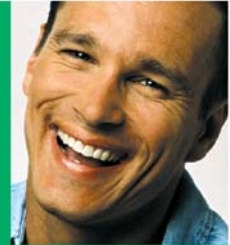




got volunteers?



**The 2003 Promiseland Conference**  
March 12-14 at Willow Creek

## Engage Children in Worship (Kindergarten-Fifth Grade)

With Christy Weygandt, Dan Lueders and Neal Johnson

## Session Speakers & Goal

**Christy Weygandt** is the Director of Music for K-5 and a teacher for 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade in Promiseland. Christy has been on staff in Promiseland for over 5 years but began serving in Promiseland long before that as a volunteer with the music team. Christy has her degree in theatre and speech from Northwestern College in Iowa.

**Dan Lueders** is the worship leader as well as the instrumental and vocal director for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade in Promiseland. In addition, Dan writes and produces much of the music used throughout Promiseland at all age levels.

**Neal Johnson** is the worship leader in two grade levels: Kindergarten/First grade and Second/Third grade. In addition to leading worship for our kids, he provides leadership to the volunteer teams that serve in those grade levels. Neal joined our staff part-time two years ago and still works full-time in the field of finance. Before joining our staff, Neal served as a volunteer in our music ministry.

### **Session Goal**

Following this breakout session, participants will have a better understanding of how to select appropriate music (and motions) for various age groups of children, they will learn tools to help identify and develop music volunteers, and participate in music/motions in order to take some Promiseland music back to their own churches to share with their kids.

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

**II. Warm-up Exercise**

**III. Promiseland Music Values and Mission**

**Mission:** To produce quality music that glorifies God and brings children closer to Him.

**We Value.....**

**Fun:** Children will have the opportunity to learn more about God through exciting/fun music.

**A Different Musical Experience in Each Room:** Children will have the opportunity to experience a different (age appropriate) musical feel and look in each grade level as they progress through Promiseland.

**A Consistent Worship Leader:** Children will have the opportunity to connect and identify with a consistent worship leader.

**Involving Kids:** Volunteer opportunities will be made available to allow kids to serve kids.

**A Calling to Serve:** Children will be served by people who are led by God to serve in Promiseland.

**Effectively communicating God's Word Through Music:** Children will be served by people who can connect with kids and have appropriate musical skills.

**Community:** Children will be served by people who enjoy serving with each other.

**Small Group Participation:** Children will be served by people who are in a Small Group within the church where spiritual growth and accountability occur.

**Volunteer Development:** Promiseland provides an environment for volunteers to develop through timely feedback during weekends, rehearsals and workshops. Volunteers can choose to supplement that with individual training.

**IV. Taking a Look at a Kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> Grade Kid**

K/1 kids are uninhibited and like to move! They are willing participants and both boys and girls join in the singing, dancing, and motions. They like to be “up front” and help out. Guard choosing songs for this age that are too “preschoolish”.

❑ **Let’s sing some K/1 Songs!!!!**

**V. General Music Information: Part I**

- Goals – is your music program a time filler or music with a purpose?
  
- Choosing Music:
  - Purpose for a specific weekend: unit theme, worship (celebration or reflective), “fun” element, songs that close or set-up story
  - Age Appropriate: echo vs. reading words or memorizing, understandable/relevant words, general style (pop/rap/blues)
  
- Selecting Teams: (Vocal and Instrumental)
  - Auditions, evaluations & feedback, “programming eyes”
  
- Involving Kids on Stage:
  - Building a kid’s team vs. pulling from the audience

## **VII. Taking a Look at a 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Kid**

2/3 Kids are more aware of the "world" than K/1 but are not as controlled by it as 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. 2/3 kids like to totally move to music. In other words, full body motions are better than simple hand motions. Girls are very precise and want to do the motions "exactly right!" Boys are more into "free-form" or "interpretive" motions! Much like the K/1 kids, the 2/3 group loves to be "up front" and help out. Keep in mind that this is the "in-between" group. Don't give them music that is too advanced (jr. high) but don't play music that makes them feel like "babies". They are beginning to be influenced by pop songs and even buying that type of music at the store. Although the whole pop culture scene influences them and the "cool factor" is beginning to show, they (boys and girls) are very willing to participate. They love to dance!!!

### **☐ Let's sing some 2/3 Songs!!!**

### **☐ General Music Information: Part II**

- Rehearsals: setting up volunteers to win
  - Providing CDs/tapes ahead of time – volunteers come prepared
  - Rehearsing music – instrumental and vocal – ahead of time and on the weekend they serve
  - Rehearsing motions
    1. simple vs. complex
    2. per word vs. per phrase
    3. age appropriate vs. "corny"
  
- Leading music:
  - Consistency
  - Gifted – gifted at "leading" not just "singing"
  - Ability to tie in purpose to the topic for the day

**VIII. Taking a Look at a 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade Kid**

4/5 kids are more aware of the “world” and are very concerned what others think. They are ready to really embrace the idea of worship and coming before God. Some motions are fun but it can be difficult to get the boys to engage – especially if they can’t identify with the leader. Many times they approach music with more of a “performance mentality”. They are influenced by MTV and show it in what they listen to and what they choose to wear.

**☐ Let’s sing some 4/5 Songs!!!**

**IX. Q & A**

## Book & Resource Recommendations

### **Promiseland CDs:**

In production and on it's way:

*Move It Like This* (music and motions DVD – K-5th)

*Every Move I Make* (CD)

Our most recent:

*5G Discovery* (K/1)

*Doing Life With God in the Picture* (2/5)

*Looking at the Pieces* (K/1)

*Making it Connect* (2/3)

*It All Fits Together* (4/5)

Others:

*Dance, Shout & Sing* (K/1)

*Live the Adventure* (K/5)

*Journey in the Wilderness* (K/5)

*Ultimate Voyage* (K/5)

### **Other CDs we recommend:**

*Shout to the Lord for Kids* (North Point Community Church – Alpharetta, GA – Integrity Music)

*Shout to the Lord for Kids 2* (North Point Community Church)

*Jump 5* (Sparrow Records)