

Your Home, a Lighthouse

**Host a Summer
Countdown Club with
Gospel Ministries To
Children**



July 1999

What is a Summer Countdown Club?

A Countdown Club is a meeting for a group of school-age children (K-6) that meets for one hour a day for a five days to learn about the Lord Jesus Christ. These clubs are held in the neighborhood homes of respected Christian families, public schools, or apartment complexes, and are taught by Summer Missionaries who have completed our Summer Missionary Training School.

Aims of the Countdown Club

- To lead unsaved children to Christ.
- To edify Christian children in Christ.
- To channel unchurched children into Bible-teaching churches.
- To establish contact with neighborhood families through the children that attend club.
- To share the Gospel with these neighborhood families as the opportunity arises.

First Steps in Hosting a Club

- Decide on the best day and time. Pocono area clubs for this year will be held in the two weeks between July 12-23. You will want to have the club on a day of the week that has the least conflicts with other activities in the neighborhood.
- Contact your Pastor or church coordinator (if you have one), expressing your interest in hosting a club.
- The pastor/coordinator should contact the GMTC missionary director. Your GMTC director is equipped to help you get started.

- Spend much time in prayer as you prepare to start your club. Ask your family, friends and church to pray specifically for you and the children. Only that which is accomplished by the Holy Spirit will last for eternity!

What Do I Need to Do?

You are not expected to do any of the teaching of the club. Your biggest responsibility is to invite the children to attend. There are many different ways that you can invite children to your club. You may go door to door, make phone contacts, or invite children any way you can. If you have children, you may ask them to help you. Our GMTC Office can provide you with club invitations if you like. As you invite children, let parents know they are welcome to visit.

Countdown Club Hour

A well-planned program is a must for good discipline, successful teaching, and best results in your Countdown Club. GMTC follows a suggested lesson cycle with correlated songs, memory verses, and supplementary stories designed to lead children to Christ and lead them through a well-organized study of the Bible. Each meeting of the club will last for approximately one hour and generally consists of the following:

- Enthusiastic singing! Children love gospel choruses and motion songs that have a message and are correlated with your lessons.

- **Memory Work!** You will use visualized memory verse packets that are correlated with your teaching program.
- **Exciting Bible Lesson!** Every lesson is Christ-centered and presents the message of salvation and a challenge for Christian growth. Each lesson is attractively visualized.
- **Missionary Emphasis!** Using true missionary stories and information from real live missionaries, children are encouraged to understand and be involved in the Great Commission!
- **Review Games!** Actual games loaded with fun are used to review information previously taught. Children love them!
- **Counseling!** Unsaved children are given an opportunity to respond to the gospel and those who respond are carefully and gently counseled.
- **Snack Time!** The host/hostess provides a snack for participating children after the club.

How do Countdown Clubs Provide a Positive Impact on the Local Church?

- Open doors into unchurched families.
- Feed the Sunday School and other children's programs;
- Build enthusiasm and motivation for church members to be a witness in their neighborhoods.
- Increase the burden of Christians for the lost.
- Give church members an opportunity to see children come to Christ through their ministry.

- Club training and experience helps church members to be more effective with their ministry to children within the congregation.
- Club teaching helps supplement Bible teaching for churched children.

Extra Ideas for Hosting a Club

Some Bible Club hosts/hostesses want to expand on their club experience, or give children from their club a reminder of their time together. Listed below are just some example ideas for enhancing your outreach; but remember, in agreeing to host a club you are not obliged to do any of these.

- If you enjoy crafts, invite the children to stay after club and make a craft, perhaps putting one of the Bible memory verses on it as a souvenir.
- Perhaps your home or club location has a swimming pool. What a great way to end the club or final day by inviting the kids to stay afterwards for a pool party!
- The week after your program ends, send a postcard thanking the child for attending the club, and possibly letting them know of children's programs in your church.

Feel free to be creative with any of your own ideas. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the GMTTC Director.

Gospel Ministries to Children
Greater Pocono Area

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