

**EML5812 (NP102) NORTH POINT MINISTRIES  
CHILDREN AND STUDENT MINISTRY STRATEGY  
SYLLABUS**

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is a study of the children and student ministry environments of North Point Ministries, with attention given to age-specific ministry models, goals, small group strategies, creative planning, program implementation, and volunteer development for preschool, elementary school, middle school, high school, and college ministry. (2 hours)

**II. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

A. Cognitive:

1. Defend a groups-centered children and student ministry strategy.
2. Evaluate wins and goals for preschool, elementary school, middle school, high school, and college ministry based on the cognitive and spiritual development of each age group.
3. Observe & study the strategies for planning and executing children and student services.
4. Identify the critical handoff phases between age groups and the process for communicating the gospel effectively during these transitions.
5. Develop an understanding of the needs of children and students as they face emotional and spiritual challenges as they grow.

B. Behavioral:

1. Students will spend time observing different age groups and build an understanding of their developmental stages and spiritual needs.
2. Grasp the importance of the volunteer experience and volunteer development.
3. Articulate the need for a plan to communicate to children and students appropriately based on their developmental and spiritual milestones.

**III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS**

A. Heath, Chip & Heath, Dan. *The Power of Moments: Why Certain Experiences Have Extraordinary Impact*. Simon & Schuster 2017.

B. Joiner, Reggie. *Lead Small: Five Big Ideas Every Small Group Leader Needs to Know*. Orange Books, 2014.

C. Joiner, Reggie, and Ivy, Kristen. *It's Just a Phase--So Don't Miss It: Why Every Life Stage of a Kid Matters and at Least 13 Things Your Church Should Do About It*. Orange Books; 2nd edition, 2015.

D. Santrock, John. *Adolescence*. Seventeenth ed. McGraw Hill Education, 2019. (The 2015 Sixteenth edition is also acceptable.)

E. Trent, John T., Rick Osborne, and Kurt D. Bruner. *Parent's Guide to the Spiritual Growth of Children*. Focus on the Family. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2003.

#### IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

##### A. Required Reading

Students will read *Lead Small, It's Just a Phase*, and *The Power of Moments*, and come to class prepared to discuss.

The other course books will be used as required resources for the course assignments. A copy of these books are available for use in the Training Room or you may purchase your own.

##### B. Assignments

1. *Critical Handoffs - Due Feb 10, 2022*

Using your understanding of the critical phases of development in children and students, **design a creative project** that illustrates and defines the ministry handoffs and their significance. You may use photography, graphic organizers, charts, or approach it creatively in writing (an open letter to Fam Min staff, song lyrics, etc.) Each handoff should include an explanation of that phase. You should reference and cite the Trent and Santrock books in your data and analysis. Each phase should include a 200-300 word summary of your personal journey and how these critical handoffs played a role in your spiritual development.

2. *KidMin Family Event - Due February 24*

Taking into account what you've learned about partnering with parents, create an event planning board or slideshow that casts vision for an event for K-5th graders and their families.

Imagine that you don't have use of the church building, but are designing an event outside or offsite for kids that meets the felt needs of families and connects them to the church in important ways. Your vision/planning board or slideshow should be something that you would present to your team as a way to introduce and cast vision for this event. It should be colorful and creative and include:

- Date options (and an explanation of why this date and time of year is appropriate for the goal of the event)
- Location
- Event Win (Write a statement that captures the win/s of this event)
- Schedule
- Creative/Programming Elements
- Give-Away Ideas
- Marketing Ideas & Timeline

*3. Small Group Leader Survival Guide - Due March 10*

Choose an elementary grade level (Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade), and using the course textbooks, **study the physical, spiritual and emotional development of the children in that grade.** Then **serve as a small group leader in that age group for one Sunday** (two consecutive services). Following your service, **create a Small Group Leader Survival Guide** (at least one full page) that includes helpful information about the age group and tips for leading based on your experience. Alternatively, if there isn't an opportunity for you to serve at a campus as a leader, you may interview a small group leader (one recommended by a Groups Director) about their experience with this age group.

*4. The Gauntlet Students' Reflection - Due April 14*

After participating in the Gauntlet discussion in class, respond to the ministry scenario posted on Canvas in a 3-4 page reflection. Consider what you've learned about responding theologically, pastorally, Biblically, and legally to difficult situations. Your response should address all aspects of the issue that's presented, including a plan for communicating and following up with all parties involved.

*5. Student Ministry Evaluation - Due April 21*

Choose a student ministry environment to observe for one complete service. If you work on a student ministry team, you must choose a campus or department other than your own. Complete the Student Ministry Evaluation tool, thoroughly explaining your rationale for each response.

### **C. Final Exam**

With a partner, write a plan for a complete service for children or students. You should reference the scope & sequence provided to select a scripture and bottom line. If you'd like to propose an alternate scripture/bottom line, they must be approved. Enlist a ministry staff member from that ministry area and get their written feedback on your plan before you submit. (This can be in email or in notes from a meeting with that person.) Your service plan should include:

1. Leader email with an overview of the service
2. Welcome activity or host programming elements
3. Set list
4. Message/Bible Story outline including scripture and bottom line
5. Group discussion questions or activities
6. Parent email with follow-up questions for the parent/child.

Your service should focus around one theme, which should be evident in all of the elements you plan and should be highlighted by your creative elements. You and your partner will present your service in class at the conclusion of the semester.

## **V. COURSE POLICIES**

### **A. Grading Weights**

- |                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1. Reading             | 20% |
| 2. Learning Activities | 60% |
| 3. Final Exam          | 20% |

### **B. Late Assignments**

All assignments are due on the due date noted in your schedule. Except for rare cases of an emergency or another exceptional circumstance a 10% late penalty will be assigned for work turned in after the due date.

