



EVANGELISM STRATEGIES

Ongoing Strategies

- *After School Program.* An after school program provides children a place to go after school rather than going home to an empty apartment or house. The after school program might provide homework help, tutoring, sports and game activities, as well as a devotional time.

An After School Program is usually held at the church or community center. Activities are well structured and require a team of adults who are equipped to provide tutoring as well as appropriate supervision and loving relationships.

- *Neighborhood Bible Club.* A Neighborhood Bible Club is an intensive children's outreach ministry similar to vacation Bible school. However, instead of meeting in a church building, it takes the Gospel to where the children live, right into their neighborhood.

The Bible club staff is small, composed of a teacher, a host, and a prayer warrior, along with neighborhood children. The club meets for one hour each week or for a week during school vacation(s) at the home of the neighborhood host. A clear Gospel message is presented at each meeting, along with a Bible lesson, memory verse, review activities, and other fun activities such as crafts, games, etc.

- *Sidewalk Sunday School.* Sidewalk Sunday School takes a relevant, creative Sunday school ministry to the community. The weekly Bible teaching sessions are held in parks, community centers, and parking lots in neighborhoods where children are negatively impacted by poverty, drugs, and gangs.

The Sidewalk Sunday School program is fast-paced, interactive and based on Bible truth. Children learn memory verses and Bible truths through games, object lessons, music, drama, and other creative teaching techniques.

Sidewalk Sunday school builds relationships with families and others in the community through weekly visitation.

Seasonal Outreach Strategies

- *Camps.* Camps meet for several days at a location outside local church and community. Children are assigned group leaders according to age. These group leaders move through activities throughout the day with their assigned children. Activities include: daily devotion, large group meeting where children are encouraged to worship and the gospel is presented, a variety of activities including sports, games, crafts.
- *Day Camps.* During school vacations day camps can be held that focus on developing a particular interest or skill—sports, music, computer, language, etc. The camp provides instruction, learning activities, and a devotional time.
- *Seasonal Events.* These are usually large group events that provide high impact programming including a presentation of the Gospel. Children participate in activities that celebrate the particular event such as Easter, Christmas, Back-to-School, etc.
- *Vacation Bible School.* Vacation Bible School is a program that focuses on evangelism and discipleship. The schedule is flexible. It can be five days, ten days, or once a week for several months. The program can be held during school vacation.

Vacation Bible School can be held in the church, in a community center, or in a nearby park. It requires extensive programming and a team of teachers and other volunteers.

What are other ways to reach out to children in your community?

(Encourage discussion of the following questions. Let this time of discussion be a springboard to explore creative and unique ways to effectively reach and evangelize unchurched children and their families.)

- How could the needs of families and children be opportunities for the development of outreach ministries?
- What programs does the local church already offer that could be focused toward reaching out to unchurched children?
- Could outreach ministries be developed that target the schools?
- Could skill development programs (sports, creative arts, crafts) be implemented that would reach children outside the church?