

GRADE SCHOOL TO JR HI TRANSITION IDEAS...

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP

Middle School is a scary place. This year at Middle School Camp use *Surviving Middle School* as the basis for your Family/Small Group time. Students are broken into family/small groups of twelve consisting of six girls and six boys and a counselor of each gender. *Surviving Middle School* makes them laugh and it opens up issues that they really want to deal with in a safe place. For those topics that are sexual in nature the family groups simply divide by gender for one time slot. The enclosed CD is used as the call to Family Groups and during down time at meals. Make slides of the artwork and use pre-selected segments to open up the conversation. At the end of camp every student who is just going into Middle School gets to take a copy of the book home with them.

MOVE UP/ 5TH GRADE GRAD GIFT

Some churches give those who graduate from fifth grade into the youth group a Student Bible...the large honkin' kind that no self respecting sixth grader will ever lug anywhere! How about a shift in the paradigm. This year give out *The Message Remix* and *Surviving Middle School*. This humorous and savvy book actually gives real world advice on how to navigate the messy, stinky and often overwhelming waters of Middle School. Plus, there is a great music CD that comes with book – even if they don't read they will keep the CD!

LEADER GIFT

If you want your Middle School Leaders to really understand the students they are called to minister to, have them read *Surviving Middle School*. Then have each leader give their copy away to a student they are particularly burdened for and ask for feedback from that student. This will give them some fodder for deeper conversation over some humorous antics in the book.

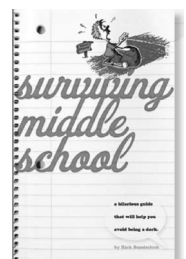
BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Make your Back to School Bash/Retreat more effective with *Surviving Middle School*. Flesh out a chapter or two of this dynamic resource with video clips from movies or video segments from YouTube, or even better create your own. These can be segues into activities or transition times. Middle School is the worst period of some student's lives – give them a heads up right at the start of the year that you understand and are there for them. If you get these issues on the table you will be able to speak into their lives far more effectively as the year progresses. At the end of the event give every student who is just going into Middle School gets to take a copy of the book.

SMALL GROUP MATERIAL

I'm sure that your youth ministry is focused on small group ministry. Have your Middle School Small Group work through *Surviving Middle School* as their resource. There are lots of curriculums out there and a number of them were suggested to us for this group but most are written for the adult teacher. *Surviving Middle School* is written for the students by someone who truly understands them [cause his mental age is about 12] and they love reading and laughing! You'll find you don't have to force them to read their assigned chapters or give time to read it when you meet because they are interested in the content – it speaks to where they live.

Surviving Middle School is a book with a plethora of tips, tunes, advice and wisdom that will guide a new middle schooler through a very important transition of their life. Written by pastor-surfer-author, Rick Bundschuh, you'll find that Rick not only remembers everything about being a junior higher, but he's pastored a lot of them through this important stage in life. Along with the book is a CD full of "matching" songs from *Relient K*, *Superchick*, *Stellar Kart* and more to be the soundtrack behind the written words of wisdom.



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