

A RETREAT FOR CHILDREN'S LEADERS

SPARK 2023



LORD, MAKE ME
AN INSTRUMENT

“ WE ARE ONE TEAM FROM DIFFERENT CITIES AND DIFFERENT DISTRICTS BUT ALL CALLED TO SERVE GOD, CHILDREN, AND THEIR FAMILIES. ”



We are so glad that you are at SPARK 2023! Wow...this has been a year of much change in the life of our family and of Equip to Engage! It seems that God often asks his people to step without knowing what they are stepping on, and then we get the details. This has been true for us each step of the journey. Candice and I are excited about these new days for Equip to Engage and we are happy you are part of it. We know you will enjoy being with and getting to know Beth, the new SPARK Director, and her husband, Jeff! You can learn a little about Beth below.

Our prayer for you this weekend is that you will find time to rest and relax and that you go home recharged and ready to do what God has called you to do. We truly do believe what the statement says above...we are one team from different cities and on different district, but all called to serve God, children, and their families! Our hope is that this weekend you are reminded of this, that you reconnect with friends, and that you make some new ones as we sow into one another!

Serving together,
Trey and Candice Brooks



Beth Bidle-Rush has almost three decades of experience ministering and discipling children and their families. Beth is passionate about sharing God's Word with children of all ages (0-109). She is an Ordained Elder, a graduate of Olivet Nazarene University and Nazarene Theological Seminary. She is working on a doctorate at Trevecca Nazarene University. Currently, she serves as the North/East Texas Children's Ministries District Director and as SPARK Director. Her career as a Children's Pastor extends from Michigan to Texas (and several states in between), directing Children's Camps, speaking at Children's Camps, and leading workshops. Beth is excited about her new position with Equip to Engage to encourage, equip, and support the local children's leadership. In her free moments, Beth enjoys spending time with her husband, Jeff, laughing and telling stories, playing board games, and is an ice cream connoisseur.

RETREAT SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

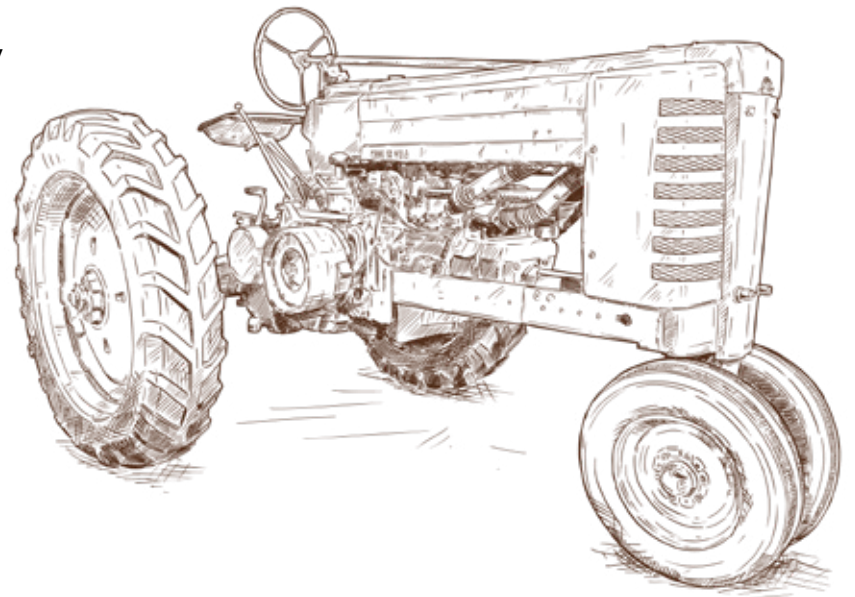
- 3:00** - Onsite Registration
- 6:00** - Dinner (Dining Hall)
- 7:00** - Down on the Farm Party (Cole Room)
- 9:00** - Fellowship

FRIDAY

- 8:00** - Breakfast (Dining Hall)
- 9:00** - Worship Session 1 (Cole Room)
- 10:30** - Breakout Session 1
Brick by Brick: Constructing a Theological Mind // Craig Shepperd
- 12:00** - Lunch (Dining Hall)
- 1:00** - Breakout Session 2
It's Discipline: Obstacle or Opportunity // Kayla Smith
- 2:30** - Breakout Session 3
Helping Children // Laura Meadow
- 4:00** - Free Time
- 6:00** - Dinner (Dining Hall)
- 7:00** - Team Building (Cole Room)
- 9:00** - Fellowship

SATURDAY

- 8:00** - Breakfast (Dining Hall)
- 8:45** - Breakout Session 4
Leading into the Future // Beth Bidle Rush
- 10:15** - Breakout Session 5
Classroom Management // Bethany Tibbs
- 11:30** - Worship Session 2 (Cole Room)
- 1:00** - Lunch (Dining Hall)
- 1:30** - See you next year!!



PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

**LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE
WHERE THERE IS HATRED, LET ME SOW LOVE;
WHERE THERE IS INJURY, PARDON;
WHERE THERE IS DOUBT, FAITH;
WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, HOPE;
WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS, LIGHT;
AND WHERE THERE IS SADNESS, JOY.**

**O DIVINE MASTER,
GRANT THAT I MAY NOT SO MUCH SEEK
TO BE CONSOLED AS TO CONSOLE;
TO BE UNDERSTOOD, AS TO UNDERSTAND;
TO BE LOVED, AS TO LOVE;
FOR IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE RECEIVE,
IT IS IN PARDONING THAT WE ARE PARDONED,
AND IT IS IN DYING THAT WE ARE BORN
TO ETERNAL LIFE.
AMEN.**



**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
@EQUIPTOENGAGE**

November 6-8, 2023

**Mustang Church of the
Nazarene**

Mustang, OK

**More Information, visit
equiptoengage.org/story**

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ENGAGE**

BRICK BY BRICK: CONSTRUCTING A THEOLOGICAL MIND

Craig Shepperd

In this session, we will look at four core theological commitments. These four commitments will help us think through the teaching and ministry that occurs with our children and create and strengthen some methods of practicing the Christian life together.

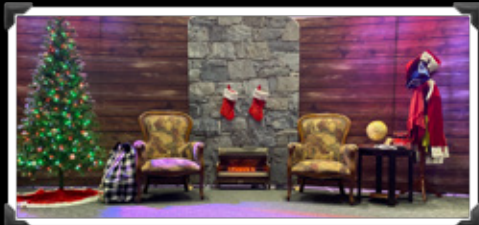
IT'S DISCIPLINE: OBSTACLE OR OPPORTUNITY

Kayla Smith

Traditional approaches to discipline view misbehavior as an obstacle to ministry. God has important work to do, but now it can't happen because Dylan is distracting the group. But did you know that misbehavior can actually help your ministry? Module 2 of the Reach Hurting Kids Workshop teaches your team how to use discipline problems as an opportunity to create a more supportive ministry environment, strengthen relationships, and minister to those hurting kids who express their pain through their behavior.



THE JOURNEY FROM Saint TO Santa



Available
December 1 - 23, 2023

A journey of the historical Saint Nicholas as he transforms through centuries of legend and folklore into today's Santa Claus. An interactive event for all ages that shares about Saint Nicholas' dedication to God, generosity, and love for others, and that we can be inspired to do the same.

Equip to Engage can help...

Gingerbread BASH

Celebrating the birth
of baby Jesus

...you host a Gingerbread Bash



Second SPARK Day

On the **Second Day** of camp...wear your favorite **SPARK** shirt!
Take a picture and tag it on social media as #seconddaySPARKday!



NazaZoom

January, March, September, November

Coaching for Children's Leaders

January, October

Equipping Conversation

February, April, August, October

District Children's Director

January, March, May, September, November

NazaZoom, Equipping Conversations, & District Children's Director - FREE

Equip to Engage Regional Connectors



Southeast - Shaun Stevenson
AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN

North Central - Mary Sims
IA, IL, KS, MN, MO, ND, NE, SD, WI

South Central - Diane Solberg
AR, LA, OK, TX

Northeast - Nathan McCarthy
CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, VT, WV

West - TBD
AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY

North - Sheri Lynne Martin
AB, BC, MB, NB, NS, NL, ON, PE, QC, SK, YT

East Central - Evan Offutt Boesiger
IN, MI, OH

Nazarene Kidmin Meet-Ups

Hosted by Equip to Engage



D6 Conference

April 10-12, 2023 | Orlando, FL
d6conference.com

Child Discipleship Forum

September 21-22, 2023 | Nashville, TN
childdiscipleshipforum.com

The KidzMatter Conference

September 12-14, 2023 | Nashville, TN
thekidzmatterconference.com

Children's Pastors Conference

January 9-11, 2024 | Orlando, FL
childrenspastorsconference.com

BREAKOUT SESSION 3

HELPING CHILDREN

Laura Meadow

We recognize that sometimes children need help processing their emotions. Through this session we will look at some practical ways to “get kids talking” and how to proceed with that process.

LEADING INTO THE FUTURE

Beth Bidle Rush

In a post-Christian world, how do we effectively reach kids and their families to impact today and prepare them for the future? In this session, we will explore how we can make a difference in the lives of children, their families, and their community through discipleship to build a solid foundation for the future.



BREAKOUT SESSION 4





GA Kids

An intentional ministry for kids and families...includes age-specific services for early childhood and elementary, an intergenerational service, and engaging opportunities for the entire family to connect with the Global Nazarene Family.

June 9-11, 2023 in Indianapolis, IN

Register your family at ga2023.nazarene.org

There are many volunteer opportunities available.
For more information, email trey@equiptoengage.org.



CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

Bethany Tibbs

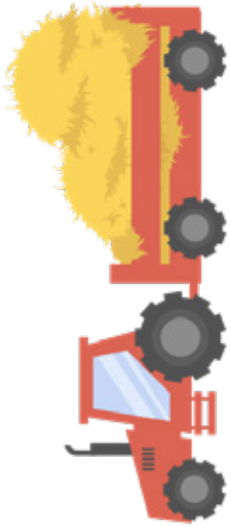
This session will focus on classroom management with an emphasis on including a variety of cultures including: homeschool, ESL, special needs and more!



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jason Caddy - Lead Pastor
Columbia Grace
Church of the Nazarene

Jason Caddy has been a pastor for twenty-eight years, including seven years of staff ministry, and currently serves Columbia Grace Church of the Nazarene. He loves to pour into pastors and churches with the realization that we are God's plan for bringing hope and wholeness to the world. He and Tina have been married for twenty-nine years. They have four kids and one daughter in law. Jason loves Mexican food, sports of all types and being around his family!



BREAKOUT SPEAKERS



LAURA MEADOW
LMFT

Connect Counseling Center
laurameadow@gmail.com



KAYLA SMITH
Co-Creator of Whole Child Ministries

Trauma Informed Children's Ministry
pastorkaylasmith@gmail.com



BETH BIDLE RUSH
SPARK Director

Equip to Engage
beth@equiptoengage.org



BETHANY TIBBS
Children's Pastor

Nashville First Nazarene
btibbs@nfcn.org



CRIAG SHEPPERD
Associate Professor of Youth and Family Ministry

Trevecca Nazarene University
cshepperd@trevecca.edu

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

Arizona
Toni Henry
Canada West
Sheri Lynne Martin
Eastern Michigan
Linda Loudermilk
Florida
Missy Segota
Georgia
Mike Smith
Indianapolis
Jill Farmer
Intermountain
Connie Blastock
Louisiana
David Craig
Michigan
Kelly Downs
MidSouth
Shaun Stevenson
North Arkansas
Elizabeth Karlowski
North/East Texas
Beth Bidle Rush
Northeast Indiana
Cortney Coombs
Northwest
Cindy Reynolds
Northwest Indiana
Shane Guldi
Northwest Ohio
Britni Dooley
Northwest Oklahoma
Dorothy Whipp
Oregon Pacific
Becca Notbohm
Pittsburg
Tonya Hockenberry
Sacramento
Cathy Scharf
South Texas
Tracey Gosnell
Southern Florida
Robin Campbell
Southwest Oklahoma
Kym Drabenstot
West Texas
Jennifer Sommers

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Louisiana
Michigan
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North Arkansas
North/East Texas
Northeast Indiana
Northwest
Northwest Indiana
Northwest Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon Pacific
Pittsburg
Sacramento
South Texas
Southern Florida
Southwest Oklahoma
West Texas

SPECIAL THANKS

1230Kids
Adrian Camp
Arrowhead Camp
Bible Story Maps
Easy Risers
D6 Family
David C. Cook
Doorpost Songs
FourFiveSix
Go! Curriculum
GoodKind
High Voltage Kids Ministry
Kellogg Springs Camp
Kidmin Creatives
Lake Placid Camp
Lexham Press
Pinerock Camp
Scripture Union
Shiloh Park Retreat Center
StorySticks
Yancy Ministries
Wesley Seminary

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