



Little Lambs to Master Guide

Seeing the Forest and the Trees

My childhood church experience

As you consider the answers to these questions from your own personal experience, also ask yourself, “How would the children under my care respond to these same questions?” If you did not attend church as a child, then answer them from the viewpoint of your own early walk in faith.

1. I grew up attending religious services on a weekly basis. T F
2. In general that experience was positive. T F
Explain, either way _____
3. As a child, I enjoyed Sabbath (or Sunday) School. T F
4. On average, my class had ___ members attending each week.
5. On average, the age range in my classes were ___ years.
6. On average, each class had ___ staff members there each week.
7. In a word or phrase, I would describe the physical environment of my classes as _____.
8. As a child, under 12, I was blessed by most church services. T F
9. As a teen, I was blessed by most church services. T F
10. As a child, my favorite part of the service was _____
11. As a child, I participated in a Pathfinder Club. T F
12. In general that experience was positive. T F
Explain, either way _____
13. As a child, I participated in an Adventurer Club. T F
14. In general that experience was positive. T F
Explain, either way _____
15. For most of my childhood, I attended a Christian school. T F
16. In general that experience was positive. T F
Explain, either way _____
17. As a child, I felt involved with my church. T F
18. As a child, I felt loved and cared for by my church. T F
19. My childhood church intentionally introduced Christ to me. T F
20. My childhood church invited me to participate up front. T F
21. My childhood church encouraged me to think and explore. T F
22. My childhood church encouraged me to share my faith. T F

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he was indignant. He said to them “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

—Mark 10:13-26 NIV

Points to Ponder

If the Adventist Church in America had kept its own children over the last 150 years, there would now be nine million Adventists in North America.

—NAD Report, 1999

Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. THEN He bade them, “Follow Me.”

—Ministry of Healing, p. 143

Everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.

—Luke 6:40

Ministry is developed around relationships. If you don’t have the relationship, you don’t do the ministry.

—Ron Whitehead

The nurture we give in Sabbath School can be undone if the children have to turn to secular places for socialization, or if the youth program in the church becomes defunct.

—Barbara Manspeaker

Club ministry time line

- 1879 First recorded SDA young people's missionary society.
- 1907 Missionary Volunteer Societies organized
- 1909 Junior MV Societies organized (forerunner of Pathfinders)
- 1922 JMV (now AJY) Progressive Classes introduced - Friend, Companion, Comrade (now Guide) and Master Comrade (now Master Guide)
- 1926 First junior camp held in USA (Town Line Lake, Michigan)
- 1927 Local club started by John McKim in Anaheim, California. Called it the Pathfinder club after explorer John Fremont. This was the first conference sponsored Pathfinder Club. Guy Mann was the Southeastern California Conference Youth director.
- 1928 First 16 Honors introduced
- 1930 Pre-JMV/AJY classes developed: Busy Bee, Sunbeam, Builder, and Helping Hand
- Second conference sponsored Pathfinder Club, under Guy Mann, directors Lester Martin and Ione Martin. Meetings held at the home of Theron and Ethel Johnston in Santa Ana, CA
- 1946 Third Southeastern California Pathfinder Club under the direction of Francis Hunt. Elder John H. Hancock was the Youth Director. This club is still operating
- Pathfinder Club emblem designed by John H. Hancock
- 1948 First area pathfinder coordinators appointed by Elder Henry T. Bergh in Central California Conference.
- 1949 Henry Bergh writes Pathfinder song
- 1950 General Conference officials authorizes establishment of JMV Pathfinder Clubs for world field
- Explorer class added
- 1951 First Pathfinder Fair, Dinuba, California
- Master Comrade changed to Master Guide.
- Comrade changed to Guide.
- 1952 Halloween can collecting idea developed in Wisconsin
- 1953 First Pathfinder Camporee held in the Atlantic Union. Southern New England Conference at Camp Winnekeag, October 9-11.
- 1954 Second Pathfinder Camporee held in Southeastern California Conference at May 7-9 held at JMV Pathfinder Camp, Idyllwild, California
- 1960 First Union Camporee, Lone Pine, CA
- 1965 Eager Beaver program instituted

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What venues do we use to reach children?

The Adventist churches uses many venues to connect with and evangelize it's own children, as well as others. These include, but are not limited to: AY Society, Baptismal Class, Children's Choir, Children's Church, Children's Evangelistic Meetings, Children's Story, Mentoring, FLAG Camp, Short-term Mission Trips, Summer Camp, and Vacation Bible School.

However, there are the primary venues: Schools, Sabbath schools, and Club ministries. There are currently two club programs with a third under development. If our children are not enrolled in church school, club ministry becomes the number one hourly contact with the children.

The Adventurer Club provides a place for the family to bond, while jointly exploring the world God has created.

The Pathfinder Club provides a safe place for young people to begin their journey to independence, under the supervision of caring Christian mentors.

The Ambassador Club, provides a safe community where young adults can experience making a difference for Christ. It will encourage peer bonding under the advice and counsel of older adults.

Age	Grade	SS	Club
0		B _____	
1		B _____	
2		B _____	
3		K _____	
4		K _____	L _____
5		K _____	E _____
6		P _____	B _____
7		P _____	S _____
8		P _____	B _____
9		P _____	H _____
10		J _____	F _____
11		J _____	C _____
12		E _____	E _____
13		E _____	R _____
14		Y _____	V _____
15		Y _____	P _____
16		Y _____	N _____
17		Y _____	G _____
18		Y _____ A _____	? _____
19		Y _____ A _____	? _____
20		Y _____ A _____	? _____
21		Y _____ A _____	? _____

Where they are, and what they need

Discuss in a small group, your experience, feelings, and beliefs about issue at hand.

1. What are the basic needs of children?

2. How can a non-parent adult help provide for those needs?

3. What are the challenges that children today face?

4. How are these different from your childhood?

5. Describe the spiritual attitude and aptitude of the middle-school-aged children you deal with.

6. Describe the spiritual growth and level of the middle-school-aged children you deal with.

7. Describe the level of outdoor/nature experience of the middle-school-aged children you deal with. How much time do they spend outside in non-structured play?

8. Describe the level of cultural experience of the middle-school-aged children you deal with. Have they traveled? Are they willing to try new things? Are they willing to see a situation through someone else's eyes?

9. What do the children look forward to the most?

Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

—MARK 16:15

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

—MATTHEW 19:14 NIV

It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

—LUKE 17:2 KJV

It is estimated that over 400,000 young people are members of gangs. I recently interviewed several dozen gang members from both the east and west coasts, trying to gain more insight into the gang mentality. I was shocked to discover that one thing they all have in common is the expectation of ending up in jail or the grave by the age of twenty as a result of their gang activity. It is scary to think that these young people have committed themselves completely to a way of life that promises them only premature death or a jail sentence. This tells me that we Christians should not be afraid to confront kids with the high cost of following Jesus. Gangs offer the kind of love, acceptance, and empowerment that kids will die for. The Gospel offers a relationship with the One who died in their place so that they can have the love, acceptance, and empowerment they are craving. If only we could reach these kids, to help them understand that they can commit themselves to a Person who offers them life instead of death!

—WAYNE RICE IN
ONE KID AT A TIME

