

Hills Youth 2020 - 2021 School Year Goals



1. TRUE DISCIPLESHIP IN STUDENTS
2. STUDENT LEADERS
3. BUS MINISTRY
4. KNOWING TESTIMONIES OF REGULAR ATTENDEES
5. UNITY
6. BIGGER ADULT PRESENCE

How do we get there?

1. **Prayer** - Please be in prayer specifically for all of these areas in the youth ministry, without taking it to God and asking for His strength and blessing, we will be trying to accomplish this on our own power.

True discipleship:

1. Open up our life to students to walk in it with us.
Let them know a little about you, things you like to do, who your family is, even sports or activities you once did as a teen.
2. Invest in students lives
Go to sporting events - know their hobbies - send birthday cards
3. Know where they are spiritually and pour into their spiritual lives heavy
The most important part of Christian discipleship is the spiritual aspect, understanding that eternity is where we hold our hope, do all you can to help students live with an eternal perspective instead of a momentary worldly perspective
4. Use God's Word in casual conversation often
It's good to model an eternal mindset by keeping your mind and thoughts centered around God's word, and we also know that speaking scripture into someones life helps to open up their mind in the process of sanctification and softens their hearts away from the desensitization that happens from absorbing the worldly culture around us.

Student Leaders:

1. Give students a part of the ministry to OWN
Student investment is a MUST for consistency in being involved. Without ownership, there is less of a draw to be here. But with ownership from students, we will see a ministry thrive by having equipped them to be part of something as God has designed it.
2. Students investing in students
I want to set up a model of older students investing in younger students. Not only does this create unity in our group, but it creates an atmosphere that is inviting, encouraging, and enjoyable to be in. It also sets up the ministry for an endless cycle of students pouring into other students if it is done right. This will be a challenge though, that's why it is so important for us adults to seek out making true disciples of students. We will be the models of what investing in younger people looks like.

3. Student leaders branching out

One goal in youth ministry is to connect the younger generation with the older generations of the overall church. Usually the students you see branching out into other ministries of the church are the students leaders. When students branch out into other ministries of the church, it helps to give them a connection to stay in church once the college years hit. Its no secret that a large number of young people stop going to church when they get out of high school, so by giving them a purpose outside of the youth ministry, will hopefully give them that same ownership in the rest of the church to keep them invested and keep them from dropping out of church.

Bus Ministry:

1. Need drivers

We would need a male and female that could either drive the bus or the van. Must have both to pick up students for accountability reasons.

2. Need a list of students

There is no doubtably a group of students out there somewhere, that would come to church if they were just offered a ride to and from church. How do I know this? Because I was that kid at one time. Also, I have done a van ministry in every other church I've been a part of and it has always been extremely fruitful in multiple ways.

3. Need the bus and van to be reliable

Not sure what to do about that exactly, but maybe that's why YOU are reading this right now, because you might know what to do to make sure they are safe and reliable.

4. Need to keep them clean

People love to see new students coming to church, but for some reasons it seems like that love is often offset by a messy van. It usually takes one trip 5 seconds down the road for a list of complaints of a smelly dirty vehicle to start pouring in and threatening the very nature of the future of the van ministry! We need someone to own making sure kids pickup after themselves, and we keep the vans washed and vacuumed out. But remember, this could even fall into the role of investing in the students personally, it's a lot easier to keep a van cleaned when you can call up some teenagers to come vacuum and wash it while you supervise. And you are killing two birds with one stone by involving them!

Knowing testimonies of regular attendees:

1. I want to know where our students are at spiritually. This is going to take time, and it's going to take the right opportunities to get them to open up. But as you invest in students, and learn about them, fill me in on where they are at. I am striving to get to know the students personally myself, but I'm also not looking to be a superstar youth pastor that tries to do everything himself, just honestly I can't, and its not fair to people like you who want to be involved. So once again, while I'm going to personally try to spend time with each student to get to know them, I could do it a lot more effectively with your help!

2. If these are students that are regularly coming, there could be a chance that they are "routine christian" which honestly isn't a christian at all. It's just a person with a false sense of security that thinks they are saved because they come to church, but in reality, nobody has actually ever sat down with them and helped them understand the full gospel message: that they are dead in their sins and separated from God and that the only way to salvation and sanctification and understanding of scripture is through Jesus.

Unity:

1. I just want to see unity in our group
2. One negative I've heard from students in the youth group is that they don't feel like they belong because of the cliques in the group. And while I will always say that everyone has a part to play in this situation, whether its the students that don't feel accepted or the students that are supposedly in the cliques, I will say that I have noticed this in the group.
3. True discipleship and giving students ownership of the ministry should help with this, but there are times when we need to guide and direct students to take notice of others and be welcoming

Bigger adult presence:

1. I've said it before, but it's worth saying over and over again. I can't do this alone. I don't want to do this alone. I want to be surrounded by a group of people that love teens and want to see them grow closer to God.
2. There are many gifting in the body of believers and I believe God has given us everything we need to succeed with the plan He has for our group within the gifting of adults in our church. There are some things that I am decent at, there are some things I am horrible at, but surrounding myself with people to make up my weaknesses in ministry ensures that we have a successful ministry.
3. I will make it clear though, that a weakness of mine that I struggle with often is the idea of burdening people. Even though I know in the back of my head that there are people that want to volunteer and help out, I find myself having a hard time asking for help. So just know, that when an event comes up, I do need help, and if I don't ask for it, I need someone to kick me a little and help me get over myself enough to reach out and ask for it.
4. Last thing, is that when students see an adult presence, we are showing them that we care about them. That is extremely important for more reasons than I could think of to even list.

This is a short list of some things I would like to see happen this school year in our Youth Ministry. Even though right now we don't know exactly what the future holds, the truth is, when do we ever? James chapter 4 says :
"13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit" — 14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."

This is actually the same idea that we get from Solomon when he says that all is vanity in Ecclesiastes. It's the imagery of a mist or smoke that appears, but changes shape multiple times before it vanishes quickly. That is actually going to be our theme this year for the student ministry. The idea that we don't know what the times have for us, and that while things change for us and time is short, one thing is constant, and that is God. And our eternity will either be spent with Him in glory and awe, or separated from Him in eternal suffering. Hence, you will notice the logo at the top of this page appears to be vanishing like smoke.

So all we can do is the right thing right now with the vision that God has given. I do know that when the time comes, you will be needed, and I want people that WANT to help, not out of a sense of obligation, but calling. So this is my letter asking you if you want to start, or CONTINUE being a part of the student ministry. I would really like to know who all is on this team together, so please respond as to if you are willing to be a part of this, even if you have been a part of it for years , don't suppose that I will just know whether or not you want to continue. I need to make a list of people and see how we can work within the gifts that God has given us through you.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this!

- Stephen Lacy