

For Youthworkers and Parents:

How Can I Help My Students Become More Effective On Their Campus?

As the adults in a student's life, how can you help encourage and empower them to make an impact on their campus for Jesus Christ?

This section will give you some tips and ideas.

Coaching Young Leaders

Your students can lead ministry...with you as their coach & mentor

Ministering With Middle School Students...they...

- Need a lot of coaching & encouragement for “up front” assignments (baseball/football coaching style)
- Can handle short term assignments...with step-by-step instructions...they are eager for this kind of help
- Can create & lead a “who what where when why” Bible study session
- Can give a testimony with help
- Can pray for & witness to their friends
- Can invite friends to church, etc.
- Can do well-supervised service projects
- Can plan parties & special events
- Need a lot of practice for “up front” assignments
- Are less busy than high schoolers...more apt to want you to find something for them to do
- Are better at listening to authority figures at the younger ages
- Like & listen to adults who pay attention to them
- Are still building their basic value system

Ministering With High School Students...all of the above plus...they...

- Can create effective ministry largely on their own with help present (soccer/basketball coaching style)
- Can think in abstract terms & can handle the Bible more accurately when given good mentoring
- Will listen to one another more carefully than they do to adults
- Can develop more personal courage in “taking a stand” for Christ
- Can develop long term plans with some limitations (see below)
- Tend to persevere with good coaching
- They (often secretly) desire consistent adult friendship & mentoring

You can get on the campus...

FOUNDATIONS

- PRAY for the right heart and motivation
 - Kingdom of God versus building our own thing
 - Ask God together to give you a God-shaped passion for your target campus(es)
- CONSIDER adopting a campus or two as a church
 - Check out www.everyschool.com to register your choice
- TARGET one or more campuses as your youth group team's main focus of ministry
 - Check out www.everyschool.com for other committed churches in your area

RESEARCHING

- Check out the school & district websites for:
 - Statistics
 - School Calendars & Schedules
 - Names and contact info of key administrators, etc.
 - Policies and goals of the school
- Do additional research (talking to parents, alumni, looking at local newspapers, etc.)
 - Pray that the campus' needs will be revealed to you and your team
 - Put it all together to form an informed prayer focus for your team and your church

WE CAN OFFER THEM OURSELVES & OUR CONTACTS

- Things I (and my team) can do
 - Make a list of spiritual gifts, abilities, experience & skills you all have
 - Make a list of the things that your team is excited about doing (and not)
- Time that I (and my team) have
 - Before school?
 - During school hours?
 - After school?
 - Weekends or evening for special events?
- People I can connect to campus needs (my team members along with others in the church and in the community at large)
 - Make a list of business owners, professional people, etc. that your team knows who might donate time on an occasional basis if they saw the need
 - Build prayer support. Check with Moms In Prayer to see if there is already a group praying for your campus. Moms In Prayer is a great praying & connecting group all over the USA. momsinprayer.org

GETTING ON CAMPUS

- Creative ways onto ANY campus
 - Tutoring, assisting students
 - Chaperoning social events
 - Helping with sporting events
 - Coaching lower level teams
 - Giving teachers expert help in things like computers, etc.
 - Watching your students compete at sports events
 - Training ASB leaders
 - Almost any ability you have can be a way to help your local school
- Who I (and my team) need to meet in order to get permission
 - Administrators, teachers, etc.
 - What do I need to say and do?
 - Ask questions...listen well...
 - Always tell the truth...obey the rules & policies of the school.
 - Ask for needs that they are looking for outside help in meeting

Networking for The Sake of Our Young Leaders

Jesus prayed for unity...*Jesus tied our unity to the world believing He was God's Son*

"I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me." (John 17:21 - NLT)

"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." (John 13:34-35 – NLT)

We can build unity in the church...*by working together to help our students reach their friends for Jesus*

Six ways to promote unity in the Body of Christ...

1. **Build local church partnerships** to reach every campus in our community...*this gives us common goals and tasks.*
2. **Focus first** on the First & Second Commandments, **then** on the absolutes of scripture.
3. Determine to **promote Christ FIRST**...before & above our own group, opinions & preferred way of doing things.
4. **Pray** for the **Holy Spirit to be more active** both in the Body of Christ & in the community.
5. **Appreciate & respect one another's** interpretations of scripture.
6. **Practice supportive speech & actions** towards one another.

We can build working Christian networks that:

- are a strategic alliance of individuals, churches & organizations that:
 - have well-defined individual identities
 - share at least one strategic goal to reach the local campuses
 - choose to deliberately enter into a relationship
 - act cooperatively to advance the kingdom of God in real, measurable ways

Necessary elements in building a working Christian network:

Primary elements

- a significant level of godly dissatisfaction with the status quo
- a significant task that is too big for anyone to pull off alone
- at least one honest "servant-broker" who can bring all the groups to the table and sees the network & its cooperative mission as a significant goal of their own ministry
- members with a high level of mission-focus & personal commitment
- a simple set of "rules of behavior" that all members agree to keep

Secondary elements

- a small group of members who will work with the leader to provide direction to the network
- willingness by all members to make the mission a significant priority

The Basic Tasks of Christian Networking:

- Listening to God
- Seeing God's strategic plans
- Connecting Christ's Body together
- Acting Together with a "critical mass" of the local Body of Christ

Augustine's Principle
*In essentials...unity
In non-essentials...liberty
In all things...charity.*

The First Steps To Christian Networking:

- Collecting others who have a godly dissatisfaction with the status quo
- Collectively listen to God...

Benefits of building a working Christian network:

- Christ's law of love is modeled both to the rest of the Church & to the outside world
- the discipline of working with others assists each working member in examining their own presuppositions & standard practices
- more can be accomplished for God's kingdom through networking than by remaining separated & independent