



Men in CE, part 3 of 3—

Optimizing the Opportunities

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Here are a few of many creative ways to take advantage of the opportunities to involve men in children's ministry. These ideas are a product of various conversations with several leading children's pastors, workers, and teachers around the nation.

Individual Opportunities

- *God's salesman:* If you are experienced in making presentations, sales, marketing, or advertising, help recruit workers for your church's children's ministry.

- *It's my turn:* Involve yourself in the monthly rotation of volunteers who commit to helping once or twice a month in Sunday School or children's church.

- *Spiritual field trips:* Take the children on spiritual field trips to practice the things they are learning about their faith in God. Feeding programs, inner-city holiday projects, children's hospitals, and nursing homes are some events and places that love to involve children.

- *Rock a baby:* Volunteer to work in the nursery, rocking infants and demonstrating the power of male affection to children who may not have fathers.

- *Hauling for Jesus:* Drive a bus, van, or large car for kids who need a ride to church.

- *Building Blessings:* Build sets, puppet stages, and creative props for your children's ministry or remodel, expand, or maintain children's ministry space.

- *Pinewood derby partners:* Help children who do not have fathers to make a pinewood car for racing in a derby.

- *Out of character:* Be a recurring character (human, animal, puppet) in children's church, such as a wacky professor who does

your spouse in the nursery, Sunday School, and children's church. Teams of couples are greatly needed in Christian education. Children need to see adult Christian couples who show warm feelings of affection toward each other.

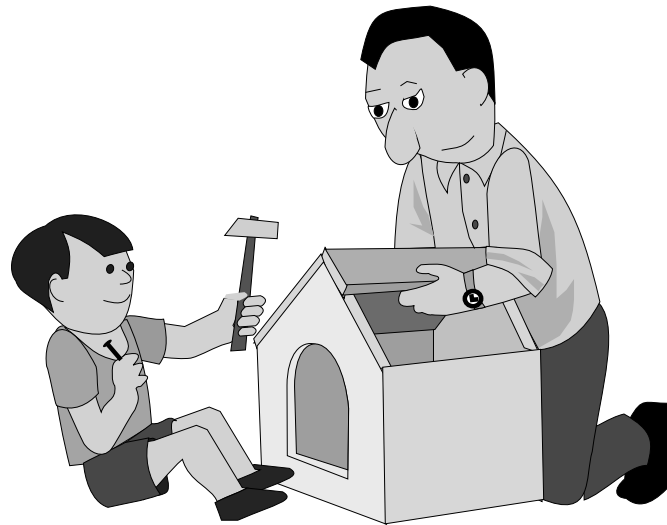
- *Large events:* Use your leadership skills to help organize a portion of a large event for children, such as Vacation Bible School, Kid's Camp, Halloween alternatives, and kids musicals.

- *Good Samaritans:* Organize teams of children to assist needy families with light jobs, such as caulking windows, raking leaves, cleaning garages and yards, painting, and hauling.

- *Safety first:* Assist with safety by volunteering to serve as ushers at the doors to the children's area, assisting mothers who are dropping off multiple children, or by helping as hall monitors.

- *Greeters:* Serve with your spouse as a children's church greeter/

helper. As kids come in to take their seats, go up and down the aisle shaking hands, talking with the kids, and finding out how their week went. This ministry should not be related to discipline; it should be done to build relationships with the kids.



an object lesson, a construction foreman, or a detective who comes in and shares something pertaining to the lesson.

Couple Opportunities

- *Team ministry:* Work with

Team or Group Opportunities

- *Grandpas for Jesus:* Recruit a few men from your church's senior fellowship and rotate them in the younger children's classes. Bring a rocking chair to rock the children while you read stories and pray with them. Help with

crafts and activities and build relationships with the children.

- *Men's ministry:* Implement the biblical responsibility to disciple children into the activities of the church's men's ministry. Ask a leader from the children's ministry to sit on the men's planning team. Encourage the men's ministry leadership to set goals that

involve children. Teach men to pray with and for children by actively supporting your church's ministry to the boys' group.

- *Active activities:* Involve a group of men in taking interested children fishing, hiking, canoeing, or other outdoor events. Use the event as an object lesson to teach a spiritual principle.

Questions For Further Study—

1. Why is it important for men to be involved in children's ministry?
2. Why is it important for children—boys *and* girls—to have positive male role models?
3. List at least three ways you can involve men in your church's ministry.