



2024 Children's Ministry Leadership Cohort

Need-to-Know Information for the January 15-17, 2024, Retreat in Louisville, KY:

Transportation: You do not need to rent a car. Several of us will be driving. We'll meet at the hotel each morning to carpool over to the meeting location (TBD), and we'll also carpool for meals. If you want to do more exploring during your downtime, you're welcome to Uber or walk if the destination is nearby (coffee, food, etc.).

Money for Meals: We'll cover a catered dinner for the group Monday night during our time together, and also take care of dinner out Tuesday night. You can snag breakfast at the hotel each day before our meetings kick off each morning. We'll have snacks and drinks (we'll reach out to get your favorites!) for you during our time together as well. The only meal you should expect to pay for during the retreat is lunch on Tuesday as we'll be splitting up and letting you explore some spots in NuLu with each other.

Hotel Stay: We're planning to reserve a block of rooms at Home 2 Suites in the NuLu area of downtown (240 S Hancock St, Louisville, KY). We'll have more booking details soon! Please let us know if you're making other lodging arrangements so that we can reduce the number of rooms we have reserved.

Meeting Location: We'll be meeting each day at a location TBD in Downtown Louisville. Our schedule is located on the final two pages of this document.

Books and Homework Assignments: The four books below as well as a notebook with the reading and homework assignments for each phone call will be provided for you when you arrive for the retreat.

Jared Kennedy, *Keeping Your Children's Ministry on Mission: Practical Strategies for Discipling the Next Generation*. Crossway, 2022.

Deepak Reju and Marty Machowski. *Build on Jesus: A Comprehensive Guide to Gospel-Based Children's Ministry*. New Growth, 2021.

Jana Magruder. *Kids Ministry That Nourishes: Three Essential Nutrients of a Healthy Kids Ministry*. B&H Books, 2016.

Jack Klumpenhower, *Show Them Jesus: Teaching the Gospel to Kids*, New Growth Press, 2014.

Cohort Retreat Schedule:

Sunday, January 14, 2024

If you arrive a day early, services at **Sojourn Church Midtown** (1203 S. Shelby St.) will be held at **9am, 11am, and 6pm**. If you'd like to see our children's areas, I'll be available 11am and 6pm to give a tour of the space. Just e-mail me, and we'll set a place to meet.

Monday, January 15, 2024 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday)

If you arrive early in the day, there's plenty of great ways to spend time in downtown Louisville. I'd suggest checking out the Louisville Slugger Factory, the Frazier Historical Arms Museum, or the Muhammad Ali Center. All are a short Uber away from your hotel. On MLK Day, the Ali Center typically shows Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech at 11am.

- **3pm** Check-in at Check-in at Home 2 Suites (240 S Hancock St, Louisville, KY)
- **5:30pm** Meet in the lobby of the Home 2 Suites to carpool to the meeting site (TBD) for our opening session. We'll have a catered dinner, open the Scriptures together, get to know one another, and we'll talk through expectations and desires for the cohort.
- **Homework for Opening Night:** Take a few minutes to write key moments in your personal journey to ministry. Where'd you come from (family of origin)? When and how did you come to faith in Jesus? What brought you into your current ministry role? What Bible passages have been significant in your growth as a Christian and a leader? What do you hope to get out of the cohort? We'll spend time sharing this with the group so we can get to know each other.

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

- **6am**—Hotel breakfast begins.
- **8am**—Meet in the lobby of Home 2 Suites to carpool to meeting.
- **8:15am**—Quick stop by the Quill's Coffee Firehouse for those who are interested (802 E. Main St.).
- **9am—Workshop # 1: History & Missionary Vision of Family Ministry (Jared)**
- **10:30am**—Break
- **10:45am—Workshop # 2: Create Welcoming Environments (Trey)**
- **12:30pm**—Catered Lunch
- **1pm—Workshop # 3: Recruiting, Training, and Motivating Volunteers (Trey)**
- **2:45pm**—Break
- **3pm—Workshop # 4: Building a Strategic Plan (Jared)**
- **5:30pm**—Dinner together at Hammerhead's (921 Swan St.).

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

- **6am**—Hotel breakfast begins
- **7am**—Meet in the lobby of Home 2 Suites to carpool to the meeting location.
- **7:30am—Workshop # 5: Ask Us Anything (Trey and Jared)**

At this point we'll have covered a TON of material during our time together, and want to give you a chance to ask any lingering questions about what we've talk through. You may also have questions about topics we haven't touched yet, and this is a great time to throw those as us too. We'll also walk through details about our upcoming calls, reading assignments, and other odds and ends.

- **10am**—We'll wrap up by 10 am so you can get checked out of your hotel by 11, and head out to catch your flights.