

## *What are your FAQs?*

EVERY YOUTH GROUP, Sunday school or club is unique. Different leaders, with different personalities and gifts. Different members with varied social, ethnic and religious backgrounds. And different styles of churches. But as we have travelled round the country over the last eight years running training events for local leaders, we have found a consistent pattern has emerged in the questions that they most frequently wrestle with.

At these *Big Issue*\* training events, we have been championing an approach to youth and children's work that we describe as 'Bible-centred.' What we mean by this phrase is that we want the teaching of God's Word, the Bible, not only to provide the *content* of what we try to communicate to the young people in our care, but also to provide the *priorities* of what we

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\* For further information about The Big Issue training events see the appendix on page 156.

expend our energies on, and to underpin the whole *philosophy* of what a group does when it meets together.

We believe that the hearing of God's Word, as it is carefully and faithfully taught, should be the central thing on the agenda whenever a group meets. That is what we mean by Bible-centred.

So we asked experienced youth and children's leaders who share our approach to give their considered answers to the top ten frequently asked questions (FAQs), based on their study of Scripture, and their long experience in dealing with these issues on a weekly basis. The result is, we hope and pray, a book that you will not simply read and forget, but an ongoing resource that you will reflect on, re-read and use to shape the content, style and practicalities of the ministry you are involved in.

The opening chapter by Ian Fry is foundational in understanding the rest of the book. So although you may be tempted to flip straight away to the question that is uppermost in your mind, can we urge you to take the time to read this opening chapter thoughtfully, carefully and prayerfully, as it sets the framework for everything that follows?

It is our prayer that this practical handbook will help you to do gospel ministry that is pleasing to God our Father, brings glory to His Son, our Saviour, is filled with the Spirit's power, and bears fruit that will last to all eternity.

*Alison Mitchell*

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