

# Youth Minister Handbook

---



## Our Goal

**Our goal in youth ministry is to create multiple Youth Ministers who help youth in middle school to high school connect, grow, and serve.**

## How do we accomplish this goal?

- It is through building a relationship with Christ and growing in knowledge in one's faith (Great Command Matthew 22:37-38), as well as developing caring, authentic
-

---

relationships with adults and peer ministers that youth will connect, grow, and serve.

→ It is in multiplication of leadership and unification with youth and the congregation that we will be most successful in helping youth connect, grow, and serve.

- ◆ When ministry is built around a “one person” model such as the pastor or one leader, then that ministry will only minister to youth with similar personality and faith traits. When we multiply the leaders and groups, we will then be able to minister to more youth.
- ◆ When we create moments of the youth group being unified, then we will create a larger purpose and community for these youth. Unification comes through large group activities as well as larger congregational involvement.

→ Family ministry is a must for youth ministry! As ministers, we only have these youth for a few hours a week. Faith being formed at home is the best way for youth to grow. In knowing that not every family is Christian, key mentors for these youth will be needed. Connecting with families and aiding in their faith development at home will be key in making youth ministry successful.



*“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:36-39)*

- 
- Creating opportunities for youth to connect with God and others. Opportunities could be:
- ◆ Pair up with an adult to be a prayer partner and mentor.
  - ◆ One-on-ones with the Youth Pastor and other Ministers.
  - ◆ Family Ministry to help connect families with the church and Christ.
  - ◆ Fun events such as bonfires, parties, and other safe events where youth can have fun without alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.
  - ◆ Sport Ministry to build connections with youth and families at games and outside of game time. This ministry could include an *Athlete of the Year* award. The *Athlete of the Year* award could be given from a group of adults ranging from coaches, teachers, congregants, parents, and pastors who would evaluate the character of an athlete on and off the field/court. The award could also include a \$500.00 scholarship to use towards future sports equipment or college education.



*“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Romans 12:2)*

- Creating opportunities for youth to grow in Christ and others. Opportunities could be:
- ◆ Bi-weekly small groups in multiple locations and times lead by different Youth Ministers to help youth grow in their faith and knowledge of Christ.
  - ◆ Bi-weekly large group activities to help youth grow in their faith and knowledge of Christ. Activities can include service, fun nights, and in depth Bible studies.
  - ◆ Family Ministries to help connect families with Christ.
  - ◆ Districts and other retreat events such as camp to help youth continue to grow.
  - ◆ Youth creating online devotionals to share with other youth.



*“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.” (1 Peter 4:10-11)*

- 
- Creating opportunities for youth to serve Christ and others. Opportunities could be:
- ◆ Bi-weekly large group service times to help youth learn to serve within their own communities.
  - ◆ Week long mission trips to help youth learn to serve outside their communities.
  - ◆ Multiple intentional opportunities for youth to find and use their gifts within the congregation to give God glory.
  - ◆ Peer Minister training for youth to grow and become ministers to their peers.

### **Youth Minister Responsibility**

*"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)*

- You have been given authority by Christ to make disciples! You have been given the promise that Christ is with you always. Here are examples of a few responsibilities you have as a Youth Minister, but they are not limited to:
- ◆ Your faith and family come first before your work in ministry! God, family then ministry.
  - ◆ Grow in your own faith. No one is perfect, not even leaders, but if you are not growing, how do you expect to help others grow? Spend time in your own relationship with Christ and the congregation.
  - ◆ Grow in your own family. It is extremely important for you to spend time with your family. These relationships are key as they will be your support system.
  - ◆ Connect and grow with the youth. Know that you will need to intentionally connect with youth in a safe manner. Never be left alone with the opposite gender, this is not a safe nor good ministry practice. Every small group should have both genders as leaders.
  - ◆ Grow and develop a small group with other Youth Ministers. Not every youth Minister is a leader, know your gift and know you have been called by God to use it here. Small groups could be: a bi-weekly small group, a sports ministry, an art ministry, a boys small group, a girls small group, etc.
  - ◆ Don't limit your imagination and the direction God is calling you and this ministry team. No idea is a dumb idea, know that God is working

---

in us all and you have the authority to speak up about ideas and corrections.

- ◆ Know when you may need a Sabbath or retreat time. Give yourself the permission to take a break when you are getting close to a burn out. We all need to take time off of ministry to grow in Christ and to heal.
- ◆ If there is a conflict, make sure to Matthew 18 the sucker. *"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'* *If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector."* (Matthew 18:15-17) Please do not gossip or spend time with anger in your heart. This will only divide the church. Feel free to talk to Pastor Jenny or Pastor Mike as we are a safe place to talk and get concerns, worries, or issues off of your mind.
- ◆ Know you are not alone in ministry. It is Pastor Jenny's job to equip and support you as a Youth Minister.

## **Pastor Jenny's Responsibility**

The responsibility of Pastor Jenny will vary from time to time, but it is good to know the general direction in which Pastor Jenny will spend time in ministering and growing in.

- Equipping Youth Ministers to lead small groups and other youth ministries.
- Plan and give curriculum for small groups and other ministries as needed.
- Visit small groups throughout the month.
- Plan and lead bi-weekly large group activities.
- Plan key opportunities and connect with families.
- Do one-on-one meetings with youth and attend youth sports functions when possible.
- Develop Peer Ministers.
- Develop Youth's involvement in the congregation such as worship and other activities that pertain to the life of the church.
- Plan with Youth Ministers events like Districts, camp, and other retreats.