

YOUTH MINISTRY LEADERS HANDBOOK

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Our Purpose

The youth ministry exists to assist parents in evangelizing and equipping the next generation. Our purpose is to exhort every teen to glorify Christ (Worship), to teach them submission to the authority of God's Word (Bible Study & Discipleship), to instruct them in using their spiritual gifts for ministry through the local church (Service & Fellowship), and to instill in them a passion for the lost (Evangelism), sending them out as leaders for the next generation.

Our Plan

In order to accomplish **Our Purpose**, **Our Plan** is to put the Lord Jesus Christ on display through the teaching of His Word and through our obedience, as leaders, to His commands. Our teaching and our lives should serve as a model to the youth, so that they may better know who God is and what He desires for their lives.

Our Programs

The following ministries, activities, and events are designed to help us disciple the youth as we seek to accomplish **Our Purpose**.

• Ministry Groups

- **Cross Training** is our Middle School ministry (grades 6-8)
- **Cross Culture** is our High School ministry (grades 9-12)

• Weekly Services

- Both **Cross Training & Cross Culture** meet at the following times just about every week:
 - Sunday mornings (8:45-10:10am)
 - Wednesday nights (7:00-8:30pm)
*Leaders need to stay until 9pm
 - Services consist of praising the Lord through song, a lesson from the Word, prayer, and more.

• Monthly Activities

- An excellent avenue to build community in a group and to provide opportunities for evangelism. We provide a regular schedule of activities for both middle school and high school students.

• Bible quizzing

- A great opportunity for youth to memorize the Word of God. We memorize Scripture and Book Themes throughout the year and then we compete in our Small Groups to help recall what we have learned and to have fun as a youth group.

• Camps and Retreats

- Allow the youth to get away from it all and focus on the Lord. They also give us the opportunity as leaders to spend extended time with the youth. These special get-a-ways can be the catalyst for some significant life-changing ministry.

• Ministry Teams

- Provide the youth avenues with which to exercise their Spiritual gifts so that they can serve the body of Christ. These ministry opportunities are also a great way for leaders to disciple the youth as they serve alongside them.

• Evangelistic Outreach

- Allow the youth to share the Gospel with others in a structured setting. We, as youth leaders, want to train them how to share, give them a venue to share, and then give them feedback on how they can improve in their outreach.

Our Prerequisites & Guidelines for Leadership

- Leaders must know Jesus Christ as their Lord & Savior, and they must be walking in overall consistent obedience to the teachings of the Bible.
- Leaders must be faithful in the basic disciplines of the Christian walk: time in the Word, time in prayer, commitment to the local church, and a desire to share their faith.
- Leaders must be members of Countryside Bible Church, and they must be in agreement with Countryside's Doctrinal Statement.
- Leaders must have a love for youth. Obligation-based ministry does not accomplish the objectives we have set forth. Service must be out of love for the Lord and love for others.
- Leaders must be willing to sacrifice as they minister. If casual involvement is the expectation, then this is the wrong ministry to consider.
 - This is not to say that every leader must be at every event that takes place for the youth, but this ministry does include a commitment from the leaders to be involved in the lives of the youth, attend leadership meetings, pray for the youth, and help in various aspects of ministry where they are gifted.
 - Please keep in mind that leaders are required to regularly attend youth services on both Sunday mornings and on Wednesday nights. Leaders are also expected to participate in other aspects of our youth group as much as their schedule allows (activity nights, camps, outreaches, etc).
- Leaders must be committed to regularly attending the Sunday Morning Main Worship Service.
- Leaders must understand that the first call is to be a leader. There are many times when it is possible and appropriate to also be a friend to the youth, but it is not always possible to be both.
- Leaders must understand that the focus of their ministry should be with individuals of the same gender. This does not mean that you completely ignore others, but the focus must be clear. Dating between leadership and the youth is strictly forbidden and will result in immediate termination.
- Leaders must be committed to communicating with the Youth Pastor. If unable to attend an activity or youth service when expected, communicate through GroupMe.
- Leaders are expected to keep up with the Youth Reading Plan and work on the Bible Memorization that we challenge the youth to do.
- Leaders must be committed to attending leadership meetings as much as possible. These meetings are critical for planning and training. If you commit to becoming a youth leader, you are expected to attend these meetings. Our lunch meetings are on the first Sunday of the month from 12:00 – 1:00pm.

Our Places of Ministry

Below is a list of specific areas of ministry where leaders can serve in the youth group. Read over the different areas and their descriptions so that you can carefully consider which areas of service that you'd like to participate in.

- **Small Group Leader**

- Involves meeting each Wednesday Night during our service with a small group of students for accountability, encouragement, & discipleship
- Small Group Leaders must be committed to making a concentrated effort to being involved in the lives of their students
- Small Group Leaders should plan to meet at least one time a semester with their group outside of church
- Completion of the Partners 1on1 Discipleship Program is expected in order to be a Small Group Leader

- **Leading a Ministry Team**

- Involves modeling, training, and scheduling youth for areas of service in our youth ministry
- Our current teams are the following:
 - Music Team, Nursery Team, Ushers Team, Audio/Visual Team, MS Birthday Team, Mercy Team and Hospitality/Snacks Team

- **Teaching**

- Involves diligently studying God's Word and then teaching it in an accurate and age appropriate manner to the youth
- Teachers will need to e-mail the Youth Pastor their notes before each lesson

- **General Service**

- Involves a variety of possible areas of service
- Some Examples are:
 - Helping w/snacks, room set-up and takedown, preparing meals for leader's meetings, assisting at youth activities and/or at camp, etc.

Our Portals of Ministry

Below is a list of tools that we use in youth ministry to stay connected as leaders and to better shepherd the youth.

- **Google Docs**

- Each leader receives an invitation to our Youth Ministry Google Docs folder.
- In this folder, we keep the following documents:
 - Order of Services for Sundays & Wednesdays
 - Small Group contact information, recent youth attendance, and birthdays
 - Leader Training resources
 - Ministry Team lists, etc.
- Leaders will need to create a Google Account, if they don't have one already, so that they can view these documents. They can set it up on their phone, tablet, or computer.
- Those that are teachers have a separate Dropbox where they put their lesson notes and handouts.

- **GroupMe**

- GroupMe is an app that we use for communicating with our leaders.
- Once a leader has downloaded the app, I send them an invitation to join.
- If a leader is going to miss a youth service or is running late to one, they need to send a GroupMe message so that I and the other leaders are aware.
- Leaders are expected to routinely check the GroupMe app (works a lot like a text) to stay connected with the other leaders and to see important information that I pass along.

- **Community**

- Community is our online directory and registration program.
- Each Small Group leader will be given access to their group via Community. That way they can get more information about their youth than what is found in Google Docs.
- Each Ministry Team leader will also be given access to their group via Community.

