



**Celebrate Recovery Vision Statement** is for the church to provide a safe place where families can find healing and restoration. A safe place where moms, dads and kids of all ages can find freedom from their hurts, habits, and hang-ups.

**Celebration Place National Team Mission Statement** is to equip Celebration Place leaders and team members to provide a safe place for elementary age children to find healing and restoration through Jesus Christ.

We equip new and existing leaders through:

- Training sessions at Summits
- Connections at Summits & Training Conferences
- Closed Facebook Group- a place to ask questions and share ideas
- Celebration Place Module in the Advanced Leadership Training Guide
- Celebration Place YouTube Channel- encouraging & educational videos for CP team members.
- Regional & State Reps- our team is eager to support and encourage potential and existing leaders.

## **Celebration Place DNA**

There are six distinct characteristics that make Celebration Place unique. These characteristics make up the DNA of Celebration Place.

1. It is a Christ-centered children's program that is a ministry designed to complement Celebrate Recovery.
2. Must use the Celebration Place curriculum and journals only and follow the format as outlined in the curriculum.
3. The Celebration Place guidelines are utilized during small groups. Some nights you may choose to read them at the beginning of Celebration Place instead of waiting until small group.
4. No Celebration Place online groups are permitted. Face to face meetings only. (Unless Celebrate Recovery Crisis Response is in place.)
5. Celebration Place is accountable to Jesus Christ, the local Celebrate Recovery, the local church and to the Model of Celebrate Recovery at Saddleback.
6. Celebration Place groups should follow the youth policies of their local church.

### **Celebration Place is:**

- A safe place for kids to talk about hurts, hang-ups, & habits
- A Christ-centered and life changing program
- Fun!

### **Celebration Place is NOT:**

- Childcare/babysitting
- Counseling or group therapy- We do not try to "fix" children
- Judgmental



## Celebration Place Reps

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## Access to Resources for Celebration Place

- **Celebration Place Leaders Guide**– Located in the Advanced Leaders Training Guide. This was issued as a part of the updated material early 2021. This update and other updates to the ALT can be accessed by contacting CR State Rep or Pastors.com [info@pastors.com](mailto:info@pastors.com) or you can call us at [1-800-723-3532](tel:1-800-723-3532).
- **Facebook Closed Group**
  - [Celebration Place | Facebook](#)
  - **Request to join group**
  - **Complete the 3 questions**
  -
- **Celebration Place YouTube Channel**
  - [Celebration Place Channel – YouTube](#)
  - Subscribe!
- **Might Networks CR Community**– Subscribe to have access to a wide variety of training & inspiration.

## Ready to Start Celebration Place? 90-day Kickoff Strategy for Celebration Place

### *Days 1–30*

1. PRAY! “Pray continually” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
2. Order the Celebration Place kit from [www.celebraterecovery.com](http://www.celebraterecovery.com) and read through the curriculum.
3. Meet with your Pastor and Children's Pastor to explain the program and let them know this is an additional resource for their families. Show them the kit and explain how it works.
4. Make sure you are clear about your church's policies regarding children...i.e., children to adult ratio's, reporting abuse and/or neglect and background checks on all leaders involved with your children.
5. Using pulpit announcements and bulletin inserts, inform the church and your Celebrate Recovery group that a Christ-centered “pre-recovery” program for children is going to begin within the next few months. Ask individuals with a heart for children and recovery to pray about whether God is calling them to be a part of this ministry.



"Pray in the Spirit at all times with all kinds of prayers, asking for everything you need. To do this you must always be ready and never give up. Always pray for all God's people." (Ephesians 6:18).

### *Days 31–60*

1. Recruit and interview potential leaders. Make sure you run background checks.
2. Determine location for your Celebration Place group.
3. Have prospective leaders read through the curriculum.
4. If you have leaders in place this may be a great time to take them through Life's Healing Choices. It is not necessary for the leaders to be in recovery, but it is good if they understand recovery. Life's Healing Choices is a great way to introduce recovery to your leaders.
5. It may be helpful to bring in a child psychologist or counselor to talk to your leaders about teaching children who struggle with ADD, ADHD, Autism, or other disabilities.

### *Days 61–90*

1. Meet weekly to work through Life's Healing Choices together.
2. Announce your kickoff date for Celebration Place to the church and your Celebrate Recovery group.
3. Put information in the bulletin and/or set up an information table at church services and Celebrate Recovery.
4. Use pulpit announcements to show the senior pastor's support and approval of the program.
5. Order journals for the children that will be coming to Celebration Place at least three weeks prior to your first meeting.
6. Plan a fun kickoff night to celebrate your new children's program.



## **Evaluate Up and Running Ministries to Keep the group Healthy:**

### **CP Program Evaluation**

#### **1. Leadership/volunteers.**

- ☐ Have your volunteers completed Life's Healing Choices?
- ☐ Has every member of your team completed the training required by your church per youth policy?
- ☐ Have all members passed a background check?
- ☐ Are you praying for each other and the children in your program?

#### **2. Curriculum**

- ☐ Do we use the DVDs, Leaders Guides and Celebration Place journals in our program?
- ☐ Do we have a journal page for each child at our program?
- ☐ Do we follow the format outlined in the curriculum?
- ☐ Do our changes to centers and teachings hold true to the recovery points outlined in the curriculum?
- ☐ Do we read and enforce the small group guidelines every meeting?

#### **3. Worship**

- ☐ Are leaders worshiping with children?
- ☐ Are we teaching children different ways to worship God?
- ☐ Are we teaching them the value and purpose of worship?
- ☐ Are we encouraging children to worship with our words and with our actions?

#### **4. Learning Environment**

- ☐ Is our space safe-free of obstacles- child-friendly?
- ☐ Are behavior expectations clearly communicated?
- ☐ Do we promote a positive learning environment?

#### **5. Junior Leaders**

- ☐ How are we preparing our junior leaders to lead? (Lead small group time, lead worship, lead centers. Etc.)
- ☐ Are we encouraging them as they lead?
- ☐ Are we preparing them for the Landing? (If applicable)

#### **6. Connection/Communication**

- ☐ Do we attend monthly CR Leadership meetings?



- Do we regularly communicate with the CR Ministry leader updates about what is going on in Celebration Place? This includes praises and needs such as journals and other supplies.

- Do we communicate with the children's staff at our church?

Once you have worked through these questions you will be able to access the strengths and weaknesses of your Celebration Place program; then you can put a plan together to address weak area.

## **Ten Things Everyone Should Know about Celebration Place**

- ***#10 Children have hurts, hang-ups, and habits too.***

- Our children are not immune to pain. Some things children struggle with are bullying, body image, parent's divorce, abuse, neglect, learning disabilities, death of a loved one, loss of friends, racism, loss of pets, etc. These hurts lead to hang-ups caused by fear and anxiety. For example, a child whose parents divorced may develop a fear of abandonment, which makes it hard to move forward if in an unhealthy relationship.
- Celebration Place teaches healthy coping skills that can help children make healthy choices to work through painful situations. Our goal is to stop the hurt in the lives of families.

- ***#9 Children help keep parents coming back.***

- Celebration Place is fun! Children do not want to miss out. We use games, activities and crafts and cool object lessons to keep children engaged. Connections are made with leaders and other children.

- ***#8 Celebration Place is a safe place for children, adding value to CR ministries.***

- Parents know you care about them and their families when you offer a safe and encouraging place for children. Background checks performed on all adult team members help reassure parents that the safety of their child is important to us.

- ***#7 Celebration Place is specifically designed for Celebrate Recovery ministries.***



- Christ Centered Curriculum for elementary aged students
  - CP is a structured program mirroring Celebrate Recovery.
  - The format is designed to offer fellowship, worship, teaching, activities, and small group. This is the same experience parents/guardians have in Celebrate Recovery.
  - The same topics are taught as in the Large Group of CR.
  - All meetings close with the Serenity Prayer.
- ***#6 Children learn how to cope with emotions in healthy ways.***
    - Small group time, journal pages and other activities help children identify their feelings and the events related to them. Being able to name emotions is a big deal!
    - Team members validate their feelings and help them to find healthy ways to process those feelings.
- ***#5 We have Celebration Place Regional Rep and State Rep volunteers to support ministries.***
    - State Reps and Regional Reps are ready to serve CR ministry leaders. Our goal is for every CR to offer Celebration Place. We can and are making a difference in the lives of children. The goal of the National Celebration Place team is to help equip leaders to provide a safe place for children to experience healing and restoration through Jesus Christ.
- ***#4 Cycles of dysfunction are being broken as children and parents learn the same recovery lessons.***
    - Lessons like Denial, Powerless, Gratitude and all other recovery topics are taught on the same night as the adult in ways that children can understand. Parents and children are on the same page. Learning the same recovery principles as a family promotes healing and wholeness for everyone.
- ***#3 The CP journal page helps parents talk with their children about their struggles. Recovery is a family affair.***
    - The journal pages sent home with children give conversation starters for parents. This opens up the lines of communication; healing starts; and the trajectory of the family changes to a healthier path. Have you ever heard a child say, "You just wouldn't understand?" The conversation starters on the back of the journal pages give parents the opportunity to share showing that they do understand.



- ***#2 Children learn that Jesus loves them.***
  - It is so important for children to know and experience the love of Jesus. That unconditional love will carry them through all of life's ups and downs. CP is based on the word of God. The love of Jesus is taught from week 1 through week 52!
- ***#1– Celebration Place is NOT childcare!***
  - When we put #2– #10 together there is no way anyone can look at Celebration Place as "just childcare".
  - Grace is extended as children learn and grow.
  - Leaders partner with parents to help children become who God created them to be.
  - CP has great tools to help families. Leaders teach life skills like making amends and forgiving others. Valuing others by listening to them is modeled for children.