

cpc27

UNASHAMED

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Breakout Preview List

How to Use the CPC27 Breakout Preview List

We hope that the CPC27 Breakout Preview List helps you to make the most of every opportunity at CPC27. Maximize your leadership potential. Receive training and resources. Reignite your passion. Learn and grow. Be challenged. Build community.

What do you need the most? What do you hope to takeaway and bring home? Write down your top three goals in coming to CPC27:

1)

2)

3)

With these goals in mind, here is a step-by-step guide on how to use the CPC27 Breakout Preview List:

1) PRAY - pray about the needs of your ministry and YOU as a leader. How can the breakouts you choose help you achieve these goals at CPC27?

2) PICK - go breakout-by-breakout, focusing on each day and hour timeframe. Pick your top three at each breakout hour.

3) PLAN - if you are traveling with a team, plan accordingly so you can divide and conquer to maximize learning.

4) PRIORITIZE - once you have a game plan, prioritize your three options at each breakout hour. That will allow you flexibility if seats are full or you want to pivot on-site.

Breakout #1 - Tuesday, January 5 at 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Better Together: Why Intergenerational Ministry is Vital to Church Health	Kirsten Hitchcock	Churches thrive when generations grow in faith together. We don't have to choose age-graded OR intergenerational ministry—both can work hand-in-hand! Discover how meaningful relationships between children, youth, and adults can nurture faith, build belonging, and create a stronger church community. Gain practical ideas for fostering connections across generations in worship, learning, and everyday church life.	Ministry Administration	Developing (3-5 Years)
Beyond Inclusion to Discipleship	Kim Botto	Getting kids in the room is important, but it's not the whole story. Every child needs access to belonging, relationship, and the Good News of Jesus in ways they can understand and engage. In this breakout, we'll identify common barriers that keep kids who learn, think, communicate, or feel differently from fully engaging in discipleship. You'll learn simple, practical ways to adapt teaching, language, environments, and expectations so more kids can participate, connect, and grow in faith.	Discipleship	Developing (3-5 Years)
From Boring to Transforming: Trainings That Stick	Gary Strudler	Tired of trainings that feel like lectures? This fun and highly interactive breakout will show you how to bring your volunteer trainings to life. Using simple, proven methods you'll learn how to build connection, increase participation, and create experiences that people remember—and actually use. Come ready to participate, not just listen, and leave with practical tools you can put into action right away in any ministry setting.	Volunteers	Developing (3-5 Years)

Breakout #1 - Tuesday, January 5 at 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Let's Have a Party! Creative Events That Bring Families Together	Martha Harvey	Who says ministry can't be fun? From Christmas and Easter celebrations to midweek family nights, summer kickoffs, or even daddy daughter date night, this breakout shows you how to plan creative events for any size, budget, or season. You'll leave with ready-to-use templates, ideas, and a simple planning framework that makes every event intentional, faithfilled, stress-free, and full of joy.	Outreach	Developing (3-5 Years)
More than a Resource Wall - Strategies for Engaging Parents in their Children's Discipleship	Janine McNally	Many parents want to nurture faith in their children, but admit they often feel overwhelmed and unsure of themselves. Simply giving them resources isn't enough. An effective approach requires a deeper, more comprehensive strategy. To truly partner with parents, we must equip and educate them with the training and tools they need. They need our encouragement and support. This breakout will offer practical ideas for addressing these key parts of an effective ministry.	Parents and Family	Developing (3-5 Years)
New to Children's Ministry? How to Make a Splash Without Sinking	Gary Lindsay	Welcome to the wonderful world of ministry! You've moved from getting your feet wet in ministry waters to jumping in wholeheartedly. Cannonball! Come discover a strategic plan to anchor you and your ministry team in success. You'll take away practical tips from children's ministry leaders, helping you manage your ministry, balance your life, and navigate the unknown waters on the horizon.	Leadership	Just starting out (0-3 years)

Breakout #1 - Tuesday, January 5 at 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
On the Rise: How Sports Connect the Church and the Neighborhood	Dr. Mike McCormick	Sports are more than games—they're one of the most natural ways to build bridges between your church and the people around you. In this breakout, Upward Sports will unpack why sports are on the rise as one of the most effective outreach tools today and how your church can step into that opportunity. You'll hear how one passionate leader, a willing church, and the right resources can open doors to families in your community who may never come on a Sunday morning. Walk away with a vision for how sports can strengthen your outreach, create new ministry touchpoints, and position your church in the neighborhood	Outreach	Seasoned (15+ years)
Partnering with Parents: Bridging the Gap from Kids to Students	Shelby Todd	The transition from children's ministry to student ministry often changes everything for parents: communication, safety expectations, leader access, and their sense of involvement. This breakout will help leaders identify where trust breaks down during that hand-off and build intentional bridges between kids ministry, student ministry and families. Participants will learn how to create clear communication rhythms, shared expectations, and parent partnership strategies that help retain students and families through key ministry transitions.	Parents and Family	Just starting out (0-3 years)
Screen Time, Attention Spans, & Preschoolers Today: Adapting Ministry for a New Generation	Brittany Compton	Today's preschoolers are growing up in a rapidly changing world, and ministry leaders must adapt to reach them effectively. In this practical breakout, we'll explore how learning environments influence preschoolers' attention, engagement, and development. You'll gain strategies for creating meaningful, age-appropriate experiences, equipping volunteers, and partnering with parents. Discover practical tools to help communicate the unchanging message of Jesus in ways that connect with today's youngest generation.	Ministry Administration	Developing (3-5 Years)

Breakout #1 - Tuesday, January 5 at 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Sharing Jesus When Life Hurts: Giving Away What You Need Most	Marie Kuck	Children's ministry leaders aren't immune to life's hurts. How do we keep showing up, loving kids, and pointing them to Jesus when we're facing disappointments, grief, unanswered prayers, or storms of our own? This breakout explores how to cling to God's faithfulness, minister with compassion, and share the hope of the Gospel even in difficult seasons. Discover how God can use your story to encourage children and families and shine His light through you—even as you trust Him to keep writing your own story.	Leadership	Advancing (5-15 years)
Shepherding the Anxious Generation: Leading Kids in a Tech and Social Media World	Lynne Howard	Today's kids are growing up in a world shaped by screens, social media, constant comparison, and rising anxiety. Ministry leaders will explore how to shepherd kids with wisdom, compassion, and biblical truth in the midst of today's digital culture. Learn practical ways to help children build identity in Christ, develop emotional resilience, navigate technology in healthy ways, and experience genuine connection with God and others. You'll walk away with ideas for partnering with parents and creating safe, grace-filled environments where kids can grow spiritually and emotionally in an increasingly distracted world.	Discipleship	Developing (3-5 years)
Targeting Biblical Literacy: Hitting the Mark with Curriculum, Programming, and Resources	Dr. Valerie Brennan and Dr. Virginia Davidson	There are many frightening statistics that biblical illiteracy is on the rise, but what does it look like to have a functioning knowledge of the Bible? In this breakout, participants will identify theological content and consider suggested guidelines for biblical literacy in children. With this knowledge, leaders can set goals, evaluate curriculum and programming, and support parent discipleship, all geared toward cultivating biblical literacy in children through the church and home.	Discipleship	Developing (3-5 Years)

Breakout #1 - Tuesday, January 5 at 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
The Faith-Forging Five: What Lasting Faith in Kids Looks Like	Ron Hunter	Durable faith doesn't drift into kids by accident. It's forged through five specific, repeatable practices that quietly show up in the lives of children and teens who never walk away. Drawn from "Backward Discipleship", this breakout names those patterns, shows why most homes and churches are only hitting one or two of them, and makes a compelling case for when all five are in place. Faith that lasts is faith that multiplies and makes your church and kids stronger.	Discipleship	Developing (3-5 Years)
The Kidmin Survival Guide: 5 Things I Wish I Knew to Stay Healthy and Effective	Corinne Noble	In the whirlwind of kidmin, some lessons are caught and others are taught, often through messy mistakes. Whether you're new to kidmin or a seasoned leader, you don't have to learn everything the hard way. In this breakout we will discuss five common leadership traps and leave equipped with the practical wisdom needed to stay healthy, stay effective, and stay in the game for the long haul.	Leadership	Just starting out (0-3 years)
The Perfect Volunteer Invitation	Kenny Conley	Leaders often invite people to serve in ways that unintentionally create resistance. Ever wonder why so many potential volunteers say no? What if the problem isn't a lack of willing volunteers, but the invitation itself? Learn how a simple shift in the way you ask can move people from curiosity to commitment, dramatically increase volunteer follow-through, and eliminate pressure, guilt, and desperation from the recruiting process.	Volunteers	Developing (3-5 Years)

Breakout #1 - Tuesday, January 5 at 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
What the Best Family Ministries Do Differently	Amy Fenton	Many churches want stronger family ministry, but struggle to move beyond events, resources, and good intentions. Based on years of coaching churches of every size, this breakout explores the common patterns and strategies thriving ministries consistently use to partner with parents and disciple families effectively. Attendees will discover how to simplify communication, align church and home, empower volunteers, and create practical next steps that help parents become confident spiritual leaders in everyday life.	Parents and Family	Advancing (5-15 years)
Wow like Disney, Teach like Jesus: Essentials in Elementary Large Group Leading	Preston Plentl	With elementary aged kids it can be frustrating to keep them engaged and interested, especially in larger classroom settings. Let's talk about some effective "tried and true" stage teaching techniques and elements as well as some that you may not have ever thought about that will make your elementary hour an exciting "CAN'T MISS" experience!	Outreach	Just starting out (0-3 years)



Breakout #2 - Tuesday, January 5 at 1:45 to 2:45 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Adventure Awaits: A Road Map for Leading Volunteers	Lindsey Bush	Leading volunteers is an adventure with many twists and turns! Discover a road map for leading volunteers effectively in children's ministry, grounded in biblical foundations and five best practices (recruit, retain, release, resource, and recalculate) for your team. Along the way, we will focus on building relationships, equipping volunteers well, and keeping ministry flexible and healthy. Together, we'll navigate the winding roads of leading volunteers and uncover joy in every step of the journey. Adventure awaits!	Volunteers	Seasoned (15+ years)
Ask Me! Creating Cultures of Conversation	Ben Shaw	Children have lots of questions. Creating a culture of conversation is important for them so that they feel comfortable enough to ask. Preparing parents and church staff to be able to confidently answer foundational questions of our faith will help them be ready to answer these questions with gentleness and kindness. This is all the more important as we seek to prepare our children to be lights in the culture that has questions about Christianity.	Parents and Family	Developing (3-5 Years)
Beginner's Guide to Planning Center	Scott Myers and Aimee Scott	Learn the basics of how Planning Center can help your children's ministry thrive. From streamlining your communication with staff and families to effortlessly scheduling volunteers, you'll get insights into how you can save time, reduce stress, and be freed up to focus on what truly matters—discipling children.	Ministry Administration	Just starting out (0-3 years)

Breakout #2 - Tuesday, January 5 at 1:45 to 2:45 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Feeding Faith: Developing a Discipleship Strategy for the Next Generation	David Rausch	What's your discipleship strategy? If you can't answer that clearly, this breakout is for you! Recent studies have found that nearly 2/3 of Christian youth walk away from their faith after high school. In this breakout, David Rausch will explore the difference between teaching kids Bible stories and building lifelong disciples, sharing a practical framework that helps ministries move kids beyond knowledge and toward genuine spiritual transformation that lasts long after they leave children's ministry.	Discipleship	Advancing (5-15 years)
From Alpha to Beta: Understanding Today's Children and Preparing for Who's Coming Next	Shelly Melia	Generation Alpha challenged many of our assumptions about childhood, technology, faith, and family. But even as we learned to minister effectively to Alpha, a new generation is already arriving in Generation Beta. This breakout will lean heavily into understanding the world of Gen Beta and the mindset of their parents.	Leadership	Developing (3-5 Years)
How to Start a Gathering of Children's Ministry Leaders in Your Area	Sharon Rundell	Ministry leaders often feel isolated—but they don't have to lead alone. This breakout will equip you to create meaningful, sustainable gatherings that foster encouragement, collaboration, and shared growth. You'll learn practical steps to launch, cast vision, and cultivate trust, along with simple strategies for planning impactful meetings that keep leaders connecting and coming back for more.	Leadership	Advancing (5-15 years)

Breakout #2 - Tuesday, January 5 at 1:45 to 2:45 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Large Group...Big Impact: The Secret Sauce to Keeping Kids Engaged	Jenny van der Kooy	Juggling media, games, and teaching with limited time? You're not alone! Gain a practical framework that will bring balance and allow you to effectively teach the Gospel.	Discipleship	Developing (3-5 Years)
Maximize Your VBS: From Children's Ministry Event to Church-Wide Movement	Becky Thompson	What if your VBS could have an impact far beyond a single week? Discover how to transform your VBS curriculum into a multi-week discipleship strategy that engages the entire congregation. Learn a proven, step-by-step process for extending VBS themes into Sunday sermons, launching with a VBS Sunday celebration, and ending with a family-focused event. Leave with a proven framework for turning a single week of ministry into a congregation-wide discipleship movement.	Outreach	Advancing (5-15 years)
More Than a Huddle: Small Moments that Shape Ministry Culture	CarrieAnne Stark	What if the most influential moments in your ministry happen between the big meetings? In busy ministry calendars and weekly logistics, vision and culture can get lost. This breakout will equip leaders to use short, intentional huddles to reinforce vision, build culture, foster intergenerational connection, and inspire ownership without adding another meeting. Attendees will learn practical strategies for creating meaningful pre-service huddles that help volunteers feel known, valued, equipped, and connected to the larger mission they help accomplish together.	Volunteers	Advancing (5-15 years)

Breakout #2 - Tuesday, January 5 at 1:45 to 2:45 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Navigating Parenting Trends in Kids Ministry	Jessica Wolstenholm	Today's KidMin leaders are navigating more than just classrooms and curriculum, they're navigating parenting culture. From gentle to authoritative to new-believer parents, every family brings different styles and expectations for how their child should be disciplined. Join Jess Wolstenholm, M.Ed., for a practical look at today's parenting trends and the pressure they create in ministry spaces. You'll gain actionable strategies to teach biblical truth with both conviction and compassion, so you can lead with confidence, even when perspectives differ.	Parents and Family	Developing (3-5 Years)
One Church, Many Locations: Lessons Learned in Multisite Kids Ministry	Delia Cornwell	Multisite ministry requires different leadership approaches at different stages of growth. What works with two campuses often breaks at five, and what works at five may not sustain ten. This breakout shares practical lessons learned from leading in a fast-growing multisite church, including leadership structures, volunteer culture, communication, and scalable systems. Leaders will leave equipped with principles and wisdom they can adapt to their own ministry context.	Leadership	Advancing (5-15 years)
Raising Kids in the Age of AI: A Discipleship Framework for Families	Anthony Hunt	AI is already shaping how kids think, learn, and understand themselves and most parents feel unprepared to guide them through it. This breakout equips KidMin leaders with a biblical framework for discipling the next generation in an AI-saturated world: how to help kids love truth when machines sound convincing, guard identity when technology offers shortcuts, and pursue what is real when so much can be generated. You'll leave with language, tools, and a framework to bring to families, starting now.	Parents and Family	Advancing (5-15 years)

Breakout #2 - Tuesday, January 5 at 1:45 to 2:45 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Rhythms & Routines	Angie Hooie	This breakout invites attendees to discover how God is present in the ordinary rhythms and routines of daily life—and how those same moments can nurture a child's spiritual formation. Through guided reflection, simple practices, and age-level exploration, attendees will learn to notice God in everyday activities and gently help children do the same.	Discipleship	Just starting out (0-3 years)
Right Fit, Right Impact: Choosing Curriculum That Works	Vicki Abbott	Choosing the right curriculum can make all the difference in how your church engages, grows, and discipless people. In this breakout, we'll introduce a 12-lens approach to evaluating curriculum, helping you see what truly aligns with your church's vision, values, and context. You will walk away with practical tools to confidently select resources that fit your ministry and equip your leaders for lasting impact.	Ministry Administration	Just starting out (0-3 years)
Self Care for the Children's Worker	Beth Guckenberger	Come spend an hour learning how to take a deep breath. Combining Biblical principles with spiritual disciplines, learn how to take care of yourself, the children's worker.	Leadership	Advancing (5-15 years)
The Silent Crisis in Ministry Leadership: When Burnout Becomes Normal	Marianne Howard	You've planned the event. Answered the texts. Smiled through Sunday. Ordered the goldfish crackers. Put out the fires. Encouraged everyone else, and somewhere along the way, running on empty started feeling normal, and normal has become dangerous. This breakout will help ministry leaders recognize the hidden signs of burnout before they become destructive and provide a practical roadmap to reexamine spiritual, personal, and professional priorities. BONUS, your shoulders may finally unclench after this breakout.	Leadership	Advancing (5-15 years)

Breakout #2 - Tuesday, January 5 at 1:45 to 2:45 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
The Sticky Gospel: Using Multi-Sensory Methods to Teach the Gospel to Kids with All Abilities	Abby Howard	Does your small group time need a tune-up? This breakout will unpack how you can use the different learning styles and modified curriculum to engage ALL students with the Gospel in a way that actually sticks. From sensory bins to messy play and Bible communications walls, the options are truly endless!	Discipleship	Just starting out (0-3 years)



Breakout #3 - Wednesday, January 6 at 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
5 Things People Won't Tell You About Children's Ministry	Dale Hudson	As a children's ministry leader, did you know that leading adults is more crucial than leading children? In this breakout, you will discover this and other nuances that people won't tell you about leading in children's ministry. I have personally learned these things through trial and error over the last 37 years of navigating children's ministry. Get these things on your radar and you will set yourself up for success as a leader.	Leadership	Just starting out (0-3 years)
Behind the Smile: Trauma-Competent Ministry	Shawna Campbell	Many children and families quietly carry trauma and emotional pain into our ministries every week. This breakout will help leaders recognize signs of trauma, respond with greater compassion and wisdom, and create emotionally safe environments where children feel valued, regulated, and supported. Learn practical, ministry-friendly tools for building trust, strengthening connection, and reflecting the heart of Jesus to families navigating difficult experiences.	Ministry Administration	Advancing (5-15 years)
Beyond Events: Building a Parent Partnership Strategy That Lasts	Jayson Etchison	Parents want to leave a church event with confidence, support, and hope in one of the hardest callings they've ever been given. This breakout will explore how churches can move beyond surface-level parent ministry and build intentional strategies that better equip families to disciple their kids in everyday life.	Parents and Family	Developing (3-5 years)

Breakout #3 - Wednesday, January 6 at 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Brain- Based Leaders: Building a Healthy Volunteer Culture	Crystal Henderson	Did you know that incorporating brain science into your staff and volunteer training will result in creating a stronger connection in your church and community? This breakout will look at brain science to build a healthy collaborative volunteer culture where every leader feels seen, heard, and valued.	Volunteers	Advancing (5-15 years)
Discipling Gen Alpha: Research-Based Strategies for Reaching Today's Kids	Jana Magruder	What can church leaders and families do to effectively disciple Gen Alpha? New research highlights practical, proven strategies you can begin using right away to help kids build a lasting faith into adulthood. Join Jana Magruder to learn key insights and actionable takeaways that can make a difference starting this Sunday.	Discipleship	Just starting out (0-3 years)
Do More With Less: AI Tools for Engaging Kids Ministry Experiences	Bobby Ikebudu	You do not need a big team or a big budget to create a Sunday experience kids talk about all week. This breakout will teach you how to use AI tools to design your stage and environment decor, develop captivating teaching ideas, create graphics direction, build supply lists, and more all from a single theme or Scripture passage. Walk away with a repeatable creative workflow that elevates your Sunday experience every single week.	Ministry Administration	Advancing (5-15 years)

Breakout #3 - Wednesday, January 6 at 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Empowering Parents in an Anxious Generation	Derek Altom	Ministry leaders today are helping parents navigate one of the greatest challenges of our culture--raising children who are spiritually grounded, emotionally healthy, and prepared for adulthood. In this practical breakout, you will discover eight essential strategies that can equip the families in your ministry to cultivate responsibility, resilience, and independence in their children. Walk away with actionable tools, leadership insights, and ministry applications that will help you better encourage and strengthen parents as they prepare the next generation to thrive in every stage of life.	Parents and Family	Developing (3-5 years)
Engaging Kids in a Distracted World With Interactive Teaching Methods	Brittany Nelson	Kids today learn by doing, not just listening. If they are passive listeners, they disconnect. In this breakout, we will look at how engagement and interaction increase attention, understanding, and retention. We'll explore practices and simple interactive teaching strategies that keep kids' attention and help truth stick, and you'll walk away with teaching ideas you can use to engage kids and deepen learning this Sunday.	Discipleship	Just starting out (0-3 years)
Events That Equip Parents: A Family Discipleship Approach	Amber Pike	Family discipleship doesn't happen by accident. In this breakout, we'll explore how churches can shift to a family-style event approach that equips parents to disciple at home.	Parents and Family	Developing (3-5 years)

Breakout #3 - Wednesday, January 6 at 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Leaving Well: Deciphering God's Call	Callie Bogle	Discerning if and when to leave can be difficult. Christ never promised an easy life, but He did promise His continual presence in every circumstance. This breakout prepares and equips leaders to navigate the question, "Is it time to leave?" with wisdom, confidence, and faith. Attendees will explore three diagnostic questions for discernment, engage in three exercises to assess their "spiritual leaving temperature," and, if needed, learn three principles for leaving well.	Leadership	Advancing (5-15 years)
Make It Fun! Teaching the Bible through Games	Karen "Kaz" McGraw	Games provide a fun, hands-on way to get kids to interact with biblical truths. They'll have so much fun that they won't even realize they're learning! As kids play and laugh their way through Bible games, they can also process and apply truths from the Bible to their lives. Learn about a variety of games and the different things they can teach--Bible stories, Bible verses, Bible skills, and more. We'll also discuss how to ensure there are no losers when you play Bible games.	Discipleship	Developing (3-5 years)
Sunday Morning Leaders: Creating a Culture of Service	Katie Hill	Tired of scrambling every week for Sunday morning leaders? Do your kids get whiplash with a revolving door of adults? In this breakout you'll learn how to create a team of dedicated leaders who commit to forming lasting relationships with the kids in your ministry. From application to safety training, from team building to faith formation, from recruitment to retention...this breakout will inspire you to create a new system and stop the Sunday morning scramble!	Volunteers	Developing (3-5 years)

Breakout #3 - Wednesday, January 6 at 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Synchronizing Your Ministries	Emily Snider and Greg Snider	Children's and youth ministries often operate in parallel, but not always in partnership. This breakout, led by a seasoned Children's Pastor and Youth Pastor, explores how churches can create a unified strategy that nurtures faith at every age. Learn how to build shared values, streamline communication, and design a discipleship pathway that helps kids transition smoothly from one ministry to the next. Discover how synchronized ministries can strengthen families, empower volunteers, and create life-long disciples.	Discipleship	Developing (3-5 years)
Teaching Children About God's Heart for the Nations	Beth Guckenberger	In this breakout, you will be encouraged and equipped with practical ideas and activities that are designed to educate and engage today's children. We will talk about how to share in age-appropriate ways the experience of vulnerable children around the world.	Outreach	Just starting out (0-3 years)
The Leader's One Job	Nirup Alphonse	The future of your kids' ministry depends on more than just the programs you run- it depends on the leaders you develop. Discover how to awaken the imagination of those you lead, cultivate a culture of ownership and multiply leaders who carry the heart of Jesus and shape the next generation of disciples.	Leadership	Advancing (5-15 years)

Breakout #3 - Wednesday, January 6 at 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Volunteer Orientation: Recruit and Build Up Your Team	Kristina Linson	Do you spend hours on the phone or meeting individually with potential volunteers at a coffee shop? You may explain the responsibilities of a specific role, review policies, outline your teaching format, or even give a tour of your facility. While that personal touch is valuable, it can quickly consume time that could be spent on weekly ministry responsibilities or with your family. This breakout will share a simple monthly volunteer orientation strategy. By building this into the culture of your church, you can streamline volunteer training while also creating an effective recruitment tool. Let's expand your reach while working smarter not harder.	Volunteers	Developing (3-5 years)
What Kids Ministry Can Learn from Disney: 7 Principles Behind Every Memorable Ministry Experience	Noah Ford	Disney has spent decades mastering guest experience, team culture, and operational excellence. While churches aren't theme parks, there are valuable lessons kids ministries can learn from organizations that consistently create memorable experiences. Discover seven practical principles that can strengthen your volunteer teams, improve your systems, elevate your family experience, and help create environments kids and parents want to return to.	Outreach	Developing (3-5 years)



Breakout #4 - Wednesday, January 6 at 1:45 to 2:45 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Building a Volunteer Onboarding Pipeline in Planning Center	Scott Myers and Aimee Scott	Learn how to build a clear, consistent volunteer onboarding system using Planning Center's forms, workflows, and custom fields so no one falls through the cracks. We'll walk through the full pipeline, from capturing initial interest to getting volunteers ready to schedule in Services.	Volunteers	Developing (3-5 years)
Conflict! How to Prevent + Manage Conflict in Ministry	Josh Denhart	Ministry is ripe for conflict. However, there are intentional leadership pathways that can REDUCE the likelihood of a painful conflict occurring. However, since conflict is unavoidable, how can you successfully navigate challenging people and challenging situations? This powerful breakout will provide you with practical strategies to help with "Clean-Up on Aisle 9" and how to prevent unnecessary conflicts from ever happening.	Leadership	Developing (3-5 years)
Discipline: Obstacle or Opportunity?	Kayla Smith	Childhood trauma affects behavior in ways that make it difficult to connect at church. Finding belonging, acceptance, and worth feels far away when you're constantly getting into trouble. In this breakout, flip the paradigm of traditional discipline approaches and imagine how misbehavior might actually help your ministry. This breakout will teach you trauma-informed discipline strategies that create a more supportive ministry environment, strengthen relationships, and minister to those hurting kids who express their pain through behavior.	Ministry Administration	Developing (3-5 years)

Breakout #4 - Wednesday, January 6 at 1:45 to 2:45 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Engaging Disconnected Boys Through Technology, Responsibility, and Purpose	Sam Cornwell	Technology can give disconnected boys a clear place to belong, contribute, and grow. This breakout will help attendees create simple, hands-on pathways for boys to serve through sound, slides, cameras, lighting, check-in, room support, and problem-solving roles. Leaders will learn how to connect technology with discipleship, build responsibility over time, reduce chaos, and help boys move from watching ministry to owning meaningful parts of it.	Ministry Administration	Developing (3-5 years)
From Filling Roles to Caring for Souls: Building a Volunteer Culture that Lasts	Carrie Wiley	Are you tired of constantly filling volunteer gaps? There's a better way. In this practical breakout, Carrie Wiley shares how shifting to a relational, prayer-based approach can transform your volunteer culture. Learn how to recruit, care for, and retain leaders in ways that build trust, connection, and spiritual purpose. Whether you have a large team or are starting from scratch, you'll leave with simple, actionable strategies to build a volunteer culture people want to be part of.	Volunteers	Just starting out (0-3 years)
How to Develop and Sustain a Flourishing Family Ministry	Josh Mulvihill	Have you ever asked yourself any of the following questions: How do I do family ministry? What are the essential elements of developing a family ministry? What does the Bible say about family ministry? How can I help others at my church capture a vision for family ministry? Join Dr. Josh Mulvihill for a theologically rich and extremely practical breakout that will help you equip the families in your church to disciple the next generation.	Parents and Family	Just starting out (0-3 years)

Breakout #4 - Wednesday, January 6 at 1:45 to 2:45 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Margins in Ministry: Practical Systems for Sustainable Ministry	Dr. Valerie Brennan and Dr. Virginia Davidson	Children's Ministry is filled with many meaningful moments, but leaders are often navigating overwhelming schedules, volunteer shortages, and the pressure of holding everything together. Creating margin is not easy. This breakout explores the discipline of building intentional margin into ministry leadership. Participants will learn practical strategies for volunteers, delegating responsibilities, organizing systems, and planning ahead so they can lead proactively instead of constantly surviving crises.	Leadership	Developing (3-5 years)
Mental Health-Informed Children's Ministry as an Evangelism and Outreach Tool	Steve Grcevich	Families raising children with common mental health conditions represent one of the largest underserved populations by the North American church. Attendees will explore common challenges families experience "fitting in" at church when kids struggle to regulate emotions and behaviors, how pastors and ministry staff establish preconditions for successful outreach and identify five promising "on-ramps" for welcoming kids with mental health challenges and their families.	Outreach	Seasoned (15+ years)
Musical Memorization & Meditation: How To Soak your Soul in the Scriptures	Rousseaux Brasseur	Memorizing and meditating on Scripture is a KEY component to bearing fruit according to Psalm 1. And nobody models this better than Jesus! However, most Christians mistakenly believe, "I just can't do that! I don't have a good memory." This breakout will challenge that assumption and will both encourage AND equip folks to "store up God's Word in their hearts". (Having memorized roughly 100 chapters of the Bible, this topic is my passion!)	Discipleship	Advancing (5-15 years)

Breakout #4 - Wednesday, January 6 at 1:45 to 2:45 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Put on Your Own Oxygen Mask First	Todd Jenks	Research shows that over the past decade, the risk of burnout for those in ministry has grown 400%! There's a reason airlines say, "Put on your own oxygen mask before helping others." To give kids your best, you need to be refreshed! Come learn from the research about burnout's causes, and meet the "fantastic four" of evidence-based coping strategies to deal with children's ministry stressors and pressures. Get empowered for the super ministry you do!	Leadership	Advancing (5-15 years)
Resist the Drift: How to Guard Against Gospel-Fatigue in Kids Ministry	Aaron Wilson	Is Gospel centeredness just a passing fad? Is it a trend, or is it the timeless? If your volunteers show signs of Gospel weariness, it may be time to reset what it means to have a Gospel-centered children's ministry. Join Aaron Wilson to understand how seeing and teaching Scripture as one big story about Jesus isn't a fad; it's the heartbeat of effective, God-glorifying, Kingdom work. Learn how to inspire your leaders to see the Gospel as anything but old news and to learn how to truly connect the dots of the biblical narrative that points to Jesus.	Discipleship	Advancing (5-15 years)
Special Needs Ministry - You Can Do It!	Stephen "Doc" Hunsley	Has God called you to start a Special Needs Ministry at your church, but you don't know where to begin? Whether you are a small or a large church, this breakout will answer the questions of how, what, and why. Learn different classroom environments, types of behaviors, engaging and partnering with church staff and community organizations, and helping your church become an inclusive place for those with special needs. You will receive all the tips and tricks you need to get started and MORE!	Ministry Administration	Developing (3-5 years)

Breakout #4 - Wednesday, January 6 at 1:45 to 2:45 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Stop Filling Spots and Start Building Teen Leaders	Rachael Quinn	Most kids ministries rely on teens to fill roles, but few are actually developing them into leaders. When we settle for coverage, we miss the opportunity to shape the future of our church. This session will give you a clear, practical system to recruit, train, and coach teens into real leadership. You'll leave with actionable steps to move from last-minute help to intentional development that strengthens your ministry now and multiplies leaders for the future.	Volunteers	Developing (3-5 years)
Stronger Together: Partnering with Families to Grow Kids' Faith	Aaron Collier	This breakout explores how children's ministry leaders can build meaningful, lasting partnerships with parents and caregivers to support a child's spiritual growth beyond the church walls. Attendees will learn practical strategies for communicating with families, equipping families with faith-building tools, and creating a shared vision for discipleship at-home and in ministry. Whether you're starting from scratch or strengthening existing efforts, this breakout will help you foster collaboration that nurtures confident, faith-filled kids.	Parents and Family	Developing (3-5 years)
The Neurodivergent Leader	Kurt Goble	While successfully leading children's ministry at a large church for 20 years, I silently struggled with ADHD, OCD, and Social Anxiety Disorder. These conditions and others like ASD, Bipolar, PTSD, and Depression don't preclude people from thriving as leaders. But they do present unique challenges. Whether you have an atypical brain, work or live with someone who does, or are just interested in the topic, all are welcome to join.	Leadership	Developing (3-5 years)

Breakout #4 - Wednesday, January 6 at 1:45 to 2:45 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Truth and Transformation for Toddlers: How to Engage the Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes of Early Childhood Ministry	Shaun Stevenson	Engaging toddlers in discipleship beyond play time doesn't have to be a far off dream, it can be a reality in your church. In this breakout, you'll discover how to morph your Early Childhood strategy to engage their "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes" and work alongside the Holy Spirit to see lifelong transformation in "the littlest of these."	Discipleship	Just starting out (0-3 years)
Your Parents Had a Village. Today's Parents Have a Calendar App and 47 Unread Texts.	Leslie Mack	Parenting isn't changing in one direction—it's stretching across generations. Today's church may be supporting Gen Z parents, Millennial parents, Gen X parents, Boomer grandparents, and blended family systems all at once. That means the old "one-size-fits-all" parenting playbook no longer fits. This interactive breakout invites ministry leaders to hear directly from parents through real quotes, stories, and experiences. Together, we'll explore what has shifted, what different generations of parents need now, and how the church can move toward more relevant, relational, and spiritually grounded ways of equipping families today.	Parents and Family	Developing (3-5 years)



Breakout #5 - Wednesday, January 6 at 3:00 to 4:00 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Be an Early Childhood Superhero!	Jean Thomason	More synapses connect in our brains by the time we are 3 years old than for the rest of our lives! The opportunity to make a profound impact on a little life is a gift, privilege, and responsibility. Medical research agrees with Scriptures; what we plant in little lives CAN GROW into a life of faith in God. Little children can hear God and be filled with His Spirit. Be an Early Childhood Superhero by investing in and helping shape their destinies! Young children who have a positive, fulfilling experience in church are significantly less likely to leave their faith as adults.	Ministry Administration	Advancing (5-15 years)
Beyond Drop off and Pickup: Reaching Parents in Today's BUSY World	Martha Harvey	Parents are busy, and often our window to connect with them feels as short as the car line or classroom door. But what if we could partner with them right where they're already paying attention? In this breakout, we'll explore how to leverage the everyday tools parents use- Instagram, Canva, nurture emails, SMS messaging, and even ChatGPT- to build trust, strengthen communication, and make discipleship collaboration simple and sustainable. Family ministry isn't just about sending resources home, it's about relationships. Learn how to create thoughtful, effective touch-points that move your ministry from "drop-off and go" to "discipling together." You'll leave with practical strategies, ready-to-use ideas, and digital rhythms that make partnering with parents doable, even in the busiest weeks.	Parents and Family	Advancing (5-15 years)

Breakout #5 - Wednesday, January 6 at 3:00 to 4:00 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Church Healed: Building Ministries That Heal Instead of Hurt	Meri Duarte	Churches are called to reflect the heart of Jesus, yet many people walk into our ministries carrying wounds from unhealthy church experiences, spiritual abuse, burnout, broken trust, rejection, or disappointment. This breakout will help leaders recognize how leadership health, ministry culture, communication, and systems deeply impact the people we serve. Through personal testimony, biblical insight, and practical leadership tools, leaders will learn how to cultivate ministries marked by healing, accountability, safety, discipleship, restoration, and the love of Christ.	Leadership	Advancing (5-15 years)
Coaching Volunteers to Support Kids With Diverse Learning and Communication Needs	Missy Purcell	You want every child to feel seen and welcomed, but good intentions only go so far when your volunteers don't know how to support kids with diverse learning and communication needs. This breakout equips you with practical training tips, tools, and guidelines to coach your team with confidence. Walk away ready to turn your heart for inclusion into real action steps that make a difference every single Sunday.	Volunteers	Just starting out (0-3 years)
Creating Sensory Friendly Spaces on a Budget	Beth Golik	Want to support kids with sensory sensitivities but don't have a dedicated room or a big budget? You're not alone -- and you're not out of options! In this hands-on breakout, we'll explore creative, cost-effective ways to design calming corners and sensory-friendly areas within your existing ministry spaces. You'll get practical tips, DIY ideas, and a list of affordable "must haves" that can make a big difference for the kids in your ministry, no renovation required.	Ministry Administration	Just starting out (0-3 years)

Breakout #5 - Wednesday, January 6 at 3:00 to 4:00 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Grandparents: The Secret Ingredient for Deepening Kids' Faith	Robin Pyles	When we consider available ministry resources, we often overlook our older adults. Grandparents - local or far away, related to ministry families, or simply part of our faith community - can provide connection, faith stories, listening ears, caring hearts, encouragement, and an extra dose of God's love. Learn actionable strategies to empower grandparents for sharing God moments with kids in everyday activities and experiences.	Parents and Family	Developing (3-5 years)
How To Be Your Pastor's Favorite Staff Member	Brian Dollar	Healthy ministry starts with healthy relationships. This breakout provides practical, real-world guidance on building trust, honoring leadership, and strengthening your connection with your Pastor. Brian's stories and insights will challenge you to take initiative and lead well from where you are. Discover how small commitments can create a thriving, unified ministry team.	Leadership	Developing (3-5 years)
How to Design a Spiritual Growth Roadmap	Jeremy O'Neill	If your kids ministry doesn't have a clear destination, you have no way of knowing if what you're doing is actually working. This breakout walks you through building a "Spiritual Growth Roadmap" that captures the big ideas, faith skills, and milestones that matter most for every age and stage in your ministry.	Discipleship	Advancing (5-15 years)

Breakout #5 - Wednesday, January 6 at 3:00 to 4:00 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Is AI Replacing Discipleship? Why Spiritual Formation Is Still About Becoming Like Jesus	Marianne Howard	Kids today are growing up in a world where AI can answer questions instantly, generate Bible lessons in seconds, and simulate conversation better than ever before. But information alone cannot form faith. In this breakout, we'll explore why discipleship is still relational and why spiritual formation is about becoming like Jesus, not simply consuming content. Learn strategies to help kids engage Scripture, build spiritual habits, experience biblical community, and grow through everyday discipleship.	Discipleship	Developing (3-5 years)
Leading Beyond the Room: Building Healthy Systems for Expanding Ministry	Heidi Hensley	As ministry grows, leadership must move beyond managing people and programs into building healthy systems that carry vision, culture, and multiplication. This breakout is designed for experienced leaders overseeing large teams, multiple ministries, or multi-campus environments. Attendees will learn how to lead through layers, develop leaders who develop others, protect culture across teams, create clarity without micromanaging, and build scalable ministry structures that remain spiritually healthy and personally connected.	Leadership	Advancing (5-15 years)
Making It Fun: Communicating Truth with Childlike Wonder	Evan Cummins	Communicating God's truth to children requires both theological faithfulness and developmental awareness. Teaching kids should be fun, engaging, and memorable without sacrificing biblical depth. In this breakout, you'll learn practical, age-appropriate strategies to capture kids' attention, foster curiosity and wonder, and help them understand and apply God's Word.	Discipleship	Developing (3-5 years)

Breakout #5 - Wednesday, January 6 at 3:00 to 4:00 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Partner with Generation Alpha and their Parents	Erica Stricklen	This breakout will provide research into Generation Alpha, AND the parents that are raising them. Find practical, tactical steps to develop a strategy that meets parents and their Generation Alpha children where they are. In this breakout, you will learn about 6 characteristics of Gen Alpha and 7 characteristics of their parents, how those things impact the church, and how we minister to them. Let's learn together how to partner with a generation of parents and children!	Parents and Family	Advancing (5-15 years)
Rooted in Truth: Cultivating a Love for Scripture	Sam Luce	It's easy for kids to skim the surface of Scripture, but God's Word deserves a deeper place in their hearts. In this breakout, discover practical strategies to guide children toward a genuine love for the Bible. Help them experience the power of Scripture in a way that transforms their hearts and lives, giving them a lasting foundation for faith.	Discipleship	Developing (3-5 years)
Stop Searching for Unicorns: How to Build Leaders Who Stick Around	Dan Pollak	Are you constantly praying for that perfect "unicorn" volunteer to walk through the doors? When we get desperate to fill the schedule, we settle for the warm body paradigm...recruiting room monitors instead of equipping disciple-makers. The reality is that great volunteers are rarely found; they are built. In this breakout, you will discover how to architect a thriving culture by shifting your focus to three non-negotiable imperatives. Learn how to provide the radical clarity, extravagant resourcing, and rhythmic training needed to turn ordinary volunteers into deeply committed owners of your ministry.	Volunteers	Developing (3-5 years)

Breakout #5 - Wednesday, January 6 at 3:00 to 4:00 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
VBS That Lasts - Creating Impact Beyond One Week	Tyler Bates and Amy Fenton	VBS can be more than a high-energy week of games, music, and fun—it can become a catalyst for reaching your community and lasting spiritual growth for kids and families. In this breakout, discover practical strategies for creating meaningful experiences, equipping volunteers, and building intentional follow-up that extends the impact of VBS far beyond the last day. Whether you're planning your first VBS or looking to strengthen an established program, you'll leave with ideas to help your ministry create lasting Kingdom impact.	Outreach	Advancing (5-15 years)
Watch For God: Finding Faith in Everyday Family Life	Jody Brolsma	Explaining matters of faith may not come naturally to all parents and caregivers in your church. That's OK! Faith isn't a subject to master—it's a growing relationship with Jesus! We'll find out how to help busy families recognize natural, faith-shaping moments at home so they can enjoy their friendship with God together. You'll discover fresh (and fun!) ideas for how to support and encourage kids' grown-ups as they model lives of faith for their children.	Parents and Family	Developing (3-5 years)
What Forrest Frank Can Teach Us About Preteen Worship	Yancy Wideman Richmond	Cool Rules, Lane Drools. Do you want to connect with preteens and lead them in true, authentic worship? We'll dive into what we can learn and apply from Forrest's songs and concert participation to apply to our local church preteen ministry. You will learn steps to build a dynamic worship ministry whether you're using soundtracks or live band. Yancy will inspire you to teach preteens to be the worshippers God created them to be.	Ministry Administration	Developing (3-5 years)

Breakout #6 - Thursday, January 7 at 10:50 to 11:50 AM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Big Faith for Little Hearts	B.A. Snider	Help kids build a lifelong faith by teaching the whole Bible as one unfolding story of Jesus—from Genesis to Revelation. We'll talk about what it looks like to disciple children at every age and stage, with practical ways to teach Scripture that fit each developmental level.	Discipleship	Developing (3-5 years)
Build a Volunteer Training Strategy for Real Kids and Real Sundays	Kim Botto	Volunteer training matters, but another meeting is not always the answer. Busy leaders need simple ways to equip volunteers, especially when kids show up with big behaviors, neurodivergence, trauma histories, sensory needs, or anxiety. Let's build a year-round training strategy using short, practical touchpoints before, during, and after Sunday. You'll learn how to turn quick team conversations, coaching, stories, and follow-up messages into training that equips volunteers for real kids, real classrooms, and real Sundays.	Volunteers	Just starting out (0-3 years)
Cultivating a Culture of Overflow Evangelism	Andrew Steier	Elementary-age kids may not be intentionally sharing the Gospel, but they are deciding what they think about it. In this breakout, we will build a foundation of loving God that leads to loving others and an overwhelming desire to share that love with the world. We'll equip leaders to introduce kids to an evangelistic worldview that overflows from intimacy with God and to empower parents with a practical framework to actively disciple kids at home.	Outreach	Advancing (5-15 years)

Breakout #6 - Thursday, January 7 at 10:50 to 11:50 AM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
HELP! The Volunteers Need Mentoring!	Annette Ford	How do we mentor volunteers in children's ministry so they grow stronger and in turn reach out to mentor others? In this breakout we will intentionally look at the mind, heart, and hands of a mentor providing practical tips and tools in building mentorship. It is time to move our volunteers from being equipped to just teach and tell and to greater possibilities to guide and shape those entrusted into their care and fellow volunteers serving alongside them.	Volunteers	Advancing (5-15 years)
Leading on Empty: Caring for Your Soul While Leading Everyone Else	Kerri-Ann Hayes	What happens when the person pouring into everyone else is the one running on empty? This honest and practical breakout explores soul care for children's ministry leaders through the lens of transition, burnout, grief, and resilience. Together, we'll unpack the differences between spiritual direction, coaching, and mentoring, and how each can help leaders navigate difficult seasons with clarity, helping you discover, rediscover, or maintain your joy in ministry.	Leadership	Developing (3-5 years)
Making Disciples: Taking the Lesson Beyond the Classroom	Jeremy Spicer	Teaching in children's ministry isn't just about delivering lessons—it's about making disciples. In this breakout, we'll explore how to extend learning beyond the classroom, equipping children and families to grow in faith throughout the week. You'll discover practical disciple-making strategies that can be implemented today, helping kids not only understand the Bible but live it. Learn to create a culture where Sunday lessons become everyday discipleship opportunities for the children in your care.	Discipleship	Advancing (5-15 years)

Breakout #6 - Thursday, January 7 at 10:50 to 11:50 AM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Providing a Safe Setting in your KidMin Area	Paul Garland	As adults, we are responsible for keeping the children in our care safe from danger. This breakout will share best practices to keep your children's ministry area a safe and inclusive environment. Topics to be covered include general safety protocols, check-in and check-out, and emergency procedures. You will leave this breakout equipped with the knowledge to make your children's ministry space a safe environment.	Ministry Administration	Just starting out (0-3 years)
Rethinking What Preteens Are Spiritually Capable Of	Sean Sweet	Preteens are often viewed as too young for meaningful discipleship, leadership, or ministry ownership. This breakout challenges those assumptions while exploring practical ways churches can develop deeper spiritual engagement, leadership opportunities, ministry experiences, and discipleship pathways specifically designed for the preteen years.	Discipleship	Developing (3-5 years)
Starting An Outreach Ministry From Scratch	Collin Hamm	Outreach isn't just an event, it's a mindset. This breakout will walk through practical steps to build an outreach ministry that actually reaches people. Learn how to mobilize your team, connect with your community, and create environments where new families don't just visit but they belong. It's time to move from seats to streets, creating a culture of outreach in your ministry and church.	Outreach	Just starting out (0-3 years)

Breakout #6 - Thursday, January 7 at 10:50 to 11:50 AM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Stories that Stick: Using Kids' Books as Parables for Memorable Discipleship Moments	Valerie Ellis	Create winning discipleship moments with the power of stories! In the same way Jesus used parables to link the familiar to the spiritual, attendees will learn how to use children's books to engage young hearts and minds in biblical truth, support a child's emotional and spiritual development, and build Christian community. Stories stick in a special way, and Valerie shares tips, book recommendations, Bible verses, and spiritual applications, making this session fun and practical!	Discipleship	Advancing (5-15 years)
Strategy Lab: 5 Tools to Evaluate Your Ministry Strategy	Nick Blevins	It's important to step back, at least yearly, and look from 30,000 feet to evaluate your ministry. In this breakout, we'll use 5 tools to evaluate your children's ministry strategies to determine the best path forward. You'll get to practice it on your ministry during the breakout with the goal of making it part of your process every year.	Leadership	Developing (3-5 years)
Stuck in the In-Between: Supporting Children with Unidentified Challenges	Linda Martin	All of our ministries have children who struggle to participate, focus, engage, or connect, yet do not have a formal diagnosis or identified disability. These students often fall into the gap between traditional expectations and specialized support, shifting the classroom dynamic, and leaving leaders exhausted. This breakout provides practical strategies to support engagement, reduce frustration, and foster belonging. Attendees will learn how to connect with these students, respond effectively to challenges, and help all children succeed.	Ministry Administration	Developing (3-5 years)

Breakout #6 - Thursday, January 7 at 10:50 to 11:50 AM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
The Prep Rally: Building a Behind-the-Scenes Team That Makes Ministry Happen	Brittany Compton and Missy Purcell	Every life changed on Sunday is supported by someone who served faithfully before Sunday ever began. Behind every welcoming classroom, engaging activity, and prepared leader is a dedicated prep team making ministry possible. Discover how to build, equip, and inspire volunteers who understand that every task, whether cutting, sorting, or organizing, is an act of ministry that creates space for children to encounter Jesus. Learn practical strategies for developing a prep team that serves with purpose, ownership, and joy.	Volunteers	Developing (3-5 years)
Unashamedly Unprepared: What They Don't Teach You in Kids Ministry	Rylee Woessner	An unashamed look behind the curtain of children's ministry, the things no one really teaches you, but everyone ends up navigating. From quick, no-prep games and creative ways to use everyday items (yes, even a toilet paper roll) to handling difficult people and unexpected moments, this breakout is all about real-life ministry. You don't have to have all the answers to be effective, just a willingness to learn, adapt, and lead faithfully.	Leadership	Just starting out (0-3 years)
What Parents Really Need: Bridging Research and Ministry Practice	Dr. Luz Galvez de Figueroa and Dr. Denise Muir Kjesbo	In this breakout, attendees will explore how to move from assumptions to meaningful connection with parents. Drawing from research and real insights from families, we will identify what parents truly value and need from the church. Attendees will leave with practical strategies to listen well, communicate effectively, and build stronger partnerships that support discipleship both at-home and in the church.	Parents and Family	Developing (3-5 years)

Breakout #6 - Thursday, January 7 at 10:50 to 11:50 AM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
When Little Hearts Hurt: Helping Families Navigate Grief, Loss & Life's Hard Moments	Shawna Campbell	Children's Ministry leaders are often some of the first safe people families turn to during difficult seasons. This breakout will explore practical and compassionate ways to support children and parents through everyday struggles, grief, divorce, illness, and major life changes. Learn how to offer meaningful presence, create emotionally safe spaces, and help families feel seen, supported, and connected to God's care during life's hardest moments.	Parents and Family	Advancing (5-15 years)
Wonder-Filled Souls: How Bible Literacy Helps Kids Know Who They Are in a Fragmented World	Erica Bardeau and Mike Nawrocki	In a world that fragments kids' attention, erodes their sense of belonging, and floods them with anxiety and comparison, Bible literacy is about more than reversing declining stats. It's about recovering wonder-filled souls--children who know who they are, whose they are, and what story they are living in. This breakout will explore practical Bible literacy pathways and on-ramps that match children's development, and the role pastors and parents can play in reclaiming a whole and wonder-filled soul.	Discipleship	Developing (3-5 years)



Breakout #7 - Thursday, January 7 at 1:30 to 2:30 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Always Be Training Your Replacement (and Why That's a Good Thing)	Jessica Hendrickson	The goal of leading a children's ministry isn't to be indispensable—it's to build and empower a team that can minister effectively together. A healthy volunteer team is essential for creating sustainable ministry, reaching more families, and preventing leader burnout. In this breakout, we'll explore practical strategies for recruiting, training, delegating to, and discipling volunteers so you can multiply your impact, develop future leaders, and create a thriving ministry that doesn't depend on one person to carry the load.	Leadership	Developing (3-5 years)
Be In the World, Not Of the World: Strengthening Kids' Christian Identity	Stacey Davis	Why have so many young people left the faith? It's a question many children's ministry workers and Christian parents are asking. However, when considering the stories of our Bible heroes, being a lone believer has always existed. Joseph, Ruth, Jeremiah, Daniel, Esther, and Rhoda expressed strong belief in God in societies that rejected Him. Today's kids can be modern-day Bible heroes by displaying solid Christian identity in this post-Christian world. You'll leave this breakout with practical tips on how to help a child form a strong Christian identity sustaining them wherever God leads them.	Discipleship	Developing (3-5 years)
Blueprint for Building a Kids Ministry Leadership Team	Lauren Jackson	Kids Ministry is more fun when you lead with a team. Building that team takes intention and vision. In this breakout we will unpack how to go from leading alone to leading with a team you love.	Volunteers	Developing (3-5 years)

Breakout #7 - Thursday, January 7 at 1:30 to 2:30 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Collaboration in the Big "C" Church	Andrea Cheetham and Ginger Faller	In this breakout, we'll explore how churches of different sizes, styles, and denominations can work together for greater Kingdom impact in their communities. We will unpack what it looks like to build unity among diverse congregations, cast vision for community partnerships, work smarter together, strengthen ministry longevity, and overcome barriers. Leaders will leave with practical strategies and next steps for building meaningful partnerships that strengthen the Church across their community.	Leadership	Advancing (5-15 years)
Discipling Digital Natives	Andy Kirk	Children's ministry has continually adapted to meet the needs of new generations, but Gen Alpha is growing up in a screen-saturated world that is reshaping how they think, connect, and form beliefs. In this breakout, we will explore the evolution of children's ministry and unpack how to disciple digital natives by strengthening what matters most--meaningful relationships in the local church and intentional faith formation in the home. You will take home strategies that are both culturally relevant and biblically grounded.	Discipleship	Developing (3-5 years)
Do You See What I See? Aligning Vision by Connecting Children's Ministry to Senior Leadership	Yubeka Riddick	Children's ministry leaders carry a strong vision for reaching the next generation, but that vision can drift from senior leadership. When alignment is off, ministries compete. When it's clear, the church moves together with purpose. This breakout shows how to connect your ministry to the church's direction, communicate with leadership, and position kids ministry as central to discipleship. You'll leave with practical steps to lead in alignment and move the mission forward together.	Leadership	Developing (3-5 years)

Breakout #7 - Thursday, January 7 at 1:30 to 2:30 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
From Conference to Your Community: Recreating the Interactive Prayer Room	Leann Woelk	Bring your prayer room experience back home for your church family to engage in an encounter with God. This hands-on breakout pulls back the curtain on how to design a multi-generational prayer room that resonates with both kids and adults. You will be inspired with budget-friendly ideas and have access to downloadable resources and instructions on how to recreate the CPC27 interactive prayer room in your own local context.	Parents and Family	Developing (3-5 years)
Helping Children and Teens With ADHD to Grow Spiritually	Steve Grcevich	ADHD is the most common mental health disorder in school-age children. In this breakout, attendees will consider how core features of ADHD impact participation in worship services, Christian education, and discipleship. Attendees will identify common pitfalls to spiritual development in children and youth with ADHD, identify useful strategies for creating ministry environments in which they can thrive, and acquire practical ideas for helping parents promote spiritual growth in their children with ADHD.	Discipleship	Advancing (5-15 years)
How to Level Up Your Social Media, Email/Text, and Website with 30+ New Ideas	Lindsey Lowrance	Level up your digital strategy with 30+ fresh, practical ideas for social media, email/text communication, and your website. This breakout is packed with simple, effective ways to boost engagement, reach more families, and improve your messaging. Whether you need quick wins or new inspiration, you'll walk away with actionable strategies you can implement right away.	Outreach	Just starting out (0-3 years)

Breakout #7 - Thursday, January 7 at 1:30 to 2:30 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Next Gen Tech Reset	Sarah Siegand	Imagine the children you see every Sunday growing up to be teenagers who are emotionally healthy, spiritually hungry, Biblically literate, and with deep connections to their families and churches. This outcome is possible when we rewind the clock to train kids ministry leaders to engage families long before the pre-teen years about creating tech-healthy homes and delaying addictive tech. With a unifying grace-filled framework, you'll learn to protect families by preparing them.	Parents and Family	Developing (3-5 years)
One Vision, Many Campuses: The Heart Behind Multisite Resourcing	Rachel McConkey	This breakout explores the culture, strategy, and heart behind effectively supporting multiple campuses. Through practical segments on campus visits, curriculum distribution, healthy resourcing rhythms, scalable frameworks, and multiplying future campuses, attendees will discover how intentional support strengthens ministry's impact. Rooted in healthy culture, this breakout highlights how resourcing goes beyond campuses to build collaboration, community, and unified vision across every level of ministry.	Ministry Administration	Advancing (5-15 years)

Breakout #7 - Thursday, January 7 at 1:30 to 2:30 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Shepherding with Children in Intergenerational Small Groups	Jeannie Kim	Since there is no "junior" Holy Spirit, children can serve and be used by God just as adults are in intergenerational small groups. Children often learn best through observing examples of the faithful adults and participating in authentic, everyday life experiences alongside mature believers. This breakout session will explore key principles for fostering meaningful partnerships between adults and children in ministry and community life. Attendees will learn how intergenerational small groups can create opportunities for children to serve, lead, and grow in their faith while contributing to the spiritual health of the entire group. Practical examples will be shared of children shepherding and encouraging other children—and even ministering to adults—within intergenerational small groups. Attendees will leave with biblical foundations, practical strategies, and real-life stories that can help them intentionally disciple and empower the next generation within their own ministry contexts.	Parents and Family	Developing (3-5 years)
STEWARD AI™: From Fear to Faithful Stewardship	Michelle Broomfield	Feeling overwhelmed by all the AI talk? Wondering if you're already behind, or whether AI even belongs in ministry? You're not alone. In this highly interactive breakout, you'll learn the STEWARD AI™ Framework, a practical and faith-centered approach to using AI with wisdom, discernment, and purpose. Through fun, live demonstrations and hands-on activities, you'll discover how AI can increase capacity, spark creativity, and support ministry effectiveness while keeping relationships, discipleship, and spiritual discernment at the center. No technical expertise required. Bring your curiosity, your laptop (preferred) or favorite device, and get ready to learn, create, and have fun as we explore AI together.	Ministry Administration	Advancing (5-15 years)

Breakout #7 - Thursday, January 7 at 1:30 to 2:30 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Strong Special Needs Volunteers: Build a Team that Lasts	Meaghan Wall	Building a strong special needs ministry starts with strong volunteers. In this breakout, learn how to recruit, train, empower, and retain a team that serves with consistency and compassion. We'll share practical strategies for motivating volunteers, preventing burnout, and creating a culture of care and purpose. Walk away with tools to build a team that not only lasts, but thrives in serving individuals and families impacted by special needs.	Volunteers	Just starting out (0-3 years)
The Leadership Pipeline Nobody Told You About: Developing Students Through Serving	Bethany Sampsel	What if the volunteers you're looking for are already sitting in your kids and student ministries? In this breakout, discover how to build a serving culture that develops ownership, leadership, and discipleship in students from 3rd grade through high school. You'll learn practical strategies for recruiting, training, and coaching the next generation to serve with confidence and purpose. Through real-world examples, you'll leave with actionable steps to create a leadership pipeline that starts long before students reach your youth ministry.	Volunteers	Developing (3-5 years)
The Power of Preschool: Building a Ministry That Shapes Families for a Lifetime	Jennifer Edwards	Preschool ministry isn't babysitting; it is discipleship. Research consistently shows that the early years are among the most influential in a child's spiritual development and a family's connection to the local church. Discover why preschool ministry is a powerful predictor of long-term church engagement and family health. We will look at the importance of preschool ministry and how to leverage this knowledge to serve the young families in your community with practical proven strategies.	Ministry Administration	Just starting out (0-3 years)

Breakout #7 - Thursday, January 7 at 1:30 to 2:30 PM

TITLE	SPEAKER	DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	LEARNING LEVEL
Who Told You That? Finding God's Voice in Ministry Noise	CarrieAnne Stark	What happens when fear, insecurity, or false narratives become louder than God's truth? Through guided reflection, Scripture, and Spirit-led listening, this interactive breakout explores God's question, "Who told you that?" Attendees will learn to recognize false narratives, discern the voice of the Holy Spirit, and examine how those narratives influence the way they lead and disciple others. Together, we will discover how God's truth frees leaders to serve with confidence in their calling, fostering empathetic presence, authentic connection, and deeper discipleship.	Leadership	Advancing (5-15 years)



Happy Breakout Selection

We are here to offer guidance.

We are happy to answer any questions.

We are wholeheartedly praying as you prepare for CPC27.

~ Liza Gant ~

INCM Training Director

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