

How to Get Your Teenager in our Student Ministry

Our ministry exists to be a relevant coach in the realm of eternal life.

COnvert - The lost by exposing students to the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Aim - Christian Students Towards the ongoing process of discipleship and spiritual maturity / formation

CHallenge - the maturing students to discover and embrace God's call in their lives through service.

A Big Problem: FEAR

One of the most common problems we find in trying to get students involved in our student ministry is FEAR.

Most students are afraid to visit our student group because they don't want to enter the room alone.

To be honest, WE DON'T BLAME THEM! Our Student Ministry room is packed with other students, entrenched in conversation, devouring snacks listening to music or playing games.

Although, we have several greeters ready to welcome them and many other students who would love to meet another "new" student, it's difficult to see this since FEAR is blinding.

"Okay, I'll Try It Once"

Because of parental pressure of bribery many students will try "Sunday Night" once, but return to their parents with one of the following reactions:

- Too many older kids
- It's too wild
- It was stupid
- I hated it
- Too many younger kids

Again, we would have the same reaction if we went by ourselves. But, when many of these students return with a friend, at a later time, we hear them say:

- It was great
- I loved it
- The people are really friendly
- I learned a lot
- I didn't think church could be so fun!

So what's the difference? The key word is FRIEND. When a student is connected with another person he or she will feel more comfortable. We've watched students, whom we would consider "regulars," walk into the student ministry room and then leave because he was not able to locate his friend. As you know, relationships bring comfort. The best student ministry in the country could be considered "lousy" if there is no RELATIONAL CONNECTION.

What Parents Can Do

Pray - It's amazing how many parents we talk to who haven't considered prayer as one of their options.

Make a connection with us - Please call and get in touch with Fellowship Student Ministries:

Chris' office: 842-4101

Chris and Cynthia's home: 842-0529

Encourage your son or daughter to give it a try for one month - We believe that our Sunday night programming is so special that anyone, regardless of where they are in their spiritual journey, can feel at home.

If your teen has even a "small opening" of receptivity or interest to get involved in our ministry please let us know. We would love our ministry to be the place where teenagers can grow and discover God's purpose for their life.

*We really care,
Chris and Cynthia Campbell*

What our Youth Ministry Staff Will Do

Make a personal contact - After you make contact with us we will contact your student. It may take us a few days but we will make a phone call and express our interest in meeting him or her.

Send an e-mail or postcard invitation - After the phone call, we will follow up with a personal e-mail or post card and encourage your teen to get involved in something.

Have a peer make a personal contact - We will also pass your teens name and number to one of our student leaders from his/her campus. This student will make a phone call and make a personal invitation to one of our programs.

Provide an accepting, caring and relational environment - As part of our on-going attempt to fulfill our purpose statement, we have strong relational values. We want our students to feel like they are accepted, they belong, and they are cared for. We want to develop relationships as we help students move towards spiritual maturity.

BIBLE STUDY We have various small group Bible studies that meet in homes throughout the year. They range in size, ages and topics. They include Bible-centered teaching and small group discussion. If the small group leaders know your son or daughter is coming for the first time they will be prepared to help them feel concerned.

FSM "SUNDAY NIGHT" (6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Sunday Night) This is our largest weekly program and has a lot of energy: videos, humor, worship, drama, games, testimony, and/or a message. It's definitely not boring!

SPECIAL EVENTS We regularly schedule some type of special event on a monthly basis. These events are intended to provide a fun environment so that church-ed-students may bring their friends to something that is non-threatening.

CAMP Through the year we offer camp-type opportunities ranging from a ski retreat in February, to bike hikes, overnight camp outs, music festivals, progressive activities, and summer camp. Even though many of the camps look to be centered purely on fun, in reality, they are planned with a spiritual emphasis in mind, which will encourage students in their walk with God and further commitment to this ministry.