

The Kids Church COOKBOOK

Prepared by:
KIDology

Your complete guide to cookin' up a service the kids are gonna love!

Part One: Called to Be a Chef of God's Word

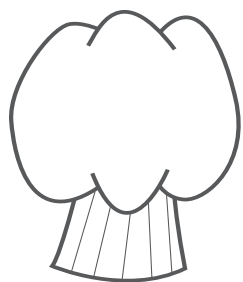
INGREDIENTS

Bible Media
Puppets Gospel
Object Lessons
Creativity Illusions
Skits Humor



By Karl Bastian

Author of the Kidology Handbook



Chapter One :

Called to be a Chef of God's Word

Why do we enjoy food so much? Seriously! At a practical level, food is simply fuel for our bodies. Like gasoline to a car, we ought to be able to simply eat what we need three times a day and get on with life. And yet, countless hours and dollars are spent on marketing food, developing recipes, and creating enjoyable environments in which to eat. Of course, a respected occupation is that of the Chef. What does a Chef do? He studies food so he can prepare the best possible meal. She knows her patrons so she can present the food in a way that is pleasing to the eyes and nose as well as to the taste. A Chef transforms food from fuel into an enjoyable experience that can be savored and relished in the hope that those who dine will be back for more.

Worth Repeating



**A Chef
transforms
food from fuel
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There are many wonderful comparisons between what a Chef does for food and what a teacher of God's Word can do for biblical truth.

Practically speaking, truth is just the fuel of life. If we eat well, we can live healthier lives. If we live by the truth, we will live better lives too. One offers our best chance at a long life on earth; the other offers the only chance at eternal life. If we consistently take in a healthy dose of truth and let it permeate our lives, just as nutrients soak into our physical system, our souls can be healthy in this life as well as the next.

But do we eat healthy naturally? No. That is why there are entire industries

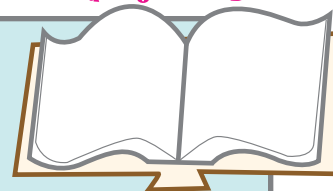
devoted to trying to attract us to good eating, if not healthier eating. Food is presented in such a way as to draw us in and attract us. Food is enjoyable, but there is no lasting impact. We will soon need to eat again, and few of us can remember what we ate last week, let alone a year ago. What did you have to eat for dinner on September 7th, 1990? I know I had seasoned chicken stuffed with stuffing with mashed potatoes and a side of veggies. How do I know? It was at a memorable event I will never forget. We can do the same with our teaching! You can create attractive and enjoyable spiritual meals that will be remembered for years to come. And those that aren't long remembered will have contributed to the ongoing spiritual health of those you teach.

You can be a Chef of God's Word!

Why is this important? God has commanded us to make sure our children grow up knowing and appreciating our faith. Deuteronomy 4:9 says,

"Only BE CAREFUL, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. TEACH THEM TO YOUR CHILDREN and to their children after them." (Deuteronomy 4:9)

God's Cook Book



We have a mandate from God to make sure our children do not forget the important lessons we have learned, both from our own life experiences, as well as the things that were entrusted to us!

In 1 Timothy 4:13 Paul admonishes the young pastor, "Until I come, DEVOTE YOURSELF to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching." I know if you are reading this, you are devoted to teaching children. Teaching children is not merely a duty; it is something we must be devoted to. Later, in Titus, Paul says, "In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching SHOW INTEGRITY, SERIOUSNESS."



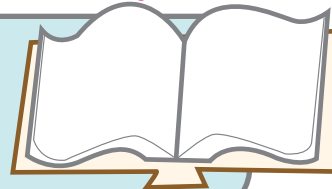
**They say
at Awana
Clubs that
"no fun
means no
kids!"**

Teaching is something that requires seriousness! Our presentation may be very light and fun, but behind it is a very serious motivation. I can't even count how many times in ministry, after talking to a volunteer or parent about why I do things the way I do (often when being asked about some crazy thing I did), they end up saying something like, "Wow, I never realized how serious you are about this." The "fun" I bring to my teaching often masks the seriousness behind why I am so fun. The fun is not the goal; it is a means to accomplishing something I am dead serious about: effective teaching.

I've heard it a thousand times, "Kids just need the Word, they don't need all this fun stuff. Just preach the Word!" That sounds very spiritual — but if "just preaching the Word" means simply reading it and talking at the kids, and they go home uninspired, unchallenged, uninterested or without understanding, then we have failed. When I am asked to explain my methods there is a passage I love to turn to. Nehemiah 8:8 states,

"They read from the book of the Law of God, MAKING IT CLEAR AND GIVING THE MEANING so that the people could understand what was being read." Nehemiah 8:8

God's Cookbook



Your role as a teacher of God's Word is exactly that—to not just read the Word, but to "make it clear and give the meaning" so that the kids can understand what is being read.

You are a Chef of God's Word!

You have the high calling of creating an environment, setting a mood, and preparing and presenting God's Word in a way that children will understand, enjoy, and be eager to come back for more! If you devote yourself to this task with integrity and seriousness, you will make a huge impact on those you teach for years to come! Someday, as adults, your students will be describing your lessons and, more importantly, making life decisions based on the Truth you taught them so creatively.

The Kids Church Cookbook is unlike any other teacher training book you've ever seen. I am going to guide you through the process of not only planning and promoting your children's service, but how to creatively prepare lessons that kids will remember for years to come. I'm going to strip you of your dependence on curriculum and show you just how creative you truly are. If you journey through this book with me, your approach to teaching children will be transformed — you will find yourself more creative than you ever thought possible — and the Bible will become the only curriculum you ever need! That doesn't mean you won't use curriculum. It simply means curriculum will work for you, rather than dictating what you should do.

So put on your Chef hat and get ready to cook up some lessons the kids are gonna love!

Here is an overview of what is ahead for you as you build your Kids Church Cookbook.

THE COOK BOOK OVERVIEW

Part 1: Called to Be a Chef

This introductory unit establishes your role as a Chef of God's Word and lays the foundation for the rest of the book. It is loaded with tips and secrets on planning, launching and running a successful children's church as well as addressing the issue of whether or not to have a kids church in the midst of a resurgence of emphasis on family ministry.

Part 2: Setting the Mood

Learn how to create an atmosphere where kids can't help but learn. Develop your personal presence, tips regarding discipline, and how to promote and launch your children's church service.

Part 3: Developing the Recipe

Curriculum has its place, but should not be a crutch. After this unit all you will ever need is a Bible to teach children! Learn how to create powerful lessons from any passage of scripture. Your presentation skills will be transformed as you learn how to develop your own recipes and formulate your own "secret sauce."

Part 4: Choosing Ingredients

Learn how to bring your lesson to LIFE! Discover the best ingredients for Kids Church, many often over looked. If your DVD player is your primary tool, your kids are missing out on tastier ways of learning. A whole smorgasbord of ideas awaits you!

Part 5: Getting Creative

Especially for those who don't think they are creative, this unit will have your brain exploding with ideas. Learn the secrets of creative people. This unit includes an EXCLUSIVE INVENTION of Karl's that will help even the most uncreative person create amazing lessons out of thin air!

Part 6: The Kitchen Crew

Developing kids into leaders has been the hallmark of Karl's Kids Church for over fifteen years. Learn what happens back in the kitchen to get kids in charge as well as how to get parents and other adults helping out in children's church.

Part 7: Menu Planning

No longer will you be planning a week or month ahead. A true Chef has a master plan for the spiritual health of the children in his or her care. This final unit will equip you to develop a master strategy for making disciples of the children in your stewardship. Kids Church may be fun, but it will now be strategic as well.