

Philosophy of Youth Ministry

Vision Statement

Crosswalk Youth Ministry exists to transform the lives of students and develop disciples of Jesus among the youth of our church and community. We accomplish this by the preaching of the gospel for regeneration and by the discipleship of students for growth in Christian faith. Discipleship is the ultimate aim of Crosswalk Youth Ministry and should lead students into a deeper understanding of God through Scripture. It should challenge them to examine their lives and compare them with God's standards so that they may be continually growing in their faith. We also exist to support parents as they raise their children.

Goals

1. To share the gospel with every student who comes to Crosswalk and invite them into a relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. To teach students to follow Christ in their lives and become part of the body of Christ.
3. Students who regularly attend either Crosswalk will be sought out to enter into a discipling relationship with an adult of the same sex.
4. To see students integrated into the larger body of the church.
5. Students shall be lead into acts of service for the benefit of others, with a particular focus on those that the Bible stresses as being in need. This includes the poor, orphans, widows, and those who are not receiving justice.
6. Enjoyable fellowship between students and leaders to show the joy that God grants to our spirits.
7. Students who do not attend youth ministry but do attend church at Crossroads will constantly be sought after to participate in Crosswalk.
8. To see every student go on a missions trip during their time in Crosswalk.

How This is Accomplished

We will use a tiered approach in terms of our "program." The four tiers will be, in order, outreach/fellowship events, fellowship groups, small groups, and personal discipleship.

Outreach/fellowship events: These events are for the purpose of getting students introduced to Crosswalk and a place that is easy to bring friends too.

- An outreach event each month.
- The Reality Factor Retreat every fall.
- Bible clubs in local schools.

Fellowship Groups: Fellowship groups are the first place that study of the word of God takes place. These groups exist to both proclaim the gospel and provide instruction on Christian growth. They are to require little physically from the students beyond their attendance, though spiritually they should use the call of the Christian life which requires more faithful obedience from all believers.

- Fellowship groups meet on the first and third Sunday of each month.

Small Groups: These groups exist to take students deeper into the study of God's word and ways in this world. They are more voluntary than fellowship groups and will require work from the students in terms of personal study.

Personal Discipleship: Personal discipleship is to be sought from all students by the leaders. Each leader will focus on particular students.

Rational for Youth Ministry

Youth ministry may be the only "typical" ministry the church does today that is mentioned in the Bible. Paul instructs Titus with the following words:

But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.

Here Paul instructs Titus that the older, more mature Christian has a responsibility to the younger men and women. This is our rationale for youth ministry. The current culture is largely a youth-driven culture. It's television shows, movies, music, and other aspects send messages, subtle and overt, about what our youth should be thinking and doing. The church needs to put its voice into battle. At the local church, the best way to accomplish this is youth ministry. We can show students what God's word says they should be thinking and doing. We can provide them with criteria and skills to "be in the world but not of the world."