



dare 2 share

VALUE 7

Ongoing Programs



Best Practices and Ideas

Give the Gospel Every Week

Pauline Ebert | Fusion Community Church | Cobleskill, New York

We should give the Gospel every time we gather as a youth group for at least two reasons: 1) We should be careful not to assume every student in our youth group is saved, regardless of how regularly they come to church and youth group. 2) The believing students in our ministry benefit from hearing us share the Gospel each week, because it reinforces that message in their own lives and helps train them how to share the Gospel themselves.

- ◆ Learn the G.O.S.P.E.L. with your students.
- ◆ Practice it until you have it memorized and can confidently communicate the clear Gospel message.
- ◆ Start by presenting the Gospel at the end of each of your lessons, sermons, or devotions.
- ◆ As you become more comfortable with it, you can connect the topic of the study to the Gospel, make a connection with something in pop culture that your students are talking about, or continue to present the Gospel and give an invitation at the end of your message.
- ◆ To change things up, have a student or another adult leader share the Gospel as part of your youth group time. This will demonstrate for your group that it's not only the youth leader who can or should share the Gospel.

“Every week there may be a new student, or a student on the verge of their next step in their faith journey, or a student who needs to know how to share their faith with others —there’s ALWAYS one in the mix. Sharing the Gospel EVERY week in a new way will be used by the Holy Spirit to reach that student, no matter where they are at. Be obedient to the work of sharing the Gospel, and the Holy Spirit will move among your students. Some of the students—the older teen boys specifically—have stated that it was the message, it was hearing the Gospel given in a different way, that actually intrigued them and keeps them coming back.”

Annual Strategic Action Plan

Bill Freund | Grace Church | Roseville, Minnesota

Develop a Strategic Action Plan for your ministry each year. Include your bold vision, the biblical outcomes you are measuring, and a calendar for the year with events and initiatives that will help you accomplish these things. Be sure to involve your students in the process of creating this document.

- ◆ Take Sunday morning or Wednesday night to sit down with your students and determine your Cause Turf (geographical area that your ministry influences). This could be your county or city, communities, your zip code, or a list of schools your students attend.
- ◆ Determine your bold vision for your community. These questions can help you and your students brainstorm what it will be. Remember, your bold vision can have multiple components.
 - How many Gospel conversations do your students want to have, based on your Cause Turf?
 - How many prayers do they want to pray for their lost friends?
 - How many people do they want to see come to faith in Jesus Christ?
- ◆ Look at the calendar for your ministry year, and help your students create measurable steps to achieve their goals. Set benchmarks, so your students know how many Gospel conversations, prayers, etc., they will need to have to stay on pace to reach their goals by the end of the school year.
- ◆ Once you've set your benchmarks, be intentional. Plan ministry events around them to help your students reach these goals. For example, if your students have a goal of praying for every unreached student in your Cause Turf, plan a prayer night once a month. If their goal is to have a certain number of Gospel conversations, plan regular outreach events.

“My students are actually LEADING the Cause, not just participating in being led. They feel validated and that their ideas count—which they do! Our students are recruiting and mobilizing their friends to join the movement, rather than me having to ‘sell’ a program or event. Lead THE Cause is a huge help in getting our youth ministry aligned and crafting this document every summer.”

Celebrate Regularly

John Chronister | Calvary Baptist Church | Morillon, Arkansas

A fun way to keep your students engaged over the course of a ministry year is to celebrate milestones regularly. Waiting until the end of the year can be discouraging to the group. If it seems too far away, they may lose some of the short-term urgency to stay on mission. Celebrating milestones helps students stay more engaged.

- ◆ Identify a few of the things that matter most to your youth ministry (number of Gospel conversations, number of students coming to faith, etc.).
- ◆ Determine annual goals for these priorities. As an example, let's say you set a goal of 400 Gospel conversations for the year.
- ◆ Break down the annual goal into three or four milestones that you will celebrate. Using the 400 Gospel conversations, you could have a celebration for every 100 Gospel conversations.
- ◆ Change up your celebrations so that each one is something different to look forward to: pizza party, pool party, game night, going to a movie, etc.

"By having these celebrations, the students have been encouraged to keep having Gospel conversations and have already come close to their second milestone party. We have been averaging five to ten Gospel conversations a week!"