

CTK Youth Ministry

The mission of the youth ministry at Christ the King is the same as the broader mission of both our church as a whole and the church universal: to **gather** (Mt. 28:19-20; Jn. 17:20-21) and **perfect** (Eph. 4:11-13) the saints. Our aim is to reach new believers with the Gospel of Jesus Christ (gather) and strengthen the faith of professing believers in our midst (perfect).

The way we endeavor to do this is by **teaching the Word of God**. We believe that the faithful proclamation of God's Word is the primary means God has given us to reach and equip the saints (Acts 2:42; I Tim. 4:6-13; Col. 1:24-29).

In part, the youth at CTK are an **age-divided subgroup** of the church, but they are also an integral **part of the covenant community** of believers at CtK, composed of all ages. We believe that God uses fellow believers in similar situations to build up his people (Prov. 27:17), so we, at times, separate the high school and middle school students for age-focused fellowship and teaching, just like we do for children's ministry, women's ministry, and men's ministry. However, we encourage and emphasize participation in the activities of the wider church body - especially corporate worship and service to other believers (I Pet. 4:10) - because we also believe that God builds up His people in the community of believers of all ages (Tit. 2:3-6, Heb. 10:24-25, Eph. 4:16-26, I Cor. 12:12, Col. 2:19).

Scriptures shows that God has set His church to be the primarily vehicle for salvation, and within the church he often brings salvation through **families** specifically (I Cor. 7:14; Acts 2:39). We see youth ministry as family ministry. Our goal is to partner with our christian families in the training up of the children at our church. We acknowledge that the home is oftentimes the primary place of growth for children, so we look to point our students back to their parents and to minister to the parents directly.

In our effort to be found faithful to God's call to reach new believers with the Gospel, we acknowledge that **God must change hearts**, or no change will happen (Rom 8:8-11; Gal. 3:1-3; John 3:6-8; I Cor. 2:12-13). We also recognize the importance of **relationships in evangelism** (I Pet. 3:15; II Tim. 4:5), so we look for ways to meet unbelieving students and share the Gospel with them.

Though the mission behind every youth ministry event is to reach new believers and/or build up the saints, our avenues for ministry take diverse forms. Some of our events are focused on teaching the Word (like Sunday school), while others may focus more on prayer and fellowship (like Girls' Group and Breakfast Club), while others may focus on outreach to new believers (like pickup basketball or game night) or service to the wider church (like a Rake 'n Run), or a mix of all of these things (like Youth Group). We create our own specific events as a youth ministry, but we always heavily encourage participation in church-wide events (like corporate worship or a church picnic) and individual family events (like Superbowl parties or family dinner).

Presuppositions behind our philosophy of ministry:

- God must cause conversion and growth - Rom. 8:8-11; Gal. 3:1-3; John 3:6-8
- The Word is the primary means to bring about salvation and strengthen faith - Acts 2:42; I Tim. 4:6-13; Col. 1:24-29
- God mostly bring salvation through His church - Eph. 2:19; Mt. 16:18-19; Eph. 4:11-13; Mt. 28:19-20; WCF 25-2
- God often brings salvation through families within His church - I Cor. 7:14; Acts 2:39; WCF 25-2
- God uses fellow believers in similar situations to build His people - Prov. 27:17
- God gathers new believers through relationships - I Pet. 3:15; II Tim. 4:5