

SUCCESS THROUGH PURPOSE

DEFINING A YOUTH MINISTRY PURPOSE STATEMENT

How does a youth leader accomplish what is truly important in the lives of the teens with whom he is working?

- I. Understand the role of being a true leader. There are certain implications to the word *leader*. Matthew 4:18-20 gives us an excellent example of leadership.
 - A. The leader is pursuing an objective (Matthew 4:18-19).
 - B. The leader is responsible for setting and maintaining the objective (John 5:30).
 - C. The leader motivates followers to respond to direction (Matthew 4:20).
He who thinketh he leadeth and hath no one following him is only taking a walk.—John Maxwell
 - D. The leader gives direction and instruction to followers on how to attain the objective.

As a leader, you must accept the role and lead. You are not merely a chaperone to keep the parents happy, or just "wheels" to take teens where they want to go. The cause of Jesus Christ is worth a lifetime of sacrificial service. Lived in joy, that life beckons others to enlist in this worthy endeavor.

- II. Clearly define a Biblical purpose of youth ministry. Ask at least these five questions, adapted from Rick Warren, when identifying purpose.
 - A. Why does the youth group exist?
 - B. What does God want our youth group to be?
 - C. What are we to do as a youth group?
 - D. How are we to do it?
 - E. What should teens *know* when they leave the youth group?

Youth leaders need to have a focused and defined purpose that leads to attainable goals, which give them direction and guide their decisions.

In youth work, many people are placed in leadership because of a need. Often the leader has been drafted without foundational teaching and instruction on how to be successful with youth, or even without teaching on what the objectives and expectations for success are. Many try to fulfill the job without a clear focus on the purpose of the job.

- III. Communicate and fulfill the purpose of youth ministry.
 - A. State the purpose in a manner that can be easily remembered.
 - B. Ask the question, "What are we trying to accomplish?"
 - C. Teach it to the parents and their teens.
 - D. Measure all you do by going back to a particular objective of the purpose. Discard anything that does not fit within that purpose.
 - E. Prayerfully set goals to accomplish.

A SAMPLE YOUTH MINISTRY PURPOSE STATEMENT

It is our goal to *win* the lost of the Northwest Valley, *welcoming* teens into Christian fellowship, training them to *walk* in truth and obedience to the Word of God, *worshipping* the Lord with our whole hearts, learning and doing the *work* of the ministry.

WIN the lost.

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15

WELCOME teens into Christian fellowship.

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:14, 17

WALK in truth and obedience to God.

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28:20

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe. 1 Thessalonians 2:13

WORSHIP the Lord.

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. Psalm 29:2

WORK for the Lord.

This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men. Titus 3:8

From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians 4:16

When you plan the year's activities, focus on the objectives you need to accomplish to fulfill your purpose statement. Make sure that you are providing the right environment for the objectives. Often youth workers feel guilty when a certain objective is not accomplished at an activity that does not lend itself to accomplishing that objective. Plan ahead for a certain objective, and judge your success by the accomplishment of that objective.

Example: If you want to have an activity with a lengthy prayer time but half of your teens are unsaved visitors, the chances are that you or the teens will be frustrated with the outcome.