

PARENT MEETINGS

A youth leader's job is not a competition with parents; it is a partnership for developing teens into mature Christians who glorify God by being like Christ Jesus. Parent meetings are a time to inform, enlist, encourage, teach, and emphasize the parents' role in youth ministry.

I. Examining the reasons for having regular parent meetings

- A. To emphasize the parents role in a youth ministry
- B. To inform parents of necessary information
 - 1. The youth ministry purpose statement
 - 2. The results of past events
 - 3. Present trends of youth culture
 - a. Inform parents of important books to read.
 - b. Hand out helpful articles and information.
 - 4. Pertinent information
 - a. Leadership opportunities
 - b. Leadership expectations
 - c. Policies and procedures
 - 5. The calendar of coming events
 - a. Communicate important dates months in advance. Early notice of activities allows families to plan for family events.
 - b. Communicate the “whys” of certain activities.
 - c. Communicate the “how’s” of activities.
- C. To encourage the battle weary
 - 1. Communicate specific instances about steps of growth in their teens' lives.
 - 2. Plan to have a teen give a testimony of what God is doing in his life.
- D. To enlist participation
 - 1. Have the parents fill out important parent information. *See page 2-4.*
 - 2. Ask for available resources the parents have that they would be willing to use for teen activities—house, van, boat, maybe even a cabin.
 - 3. Encourage parents to volunteer for certain activities to attend and participate in throughout the year. You may choose to set a number goal on how often you would like them to participate.

4. Ask for ideas for ministering to their teens.
 5. Ask for areas where they feel they need help.
- E. To teach parents in family and teen-oriented issues
1. Be informative, identifying problems and solutions.
 2. Teach the youth philosophy of the church.
 3. Include current events and proper biblical perspectives on issues that may be overwhelming or confusing.

II. Introductory steps for creating effective parent meetings

- A. Choose a time and set the date.
1. A time and day that meets the needs of your church and your parents—Ask them for the time best for them.
 2. A time that is frequent enough to make a difference but not too often to detract from other need-ful time demands
 3. A day where the greatest number of the parents may attend
- B. Announce and explain the importance of the meeting.
1. Specifically seek the parents to attend.
 2. Explain why meetings are needed.
- C. Gather and organize information for parents.
1. Gather pertinent articles from many sources.
 2. Read sound books pertaining to teen issues.
- D. Prayerfully choose your focus.
1. Seek your pastor's insight for topics.
 2. Seek parental ideas and needs for topics.
- E. Make a clear layout of the meeting plan.
- F. Evaluate the meeting.
- G. Plan and announce the next meeting.

Parent meetings may seem to be a bit intimidating to a youth leader; all the more reason they are needed. These meetings bring together youth leaders and parents. Each church is a family of believers which will have distinct needs. Learn from each meeting and build upon the last one. Eventually through the practice of alert gathering and one-on-one talks with parents, you will have an abundant list of appropriate meeting topics.