

# WHERE ARE POTENTIAL VOLUNTEERS?

## Top 5 ideas



### **EXPECTED PEOPLE**

Many of us may well have ideas about the types of people who might volunteer to work in our churches with children and young people. Maybe parents, or students, or people in their twenties. Maybe those who work, or have worked, in schools. These are all great types of people to ask to be involved. However, we need remember to ask them with grace, and with genuine space for them to say no.



### **UNEXPECTED PEOPLE**

Our research has shown that the stereotypes of who might be willing to volunteer can limit us in who we ask. In reality there are many unexpected people who volunteer. Maybe those who are newly retired, those who have disabilities, or those who are reserved. Maybe those who are themselves only starting a journey of faith, but who find working with youngsters helps them to grow. Maybe teenagers who, with appropriate support and supervision, are naturals at helping younger children to grow as disciples of Jesus.



### **ENTHUSIASTIC PEOPLE**

Look for the people who are inspired by the possibilities of working with children and young people. Enthusiasts are great at creating a positive atmosphere and encouraging others. They also give energy to a team of volunteers. You might also ask those who are great at big picture thinking, or those who are good at catching a vision for what God might be doing amongst your children and young people.



### **RELUCTANT PEOPLE**

Look for those who are initially reluctant, but whom you suspect might be great. We have heard wonderful stories of individuals observing sessions and discovering that they are actually good at conversation with those they were once wary of spending time with. It's not always about high-energy activities. Just as valuable are those who can come alongside the younger generations and listen, encourage and pray.



### **WONDERING PEOPLE**

Look for those who are wondering whether this is a call from God for them. Have honest conversations about what is involved, and give them the chance to explore possibilities. It may be an opportunity to explore those people's gifts with them and see how they might be useful in work with younger generations.