

KC Principle #1: Prioritize Safety

 www.pursuegod.org/kc-principle-1-prioritize-safety/

Every family should have full confidence that we provide a secure and safe environment for their children to learn about Jesus. That's why our first KC principle is: **prioritize safety**.

Safety starts with a good first impression

A family's first impressions will be formed as they walk to the door of the classroom. They will notice if there is organization and structure in the class or if kids are out of control. Greeting families as they enter is also very important to that first impression. For the regular attenders, it's a great way to greet kids by name. For guests, this can be a helpful transition to invite new kids to come be a part of the fun.

Safety is based on the policies and procedures

You need to have clear policies and procedures for Kids Church. They should be posted in every room and should be a part of any training you do for new volunteers. The policies and procedures are for the protection of everyone—children and volunteers. It isn't enough to just have policies, you need to enforce them in every class and with every volunteer.

Safety frees volunteers to serve with confidence

Volunteers will serve with more confidence when they know what is expected of them. You don't want volunteers to feel like they have to figure things out for themselves. You want them to know exactly what's expected of them and exactly how to do it. Also, volunteers who understand the policies and procedures will have better classroom management.

Discussion Questions:

1. *Watch the video together or invite someone to summarize the topic.*
2. *What is your initial reaction to this video? Do you disagree with any of it? What jumped out at you?*
3. *What experiences (good and bad) have you had with churches or Kids Church volunteers? What things did you notice that excited you or turned you off?*
4. *What are some conclusions parents might draw if they see a messy, disorganized classroom? What are they likely to think about a structured and clean classroom?*
5. *Why are policies important for safety in a church setting?*
6. *Why is it important to have good classroom management?*
7. *Write a personal action step based on this conversation.*

Kids Church Principle #2: Lead with Energy

 www.pursuegod.org/kids-church-principle-2-lead-with-energy/

Kids learn best in an environment that's fun and engaging. Every Kids Church leader and volunteer should make a commitment to the second principle for Kids Church: **Lead with energy**.

The entire experience should be fun.

It starts with a smile. Volunteers should be full of energy as they engage with kids. If the volunteers are flat and boring, so will the kids. You should model for the kids the right attitude toward church- that it's always fun to learn about Jesus!

Model a heart of worship.

Don't be afraid to sing with enthusiasm. Model for kids that worshipping God is a privilege and we should give our whole heart to it. If you don't participate in worship, the kids won't either. They will follow your lead.

Come prepared every week.

You can't lead with energy and excitement if you have no idea what the lesson is about. Make sure to prepare each week's lesson ahead of time. Read through the lesson and have some of your own life examples to share when appropriate. Lack of preparation will greatly affect the quality of the experience for kids. The curriculum is easy to use and easy to follow. Do your part by coming prepared and ready to lead.

Discussion Questions:

1. *What was your favorite part of the video? What is one thing you learned from the video?*
2. *Describe the best teacher you ever had. What made them great? Describe the worst teacher you ever had. What made them terrible?*
3. *What are some ways to engage with the kids in an energetic, fun way?*
4. *What might you be communicating to kids if you don't participate in worship?*
5. *What happens when teachers aren't prepared to teach? Share some helpful tips for preparing your lesson each week.*
6. *How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?*

Kids Church Principle #3: Partner with Parents

 www.pursuegod.org/kids-church-principle-3-partner-with-parents/

The Kids Church time is designed to spark a conversation that will continue at home. The ultimate goal is to get families talking about what they learned throughout the week. Kids Church volunteers are crucial to making this happen and why they need to understand the third principle: **Partner with parents**.

Church just gets the conversation started

Most of the KC curriculum is integrated with what the sermons are for adults, it's just the kids edition. Here's the goal: we want families to talk more at home. If everyone is learning the same thing, it's much easier for parents to follow up with their kids at home.

Encourage families to use the Family guide

A great way to partner with parents is to point them to the weekly kid and parent guide they can use at home. They can go online and watch the kid's video for the week and answer the questions together. There are also bonus verses for each week along with the memory verse.

The goal: Get more of God's truth in the lives of families

You can't survive by just eating one meal a week. It's the same thing in your spiritual lives. You can't grow in your relationship with God if you only think about Him once a week at church. Families need to bring God into their lives, throughout the week. Using pursueGOD resources can help them to accomplish that.

Discussion Questions:

1. *What was your favorite part of the video? What is one thing you learned from the video?*
2. *Who had the greatest influence in your spiritual development?*
3. *Why is it important to get parents more involved?*
4. *Why is it important to get families talking about God's word at home?*
5. *What are some ways you can encourage families to use the kid and parent guide at home?*
6. *How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?*