

How to Engage Students (Young People)  
(Some Material Provided by “Global Youth Ministry Network”)  
Pastor Mike Lyon September 2018

## Why is there a Need for Youth Ministry?

Because Jesus’ love is designed for all people, there is no age restriction for when to share Jesus!

- Jesus has a HEART FOR TEENS AND YOUTH (Young People)

Mark 10:13-16

<sup>13</sup>And they were bringing children to Him so that He might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, “Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; **for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.** <sup>15</sup>“Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it at all.” <sup>16</sup>**And He took them in His arms** and began blessing them, laying His hands upon them. NASB

### **Are these the youth that you know?**

What do you see when you see the students (Young People) in your community? Take a look out and what is the first thing you think?

- They are hopeless
- They are scared
- They are disrespectful
- They are hurting others
- The fact is there is a huge number of teens and youth (young people) that are waiting to hear the good news of the Gospel!
- If a student (young person) does not have a relationship with Jesus at a young age, that person may not come to know Jesus for years later, this is a fact.

### **Where then will the young people find hope?**

- FAMILY – A Good family = GOD’S FAMILY
- ACCEPTANCE – God’s UNCONDITIONAL LOVE
- STATUS – Founded on a RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
- SUCCESS – SALVATION, to hear “Well-Done”

### **What then will you do as church leaders?**

- As leaders and Christ followers we have a choice to make. Giving our lives for the temporary or for the eternal.

- **SHARE MY (Your Own Personal Story) CALLING INTO STUDENT (to love YOUNG PEOPLE) MINISTRY**

## How do we do we reach the teens and youth?

Meet the student (young people) where they are!

- Jesus went to the world, He came to us because we needed saved, should we not go to the students?

John 1:4

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. NASB

Mark 2:15-17

<sup>15</sup>And it came about that He was reclining at the table in his house, and many tax-gatherers and sinners were dining with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many of them, and they were following Him. <sup>16</sup>And when the scribes of the Pharisees saw that He was eating with the sinners and tax-gatherers, they began saying to His disciples, “Why is He eating and drinking with tax-gatherers and sinners?” <sup>17</sup>And hearing this, Jesus said to them, “it is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” NASB

- Jesus just showed up!
- Jesus did not build a building “church” first, He went to the people:

Matthew 4:18-20

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>20</sup>At once they left their nets and followed him.

John 4:4-7, 13-15

<sup>4</sup>Now he had to go through Samaria. <sup>5</sup>So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup>When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” <sup>8</sup>(His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

## SHOW UP!

- This is key we must be willing to JUST BE THERE.
- Go where the students are.
- Meet them where they live and interact.
- How can you SHOW UP?
  - This is not only where they can be found physically, but also where they are spiritually, mentally, and emotionally!
- This means learn to ask good questions.
- Make it about them and not about you.
- Sometimes just listening is more important than trying to fix the problem.
- Students have far too many adults telling them how bad they are, they need adults who will love them like Jesus loved us.
- It is good to take other youth with you to meet new youth. This will help everyone feel more comfortable.

## Youth Evangelism?

Evangelism works best with teens/youth in the context of a relationship.

- Your church does not want to be known for scaring people away with the Gospel, but the one that was first a friend, then a witness.
  - We have to build relationships with the students to build trust.
  - Be sure that the Gospel is the reason for reaching the teens.
  - Be patient with the students. It took a long time to build up the walls it will take a long time to tear them down, but do not give up, eternity is at stake.
  - Set the example, students want to see the Gospel, as well as hear the Gospel.
- How can we evangelize the teens?
  - Create youth events.
  - PRAYER, have students pray for students.
  - Set up a weekly time to meet with one or two students.
  - Create a safe environment for them to come to your church.
- What plan has God burdened you with to evangelize teens/youth?

## Youth Fellowship?

Building a strong fellowship requires the development of an atmosphere of love and acceptance among Christians in your youth group.

- 5 Characteristics of a Caring Fellowship
  - Be ACCEPTED of how they are.
  - Be CARED for and LISTENED to.
  - Find TRUSTWORTHY people to follow and interact with.
  - Have a place where others can hold them ACCOUNTABLE for their actions.
  - Have the opportunity to be THEMSELVES.
    - We must be willing to accept them, even in their sin, and it should not scare you as leaders. Rather you should find joy in the fact that God has presented in young people an opportunity to share His love!
- We ACCEPT, WE CARE, WE HOLD ACCOUNTABLE.

John 4:15-17

<sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.” <sup>16</sup>He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” <sup>17</sup>“I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband.”

- How to Build Fellowship (from SonLife Ministries' Foundations Manual)
  - Personal Attention
  - Verbal Love
  - Appropriate Physical Expression
  - Service
  - Extended Time

## **What Now?**

Make a plan to SHOW UP, like Jesus showed up at the well.

Make a plan to ENGAGE, like Jesus did for the lady at the well, and calling His disciples.

Make a plan to EMPOWER, students as part of the greater church. Like Jesus did with His disciples.

“Proclaiming Jesus as the centerpiece of the story of God and seeking to live out His message in everyday relationships” (from Growing Young, Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin)