



& PARK 2024

A RETREAT FOR CHILDREN'S LEADERS

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 2024! 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 districts, 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 + 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
- 7:00** - Ugly Sweater Party
- 8:30** - Fellowship

FRIDAY

- 7:00** - Coffee + Fellowship
- 8:00** - Breakfast
- 9:00** - Worship
- 10:30** - Breakout Session 1
- 12:00** - Lunch
- 1:00** - Breakout Session 2
- 2:30** - Breakout Session 3
- 4:00** - Free Time
- 6:00** - Dinner
- 7:00** - Team Building
- 8:30** - Fellowship

SATURDAY

- 7:00** - Coffee + Fellowship
- 8:00** - Breakfast
- 8:45** - Breakout Session 4
- 10:00** - Breakout Session 5
- 11:15** - Worship
- 12:30** - Lunch
- 1:00** - See You Next Year!



LUKE 2:1-20

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) **And everyone went to their own town to register.**

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. **He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.** While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, **and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.**

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. **An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL FOR KIDS



PDF VERSION



BREAKOUT SESSION 1

CHILDREN'S BIBLE QUIZZING | MEETING ROOM 1

Alfa Renegar

Children's Bible Quiz (CBQ) is a Bible study for school-aged children, 1st grade - 6th grade. This curriculum can be used for Sunday School, Wednesday night kids' programming, Children's Church, and can participate in CBQ meets with the district.



THE WHY AND HOW OF SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRIES | MEETING ROOM 2

Kim Heard

Sharing from personal experience WHY every church needs to embrace Special Needs Families and some simple steps to building that ministry.



YOU ARE A ROCK, BUT NOT AN ISLAND - THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY IN MINISTRY | MEETING ROOM 1

Carolyn Novak

Ministry can be a lonely place, but it doesn't have to be. Genesis 1:26 tells us that we are created in the image of God, we are created in the image of community. Throughout scripture, God gives guidelines and direction for how we are to do ministry in the context of community. After all, how can we fulfill the "one another" commands if we are isolated? This breakout session will provide an opportunity to know that you are not alone in your frustration, and discuss ways to surround yourself with others who can support and encourage you as you strive to be all God has called you to be. There is no "one-size-fits-all" solution, but the community you need is out there and you are invited.



BREAKOUT SESSION 2

GO!

JOIN THE STORY



THE CHRONOLOGICAL CHILDREN'S CHURCH CURRICULUM
THAT GETS KIDS OUT OF THEIR SEATS AND INTO THE
STORYTELLING ACTION

THE JOURNEY FROM

Saint TO *Santa*



BREAKOUT SESSION 3

SELF-CARE IN MINISTRY | MEETING ROOM 1

Nico Jaimes

How can we best take care of ourselves as we are in ministry full-time/part-time? The role of the pastor/director requires a lot of spiritual/emotional/mental energy. It can feel as if we are "on" all the time. We will talk about how to best set boundaries to care for ourselves, our families, and our ministries.



ENVISIONING THE FUTURE | MEETING ROOM 1

Beth Bidle Rush

Before we know it the children in our churches will be the leaders tomorrow. What can the Body of Christ do to help the children and their families establish a firm foundation in Christ to weather a changing culture? Together we will explore how to make an investment in the future we may never see but have a lasting impact for generations to come.



BREAKOUT SESSION 4

BREAKOUT SESSION 5

TEACHING IN THE CHURCH | MEETING ROOM 1

Rick Kiper

How can we maximize the effectiveness of teaching children in the church? First, we need to realize that teaching is actually a form of selling – it’s all about the “packaging” and the “pitch.” Second, we need to consider how to customize our approach to the specific needs of children. Join Dr. Rick Kiper, a lifelong teacher and NDI Director at the Tallahassee Church of the Nazarene, as we explore how to enhance our teaching strategies through a process called Instructional Systems Design.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

KEN BROWN

Ken Brown is a public speaker who has spoken in churches and schools. Additionally, he has worked with businesses and universities conducting leadership training, personal development training, consulting, and mentoring. He graduated from Evangel University and met his wife Lezlie while attending there. In 2003, he and his wife started a healthcare company and it grew successfully. However, God has now called him to a different career path of speaking and writing on a full-time basis. Ken and Lezlie have been married for over 30 years and have two adult children, Aryanna and Bryce.

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

Missy Humber

Pittsburgh

Tonya Hockenberry

Sacramento

Cathy Scharf

South Texas

Tracey Gosnell

Southern Florida

Robin Campbell

Southwest Oklahoma

Kym Drabenstot

West Texas

Jennifer Sommers

DISTRICT PARTNERS

Arizona

Canada West

Eastern Michigan

Florida

Georgia

Indianapolis

Intermountain

Louisiana

Michigan

MidSouth

North Arkansas

North/East Texas

Northeast Indiana

Northwest

Northwest Indiana

Northwest Ohio

Northwest Oklahoma

Oregon Pacific

Pittsburgh

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

Lake Placid Camp

Lexham Press

Pinerock Camp

Scripture Union

Shiloh Park Retreat Center

StorySticks

The KidMin Creatives

Yancy Ministries

Wesley Seminary



The background is a complex, multi-colored knit pattern. It features repeating geometric and floral motifs in shades of red, orange, yellow, white, and teal. A small, realistic-looking Santa hat with a white pom-pom is positioned on the left side, partially overlapping the text.

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