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Welcome to the practical, hands-on guide on how to grow a church youth group! Let me start by congratulating you on your desire to see God move in young people its a wonderful and worthwhile thing. With youth, I see all that yet untapped potential ready to burst out and its our job to bring those talents, giftings and callings out to the forefront. The church needs the energy, passion and yes, even the unpolluted idealism of young people in order to truly thrive and become all it should be and could be. I once heard someone say the church is as wide as a lake but only an inch deep, meaning unless we reach the next generation, the church could die with us. Follow the principles Im going to outline for you here and I know God is going to use you to make a difference in your youth group, your church and your local community. I promise were going to get to the nuts and bolts, ground-level stuff here, but lets just take a second to think about the reason why you want to grow your church group. The best place to start is with the end in mind; the why always determines the how. Whats your purpose for wanting to grow the youth and how does that fit in with your churchs mission statement? Our church mission statement is simple and clear: Reach:We reach all people, in all places, at all times, using all possible means with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Teach: Were way more than growth in numbers only; we make disciples and raise leaders. Mobilize: We help young people discover their God-given talents and release them into their Great Commission destinies. Once you know your vision, you can build a strategy around that vision. The vision is the purpose but the strategy is the process by which youre going to make the vision happen. Your purpose and your process should always perfectly align. We need to be intentional about ministry to make sure what were spending our time and effort on will get us the results were after. What Im going to share with you today is the strategy and process were used here in Victory Church Sriracha in Thailand to grow our youth group from scratch to between 30-40 young people in 6 months. Ready? Lets get to it! Getting new faces into your group is your starting point. Though I dont give you a whole list of evangelism ideas, by far the most effective way of getting new people into the group is for your existing members to invite them. Once a week or once a month, have a fun event that everyone is going to enjoy. For us, this is Sunday afternoons straight after church between 1-3 pm. We made a deal with our youth rather than separating them from the main service we said if stayed for the worship and preaching we would do something fun afterwards. Is this bribery? Probably, yes but it worked! So here are just a few of the things we might get up to, to give you an idea: Fun activities in the park BBO Swimming Coffee shop Karaoke competition Games day at church A walk about and an ice-cream Film and pizza night Check out these 10Church Youth Group Game And Activitiesfor more inspiration. Ensure everyone has a good time, encourage them to invite their friends each week and your youth will grow organically. What I do is print out a small, simple flyer for each month. Its simple, low-budget and effective and it means youre equipping your young people with the tools they need to invite their friends. Free sites like Canva.com make it easy to produce something like this: Whatever you do, it doesnt need to be expensive. Whether you have a youth budget or not, keep it cheap and cheerful. You dont need to make it complicated either. More than anything young people just love just hanging out together. A youth group is not just a once-a-week meeting; its a community of people doing life together. A strong youth group is only as strong as the friendships within it, so be intentional about creating a sense of community and belonging. Give time for your young people to build stronger relationships and closer friendships. For youth who are 16+, allot time and invite them out for a coffee. Try and meet with everyone one-on-one at least once a month this is especially true when youre looking to raise leaders. When you build genuine relationships with these young people theyll know you actually care. Youll see them naturally open up, theyll tell youwhat their wildest dreams and deepest fears are. Youll be able to spot gaps in their knowledge and identify future topics for teaching and training. Once you have a strong and welcoming community, its time to move to the next level with small groups. I love small groups so much! Theyre the best way to move past the social and get on to real disciple-making. InHow To Run A Bible Study (Even If You Never Have Before)I walk you through how you can structure your weekly small groups. There are 4 or 5 elements we normally include: Social time before An Icebreaker Worship Bible study Social time after Personally, I avoid meeting in the church. Try and find someone willing to host a group in their house or take them to a coffee shop. Before starting small groups we had young people coming to church week after week but had never had a relationship with God, never had a personal encounter with Jesus. Almost all of our young people have been Christians for less than a year and came from Buddhist backgrounds so they had no biblical foundation. I needed to provide a space for them to be free to ask questions and grapple with the big issues. We needed to cover all of the basics of what happened in the fall, why sin is such an issue, why we need salvation, what water baptism is and why we go to church at all. The last thing I wanted was for me to be doing all the talking at the front with everyone else listening, so we translated The Purple Bookishly the Best Bible study guide for new believers Ive ever come across. The lessons are designed to be interactive with fill-in-the-blanks, scripture look-ups, open-ended questions and conversation starters. Our young people love it! All of those phrases we so casually throw out suddenly had meaning. The Bible started making sense and they could see clearly Gods plan for salvation with their own eyes. If youre serious about creating young disciples who take God at His Word and apply it to their lives then small groups are definitely the way to do it. Growing your youth group is more than numbers, yes thats part of the story but not the whole story. People always say quality or quantity but with a youth small group network, you can have both. The 3rd and final step in growing your church youth group is to give your young people opportunities to serve. If youre running around doing everything, its going to limit growth. You only have so many hours in the day, so much energy you can give before burning out. The truth is if you want to grow, you need to start raising leaders. Start with small jobs you know they can handle and work up from there. Young people dont have to be leaders tomorrow, they can be leaders today. This is why Im so serious about giving young people responsibility as soon as possible. I dont care if its their first week (maybe especially if it is!) I give them something to do, an area they can take ownership of. This gives your precious young people space to grow and develop, feel involved and have a sense of pride knowing they have a part to play. Train your older youth to become peer leaders for the younger ones. Start with having the young people help you lead games until they can lead them themselves. In your small groups have someone who can strum a guitar lead your time of worship. Have them come up with and lead the icebreaker. Give them 5 minutes to share their testimony. In the church have them welcome people at the door, sing backing vocals in the worship team or help out with the kids church program. Organise a youth Sunday and have them perform a special drama. Find out what theyre good at, and what they love to do and give them a chance. Be gracious if when they mess up, its all part of the learning process. Whatever your youth group looks like right now, whether you have to build it from the ground up or have a small core group to start with, know this: Because of the work youre doing many young people are going to encounter their Creator God in a life-changing way. Heres an amazing testimony of how God completely transformed the life of one of the young men in our group here in Thailand.God is so good! The fatherless will meet Daddy God and never be the same Those who feelalone and isolated will be brought into a family Your young people will learn to devour the Word and apply it to their lives Your youth will become unashamed worshippers who love His presence... Theyll become leaders in their own right and find their destiny and lifes purpose in God. I mean, this is why we do what we do right? So never grow weary in doing good! The fact youve read to the very end of this post shows you have the heart to work with youth and youre willing to do whatever it takes to make it happen. God bless you! I really hope this 3 step process helps you to see how you can grow your church youth group. Let us know if you have any questions or ideas of your own youd like to share in the discussion below. Id love to hear from you! FaithJune 7, 2025Discover 5 powerful womens Bible study topicscovering prayer, biblical women, family, anxiety, and sufferingsplus recommended studies and spiritual insights.FaithJune 7, 2025Discover 5 powerful womens Bible study topicscovering prayer, biblical women, family, anxiety, and sufferingsplus recommended studies and spiritual insights. Starting a youth group ministry at church can seem like a daunting task, but with careful planning and execution it can be a huge success. Here are a few tips to help get you started: 1. Decide what your goals for the ministry are. What do you hope to accomplish with the group? 2. Choose a name and logo for your ministry. This will help with branding and marketing your group. 3. Recruit adult leaders who are passionate about working with youth. These leaders will need to be trained and prepared to work with young people. 4. Promote your ministry within the church and community. Use social media, flyers, posters, and word of mouth to get the word out. 5. Hold regular meetings and events. This will keep interest high and give youth something to look forward to. 6. Be creative in your approach. Youth are often drawn to ministries that are fun and relevant to their lives. 7. Evaluate your ministry regularly. Make adjustments as needed to ensure that it is meeting the needs of those involved. By following these tips, you can start a youth group ministry that is successful and impactful. Share copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Starting a church youth group should be a fun and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. Starting a church youth group is a great way to reach out to young people and make a difference in their lives. By following these tips, you can create a youth group that is both fun and meaningful for your churchs young people. \*\*1. \*\* Start with prayer. Before you do anything else, take some time to pray about your vision for the youth group. What do you hope to achieve? What kind of atmosphere do you want to create? What kind of impact do you want to have on the lives of the young people involved? \*\*2. \*\* Meet with the church leadership. Once you have a sense of your vision, its important to meet with the church leadership to get their buy-in. This is especially important if youre hoping to use church resources, such as space or funding. \*\*3. \*\* Do your research. There are a lot of great resources available to help you start a church youth group. Take some time to do some research and find resources that align with your vision. \*\*4. \*\* Recruit leaders. No youth group can succeed without great leaders. Start by recruiting a core group of leaders who share your vision and are passionate about working with young people. \*\*5. \*\* Find a meeting space. If you dont have a dedicated space for your youth group, youll need to find one. This could be a room in the church, a local community center, or even a park. \*\*6. \*\* Plan your programming. What kind of activities will you offer at your youth group? This could include Bible study, games, service projects, or anything else that you think will be engaging and meaningful for the young people involved. \*\*7. \*\* Get the word out. Let people know about your new youth group! You can spread the word through social media, flyers, or word-of-mouth. \*\*8. \*\* Be patient and persistent. It takes time to build a successful youth group. Dont get discouraged if you dont see results immediately. Just keep praying, planning, and working hard, and eventually youll see your vision come to life. Here are some additional tips for starting a church youth group from scratch: Be flexible.Things dont always go according to plan, so be prepared to adjust your programming as needed. Be creative.There are endless possibilities when it comes to youth group activities. Dont be afraid to get creative and try new things. Be intentional.Make sure that your youth group is more than just a place to hang out. It should be a place where young people can grow in their faith and make meaningful connections. Have fun!Youth groups should be a fun and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. Starting a church youth group is a great way to reach out to young people and make a difference in their lives. By following these tips, you can create a youth group that is both fun and meaningful for your churchs young people. Here are some ideas for fun and engaging youth group activities: Bible study: This could be a traditional Bible study, or it could be something more interactive, such as a game or a discussion group. Games:Games are a great way to break the ice and get to know each other. There are all sorts of games that you can play at youth group, from simple icebreakers to more complex team-building games. Service projects:Service projects are a great way to give back to the community and teach young people about the importance of helping others. You could volunteer at a local soup kitchen, help clean up a park, or do something else that makes a difference. Outdoor activities:If the weather is nice, you could take your youth group on an outdoor adventure. This could be anything from a hike to a picnic to a game of capture the flag. Creative activities:There are all sorts of creative activities that you can do at youth group, such as arts and crafts, music, or drama. These activities are a great way to let young people express themselves and have fun. No matter what activities you choose, make sure that they are age-appropriate and that they will engage the young people involved. With a little planning and effort, you can create a youth group that is both fun and meaningful for your churchs young people. Source: Youth Ministry Lessons Youth group ministry start-up is such an exciting timeand totally overwhelming. Even seasoned youth workers may feel nervous about getting things organized in a cohesive manner. Not only should things need to be clear in your own mind but workers and attendees need to know which way your group is headed. You need step-by-step instructions to get your ministry started smoothly. Follow this handy checklist of 10 steps for starting a youth group in your church.Leave us a comment to add your own tips and check out listing of top youth ministry blogs.1. Build On PrayerThis basic tenet should be glossed over especially during the four foundational periods of the ministry. You may hours of prayer under your belt and prayed hard just to get here but now that you havecontinue in prayer! What a great time to enlist the help of prayer warriors who youll need throughout the life of your ministry. As always, lead by example and pray regularly for your youth group.2. Gather Key LeadersMake mental and spiritual notes about potential key leaders in your youth ministry. Dont offer positions; instead spend time with your leadership through social events with teens and adults that have a heart for youth. Solidify your relationship and discuss involving them in upcoming events.3. Have a Specific VisionA solid, narrow vision is necessary to starting a youth ministry. If your ministry is part of a church, the youth ministry vision should complement the overall vision of the house. Write out the vision on a notebook then spend some time making it tighter more easy to grasp in a few sentences. For example, a vision of Healing the broken, abused teens in our community with the Word of God and a strong fellowship of believers, could become, Mending Broken Teens.4. Develop a PlanComing out of the gate strong is good but what happens after that? Youll need a plan. Create a 1 year, 5 year and 10 year plan for your ministry. Then prepare to change as God reveals more about His purpose and plan. It is His ministry after all!5. Involve Other MinistriesMake your ministry big. Teach youth how important unity is by involving your group with the big picture. Tap into strong local youth ministries by attending events and being available for volunteer opportunities. Be confident in your groups loyalty and purpose. Teach teens that building relationships outside your church is important.6. Delegate Important RolesYoull be tempted to do every i and cross every t but resist temptation. Dont aim for perfection at every event and meeting. Delegate non-essential tasks and roles to others and give them a chance to contribute. Everything wont be done perfectly but it will get done and your teens and volunteers will enjoy some ministry ownership.7. Involve the ChurchObviously if you are building a church youth ministry youll need church support. If your youth ministry is church-based youll need to talk to the Senior Pastor long before this step. Once the ball is rolling, youll have lots of opportunities to involve the church at large. Publish important updates in the church bulletins, make announcements and invite adults to visit.8. Set a Start DatePick a start date and stick to it. Plan ahead for your charter eventdont plan a kick-off on the fly. Build a sense of expectation for your teens and volunteers.9. Re-evaluate and RefocusPrepare to refocus quickly if needed. Expect roadblocks and obstacles on your ministry journey. Keep your vision in focus but understand that changing tactics to achieve it could be necessary.10. Persevere and RestTeen ministry requires commitment, constantly. Persevere and stay on the wall but also know when to unplug. Besides meeting the spiritual needs of teens and their families, youll need to love and care for yours. Be in the moment whether working or resting. Persevere but dont neglect your own spiritual needs for rest and refilling. This post may contain affiliate links, which means I may earn a small commission from purchased products at no additional cost to you. See my full disclosure here. Starting a youth ministry from scratch can feel like an insurmountable task. You might be feeling overwhelmed, or even afraid to take your first step because you dont want to do it wrong. Whether youre brand new to this whole leading church youth group thing, or youre one of those youth leaders who been around the block more than a few times, my hope is to help you begin well when launching or relaunching a new youth ministry. Before we jump into 5 fundamental steps to starting a youth ministry from scratch, lets ask a few essential questions. Before beginning anything new that you feel pretty sure God has called you to do, its helpful to pause and ask a few heart-level and logistical questions. I get it. Odds are, you wouldnt be reading this if you didnt feel like the Holy Spirit is prodding you in this direction. But this is an important question to consider because its all too normal for a kind, generous human being such as yourself to see a need and step up to fill that need without pausing to first consider whether or not God has called you to be the one who fills the need in this season. Yes, being a light means seeing and filling needs in our community, but it is also true that sometimes the absolute healthiest thing you can do is say no to good things that arent meant for you in this season. So, before you start a youth Bible study or begin brainstorming fun activities, its worthwhile to pause and allow God the space to confirm in your heart that launching a new youth ministry is right for you in this season of life. Of course, we all agree (emphatically) that the answer to this question should be yes! But, still, this question is worth asking because your church leaderships support will be fundamentally important to the youth ministries launch and long-term stability. Naturally, you are a go-getter. You get things done. Youre an independent person who can dig deep and carry the load of a newborn ministry for quite some time. But inevitably, whether in two months or two years, youre going to need your church leaderships approval, blessing, or, lets be honest, forgiveness (oops)! So getting their explicit support and excitement is a great way to start things out! The first thing youre going to want to do is far wiser than it is exciting, and yet its far more exciting than it seems on the surface. The Word of God is clear that His design is for parents to be the spiritual leaders of their children. Ultimately, your decision to launch (or relaunch) youth ministries at your church is a decision to better support parents in the discipling of their children. So your first step is to meet with the parents of the teenagers at your church to listen, brainstorm, and vision cast for what a youth ministry at your church could look like. You may choose to do this in a group setting with all parents in one room. Alternatively, you may choose to do this one-on-one, meeting each set of parents individually for coffee or lunch after church. Regardless of how you choose to do it, sitting down with the parents of your church may end up being far more exciting than youd initially anticipated as you see how they get on board with a fun, constructive environment where their teenager can experience spiritual growth. I appreciate that you might instinctively think your next step is to start brainstorming what youre going to do at your youth gatherings. But actually, what youll discover over the course of your journey leading a brand-new youth group is that what you do matters far less than who you do it with. Its a beautiful thing when one student shows up to join Friday night for the awesome Friday night activity youre planned, and you get to go on an exciting, uncertain ride with the Holy Spirit navigating 90 minutes of one-on-one time. It just might be the case, though, that youd better serve your church better by doing less exciting activities on Wednesday nights if thats where more students are able to make it! Hopefully, your conversations with parents inform your decision on when to meet for youth group, but know that theres nothing wrong with starting off slowly. Sometimes the right move is to start off by meeting once every two weeks or even once per month, instead of once per week. If you have four students show up for the once-per-month youth gathering, you may find you build momentum faster than if one or two students show up to your once-per-week gathering. Some of us have a hard time going off-script. We like to follow the instructions. Theres nothing wrong with following the instructions, but when youre launching a youth ministry from scratch, you need to set the expectation for yourself that your youth gatherings wont necessarily look like the typical youth group gathering. Get ahead of the game by planning to value substance over structure. You may want to spend the first three months of your new youth ministry gatherings walking through a video sermon series from a curriculum like G Shades. Thats great. And because youre a highly organized person, youll likely want to utilize the creative interactive activities or ask some of the particularly rich discussion questions the curriculum includes. Thats amazing. But teenagers are squirrely little creatures, and things dont always go according to plan when youre with them. So prepare your heart for the inevitable zig when you want to zag by planning to value substance over structure. You expected five students to show up and two showed up? Substance over structure. Your post-video discussion time was derailed by a student sharing about how they were bullied? Substance over structure. You planned a really cool outing to mini golf, but only three of the ten possible students showed up? Substance over structure. For those of us who like to follow the instructions, this step might be a little bit difficult, but its important, nonetheless. If youre starting a youth ministry from scratch, youre probably doing so with a small group of teenagers. With that in mind, be personal in inviting each student to join your new youth ministry. Whether its a handwritten letter or an eye-to-eye conversation at church, you get to set the tone with this initial conversation. The invitation to join your youth ministry is an invitation to be seen and known. The invitation to each student should be not only personal, but personable. You dont have to be cool to successfully launch a new youth ministry, but you do have to be likable. As we said earlier, what you do at youth group will matter less than whos at youth group, so when the most consistent person at this small gathering is you, youll do well to be a likable person. Fortunately, being likable to teenagers is easier than the average person would think. Teenagers are humans. They want to be seen. They want to be valued. They want to have fun. They want someone who doesnt take themselves too seriously. If youre above the age of 25, youre going to think youre 100, so let go of the fear that theyre thinking youre old and out of touch. They do. And, to some extent, you are. Its fine. Just be personable and interested and engaged, and trust that God will bring the students who need to be there in His own timing. At the end of the day, launching a youth ministry from scratch is about seeing a need among a group of people and meeting them where they are. Since thats exactly what Jesus did for us, launching a youth ministry is an incredibly gospel-centered thing to do in a given season of your life. Keep that aspect of the gospel at the forefront of your vision as you launch into this new venture, and step five will seem natural. When you strip away the structure, the studies, the permission slips, and the shaving cream (what is it with us youth leaders and shaving cream games?), what youre setting out to do is establish relationships with students that are of social and spiritual significance. You want to matter in their world, and you want Jesus to matter in their world. A great place to start is the place they least expect to see you. Ask for the JV baseball schedule from mom and dad and show up to a game one night. Take your significant other out on a date night to the 11th-grade school play. Never been to a taekwon do competition? I know what youre doing next Saturday afternoon! Chances are, you dont have unlimited time. You have work and home responsibilities and passion projects and hobbies of your own. So it might take you a year or two before youve been to one of every students things. Thats okay. The point is, youre showing up. Youre meeting them where they are. You are doing for them what Jesus has done for us in the gospel. If Gods Spirit is guiding you to launch (or relaunch) a youth ministry from scratch, youre in for an incredible journey. Your church leadership made the right call by supporting this scary, but worthwhile venture. Get the parents of teenagers at your church on board. Settle on a consistent meeting pattern. Value substance over structure. Be personal and personable as you invite students to join your new youth ministry. And meet them where they are. The Lord knows what it is to do the very thing that youre doing right now, and He will give you everything you need to do it. When Jesus instructed His followers to be a light, He meant for us to go and do exactly the kind of thing youre setting out to do! So thank you for saying yes. Thank you for loving students. And thank you for seeing through the lens of the gospel. The next generation is better off for it, and God is glorified by it. Read More: 7 Events For Childrens Or Youth Ministrys 5 Steps To A Youth Ministry Kick-Off Event! Youth Prayer: Praying For Youth And Teaching Its Importance Mike Haynes is the creator and owner of G Shades Youth Ministry Curriculum. Over the course of 10+ years doing youth ministry in churches of all different sizes, Mike has developed a passion for creating resources that help small church leaders thrive. So, you want to start a youth ministry at your church (or perhaps youve been kindly asked by your minister)? Thats great! Youth ministry is important but where do you start?There is probably a thousand different starting points for a youth ministry, many of which come from a pressing need or demand (Ummm ... What do we do with our young people?). I dont propose to have all the answers for your situation but I do intend to equip you with some essential questions to help you get off on the right foot.What type of youth ministry do you want?The first thing you need to do is work out what type of youth ministry you want to run based on your theological principles. This is where so many youth ministries come unstuck. There can often be such immediate pressure to get something up and running, that your youth ministry is formed mostly around practical issues rather than thinking about how your model of youth ministry might cultivate and grow young people to be more like Jesus.Below is a table of 3 common types of youth ministry. The first 2 types are not exclusive to Christian youth ministry and can be found in secular youth work organisations as well (like the Police & Community Youth Clubs etc). The last column ("Bible Focus") shows a type of youth ministry that is exclusive to Christian organisations (typically the church) and is the model of youth ministry I will be concentrating on in this article.Ive formed a model of youth ministry shaped on this third column and have been using it since 2005; it started with a new youth group of 6 young people and has grown to (currently) 40. Thats not to say that its the best or only faithful model of a Bible Focus youth ministry, but Im satisfied that it faithfully puts our theological principles into practice and is a consistent outworking of biblical values and evangelical beliefs.The trouble with just focusing on entertainment!The real drawbacks of having an entertainment-based youth ministry strategy are:Its incredibly resource heavy, taxing on both financial and human resources.You often lose people with every transition.People rarely graduate or move on from the let me entertain you type youth ministry into the Bible focussed youth group/small groups.The maturing of faith in your Christian young people is often stunted.Its a model of ministry akin to that championed by Willow Creek, which after 3 decades, has now abandoned it as a mistake.\*So, which model is right for you?Have you worked out which model you want to run?The answer should come from the questions "Why do I want to start a youth ministry?", and "Whats the aim of our youth ministry?". Just to give you an idea of how your choice of youth ministry type affects your next step, if you choose:1. The drop in centre- your first step will be to secure a large space (eg. a hall), some community funding for equipment (eg. gym/sports equipment, pool tables etc), and link in with your local social services. Once that is set up, recruiting and training volunteers is next.2. Let me entertain you -your first step is to secure an adequate budget (from your church or elsewhere) that will support the financial burden of creating and running new and exciting activities on a weekly basis. This model of youth ministry is quite resource-heavy on youth leaders and so you will need to recruit quite a few very energetic and creative leaders to spread the load and keep things fresh.3. Bible Focus- your first step is to recruit some leaders who can commit to sharing the Bible with passion and creativity, and who dont doubt that the word of God is powerful to change lives.This is just a taste of how the foundation of your type of youth ministry will affect the process in starting a youth ministry from scratch. Next week, well take a look in more detail on how to begin a Bible Focus youth ministry.KEEP READING... CLICK HERE FOR PART 2 , HOW TO FIND THE RIGHT LEADERS FOR YOUR MINISTRY.--As a side note: To be fair, there are many people who run the let me entertain you type youth ministry as a culturally comfortable way-in for non-Christian young people to hear the gospel. This type of youth ministry often looks like the way its described in column 2 but with the introduction of a short gospel talk/explanation as part of the youth gathering and the further aim of moving young people on to a more Bible-focussed youth group or Bible study group after theyve heard the gospel. For a full assessment of this type of youth ministry strategy read Changing the World Through Effective Youth Ministryby Ken Moser. Want tips on how to build a youth group? Are you scrambling to put together each weeks youth ministry meeting? Are you overwhelmed by carrying leadership responsibilities alone? This resource can help!Building a youth group takes time and effort. You need to develop a strong leadership team, handle administrative details, and work closely with other ministries. These ideas from Faith Formation Ministries will help you know how to build a youth group. Download this free one-page resource and share it with your church. Or order printed copies for a small fee at FaithAliveResources.org.Free Resource for Stronger Youth MinistryIn youth ministry, we often react to circumstances that demand our time and prevent us from building strong systems and practices. But being reactive rather than proactive can prevent us from investing in disciple-making opportunities that are crucial to healthy youth ministry.10 Insights on How to Build a Youth GroupUse these 10 proven strategies to create and maintain a strong youth program:1. Develop a robust youth leadership team.First, remember that your best resource is the youth themselves. They know the joys and struggles that teenagers experience daily. So use this to your advantage!Find students who show leadership skills. Then invite them to plan a youth group evening. Find older youth to mentor younger kids. Ask for input on study topics, social events, and outreach. Your teen ministry is a great place to start developing leadership skills in young people and equipping them to be disciples. Doing so will build their faith, too!2. Develop a strong adult leadership team.Next, know that you cant do it alone. God calls and equips many others in your congregation to be leaders and mentors for youth. So find them and invite them to serve the church this way. Developing a strong adult leadership team allows you to invest deeper in young lives rather than being spread thin trying to do it all.3. Make time for administration.That word is like kryptonite to many youth pastors. Youth ministry leaders are often relational beings who let their administrative side of things go. If thats you, set aside time every day to deal with administrative details required for the ministry to succeed. Details are crucial for how to build a youth group.4. Build a detailed calendar.For a successful season of youth ministry, its vital to develop a strategic calendar of events, teaching dates, outings, etc. Then your leadership team, kids, and parents will all be on the same page and can plan their weeks accordingly. Without a clear path to follow and direction for the year, chaos can and will happen.5. Communicate in multiple ways.While we can plan well, ongoing multilayered communication is crucial for success. Create distribution lists of parents and youth for emailing/texting/calling with ministry information. Find the ways your people prefer to be contacted. Then count on sharing the same information on multiple platforms.Teens generally dont use email, but parents still do. Kids are using Facebook less and less these days, but parents and grandparents are all over it. So tailor your communication to your audience.

**How to start a youth ministry in a small church. How to start a youth group. Youth ministry tips. How to start a youth ministry. Youth ministry.**