



**How to Make
It Work
for YOU**

SONday'SCOOL™



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SONday'SCOOL™
A World of Difference

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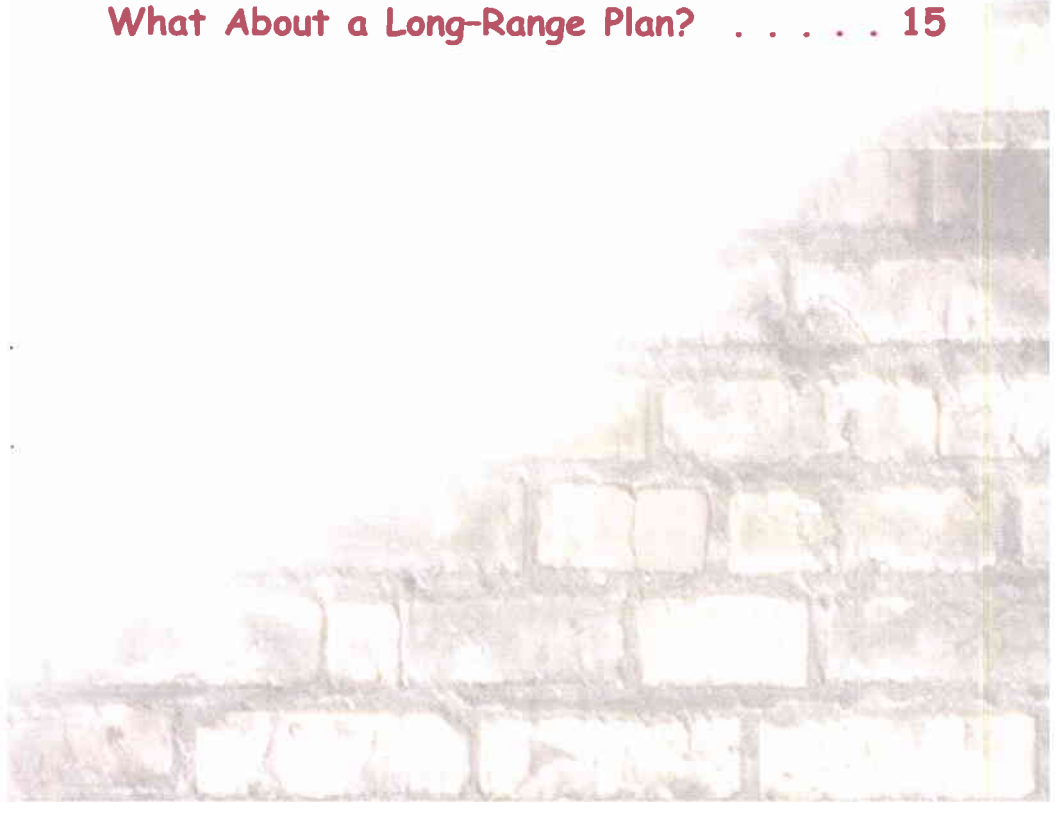
A World of Difference

SONday'SCOOL is Sunday School, but it's not. For one thing, it may not be on Sunday. And it should be as little like school as possible—at least, school in the traditional sense of “Sit down, be quiet, and listen.” SONday'SCOOL is active . . . it's alive . . . it's COOL! A How-To Manual is available for each of the following new SONday'SCOOL models. Contact: **1 (800) YOU-CARE (968-2273)** or www.hopeshare.org



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Make Hope Happen!

The mission of **HopeShare** is to intervene in the lives of children at risk, to offer them a safe place where they can learn to feel good about themselves and be good to others, to break the cycle of despair and share the hope of a personal relationship with **Jesus Christ**.

All proceeds and contributions resulting from the sale of this book will go to The Salvation Army's **"HopeChest"** for abused, neglected, and disadvantaged children.

For more information:

Telephone: **1 (800) YOU-CARE (968-2273)**

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What's It All About?

Club 3:16 is a mid-week Christian education program designed for local churches in the following situations:

- ♥ Many children and few leaders on Sunday
- ♥ An existing weekday youth program that will lend itself to adding a Christian education component
- ♥ Children who won't come on Sunday but will come out during the week


To put it plainly, it's Sunday School during the week!

Many children and few leaders on Sunday

Many churches get a lot of children into church on Sunday, but don't have enough leaders to teach Sunday School. Sometimes all the adults present are needed to teach. Then they don't receive adequate training or Christian education themselves. If this is the case, have the children join in worship on Sunday. The adults can go to their Sunday School class, and the children can receive their Christian education during the week. The adults who attend on Sunday can be teachers on the weekday.

An existing weekday youth program that will lend itself to adding a Christian education component

Some churches have a substantial audience of children during the week for latch-key programs,



tutoring, scouting groups, music instruction, or athletics. **Club 3:16** can be used to reach these children with the Gospel in addition to your regular Sunday School.

Children who won't come on Sunday but will come out during the week

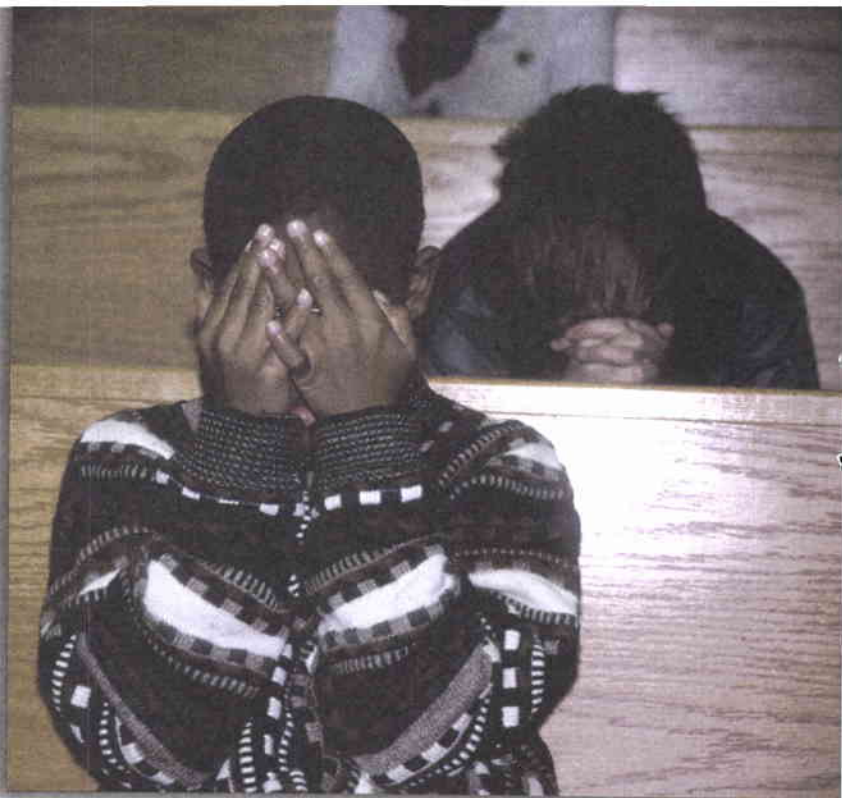
Some churches are unable to attract children to worship services and Sunday School on Sundays, but can attract them in droves on weekdays. This is an ideal situation for a weekday Christian education program like **Club 3:16**.

What's So New About That?

The concept behind **Club 3:16** is not a new idea. If Jesus had reserved all of His "Christian education" for the Sabbath, we would be missing a significant portion of the New Testament! Jesus never had an audience of 5000 men plus women and children in the synagogue. He taught about the Kingdom of God on a weekday on a mountainside . . . and also provided a nice lunch! Churches have been doing this kind of thing for years. Many have enhanced their weekday scouting and music programs with a time of Christian education.

However, **Club 3:16** is a new, fresh approach to Christian education and evangelism.

- ♥ Too many children are not hearing about the love of Jesus because they don't come to church on Sundays.
- ♥ Too many children are not able to listen to the stories of our Savior because there is no one to teach them on Sundays.
- ♥ Too many children have never entered a relationship with Jesus Christ because they have not heard the Word!



Club 3:16 gives a church freedom to reach, teach, and preach the Good News to children of all ages, at any time!

One important aspect of **Club 3:16** that may be new to many churches is the idea of using the adult Sunday School time as an opportunity not only to study the Bible, but to train adults to teach children in the mid-week program.

How Do We Get Started?

First of all, a gathering place and classrooms are needed. Other program space such as a gym or arts and crafts area would be helpful if **Club 3:16** is done in conjunction with other youth programs.

Then there are basically four steps involved in starting Club 3:16 in your church.

Step 1 Meet with your leaders to review your current Christian education plan. Is it adequate? Are your goals being met? If your plan is working, continue doing what you are doing! If it needs to be enhanced, review your situation to see what new **SONday'SCOOL** model might be best for your church. If you think **Club 3:16** will work for you . . . continue on to step 2.

Step 2 Form a **Club 3:16** committee in your church. This committee should be made up of any adults who will be interested in teaching and any others interested in supporting the program. Select a starting date that coincides with the start-up of other youth programs (for example, September, January, or June). Use this book as a planning manual.

Step 3

Advertise the program to parents and children along with your other weekday youth programs. Plan a big "kick-off event" for the first day.

Step 4

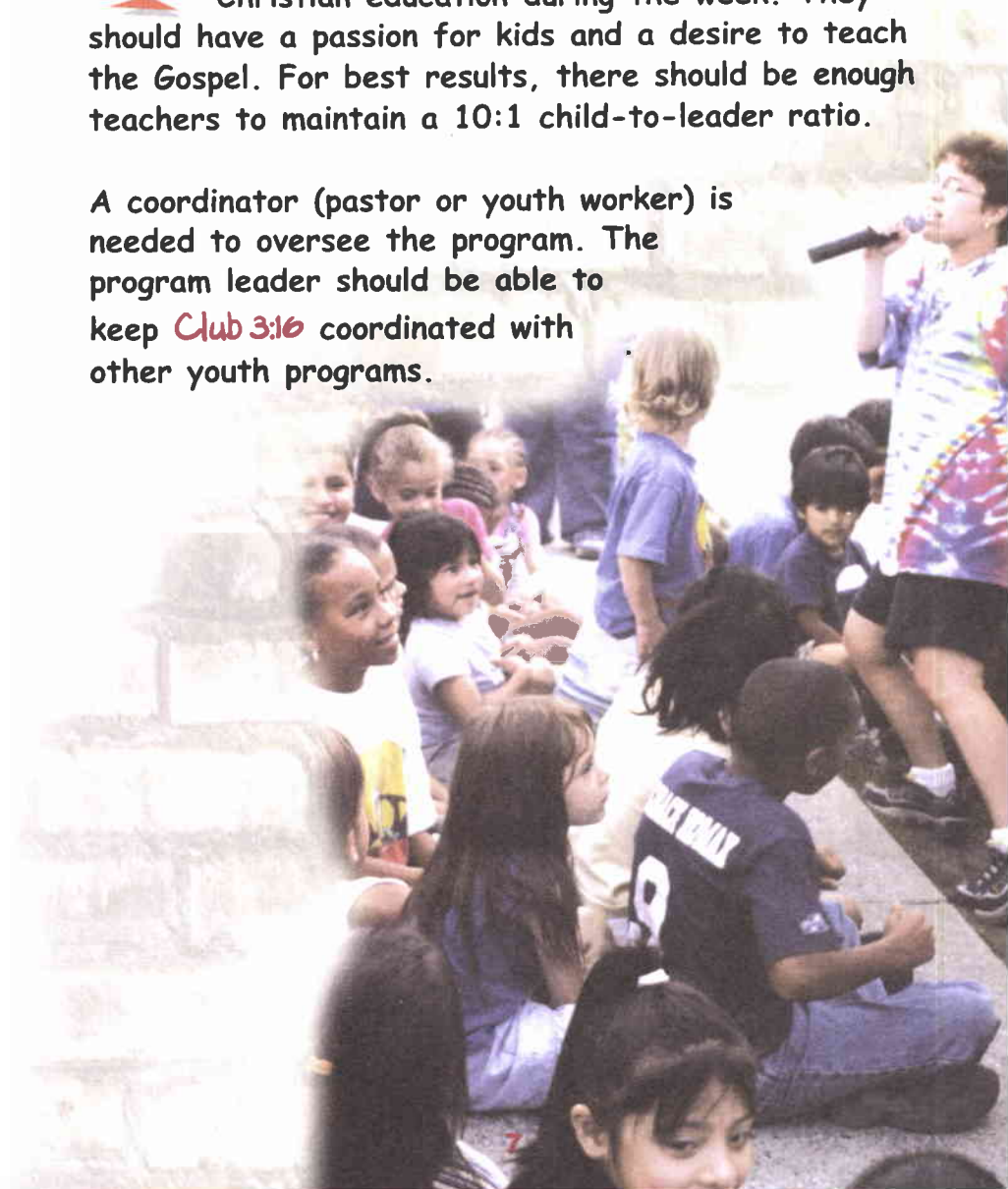
Once **Club 3:16** gets started, have ongoing evaluation of the program. What's working? What isn't working? What can be done better?



What Staff Will We Need?

Wo make **Club 3:16** work, dedicated adults are needed who will be available to teach Christian education during the week. They should have a passion for kids and a desire to teach the Gospel. For best results, there should be enough teachers to maintain a 10:1 child-to-leader ratio.

A coordinator (pastor or youth worker) is needed to oversee the program. The program leader should be able to keep **Club 3:16** coordinated with other youth programs.



What Training Is Required?

Each teacher should receive training and ongoing leadership in teaching. Part of the preparation for **Club 3:16** should be at least three training sessions for teachers. They should have knowledge of the age characteristics of their children, a working knowledge of a variety of teaching styles and methods, and experience with the Christian education curriculum that is being used.

A perfect time to give teachers continual training in method, style, and content is Sunday morning during their Sunday School class. A time can be set aside each week to train the teachers and outline that week's lessons for **Club 3:16**.

What Does the Schedule Look Like?

The beauty of *Club 3:16* is that it can be tailored to fit each church situation. Once the need is determined, *Club 3:16* should fit in with the weekly youth programs that already exist. Here are three models that can be adapted for local use:

MODEL I

After-School Youth Programs

This model is for the church that has existing programs right after school. If you have youth activities each day, one day per week can be selected to follow this schedule.

After school
to 4:00

Homework or free time in gym

4:00-4:30

Club 3:16 opening

4:30-5:15

Club 3:16 class time
(divided by age group)

5:15-5:45

Supper

5:45-6:30

Other activities
(scouting, music, etc.)
until parents pick up

MODEL 2

Early Evening Youth Programs

This model is for the church that has programs starting after supper.

6:15-6:45

Club 3:16 opening

6:45-7:30

Club 3:16 class time

7:30-8:30

Other activities
(scouting, music, etc.)
until time to go home

MODEL 3

Weekly VBS

This model is scheduled like a DVBS, but instead of meeting every day for two weeks, the schedule is one day each week.

6:00-6:30

Club 3:16 opening

6:30-7:15

Rotation 1 (Group A, classes;
Group B, arts & crafts)

7:15-8:00

Rotation 2 (Group B, classes;
Group A, arts & crafts)

8:00

Snacks and homeward bound

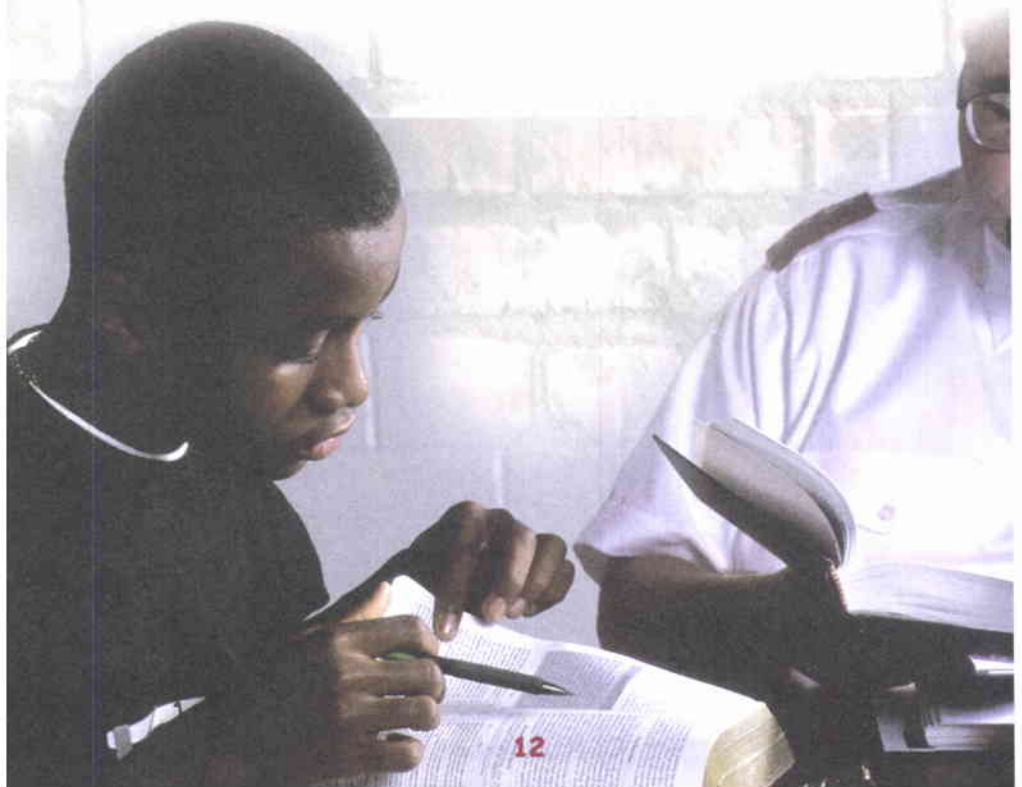
What Have the Results Been So Far?



Two Salvation Army churches were used as pilot sites for **Club 3:16**: in Levittown, Pennsylvania and Montclair, New Jersey.

Levittown has been using this program for three years and has experienced much growth in their youth activities and their Sunday worship. Not only are children coming to church and to Christ, but parents and whole families as well. Their schedule was similar to Model 1 above, but it has been changed slightly each year to adjust to circumstances. The weekday Christian education program did not change, only the surrounding activities.

Montclair began **Club 3:16** in January 2001 as an enhancement of existing programs. **Club 3:16** happened right after school followed by scouting groups, supper, and a music school. Each week, 40 children (their stated maximum due to facility size) came, and there was a waiting list. Montclair follows the school schedule, so **Club 3:16** does not happen during the summer months.



What Are the Pitfalls to Avoid?

Here are some things you'll need to keep in mind when implementing **Club 3:16**.

- ♥ Convince the congregation that this is a worthy program. Remind them that **Club 3:16** is enhancing the Sunday services, not replacing them.
- ♥ Know your limitations. Bigger isn't always better. Sometimes it's just bigger! Maintain proper teacher-to-child ratios to give the children the best program possible.
- ♥ Have extra teachers available. More things seem to go wrong during the week than you can imagine (overtime, traffic, illness, etc.). Plan for substitutes.
- ♥ Be mindful of school schedules. Plan around school vacations, concerts, half days, snow days, and extracurricular programs.

- ♥ Remember that the children have been sitting in classrooms all day and don't want to sit for three more hours after school. Plan activities that don't require only sitting. (Active choruses are great to use!!)
- ♥ Plan for a connection with the rest of the family. Banquets, concerts, recitals, sports games, art shows, open houses, home visits—these are just a few of the better ideas.
- ♥ Don't make it too complicated. Plan well and follow through!

What About a Long-Range Plan?

Club 3:16 is meant to be a Christian education and evangelism program. There must be planning for discipleship and outreach to other members in the family. Here are some things to consider in a long-range plan.

- ♥ How are new teachers recruited and trained?
- ♥ Are teachers trained in teaching and evangelism?
- ♥ How are children who are new converts followed up?
- ♥ How are children bridged into mainline membership activities?
- ♥ How are parents and other family members reached with the Gospel?
- ♥ How many weeks per year does Club 3:16 meet? What about the other weeks?
- ♥ What is the plan for the summer? (DVBS? Day camp? Summer resident camp?)

HAVE FUN!!





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