



Engaging By Educating

Proverbs 22:6

“Teach a youth about the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” - Prov. 22:6

Main Point: Engaging young people is one of the most effective ways we can change culture. We are doing that at VillageChurch by educating students about the things of God.

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

Do you remember who taught you how to ride a bike, swim, etc? Share your experience and whether you still use the skills you learned.

What kind of things are you training your child to do? Why are those things important to you?

Have a Volunteer Read Proverbs 22:6.

Young people are growing up in a world where television shows and Twitter feeds play more of a part in their upbringing than the parents who raise them and the churches they attend. It is our job as a community of Christians and a church to show students the correct path and model it through our behavior. In order to engage culture we must educate our students and empower them with the message of Christ so that one day we can release them into the world to make a difference themselves.

The first step in educating our young people is **TEACH THEM** (v. 6).

What comes to mind when you hear the words “teach” and “train?” What is involved in those processes?

How does it effect you to hear someone say “I’m going to let my child make his own decision about God” or “decide what path to travel down in life?” What are the pitfalls of this mentality?

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-7. What is God’s desire when it comes to training up our children and how we do that?

How is knowing about God verses loving God reflected in our lives? What is that reflection teaching our children? Read John 14:15-18 to see the difference.

The second step in educating young people is **GUIDE THEM.** (v. 6)

Our text states we are to train up a child in the way they SHOULD go, not the way they WANT to go. Where would you be if someone had not taught you the way you should go?

When it comes to guiding our young people, how can we take to heart Paul's message to Timothy in today's culture? Read 2 Timothy 4:2-5.

Psalm 119:105 speaks of God's word being a "lamp to your feet, and light for your path." How can we do a better job of using the Bible to guide our young people on the right path?

The final step in education our young people is to **LET THEM GO.** (v. 6)

Does this verse mean that children in godly homes never leave the faith or make bad choices? If not, what does it mean?

Read Proverbs 29:15, 21. What happens when a young person is let go into life without proper training or guidance?

What hopes and dreams do parents have for their children when releasing them into the world? What hopes and dreams does God have for His children?

Pray:

As you close your group time pray that God would give you opportunity to introduce a young person to Him this week. Ask for the strength and wisdom to guide the young people in your life right now, and courage to release them when the time comes. Pray for God to work through you to raise up the next generation of Christ followers who will carry on the message of the Gospel to a broken world.

Connect:

Call the church office (803.419.0989) or email matthew@blythewoodvillage.com or amy@blythewoodvillage.com to see where you can get plugged into Campus Ministry today!