

Making *Wonder Time*™ Special

Instructor Notes
(1 Hour Session)

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: The participant will conduct an effective *Wonder Time* in his *Good News Clubs*®, utilizing the suggestions and guidelines shared in this workshop.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: The participant will:

1. Understand the importance of *Wonder Time* in motivating and discipling the saved children in his *Good News Clubs* in their walk with God.
2. Value the impact he can have in the lives of his clubbers as he shares with passion the importance of a daily quiet time with God.
3. Present an effective *Wonder Time* in his clubs with enthusiasm, drawing from the guidelines given in this workshop.

Title Slide 1

Introduction: (5 min.)

Song—“God Wants to Spend Time with Just You” (play on CD)

Abraham Lincoln once said,

Slide 2

“A child is a person who is going to carry on what you have started. He will assume control of your cities, states and nations. He is going to move in and take over your churches, schools, universities and corporations. The fate of humanity is in his hands.”

Given the importance of children in the future of our nation, we need to be diligent in not only seeking to reach them for Christ, but also in discipling our saved kids so they will know how to walk in Truth.

Link:

One powerful way to accomplish that discipleship is through that special segment of our *Good News Club* program called *Wonder Time*!

Slide 3

What Is Wonder Time?

Although many *GNC*® teachers have always emphasized the quiet time with their clubbers, *CEF*® launched a new initiative in 2004 when *Wonder Time* became an official part of the *GNC* program.



Simply defined, *Wonder Time* is a 5-10 minute segment of the club dedicated to motivating the children to begin and continue their daily quiet time with God using *CEF's 60-Day Wonder Devotion Books* as a foundation.

Slide 4

Why Wonder Time?

- ➔ • A person's spiritual condition is largely established during childhood.

In his book, *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*, researcher George Barna states that a child's spiritual condition by the age of 13 is a strong predictor of his spiritual profile as an adult.

- ➔ • *Wonder Time* adds long-term value to the *Good News Club* experience.

Rather than just ministering to the children one hour a week, we are able to continue ministering to them through the devotional books 24/7 – or as the song says, “365 days a year!” *Wonder Time*, if done correctly provides motivation for the children to take the *GNC* teaching home with them through the week.

Slide 5

Illus: Ten-year-old Alesha says, “I am a Christian and go to church, but the devotional book is church every day.” Her quiet time is carrying the teaching of God's Word through the week.

How Do You Introduce Wonder Time In Your Clubs?

Slide 6

• Distributing the Devotional Books

- ➔ 1. When children come to the *GNC* for the third time they should be given a *GNC* membership card and a WDB, making them “official” members of the club.

(This applies to both saved and unsaved children.)

Promote this heavily in the first two weeks so children are looking forward to it. Make the awarding of these items a special event in the club time. This will add value to the WDB because it has been “earned”. Also, it will also motivate other children to continue to attend club so they can become “official” members.

- ➔ 2. We recommend that children in each club begin with the same book and progress together through the *GNC* year.

This will enable the teacher to reinforce in the *GNC* what the children are studying as well as to track each child's progress more easily.

New children should begin with the WDB that the rest of the club is using at the time and even with the devotional numbers where the rest of the group is working. They can catch up with previous devotionals or books at another time.

- ➔ 3. For clubs where there are preschool and older children—Give all kids a 60-day WDB and encourage older kids to help younger siblings at home. Parents should also be encouraged to help their younger children.

Slide 7

Illus: The mother of a five-year-old clubber gives this testimony: “Michaella doesn't read yet, but she loves having her quiet time. Each day she reminds her daddy to read the devotional to her.”

Making Wonder Time Special

Slide 8

- ➔ 4. Give the children all six WDBs from one set per year.

The fifth and sixth books can be given at the end of the *GNC* year.

Churches that have adopted clubs could sponsor a get-together in the summer to give out the sixth book.

Slide 9

• **Introducing the Quiet Time Concept**

A week or two before you hand out the books, begin to prepare the children and get them excited about starting their quiet time. (*See scripts*)

- ➔ 1. In your first *Wonder Time* session, have the children open to the beginning of the WDB and read together the instructions about how to have a quiet time.

You may want to visualize these instructions so they will remember them. (*Show Wonder Time poster*)

Stop—(outside preparation) get away from things that might tempt you away from your quiet time—TV, computer, video games, etc.

Sit—(inside preparation)—find a quiet place where you can be alone with God

Read—Let God speak to you from His Word (the second year of books are more inductive, requiring the children to look up passages and answer questions for themselves.)

Think—Ask yourself some questions: “What does this mean to me? What does God want me to think, feel or do about it?”

Pray—Speak to God as your Friend and helper. Ask Him to help you put the truth you have read into practice.

Every Day—God wants to spend time with you—365 days a year!

- ➔ 2. Have the children turn to the first devotional and work through the steps together as a model. (This may take 12-15 minutes.)
- a. If possible, divide the club into smaller groups for this activity.
 - b. This activity should be done at the beginning of the *GNC* year. If you discover the children are not following through with their quiet time you may need to review the instructions and do another practice devotional together. In addition, the steps may need to be reiterated periodically during the year as new children join the club.

Making Wonder Time Special

- ➔ c. It is recommended that whenever possible club time be extended to 75 minutes to incorporate this first *Wonder Time*. If expanding the club time is not possible, you may need to eliminate some other part of the club hour such as the review game to fit this *Wonder Time* into the schedule.

Slide 10

How Do You Maintain Interest?

After the first extended session when you introduce the devotional books, subsequent *Wonder Time* sessions can be done in 3-5 minutes. Use this time to keep interest alive and motivate the children to continue with their daily quiet time.

In smaller clubs, have a helper check each child's WDB before club starts. In larger clubs, divide the children into groups and have helpers collect and check the WDBs as the children arrive. Checking the books each week provides accountability for the children.

- ➔ • Be passionate about *Wonder Time*!
If you're not excited, the children won't be either! Share from your heart the wonder of getting to spend time with God every day. Make this part of club something the children look forward to!
- ➔ • Use the song, "God Wants to Spend Time with Just You" as a signal that *Wonder Time* is about to begin. Play it on the CD if possible and let the kids sing along.
- ➔ • Let various children share a testimony about what God is teaching them through their devotional time. Kids will be more inspired by hearing from their peers.

Illus: In an after-school club in Greenville SC, one teacher reported that when one of the children had completed his entire devotional book, she brought him to the front of the class and interviewed him. Since he had done book #2 on witnessing, she asked if he had been able to witness to anybody. He said every day after his quiet time, he goes out into the living room and shares what he learned with his family. When asked if he had witnessed to anybody else he replied, "Oh yeah, my whole football team!" This boy, who was older than many of the kids, was a strong example to them of putting the truth learned in his quiet time into action.

- Share something God taught you in your own quiet time. The children need to know that you are having a quiet time right along with them. Your enthusiasm will be contagious!
- ➔ • Plan some fun incentives to keep the kids interested and excited
 - a. Put a sticker (or use a stamp or draw a smiley face) on each page that a child completes in his book
 - b. Recognize all who do even one page of their devotional book for the week. This recognition could be simply a "*Good News Club Clap*" (a single clap done by the group in unison). Be careful not to belittle or pressure those who do not do their devotions or bring in the book.

Making Wonder Time Special

- c. Have a special drawing each week among those who complete all seven pages. Give away a small prize (bookmark, candy, etc.)

Illus: One teacher gave a “Skittle” for each page completed. One child in her club told her he had completed the whole week, but didn’t bring the book with him. She said, “I’m sorry I can’t give you any Skittles unless I see the book.” He smiled at her and said, “I didn’t do it for the Skittles.”

Slide 11

- ➔ • Focus the children’s attention on something to look for or a question to answer in their devotional during the week ahead
 - (Point out “Wonder Time Scripts” developed by Beth May in SC and read a few of them.)
 - To make this work, you will need to keep all of the children together in the same book.
- ➔ • Plan occasionally to deepen the children’s understanding of the value of having a quiet time with God by using special lessons. These could be done in an extended club session.
 - Use special CEF lessons like “Digging for Buried Treasure” (soon to be discontinued, so buy it now!) or “Big Questions about Prayer”
 - CEF magazine (*Teach Kids!*) is coming out with a lesson in the July/August 2005 issue called, *Katrina’s Quest*. It is the true story of CEF worker, Katrina Forseth’s discovery of the importance of the quiet time when she was a child. The end of the story promotes the 60-day devotional books.
 - Use songs to deepen your teaching like, “Three Questions”, “Did You Ever Talk to God Above” or “Yes, I Can.”
 - Use the *Children’s Ministry Resource Bible*, pages 1528-1530. Share one segment each week.
- ➔ • End your clubs with a challenge to remind and motivate the children to continue having their quiet time using the WDB during the week.
 - Any other ideas you have found successful? (Let them share.)

The *Wonder Devotional Books* are changing children’s lives. One parent sent in this testimony:

Slide 12

“Our eight-year-old daughter has been doing the devotional book on her own each morning for the past year. I love walking into her room at 6:45 a.m. and seeing her hunched over her *Wonder Devotional Book*, starting her day in the Word. Now our six-year-old son decided he wants to do his quiet time each morning. He’s not a morning person so I know it is a sacrifice on his part to start his day reading. But, he’s been faithfully doing it and usually comes to breakfast with some questions stimulated by his devotions. We feel blessed to watch our kids develop their own spiritual routines of daily growth using this tool.”

That’s just one testimony. And the blessings are not just here in America, but around the world!

Making Wonder Time Special

Listen to this testimony from Malaysia:

Slide 13

“Eunice, my six-year-old niece is newly saved and taking her faith seriously. She has been faithfully reading her devotional book and learning a lot from it. She refuses to enter the Buddhist temple or hold the jass sticks. On her first day in school when her mother was filling out the forms, she wrote for religion, “Buddhist.” Eunice insisted that she change it to “Christian.” She told her mother, “I’m a Christian now, only you and daddy are Buddhist.”

Slide 14

Conclusion:

Just think of the impact these children can have on their generation for Christ!



Abraham Lincoln was right: “The fate of humanity is in their hands.”

How about the children in your *Good News Clubs*? Will they have a positive influence for Christ on their world? Are they growing in their walk with God because of time spent daily with Him?

Will you make *Wonder Time* special in your clubs by presenting it with passion and enthusiasm, seeking to implement some of the guidelines and ideas shared in this workshop? May God bless you as you do.