

Gearing-Up Your Youth Ministry: Doodads, Widgets, and Thingamabobs Can't Beat a Sound, Relational Ministry

Welcome

- “Relational Ministry” – what is it
- Outline of today’s presentation
 - Setting the Stage
 - First Steps
 - Digging Deeper
 - Reiterate
 - Miscellaneous
- Ask participants what they are hoping to get from the presentation
 - Make sure that by the end all of their topics are covered

Opening

- Ice Breaker
- Distribute Outline and Resource List

Setting the Stage

- Location of “Youth Group”
 - How is your room set up?
 - Does it invite discussion?
 - Lecture setup vs. conversation setup
 - Is it youth friendly?
- Inviting participation
 - Invite all youth group age students, do this on a regular basis
 - Friends are always welcome
 - Mail, phone calls, email, recorded messages (*One Call Now*)
- Welcoming
 - Arrive early
 - Welcome students as they arrive
 - Show respect
 - Watch what/how you say things
- Have a plan
 - Know where you want the event to go
 - Know what you will be doing
 - Quiet is okay
- Volunteer training
 - Share vision with your volunteers
 - Train volunteers on what they should be doing and how to do those things

- Pray
 - Pray before the meeting
 - Pray with the volunteers ahead of time
 - Pray with the students
 - Pray after the meeting
- Share Time
 - Invite workshop participants to share ideas & experiences that have worked for them as well as experiences that haven't worked

First Steps

- Boundaries
 - Establish your personal boundaries
 - Stay professional
 - Stick to your word
 - Be consistent
- Rules
 - Involve students in process
 - Establish rules of conduct and consequences
- Opening Traditions
 - Develop a regular way to open meetings such as “highs, lows & prayer requests” , “peaks, pits, praises, and prayers” or “sharing cube”
- Ice Breakers
 - Important not to put down the participants
 - Don't use “in” jokes that leave newcomers or visitors on the outside
 - Make sure that everyone can participate
- Games
 - Games that uplift
 - Play games with a lesson
 - Be ready for the teachable moments
 - Make sure they are FUN
 - Know when to stop
- Discussions
 - Start with easy questions and topics
 - Establish that this is a group where it is okay to share
 - Have discussions on a regular basis
- Schedule
 - Meet regularly
 - Start and end on time
 - Have a balance of fellowship/service/learning/worship
- Share Time

Digging Deeper

- Lesson planning
 - What to teach
 - Ways to present
 - Resources from Group and Youth Specialties, and others
- Discussions
 - How to go deeper
 - Using small groups
 - Student leaders
- Activities
 - Utilizing outreach
 - Ideas for fun
 - Ideas for worship
- Be genuine
 - Don't be someone you are not
 - Be authentic, but remember your boundaries
- Home visits
 - The importance of going to student's homes
 - Getting to know the whole family
- School visits
 - Go to student's sporting events, concerts, plays
 - Find ways to volunteer e.g. Debate judging, concessions
- Share Time

Reiterate

- Time
 - Emphasize that relationships will take time
 - You won't necessarily see immediate results
 - You need to have quantity to achieve quality
- Evaluate
 - Measure success in inches not miles
 - Take time to evaluate your program
 - Get youth and adult input
 - Listen, listen, listen
- Cycles
 - Revisit the *First Steps* each program year
 - You will be building on the previous year, but there will be a learning curve for new members
 - There is an ebb & flow
- Patience
 - Don't be discouraged
 - Keep going
- Share Time