



## ***News Release***

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For Immediate Release

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# **Pioneer Clubs Helps Churches Counteract Negative Influences on Today's Children**

**Wheaton, IL**— Children are bombarded from every angle by the media—suggesting how they should act, what is right and wrong, and how they should live their lives. However, with the right tools, churches can take an active role in countering the media's wide-reaching influence on children. The ministry of Pioneer Clubs confirms that local church members who have a vested interest in the children of their community can make a tremendous difference in the life of a child.

"Adult leaders who care take time to invest in the lives of the children at our church. They mentor the kids and help them grow—not just spiritually, but in all areas of their lives," says Fondée Bruce, a 14-year club coordinator from Azle, TX.

With Pioneer Clubs, adult-to-child relationships are built within the safe confines of a midweek children's ministry program. The lessons children learn weekly can be taken outside of the church walls and into their schools and homes, furthering the impact of club.

Heather Ramsdell of Massena, NY, has seen firsthand the impact of Pioneer Clubs when a local school asked for help mentoring a girl at club who others saw as a bully. Ramsdell's encouraged club members to be kind to this child and welcome her into the club, despite her reputation. As a result, the club members worked to be kinder to everyone at school.

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"With Pioneer Clubs, Bible teachings are integrated into all areas of a child's life," says Bruce. "In our home, I see my kids drawing upon what they learn at club while interacting with their siblings."

In addition, Pioneer Clubs gives children the opportunity to memorize Scripture and learn Christian values. They explore the Bible in a small-group setting where they can ask questions and truly discover for themselves what the Bible is saying.

"At Pioneer Clubs, kids get time to wrestle with Scripture, to ask questions and work to discover the answers with Christian adults," says Jody Maas, a Pioneer Clubs leader in suburban Chicago. "Pioneer Clubs does something that many programs don't—it gets the kids thinking about God's Word in an age-appropriate way."

The influence of adults coupled with the solid foundation of a Bible-based curriculum is why thousands of churches have incorporated Pioneer Clubs into their children's ministry program.

"I've described Pioneer Clubs as a program, but really it's a ministry. We're not just keeping kids busy while adults do their thing at church," says Betsy Palm of Hixson, TN, a 20-year veteran of Pioneer Clubs. "We're helping children learn that Christ is in every aspect of life—successes and sorrows, bad times and good."

*About Pioneer Clubs®*

Pioneer Clubs is a proven church-sponsored midweek club program for today's kids, preschool through middle school. Each week this Christ-centered program integrates spiritual and personal development to help boys and girls build healthy relationships with caring Christian adults, peers, and most importantly, Christ. Thousands of churches choose Pioneer Clubs for its application-oriented inductive Bible study, Scripture memory, life-skills development, and emphasis on discipleship and outreach. Headquartered in Wheaton, IL, Pioneer Clubs has been meeting the changing needs of children with an unchanging message since 1939. For more information, go to [www.pioneerclubs.org](http://www.pioneerclubs.org).