



THE MOST IMMERSIVE
KID-EVENT WE EVER DEVELOPED
FOR CHURCHES

The KidsWantAnswers.com team



A QUICK SUMMARY

(But for maximum joy, read the whole thing!)

What is the Mystery Experience?

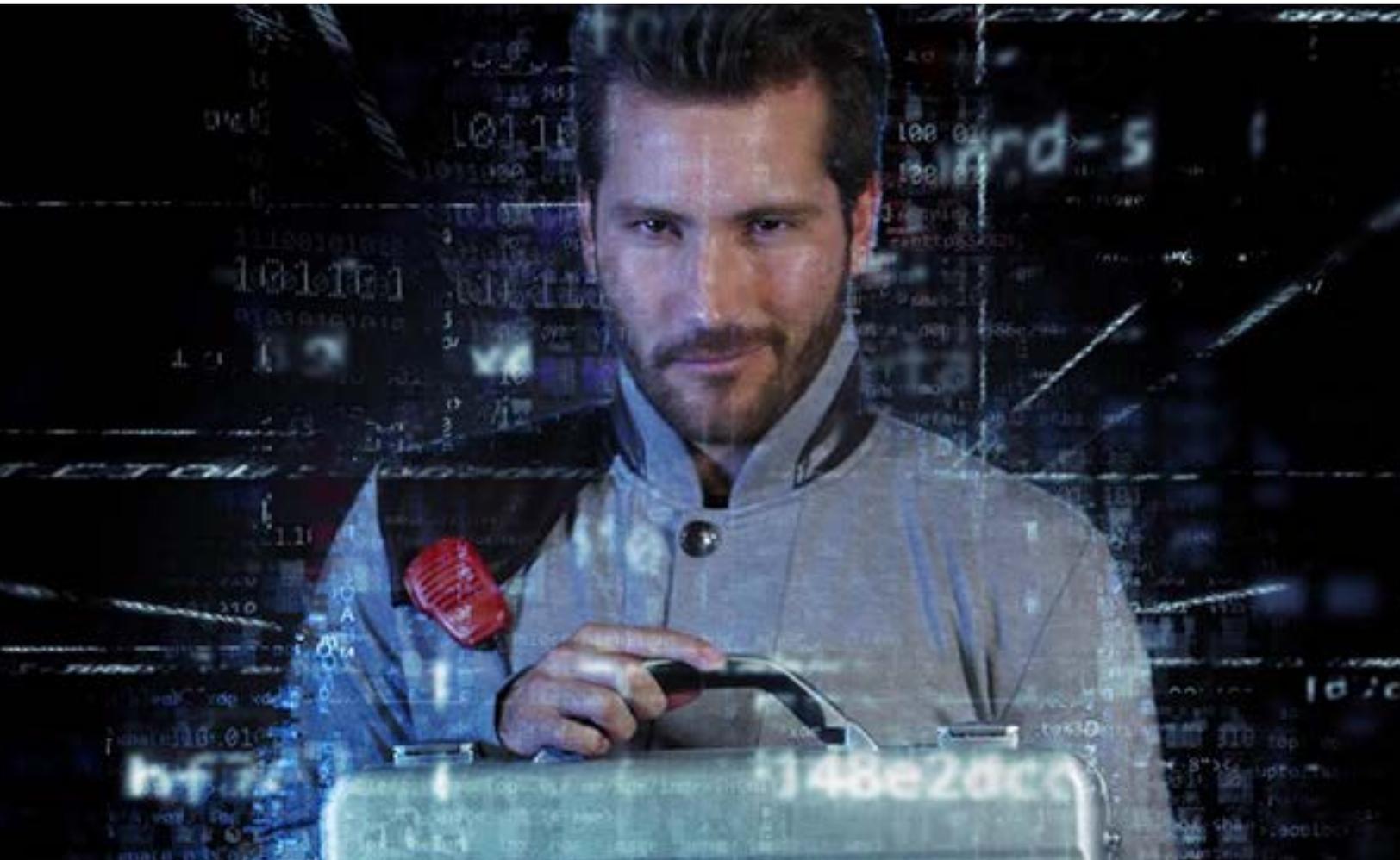
The *Mystery Experience* is an upgrade to the regular *Future Spies* series. It turns the regular series into a massive VBS, Camp, or series of epic events.

What makes the Mystery Experience so different?

Both *Future Spies* and the *Mystery Experience* upgrade are the result of 15 years of testing. The programs are fully immersed in an ongoing spy-story. This is a modern-day parable with twists and turns and cliff-hangers. It's so engaging, we've seen kids beg their parents NOT to go on vacation, so they wouldn't have to miss a week at church!

How does this upgrade work?

Once you've got the regular *Future Spies* series, simply replace the lesson-plans with the *Future Spies Mystery Experience* lesson-plans. It's that simple! Wham, the series just got upgraded. (The upgrade also comes with new media elements. Simply add those new media elements to the regular series' media elements, and you're done!)



Does the *Mystery Experience* help new kids to come to church?

Absolutely. The *Future Spies Mystery Experience* comes with built-in structure to encourage new kids come to church after the event. Here's how it works:

The regular *Future Spies* series has 7 lessons. The *Mystery Experience* only has 5 lessons, and this is done on purpose. After your VBS, Camp, or series of 5 events, tell kids that the experience continues... at church! By doing lesson 6 and 7 at your regular church services, new kids will be excited to give church a try. You'll see many more kids attending your church this way.

(NOTE: Most traditional VBS-, Camp- and Outreach Events stand on their own and don't have a structure to help kids attend church. This is a waste of your precious effort. By "cutting the event in two pieces" (the event-part, and the church-part) you retain many more visiting kids.)



FUTURE  SPIES

welcome, secret agents

THE POWER OF PARABLES

*We've seen ministries double in size,
and we couldn't keep this break-through for ourselves.*

Children's ministry is ready for an upgrade.

At KidsWantAnswers.com we feel what many children's ministers feel; that the old, "proven" methods don't work anymore. Children's ministry is ready for an upgrade. As you know, we've developed many new methods, programs and practices to share God's amazing message with the next generation. *Future Spies* does that in a way that no other series has done before.

What's so different about *Future Spies*?

Future Spies is a children's ministry series developed by both children's pastors as well as Hollywood writers, videographers and – most surprisingly – a big group of energetic teenagers.

- **The Children's workers** brought their gift of teaching and theology.
- **The award-winning Hollywood designers** brought their God-given communication gifts.
- **The teenagers** evaluated everything and brought that next-generation energy. They were part of every phase of the development.





What's with the spy story and how does it work?

In traditional children's ministry series, the lessons are often brought to life with short stories in the form of theatre skits, puppet skits, or videos. But the quality of those stories is often low.

With *Future Spies*, you turn it on its head. Instead of having a story at the end of the program, the entire program is immersed in the story. And not only that, the story continues from lesson to lesson and rises in intensity, keeping kids engaged.

The *Future Spies* story adds numerous breakthroughs:



Full immersion: Every facet of the program is immersed in the ongoing parable story about secret agents. Instead of having one big teaching video in the middle, the story is served in bite-sized pieces all throughout the program.

All kids are secret agents: During the program all kids act like they're secret agents, ready to be sent on a mission. And if you think about it theologically... they are!

Unexpected twists: The story has a minimum of two plot twists per lesson, keeping kids engaged at all times. The characters are deep, and kids will learn from the lessons that the characters are learning.

Super cool interruptions: While the program is going, the story could "interrupt" the program at any moment. For instance, an alarm will sound, and the story-video continues. Or the screen will be "hacked" and the story video continues. This keeps kids on their toes.

Cliff-hangers: At the end of each lesson, the story ends in a cliff-hanger, leaving kids excited to come back for the next lesson.

Rising stakes: Traditional lesson series usually lose kids' attention as they go on. *Future Spies* gains MORE attention because it slowly raises the stakes each lesson.

THE TEACHING THEME

*We should ask ourselves:
If this series is the ONLY church-event
a kid would ever attend,
then what should we teach?*

If we aim for the moon, at least we'll reach the rooftops!

Future Spies isn't only grand in its design, it's grand in what it teaches. If *Future Spies* were to be the ONLY Christian event a kid ever attended, he or she should leave with a passion to know God better, and a knowledge that there's a lot to explore about a life with God. That's why we chose the theme to be about **the meaning of life**, or, said differently; **God's plan for your life**.

OVERALL THEME: The secret of service

The slogan of *Future Spies* is "the secret of service", because when we serve God, he reveals His secret to us: His plan for our lives. As we serve God, he reveals more and more each day; we discover God's plan by living it, by following him. "The Secret of Service" also plays into the secret agent theme.



FUTURE SPIES



LESSON THEMES

Here the teaching themes for each lesson. Remember that there are 7 lessons in all of *Future Spies*, and the first 5 lessons can be replaced with the *Mystery Experience* upgrade (turning it into a VBS, Camp or series of outreach events; with church-follow-up):

LESSON 1

Find the meaning of your life

Will you love everyone?

Kids learn: We all want our lives to have meaning. But it won't if we only think of ourselves. God reveals the meaning of our lives when we begin to love others. Your life isn't about you. We're on earth to learn how to love. To love others. And the deepest form of loving others is to love your enemies.

Something to admit: "I've lived for myself. I've been a little selfish at times and I want God to change me."

Application: Who are your friends? How do you love them? Who are your "enemies"? How will you love them?

Bible Story: Kids will get a fly-through overview of the entire story of the Bible and how it relates to them.

Bible Verse: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. – Luke 6:27-28 (NIV)

LESSON 2

Be on your mission

Will you share the Good News?

Kids learn: Last time we saw that without meaning, something's missing. God gives meaning. We miss a part of our lives without God. But once you know God and you become friends, will you tell others about him so that they can find him as well?

Something to admit: Sometimes I've kept the best things for myself. But the news of knowing Jesus, I will not keep for myself alone.

Application: Share the Good News with Others (share what you know so far). Bring people to Jesus. (teach kids how to do so?)

Bible Story: Paul's nephew tells of conspiracy to save Paul's life. Same way u can tell others about Christ to save theirs. (Acts 23:16-35)



Bible Verse: Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. - Colossians 4:5 (NLT)

LESSON 3

Have a team

A meaningful life has deep friendships.

Kids learn: We all try to be good, but we also do “stupid stuff”. Things we look back on and go, “Why did I do that?”. We’re not perfect. If we want to live the most meaningful life possible, we need friends who are honest with us to point out the stupid stuff. Will you have friends who tell you what you want to hear, or real friends who lovingly point out the stupid stuff? And will you get angry if they do, or thank them?

Something to admit: “I haven’t always been a good friend. And I haven’t always surrounded myself with good friends.”

Application: Tell your best friends (and parents, if you want) that they can speak into your lives and keep you from doing “stupid stuff”.

Bible Story: David & Jonathan (Jon wasn’t jealous that David would be king instead of himself, cuz he loved David) (different references from 1st Samuel will be used)

Bible Verse: So in Christ ... we form one body, and each member belongs to all the others – Romans 15:5 (NIV)

LESSON 4

Allow God to change you

Become the great person you’re meant to be.

Kids learn: If you want to live a meaningful life, you can’t stay as you are. But it’s not easy to become a better person. You can try to change yourself, but you always change back. Your bad habits return. But if you let God change you, you break with the bad habits. God fills you from inside and makes you a better person. This shows in how you behave and what you do. He also shows you what to be like—by showing you WHO to be like; Jesus.

Something to admit: I’ve made mistakes. I’ve done bad things. I want to admit them to God and ask him to change me from the inside out.

Application: You know if a person is good or not by what they do, not what they say. Think about what people see you do.

Bible Story: Paul’s conversion on the road to Damascus. Paul thought he was a good man who served God. He was blind to his bad ways, until he allowed God to change him (Acts 9:1-9).



Bible Verse: Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus – Philippians 2:5 (HCSB)

LESSON 5

Leave a legacy everywhere you go

How to live a life of service.

Kids learn: The most meaningful life is lived when we always leave things better than we find them. And with “things” we mean people! God made us to serve others, to help them with their needs. A meaningful life is a life of serving others. There are things you can do that others can’t. You can use those gifts to serve others. Add up all the things you do for others, and that’s called a legacy. Dream of leaving a great legacy!

SIDE-NOTE: x

Something to admit: I’ve often lived for myself, and not to help, serve, encourage others. I want my love for others to grow, so that I’ll enjoy serving and helping others. God, please give me more love for others.

Application: Make a list of your best friends (about 5 or 10) and make a list of the people you have a hard time with. Now, next to each name, write how you can serve them. (Help, encourage, etc).

Bible Story: Naaman stole a person and made her a slave. This slave girl followed God and decided to help (serve!) the man, instead of hating him. She saved his life. (2nd Kings 5)

Bible Verse: Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others. – 1 Peter 4:10

LESSON 6

Everything you do is for your Maker

Live for one person’s opinion only.

(This lesson is part of the original Future Spies series)

Kids learn: You’ll never live a meaningful life if you’re always trying to please others. You should be kind and generous of course, but you can never make everyone happy. If you want to live the most meaningful life, you must live the life God has for you, and your only concern is to please God. You live for just one person, and that’s God. It’s a lot less stressful. You can go to God at any time of the day...or night.

Something to admit: “God, I’ve lived for so many things. For myself. For the approval of others. For things. For laughs. To be popular. I want to choose to live for you, only for you.”

Application: Choose to live for God, for the rest of your life.

Bible Story: Peter and John are told that they can’t preach anymore, but reply that they should please God rather than man (Acts 4).



Bible Verse: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. – Mark 12:30 (NIV)

LESSON 7

Make your choice

What kind of life will you live?

(This lesson is part of the original Future Spies series)

Kids learn: We've seen how to live a meaningful life; (1) that it's not about you but about loving others, (2) that we mustn't keep the best news to ourselves, (3) that we must get friends who keep us in line, (4) that we can't change ourselves for the better but that God can, (5) that we should leave a legacy by helping others in our unique way, and (6) that everything we do is for one person; the one who made us. Now what will you choose?

Something to admit: "God, you've given me everything and you're always here for me. You gave your life for me. Now I want to choose to live my life completely for you. Lead me so I can live the most meaningful life."

Application: Give your life to Jesus.

Bible Story: Jesus gave his life for you. (Multiple references from the Gospels)

Bible Verse: But God proves His love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. – Romans 5:8



FUTURE  SPIES

Be on your mission!

THE PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The regular *Future Spies* series has a great structure for your regular church services. However, the *Mystery Experience* upgrade takes it a huge step further. Every lesson has an opening rally, four rotations, and a closing rally.

You could use it as a VBS, by doing all those elements in order. Or you could use it as camp curriculum, by doing the opening rally in the morning, the rotations throughout the day, and the closing rally as the evening chapel. You can also use it as outreach events where you pick the elements you like (ALL lessons can be edited in Microsoft Word!)

- A. **Opening Rally.** In this deeply engaging, high-energy program, kids don't only defend their team in games, they also get familiar with the teaching theme. The teams are divided by color, and each color has a champion. The Biblical theme is introduced by raising questions, but not yet giving all the answers. This opens kids' hearts to search for the answers throughout the day. At the end of this rally (which lasts 45min to 1 hour) kids are sent to their rotations. Yes, they're going to SPY for the answers!
- B. **Rotations.** Kids go with their team on specific rotations. Each station has either high-energy games, hands-on experiences, something immersive, or something interactive. It teaches kids one part of the answer to the question of the day. The rotations are hands-on experience based. Some are energetic (such as spy obstacle courses), some involve the brain (such as deciphering spy codes!), and others are a race against the clock (diffuse the "bomb")!
- C. **Closing Rally.** In the closing rally, all answers are revealed, and kids who found the answers in the rotations are rewarded. They will also continue the gripping story that serves as the through-line throughout *Future Spies*. The story will end in a cliffhanger, encouraging kids to return the next time.



Rotations

 FUTURE SPIES

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- A. **Question: Is the spy-story for both boys and girls?** Absolutely. The trailer and promotional materials may feel action-driven, but that’s done on purpose. First off, boys’ hearts are a harder to capture than girls’. Secondly, when you play the promotional materials to girls, you’ll instantly see that girls are drawn to it wholeheartedly.

Our writers interviewed around 50 girls and asked them what kind of story they’d like to see. The OVERWHELMING answer was that they did NOT want to see a princess in distress, waiting for love. They wanted STRONG and SMART female heroines, who don’t need boys to save them, but are equal to boys (if not better!). Girls are incredibly fond of this story, because one of the main characters is Taya, a strong, independent girl.

We live in the era of strong female heroes, as you can see in stories like Hunger Games, Maze Runner, and in secular hit songs like, (I don’t wanna) “Sit still, look pretty”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldymkbLAuAk>

- B. **Question: What if kids miss a day or a lesson? Can they still follow along with the story?** Yes! Even if kids only come at the last day, they’ll be caught up with the story so far. Just like our narrative series, our narrative VBS will never exclude newcomers. This can be hard to understand when you think of an ongoing story. You can’t drop into a Netflix series halfway, but our series are designed in SUCH a way that the story is quickly reviewed at the beginning of each video, helping newcomers.



2. DO KIDS GET TO TAKE A MOVIE HOME?

That's a great idea. At the end of the series, it could be great if kids receive a link to the entire story (in other words: all episodes glued together). We've done this before and it's a huge success. We gave kids the full story of the series, and encouraged them to have sleepover parties with their non-Christian friends. As a result, the Biblical story was seen by many kids who had never set foot in church before. Kids who would never hear from Christ, will hear about it in the safety of their friends' homes. On top of that, these new kids will know that this movie comes from their church, and their interest to attend church will rise. We've heard of kids still sharing movies we've made with their friends two years after the series was played at church.

We could provide the movie version to your church by giving you a web-link to give to the kids. There's a small cost associated to this, but we keep it as small as possible (just enough so we can feed ourselves and make more great stuff!)

Contact us through KidsWantAnswers.com if you'd like to make the Future Spies story available to your church families.

NOTE: You do NOT want to tell kids that they get the movie home, because you'll want them to attend every lesson. If they knew they could watch it again at home, they'll be a bit less eager to attend. Make it a fun, unexpected surprise.



Today's Challenge

FUTURE  SPIES



3. WHAT AGE GROUP IS FUTURE SPIES FOR?

Currently Future Spies is for ages 6-12, but some churches use it for kids as young as 4 or 5, and for kids up to 15 years old. The story is designed to appeal to a large age group, but the lessons may need some tweaking for kids who can't read yet.

On a later date, we hope to come out with a special LITTLES version, for ages 3-6. But that's still a vision.

4. DOES "FUTURE SPIES" KEEP THE HALLMARKS OF YOUR OTHER CURRICULUM?

Our curriculum is known for its 14 Breakthroughs (and counting), some of which are:

- Games that everyone can play,
- a deeply engaging lesson,
- high energy,
- lots of activity but also taking time for deeper questioning and exploration,
- etc.

All of these elements will be in Future Spies as well. We will never back away from the innovations we've previously done. Together with you, we lean forward and take children's ministry to the next level.

Our commitment is to constantly invent and test new breakthroughs. The next generation is too important not to.

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS? CONTACT US AT WWW.KIDSWANTANSWERS.COM

