wanting more, this breakout will inspire you and help give you a framework for tailoring the discipleship of the kids in your ministry.

Evangelism in Any Environment - Andrae Jones

If there is one thing we have learned in the past two years of ministry, it is the fact that we are going to have to be intentional in reaching the lost in any environment. In this breakout, you will discover ways to equip your kids, parents, and volunteers to evangelize in person and virtually.

Reaching Your Community Effectively - Gloria Lee, Gary Lindsay

The 2020 Census revealed that the US is more diverse and more multiracial than ever. As the landscape of American families continues to change, does your program communicate cultural competence? The kids in our ministries represent different family structures, ethnic cultures, social-economic backgrounds, and other differences we may not even be aware of. We will help you gain the skills to be culturally relevant when evaluating programs and curriculum for your ministry to better attract and engage kids and families in your community and your church.

Planning for X: Intentional Discipleship With a Backward Planning Model - Dr. Ron Hunter

Dr. Hunter, a former infantry officer, shows how little green army men teach us the backward planning steps to help our kids face the battles of life. The session starts with a game, then, through storytelling and biblical understanding, shows God's heartbeat for discipleship in kids. However, teaching kids becomes the role of all generations, not just the children's pastor and this session gives ideas for involving more volunteers in your ministry.

The Creative Mindset - Jason Tilley

This breakout helps you think more creatively both "on" and "in" your ministry. Most of us have had the "aha" moment where the creative muse sparks and we have a new idea. What if those "aha" moments didn't have to be so random? You'll learn a creativity workout that, if used regularly, will help you think more creatively about every aspect of your ministry and life. Building strong, accessible creative muscles will make you a better leader for your team and a better minister to the families you serve.

Lapbooks: The Creative Solution - Leann Woelk

Are you tired of seeing your crafts and take-home sheets end up in the recycling bin even before they leave the church? Come discover lapbooks as a creative, budget-friendly alternative to individual crafts as the solution. Families will love these lapbooks that capture what their child is learning and will keep them for review and memories for years to come. Join us in this interactive, hands-on breakout for thematic and multi-sensory ideas to help kids of many learning styles retain the biblical principles you instill in them each week.

Change My Mind: Winning the Battle of Self Doubt - Tom Bump

Ever struggle with self-doubt? Do you let negative words and self-criticism become a never ending playlist? Feel like you're always losing and can't change? Did you know that you can change your mind? It is possible. Scripture is clear and we have the science to back it up. Come and learn a step-by-step practice to win the battle of the mind, become a better follower of Christ, and a better leader because of it.

Round Table Discussion: Vision for the Future of Children's Ministry - Panel

Becky Rydman, Michayla White, Mahogany Dudley-Finley, Chad Ownes, Christie Penner Worden

One thing we can all identify after the past 2 years, is that God has shown us how to do things differently. Our challenges have led us to explore new ideas, try new things, and wonder about what's next. In this breakout, we'll take an honest look at what we've learned as a community and look boldly to what lies ahead. What is God requiring of us? Practically, how do we continue to move forward? Join this powerful discussion and let's cast a vision for the future of children's ministry.

Showing Hospitality in Ministry - Emily Snider

How we welcome people into God's House speaks volumes. Hospitality is more than just a friendly smile and welcome greeting, it's how we represent Jesus in everything we do. In this session, we will learn how to show hospitality to everyone who enters our doors, whether first time visitors, long-time attenders, or those who serve alongside us.

Creating Engaging Environments for Kids: In-Person and Online - Lisa Molite

The events of the last years have opened the door to digital church and many would say it's here to stay. Online church is a wonderful tool for reaching people who are not a part of your church community yet, but most ministry leaders find themselves faced with double the work as they attempt to create engaging environments for kids church - both in person and online. Learn how to captivate a child's attention by creating an environment that speaks their language whether they are in your building or watching online and learn how to maximize your efforts by creating a schedule, backdrops, content, and leaders that can be utilized for both in-person and digital programming.

Connecting the Generations - Tony Souder

Every generation needs every generation. God has designed his family, the church, to experience the generational benefits of being in vital relationship with each other. Research shows us that intergenerational relationships are a central factor in helping young people flourish in both faith and life. With this in mind, ask yourselves; How is your church doing in creating life-giving intergenerational relationships? Is every child in your ministry experiencing the goodness of these relationships? Considering the importance of these relationships for each emerging generation, how can we make this a non-negotiable part of our ministries? This breakout will explore how churches and families can be intentional in helping young people have the Christ-centered adult relationships they need to flourish in faith and life for a lifetime.

HELP! I'm New to Children's Ministry, Now What? - Donnie Slade

Building a children's ministry from the ground up can be a daunting task. Don't worry, we have all been there. We all had visions of grandeur as we accepted God's call to serve children and families, and not long after that first Sunday, we began to question, "Did we hear God correctly, lol?" This breakout session will teach the importance of leadership and vision. Donnie Slade will share with you what God taught him during those first few years and what were the key components that helped the ministry grow.

Co-Discipleship with Millennial Parents - Gordon and Maria West

In this breakout, investigate ways to partner with household leaders in nurturing practices for their children - even as you consider ways to nurture the adults. Consider the implications, we cannot take children where we haven't gone ourselves.

Grandpartners - Jim Wideman

Everyone in Children's and Family Ministry knows that the church and home must partner together to reach today's families. But what if the church had another partner who cares about the discipleship of children and who has been given the mandate to pass on faith to the next generation? As a grandparent himself, Jim will give you practical steps to enlist, encourage, and activate Grandparents and older saints to partner alongside the home and the church and work together to forge a new dynamic partnership to pass on faith!

Triage for Families Hurt From Child Sexual Abuse - Mindee Berg

In the past, the church has been silent when it comes to Childhood Sexual Abuse (CSA) mostly from lack of education on how to deal with a CSA case. It is time the silence ends and we educate families on how to prevent abuse or help a child who has been sexually abused. Through education and passing on knowledge to families, we can drastically change the statistics of CSA and provide help to those who have been sexually abused. In this session, you will acquire knowledge in these areas: 1) tools to help parents protect their child from CSA, 2) importance of continual adult education, 3) how to minimize the opportunity for CSA, 4) how to handle a CSA situation, 5) why silence in the church must be a thing of the past, and 6) how CSA effects someone long term if they do not receive help.

Families Divided: How the Church Can Help Families Restore Family Time - Rob Livingston

“Bye, Mom!” the kids yell as they run out the door. Mom waves from behind her phone as she sends an early morning email. On the drive to school, Dad tunes in and catches the latest on sports talk radio. Lillia logs-on and checks the “gram” while Henry pops his earbuds in and listens to music. As Dad pulls up to the front of the school, the kids jump out and give a quick “Bye, Dad,” and off they go. Scenarios like this play out daily in families all over the country. It may not be cell phones and Instagram, but the world is dividing families one car ride at a time. How can the church equip parents with the tools to reclaim crucial family time? Join us as we share three practical ways we can help parents use this time to disciple their children.

Equipping Children with Biblical Coping Skills to Stomp Out Anxiety- Caris Snider

Our children are experiencing anxiety like never before. The world they live in is nothing like what we faced at their age. We can prepare them now to deal with these troubles Jesus warned would come our way and empower them with His truth. In this breakout, you will learn how to equip children with five biblical coping skills to stomp out their anxiety. We will discuss how to use deep breathing, gratitude, acknowledgement of anxiety, talking to others, and changing "what IF" thoughts to "what IS" through the lens of scripture. You will leave with knowledge of how to connect these practical skills to God's Word and incorporate lessons using these tools to help your students combat anxiety.

Help Hurting Kids Find Hope and Healing - Kim Botto

We can't change a child's past but we can build a safe place for them now to heal while growing in their faith. In this breakout, you'll gain practical ideas to build teams who create safe places for all kids to hear about Jesus.

Starting Over: Develop a Volunteer Team Beyond Your Wildest Dreams - Sharon Rundell

Many of us lost entire teams of volunteers due to the recent global health crisis. People you counted on have been reluctant to come back and others now have health issues that have changed their ability to help. In this breakout, we will discover how to build a brand new ministry team of volunteers from the ground up, establishing a new team that focuses on discipleship of volunteers, personal relationship, and connection to Jesus. Starting fresh is exhausting, but with God's help, we can build something that is better than we ever imagined our teams could be.