

planning timeline

- To make the most of Children's Sabbath, make sure your pastor is on board and is filled in with all the details of this special Sabbath.
- Plan ahead to advertise in your church and community.
- Present the program during the worship service.
- Prepare a special potluck to honor the children.
- Plan an outreach using Real Magazine.
- Visit adventsource.com to purchase witnessing tools children can use to share their faith.

Plan this Service

as an opportunity to reach out to the community to showcase children and their ministry. To get the ball rolling for your Children's Sabbath program, work with your pastor to develop a vision for Children's Sabbath and assemble a team to follow through on the organization and planning. Meet together as often as necessary; this lowers confusion among your leaders and keeps misunderstandings at a minimum. To get the children involved in the preparation and outreach, share with them the logo and the theme; talk about its meaning; encourage children to pray every day and to investigate how God is calling them to work for Him. Guide them in seeking God through the verses in the Bible. Normally the children's coordinator organizes Children's Sabbath. If your church has not appointed a children's coordinator, ask the pastor to appoint someone to act as coordinator for this important day.

Right Away

- Download materials from childmin.com
- Establish a Children's Sabbath prayer support group.
- Form a planning team, involving the Pathfinder and Adventurer Club directors as well as the children's Sabbath School division and VBS leaders.
- Determine the specifics of your afternoon outreach activity—the venue you choose, the sponsors and adults who will accompany the children, etc.
- If your church has children who are preparing for baptism, work with their families and the pastor to plan a baptism as part of the Children's Sabbath service.

Six Weeks Before

- Ask the church communications leader to advertise your program in the church bulletin, in local newspapers, and on local radio stations— sample inserts and announcements available for download: childmin.org
- Send “CALLED to be Different!” postcards as invitations to inactive (or former) members. Hand out postcards in church, encouraging members to invite their neighbors, friends, and relatives.
- Ask the church's hospitality team to plan a potluck or special meal for guests after the Children's Sabbath service. (see Potluck ideas on page 9)
- Plan for someone to take pictures at your Children's Sabbath program.

Three Weeks Before

- Post “CALLED to be Different!” posters around your church and school.
- Put a bulletin announcement in your church bulletin each remaining week.
- Enlist several children to help with a creative announcement during church.
- Start practicing the entire program in the church. (Avoid keeping kids out late on Friday night.)
- Firm up final details about your outreach event.

Children's Sabbath Day

- Pray with your team and with your children before the program.
- Present the program during the worship hour.
- Provide a potluck to honor the children and their families and guests.
- Organize and implement the Children's Sabbath afternoon outreach.
- Thank your team and the children for a great Children's Sabbath!