

Making Wonder Time™ Special

“A child is a person who is going to carry on what you have started. He will assume control of your cities, states and nations. He is going to move in and take over your churches, schools, universities and corporations. The fate of humanity is in his hands.

—Abraham Lincoln

What Is Wonder Time™?

Wonder Time™ is a 5-10 minute segment of the *Good News Club®* (*GNC™*) dedicated to motivating the children to begin and continue their daily quiet time with God using the *60-Day Wonder Devotional Books* (WDB) as a foundation.

Why Wonder Time?

- ☞ A person’s spiritual condition is largely established during childhood.
- ☞ *Wonder Time* adds long-term value to the *Good News Club* experience.

Distributing the Devotional Books

- When children come to the *GNC* for the third time they should be given a *GNC* membership card and a WDB, making them “official” members of the club. (This applies to both saved and unsaved children.)
- Children in each club should begin with the same book and progress together through the *GNC* year.
- Give preschoolers the devotional books too. Encourage parents or older siblings to help them.
- Give the children all six WDBs from one set per year. (The fifth and sixth books can be given at the end of the *GNC* year.)

Introducing the Quiet Time Concept

- Prepare the children in advance. Talk about the Bible and how they can find books, chapters and verses.

- In your first *Wonder Time* session, have the children open their devotional books to the instructions page and read together about how to have a quiet time:
 - Stop** – Put away all distractions.
 - Sit** – Find a quiet place to be alone with God.
 - Read** – Look up the verses listed in the devotional book and let God speak to you from His Word.
 - Think** – Think about what you have read and write answers to the questions in the devotional book.
 - Pray** – Ask God to help you put the truth you have read into practice.
- Have the children turn to the first devotional and work through the steps together as a model. (This may take 12-15 minutes.) If possible, divide the club into smaller groups for this activity.
- Whenever possible extend the club time to 75 minutes to incorporate this first *Wonder Time*.

Demonstration # 1

As you hear the demonstration of a first time *Wonder Time*, observe the following:

- ☞ Notice how this concept is introduced.
- ☞ Notice how the teacher uses the devotional books as a model to help the children to know how to do their own quiet time.

After the demonstration:

- ☞ You can see from this example that it is so important to spend some time helping these children to understand how to have their quiet time with God.

How Do You Maintain Interest?

After the first (12-15 min.) session when you introduce the devotional books, subsequent *Wonder Time* sessions can be done in 3-5 minutes.

- Use the theme song “God Wants to Spend Time with Just You” as a signal that *Wonder Time* is about to begin.

- Check the children's progress in their devotional books each week.
- Occasionally let various children share a testimony about what God is teaching them through their devotional time.
- Share something God taught you in your own quiet time.
- Focus the children's attention on something to look for or a question to answer in their devotionals during the week ahead.
- Plan some fun incentives to keep the children interested and excited.
 1. Put a sticker (or use a stamp or draw a smiley face) on each page that a child completes in his book.
 2. Recognize all who do even one page of their devotional book for the week.
 3. Have a special drawing each week among those who complete all seven pages. Give away a small prize (bookmark, candy, etc.).
 4. Have a contest in which the children can earn team tickets for each devotional they complete for the week. Tickets go into appropriate team bags. At the end of 60 days, tickets are counted and first, second and third place winning teams are announced. A new contest can begin with each new book.

Demonstration #2

As you hear the demonstration of an on-going *Wonder Time*, observe the following:

- ☞ Listen for how the teacher recognizes those children who have been doing their quiet time.

- ☞ Notice how the teacher motivates the children to have their devotional time in the week ahead.

After the demonstration:

- ☞ In just a few minutes, the teacher was able to affirm those children who were having a regular quiet time. She was also able to give those clubbers something to focus on in the week ahead.

- Do special teaching occasionally to deepen the children's understanding of the value of having a quiet time with God.
 1. Use lessons from *Teach Kids!*TM magazine. The July/August 2005 issue has the story, "Katrina's Quest," showing the value of a quiet time in a child's life.
 2. Use songs to deepen your teaching by explaining the words and concepts. Songs to use might include "God Wants to Spend Time with Just You," "Three Questions" and "Yes I Can."
 3. Use the *Children's Ministry Resource Bible*, pages 1528-1530. Share one segment each week.
- Always end your clubs with a challenge to remind and motivate the children to continue having their quiet time using the WDB during the week.
- Share your passion about having a quiet time with God. Make *Wonder Time* an exciting part of the club program!

Teaching Aids to Help You with *Wonder Time*

1. Visualized songs (CEF Press[®]) www.cefpres.com
 - "Three Questions"
 - "God Wants to Spend Time with Just You"
2. Discipleship lessons (CEF Press)
 - *Big Questions about Prayer*
3. Wonder products (CEF Press)
 - *The Wonder Devotional Book Early Reader*
 - *The Wonder Devotional Books 1 and 2*
 - *The 60-Day Wonder Devotional Books*
4. *Teach Kids!*[®] magazine www.teachkidsmag.com
 - Many ideas and helps for teaching
5. *Children's Ministry Resource Bible* (CEF Press)
 - Full-page articles
 - "Talking with God" and "The Prayer Hand"
(pp. 1498-1499)
 - "Teaching Children to Have a Quiet Time"
(pp. 1528-1530)