



How do we develop EPIC children's ministry?

If you want to create something that grabs the hearts and minds of children, then EPIC ministry is the way to go. EPIC is an acronym developed by American pastor and theologian Leonard Sweet. It isn't just a sweet nickname, it's an ideal way to engage with children.

Here's a quick overview:

Experiential – Children are predisposed to learning through engagement and experiences. This happens best in environments that are interactive and inclusive, with coaches who are experiential guides rather than verbal instructors.

Participatory – Children need to be included in the work of the ministry. They thrive in situations where we give them a voice, connect them into decision-making processes, and involve them in activities in appropriate ways.

Image-rich – Children are inspired more by what they see than by what they hear. Words are not as important as they used to be. Pictures, graphic designs, clipart, photos, animations, videos and films profoundly influence their thinking and motivate their actions.

Connective – Children are wired for discussion and debate. They learn best when there are opportunities to share their thoughts and ideas, think out loud without criticism, reflect on their thinking, and interact communally. Their conversations and connections happen both online and in-person.

Jesus was the ultimate EPIC teacher. He encouraged dialogue, empowered His disciples to participate, painted pictures with parables, connected through conversations, worked collaboratively, let the disciples make decisions, and used experiential learning as His primary teaching methodology. EPIC ministry is effective when it's informed by the Scriptures and modelled on Christ.

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