



IT'S YOUR MOVE

Event Guidelines and Program Outline

WELCOME TO IT'S YOUR MOVE

It's Your Move is a resource and workshop that helps children navigate the transition from elementary to middle school.

It's Your Move Workshop

Aims:

- To reach Gen Z in your local community
- To help elementary school students navigate their way to middle school with confidence
- To help students consider that Jesus can make a difference in their move and in their lives
- To introduce unreached children to the church and its activities
- To help you transition your church's children from your elementary program to youth group

You may want to consider partnering with other churches to run a workshop in your area.

When

The best time for a workshop is toward the end of the school year when general orientation will be taking place. You can also run a workshop any time during the summer. It could also be a special day for rising middle schoolers at the end of your VBS program.

Where

You will need to hold your workshop event in a church fellowship hall or community center where students can be seated with leaders around tables of 8-10. Choose the venue where participants will feel most comfortable.

What you will need

- *It's Your Move* Booklets – one for each child and leader
- Tables (preferably round) and chairs
- Laptop and projector
- Screen
- Sound system
- Materials for the Activities
- Pens/pencils at each table

Workshop Program

This guide provides you with a suggested program that coincides with elements of the booklet. The program is expected to take 3 hours and includes

- Presentation of the material in the booklet
- Thinking / Doodle time
- Small group discussion
- Games
- Interviews

The program is adjustable and can be adapted for your setting. A PowerPoint presentation is provided for your convenience. You will also find a run sheet template in Appendix 1.

Option: We recommend you ask a local middle school teacher and a couple of students to be interviewed about their experiences and to give their advice.

Option: You may like to serve refreshments halfway through the program. You will need to bear in mind any allergies or sensitivities that participants might have when planning for this.

SUGGESTED WORKSHOP PROGRAM

10 min

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

PPT – *It's Your Move* title page



Introduce yourself and welcome the participants. Explain that in this workshop we are going to be thinking about moving up to middle school. Explain that we will be getting a lot of good advice for navigating their way to their new school. We will have times for thinking and discussion at our tables, and some fun games.

Introduce the table leaders and explain their role in the day.

Doodle Time



Take time around the tables for introductions – name, elementary school, what middle school they will go to.

Introduce participants to the IYM booklet and ask them to fill in their name on page 3. If you have time, ask the participants to fill in page 4 as you talk about it.

10 min

BIG QUESTIONS (Page 8)

PPT – BIG QUESTIONS



Introduce the Big Questions section. Explain that, at their tables, they are going to be talking about their elementary school and the middle school they will be moving to. After discussion get some general feedback from the tables.

Doodle Time



At the tables, participants talk about the three questions and fill in their booklets on page 8.

- What do you like most about your elementary school?
- What do you think is the scariest thing about going to middle school?
- What are you looking forward to the most about middle school?

Share your answers around the table.

5 min

GET READY FOR A NEW START! (Page 9)

PPT – GET READY FOR A NEW START!



Introduce friends who have made the change and explain that they made the move to middle school already and will have some advice for us through the day – meet Joel, Lydia, Miss Williams, Mr. Spahr and his son Asher.

Option: if you have invited a local school teacher and middle school students to be interviewed about their experience and to give advice, introduce them now.

How ready are you?



Ask the participants to think about how ready they think they are for making the move from elementary to middle school. Instruct them to write on their card a 'readiness' score from 1-5 with 1 being not ready at all to 5 all set to go. Ask them to place it face down on the table (you will be referring to it toward the end of the program when they will score themselves again.)

Materials Needed

- Index cards
- Markers

30 min

40 TOP TIPS FOR A GREAT START (Page 11)

PPT – 40 Top Tips



Give a general introduction to the 40 top tips – your countdown to a great new start to middle school. Explain that we are going to talk about 5 things.

1. Getting to know your new school
2. Being prepared
3. You and others
4. Making good choices
5. Being You

Get to Know Your New School (Page 12)

PPT – Get to Know Your New School



Present a general overview of

- Top Tips
- Tips from some friends
- What the Bible says

Doodle Time



Give participants time to write in their answers on page 14

- On my first day of middle school, I think I will...
- If I get lost I will...

Share your answers around the table.

Be Prepared (Page 16)

PPT – Be prepared



Present a general overview of

- Top Tips
- Tips from some friends
- What the Bible says

Doodle Time



Give participants time to write their answers on page 18

My favorites at school are...

- Friend
- Book
- Lunch
- Sport/Activity
- Subject

Share your answers around the table.

10 min

Memory Game

At four different stations around the room, have 4 tables with 5 ‘school’ items on each. Explain to the participants that part of being prepared is remembering what we need each day when we prepare to go to school. Participants will have 2 minutes to go around all of the tables and remember as many items as they can. (You may want to blow a whistle every 30 seconds to remind them to go on to the next table.) After 2 minutes, ask the participants to go back to their tables where they will work together to make a list of all of the items they can remember in 1 minute. (Cover up the items on the tables so they cannot see them.) At the end, go around the tables to see how many items each table was able to remember.

Materials Needed

- 20 ‘school’ items
- Table cloths or towels to cover the items
- Paper and pen at each table

30 min You and Others (page 19)

PPT – You and others



Present a general overview of

- Top Tips
- Tips from some friends
- What the Bible says

Doodle Time



Give participants time to write in their answers on page 20

- Some things I like about my friends are...
- I can be a good friend by...

Share your answers around the table.

Make Good Choices (page 23)

PPT – Make Good Choices



Present a general overview of

- Top Tips
- Tips from some friends
- What the Bible says

Doodle Time



Give participants time to write in their answers on page 24

- Some really good choices I can make are...
- Some choices that aren't so good are...

Share your answers around the table.

15 min It's Your Choice Game

For this game you will need 4 leaders to serve as holders of various signs, one in each of 4 corners of the room. You will need to prepare signs with the choices for each category written on them. For instance in the category of Favorite Subjects they will have a choice of:

Favorite Subjects

- I love math and science the most
- I want to learn a new language
- I would be happy to spend all day in gym
- Lunch break, that's my favorite!

Tell the participants that you are going to call out a category. They must then go to the corner of the room that best describes them or their choice. Call out the category and then read out the 4 options. Then, when you say go, participants will go to their chosen corner. You can comment on the results after each round. If you have time you could also ask individual participants why they chose that particular corner.

You will find all 5 categories with choices in *Appendix 2*.

10 min Be YOU! (Page 26)

PPT – Be You!



Present a general overview of

- Top Tips
- Tips from some friends
- What the Bible says

Doodle Time



Give participants time to write in their answers on page 28

- The things that make me happy are...
- The things that keep me healthy are...

Share your answers around the table.

10 min READY OR NOT? (Page 29)

PPT – Ready or Not



Introduce the dilemmas and ask them to “take the test” and circle the answers that are most like them. Table leaders can help them with this, particularly when it comes to adding up their scores. When participants are finished, give a brief summary of the scale of points and encourage them to read through the 40 Top Tips again when they get home.

15 min YOUR NAVIGATION GUIDES (Page 31)

PPT – Your Navigation Guides



Briefly summarize the comments of each character.

If you have invited teachers or students from your local middle school, this is a good time to interview them. Here are some questions you could ask. You may also like to have a time of open questions from the participants.

Interview with teachers

- What are some things new students will really like about their new school and experience?
- What will take some time to get used to?
- What advice would you give them in navigating their way in middle school?
- Questions from the participants

Interview with students

- What was your first day at middle school like?
- What do you like most about middle school?
- What took some getting used to?
- Questions from the participants

10 min WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND (Page 33)

PPT – What's on Your Mind?



Explain to participants that they are going to take some time to think about how they feel about moving up to middle school and what they can do about the things that concern them.

Doodle Time



Give participants time to write in their answers on pages 33 and 34

- Feelings about moving up...
- People I can talk to about worries...
- Things I would like to talk about with God...

Share your answers around the table.

5 min AND THERE'S MORE – Extra Activities & Advice (Page 35)

PPT – And there's more



Explain to participants that this is the end of the workshop, however, there is plenty more help in their booklets. And there are lots of puzzles and fun activities as well. (You may like to point out some of the topics and activities)

5 min CHURCH ACTIVITIES – MORE HELP

PPT – And there's more



Provide information about the various activities and additional help that is available from your church. Hand out any material that you may have prepared for the day. You may also like to add a slide to your PPT with further information

5 min READY SET GO

Ask participants to look at the card that they filled out at the beginning of the workshop that has a “readiness” score of 1-5. Ask them to review it, and on the opposite side, put a score of 1-5 that shows how ready they feel now. Give the tables a minute to talk briefly about the difference or if nothing has changed.

5 min EXPECT GOOD THINGS TO HAPPEN

Ask the participants to turn to page 52 and encourage them to write their thoughts down a few weeks after they have started middle school.

Close with a prayer.

Option: You may want to encourage the participants to close their eyes and think about everything that has been covered in the workshop. Close with an invitation to say a prayer that is displayed on the screen. This should be done sensitively.

Churches are encouraged to commit to pray for each individual participant.

Appendix 1

IT'S YOUR MOVE – RUN SHEET TEMPLATE

Time	Mins	Program Item	Materials	Notes
	10	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS Presentation Table Discussion	PPT Booklets & Pencils	
	10	BIG QUESTIONS Presentation Table Discussion	PPT Booklets & Pencils	
	5	GET READY FOR A NEW START! Presentation Table Discussion	PPT Cards & Markers	
	30	40 TOP TIPS FOR A GREAT START	PPT	
		Get to Know Your New School Presentation Table Discussion	PPT Booklets & Pencils	
		Be Prepared Presentation Table Discussion	PPT Booklets & Pencils	
	10	Memory Game	School Items	
	30	You and Others Presentation Table Discussion	PPT Booklets & Pencils	
		Make Good Choices Presentation Table Discussion	PPT Booklets & Pencils	
	15	It's Your Choice Game	Signs	
	15	BE YOU! Presentation Table Discussion	PPT Booklets & Pencils	
	10	READY OR NOT?	PPT	
	15	YOUR NAVIGATION GUIDES Presentation (Interviews)	PPT Teacher/Pupils	
	10	WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND Presentation Table Discussion	PPT Booklets & Pencils	
	5	AND THERE'S MORE	PPT	
	5	CHURCH ACTIVITIES – MORE HELP	PPT	
	5	READY SET GO	Cards (re-score)	
	5	EXPECT GOOD THINGS		

Appendix 2

1. Favorite Subjects

- I love math and science the most
- I want to learn a new language
- I would be happy to spend all day in gym
- Lunch break, that's my favorite!

2. Social networks

- YouTube is my thing
- Instagram is my favorite scrolling place
- Messenger is the main way I communicate with friends
- What? I prefer being with my friends rather than social media

3. Detention

- I'm good all the time – I don't think I will get detention
- Sometimes I am absent minded and may get detention
- I will try to follow the rules so I don't end up in detention
- Oh my, the detention room will probably be a second home to me

4. Clubs

- I am looking forward to playing sports
- I am already in scouts and will probably continue
- I am more interested in music and arts
- Clubs are not really my thing

5. Friends

- I am the life of the party and will have lots of friends in not time at all
- I generally find it easy to make new friends
- I am a bit shy, and it may take a while to make friends
- I just want to be alone!