

FROM THE SERIES: BUILDING LEADERS FOR JESUS-FOCUSED YOUTH MINISTRY

BOOK TWO

A VISION

FOR

LIFE AND MINISTRY



Equipping Adults to Lead Students
To Spiritual Maturity

Barry St. Clair

FROM THE SERIES: BUILDING LEADERS FOR JESUS-FOCUSED YOUTH MINISTRY

A VISION FOR LIFE & MINISTRY

**Equipping Adults to Lead Students
To Spiritual Maturity**

Barry St.Clair

To the men and women who have shaped my leadership by their investment in my life:

Howard and Kitty St. Clair, my mom and dad, who challenged me to move beyond the limits of the possible, and supported me every time I tried it.

Buddy and Bev Price, my in-laws, who have continually modeled unconditional love and a servant attitude.

Mal and Wanda McSwain, my Young Life leaders and friends, who taught me the basics of following Christ and the essentials of youth work.

Mac Crenshaw, my spiritual leader with Campus Crusade for Christ, who demonstrated how to witness in the love and power of the Holy Spirit.

Finley Edge, my professor, who allowed me to think radically about the church.

Ken Chafin, my leader at the North American Mission Board, who encouraged my imagination and vision,

Chuck Miller, my older peer in youth ministry, who taught me the principles of youth ministry.

Jack Taylor and Peter Lord, my "shepherds," who called me to deeper intimacy with Jesus Christ.

Carol, my wife of twenty-eight years, who in life and death kept her focus on Jesus.

A Vision for Life and Ministry

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INTRODUCTION

This series of books is designed to help us grow as leaders in three areas:

- (1) our personal relationship with Jesus Christ in *A Personal Walk With Jesus Christ*,
- (2) our vision for life and ministry in *A Vision For Life And Ministry*,
- (3) our skills in working with students in *Essential Tools For Leading Students*.

These three books easily adapt to your church's calendar. Each book is designed for use over a twelve-week period of time that includes eleven sessions for discussions and one group experience.

A Personal Walk With Jesus Christ has a focus on growing spiritually. We discover how to gain confidence in our relationship with Jesus Christ, grow in character as a spiritual leader, walk daily in the Spirit and spend time alone with God in Bible study, prayer and Scripture memory.

A Vision For Life And Ministry sets the foundation for ministering to students. We learn to develop a Jesus-focused strategy of ministry that builds a Leadership Team, moves students toward maturity through discipleship, penetrates the student culture and equips students to become spiritual influencers with their friends.

Essential Tools For Leading Students provides practical skills training. We develop skills for youth ministry such as envisioning for our lives and ministries, managing our time, understanding and using our spiritual gifts, leading students to Christ and helping them grow in their faith, leading a discipleship group, counseling students and communicating with parents and church leaders.

As we go through these books we will discover that they include both individual study and group discussion. Individually, we will spend time working through each session and making personal application of that session to specific areas of our lives and ministries. Then the group meets once a week with other youth leaders (called a Leadership Team) to encourage each other,

The purpose of the Leadership Team:

To train adult leaders of young people to become more

- (1) committed to Christ,
- (2) committed to one another, and
- (3) committed to ministry to students through the power of the Holy Spirit and for the glory of God (See John 17:20-26).

to discuss the lesson and then to pray together and to practice what we learn. Wow! That will stretch us!

How can we get the most from our study of this book?

- Be sure that we have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord from the beginning. (If there is any question about this, talk to the youth leader before beginning.)
- Commit ourselves wholeheartedly to this Leadership Team experience. Expect God to do great things as a result of the time we spend working through this book.
- Ask God to give us a clear call and a strong desire to work effectively with students, both believers and unbelievers.

Our faithfulness to study these books will result in radical life change within ourselves, vision for our ministry with students and the tools needed to lead students to follow Christ and to grow toward maturity in Christ.

**SESSION I****A Half Day of Prayer (Group Project)**

A half-day of prayer will be a powerful experience for you. You will meet with God. You will communicate with Him. And He will communicate with you. You will deepen your intimacy with God. It will give you the opportunity to reflect on what you have learned and to apply everything you have covered so far. The directions below will get you started in the right direction. Design this to meet your own needs.

Step #1: Orientation (20 minutes)

Meet together as a group to discuss the schedule, distribute any materials, and answer questions. Conclude this time in prayer with the group.

Step #2: Individual prayer (3 hours and 10 minutes)

- Find a place by yourself to spend time alone with God.
- Arrange your time in order to cover three major areas:
 1. Wait on the Lord. Realize His presence. Confess your sins. Worship Jesus.
 2. Pray for others. Make specific intercession for the needs of other people.
 3. Pray for yourself. Ask God about your own needs. Speak to Him openly and honestly.
- Vary your activities during this time. Pray a while aloud and silently. Read the Scriptures. Plan and organize, writing down actions God has led you to take. Do whatever is relevant to you during this special time alone with God.
- Keep a journal of your prayers. Later you can refer back to it, follow up on your prayers, and see how God has answered them.

Step # 3: Response (30 minutes)

Reassemble as a group. Ask each person to communicate to the rest of the group one or two specific highlights of this prayer time.

MATERIALS NEEDED:		
<i>Essential</i>	<i>Helpful</i>	<i>Other Options</i>
Bible	Scripture memory cards	Calendar for the year ahead
Time Alone with God Notebook/Journal	Devotional/prayer books	List of personal goals/objectives/decisions to be made
This book (to reflect on what you have learned)	Names of students in the youth ministry	Worship CD's, Walkman
Pen		
Clock or watch		

NOTES:

**SESSION 2****Developing A Jesus-Focused Strategy**

Popular and a member of the football team, Anthony was going steady. Making poor choices he found himself partying more and using some drugs. Then he and his girlfriend got careless and she got pregnant. He comes to you and wants you to help him. As he tells you his story, you begin to panic: “How do I begin to minister to this young man? What do I have to offer him?”

You need God’s supernatural help! If he is going to get his life on the right track, experience healing of the hurts inflicted on himself and others and overcome wrong choices he has made, he needs God. The most important issue he has to deal with is to establish and deepen a relationship with a loving and forgiving Savior. If he is going to reach the point where he can turn around and make good, sound decisions, then he will need your help. You can help him by having confidence in God to help him. You will need a strategy to lead him to Christ, grow him toward maturity, and send him out to help others.

Anthony met someone who knew how to minister to him. Jack began to build a relationship with him. He invited him to his church. He became a part of a small group of other students who were learning about and experiencing Jesus Christ and what it means to follow Him. In that environment Anthony began to grow. Today, after completing a degree in counseling and finishing seminary, he works with students who are like he was when he was in school. Beautifully, miraculously, one young man met Jesus Christ, grew to maturity in Him, and is now leading others to Jesus Christ.

The most important issue he has to deal with is to establish and deepen a relationship with a loving and forgiving Savior. If he is going to reach the point where he can turn around and make good, sound decisions, then he will need your help.

If the same troubled student had shown up looking for your help, would you have been prepared to help him? If you aren’t sure what you would have done to help or want to know more about how to do that, these next few weeks are for you! You will discover how to develop a Jesus-focused strategy for influencing the lives of students. The following gives you an overview of the Five Core Principles of a Jesus-Focused Strategy of Youth Ministry.

JESUS-FOCUSED YOUTH MINISTRY STRATEGY

This Jesus-focused strategy creates an environment of powerful prayer and then builds on *Five Core Principles* within that environment. This church-based campus-community oriented strategy builds on principles that Jesus used in His ministry.

Going Deeper with Christ

How do you develop your relationship to Christ and reflect Him to others? *Go deeper into an intimate and passionate relationship with Jesus and live that relationship out by obeying Christ and reflecting His character to those around you* (Mark 1:7-8).

Building Leaders

How do you build quality leaders for a long-term ministry? *Equip adults who have the heart and skills to reach and disciple students* (Mark 1:16-20).

Discipling Students

How do you disciple students to have spiritual passion and become spiritual influencers with their friends? *Challenge students and move toward maturity in their relationship to Jesus through small group discipling relationships* (Mark 3:13-15).

Penetrating the Culture

How do you motivate and mobilize your leaders and students to penetrate the student culture? *Go where students are by spending time in their culture and equip them to reach their friends and their culture* (Mark 1:40-42).

Creating Outreach Opportunities

How do you design outreach opportunities for students to reach their friends? *Create culturally relevant experiences for students to bring their friends to hear the gospel and to see the Body of Christ in action* (Mark 4:1-2).

Let's look a little deeper at these Five Core Principles drawn from the life and ministry of Jesus.

Going Deeper with Christ (The Lordship of Jesus) – Jesus captured the hearts of His disciples, and eventually all will bow before His Lordship (Philippians 2:9-11). God has called us to submit to His rule and reign in our lives. This is essential in the life of every youth leader. We can only take students as far as we have gone ourselves. As we submit to Christ's lordship, we will continue to grow in our relationship with Him. Our personal relationship with Christ will speak louder to students about their relationship with Jesus Christ than anything else we do.

Building Leaders (Leadership Team) – Jesus gathered His disciples. He taught them to follow Him and to lead others (Matthew 4:19). Equipping a team of adult youth leaders to reach toward the same goal is crucial. Potential youth leaders need ongoing training and encouragement in order to grow personally and in order to help students know Christ and grow in Him. The Leadership Team provides that team environment and training for the youth leaders.

Discipling Students (Discipleship Groups) – Jesus had a large band of disciples – more than twelve! That number grew from twelve to seventy-two, to 120, to 500 to 5,000 and beyond (Luke 10:1-3). While many youth groups today lack interest in spiritual things, the groups that have implemented discipleship ministries increase in both spiritual depth and number of students involved. Discipleship is the key to spiritual and numerical growth. The student “disciple” learns to develop his relationship with Jesus Christ by spending quality time with a discipleship group and is influenced by a relationship with an adult leader. These students learn to become spiritual influencers and begin to bring their friends to Christ.

Penetrating the Culture (Personal Evangelism) – Every day Jesus touched the lives of people because He was with them (Mark 1:12, 17). As youth leaders we must move ourselves and our students beyond the walls of the church and go where students spend their time. When youth leaders begin going to campuses and hanging out where students hang out, building relationships and touching their lives, students’ lives will be changed. Then our students will take the risk to talk about Jesus Christ with their friends. We want to penetrate the student culture, and equip our students to be spiritual influencers.

Creating Outreach Opportunities (Outreach Events) – Jesus drew a crowd (Mark 4:1-2a). To impact students we need to draw a crowd as well. When all the principles above are in place and functioning, then many students will be drawn to our ministries. We can provide a focal point for our students to bring their friends. There they are exposed to the truths of the gospel and given an opportunity to establish a personal relationship with Jesus.

In future sessions we will study in detail each of the Five Core Principles of a Jesus-focused youth ministry. Ask God to help you begin to develop a personal strategy that will result in a life-changing ministry to students.



ACTION POINT > SESSION 2

1. Read through the first four chapters of Mark and examine Jesus' strategy of ministry. Pick out specific verses that support each of the Five Core Principles:

Going Deeper with Christ (Lordship of Jesus):

Building Leaders (Leadership Team):

Discipling Students (Discipleship Groups):

Penetrating the Culture (Personal Evangelism):

Creating Outreach Opportunities (Outreach Events):

2. Evaluate how your personal life and ministry express these Five Core Principles. Beside each element, write down what you are currently doing with the strategy and what you would like to do in the future.

	NOW	FUTURE
Going Deeper with Christ (Lordship of Jesus):		
Building Leaders (Leadership Team):		
Discipling Students (Discipleship Groups):		
Penetrating the Culture (Personal Evangelism):		
Creating Outreach Opportunities (Outreach Events):		

3. Do the same evaluation for how your church implements these Five Core Principles.

	NOW	FUTURE
Going Deeper with Christ (Lordship of Jesus):		
Building Leaders (Leadership Team):		
Discipling Students (Discipleship Groups):		
Penetrating the Culture (Personal Evangelism):		
Creating Outreach Opportunities (Outreach Events):		

4. Picture in your mind the following images and write one name beside each description.

- A 9th-grade cheerleader _____
- A kid in trouble _____
- An athlete _____
- A shy person _____

Now picture each person you listed as he or she might be five years from now. Write a brief prediction of each person's future.

NAME	PREDICTION

5. What can you and your church do to help each person you listed become like the student at the beginning of this session – one who comes to know Jesus, matures, and becomes a fruitful follower of Jesus? Describe what you think needs to happen and why.

What I need to do:

What my church needs to do:

6. Memorize Mark 1:17 and continue your daily readings from the Book of Mark.

**SESSION 3****Making Jesus Lord, Part 1**

Think back to the first day of your first job. How did you feel? Could you do everything you needed to do right away? Did someone train you? How long did it take you to “get in the groove”?

Learning to follow Jesus takes time, too. We need to be trained by someone who knows what to do. Jesus is our “teacher” for the Christian walk. When He becomes Lord of our lives, our heart’s desire will be to obey Him and please Him more than anyone else.

But before we can make Jesus Lord, we need to revere Him. Is He worthy of our reverence? Why does He deserve to be the Lord of our lives? Because He has the credentials!

Credential #1 – He created us. Jesus is the Living Word of God. Read John 1:1-5 substituting “Jesus Christ” each time “the Word” is used. Compare that passage in John to Colossians 1:15-16. Jesus Christ along with the Father and the Holy Spirit created the world and created us.

Because He created us, Jesus knows how we function best. Read Psalm 139:13-16. Jesus Christ knows everything about us. His unsurpassed knowledge of us qualifies Him to be our Lord.

Credential #2 – He identifies with us. Picture in your mind a story where a young fearless prince delivers his country from an evil ruler. Jesus was that young fearless prince. He became a human being and then He “gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father” (Galatians 1:4).

Since Jesus lived as a man for thirty-three years, He knows the problems and temptations we face every day. “We do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are” (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus deserves to be our Lord because He faced the same problems we face, yet remained sinless.

Credential #3 – He redeemed us. Jesus Christ invaded our world, lived a perfect life and died for our sins. Through His death, He crushed Satan’s rule on this earth forever. Redeem means to “rescue” or “ransom.” Another definition for redeem is to “recover ownership by paying a specified sum.” Jesus has legally obtained ownership

of our lives from Satan. He has the right to be our Lord because He has bought us with the price of His blood. “You are not your own; you were bought with a price” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

Jesus has the credentials to be Lord of our lives. So what should that mean to us? It depends on how we define “lord.” There are three Greek words in the New Testament that describe Jesus as our Lord. Let’s look at each word and its English equivalent.

Despotes (master) – This master describes “someone with unlimited power.” Because Jesus’ power has no limit, He can master any situation.

Basileus (monarch) – This kind of ruler is someone with “all power and authority.” A monarch’s word is law. Jesus is superior to other monarchs because His word is not only law, but it is always truthful and right. His authority is the final authority.

Kurios (lord) – A person who is “lord” is the owner. *Kurios* indicates authority, but also conveys a sense of wisdom and love. When Jesus is Lord of our lives, He is the wise and loving owner.

The Apostle Paul expresses Jesus’ lordship through what God has done as a result of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection: “God exalted Him [Jesus] to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:9-11).

Jesus deserves to be our Lord. He has the credentials. He has been given authority from God to rule in our lives. He desires to be the wise and loving owner of our lives. The question we must answer is simple: Do I revere Jesus enough to submit to His lordship in my life? Our response to that question is absolutely critical to our own personal relationship with Jesus, and also determines our ability to lead others spiritually. If Jesus is not Lord of our lives, how can we lead others into a deeper relationship to Him? Let’s give that some serious thought before we continue.

3. After desiring Christ's lordship, you must decide to let Him be Lord. The apostle Paul, when he was blinded by Jesus on the road to Damascus, exclaimed: "Who are you, Lord?" "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting," Jesus replied. "Now get up and go in the city and you will be told what you must do" (Acts 9:5-6). What did Paul do? He went into Damascus. His decision to obey reflected that he understood what it meant to have Jesus as Lord of his life. What steps of obedience do you need to take that will lead to Jesus' lordship in your life?

Take that step right now by faith. Jesus will make your desire for His lordship greater and greater as you continue to obey Him. He will honor your obedience. Fill in the statement below.

Today, (date) ____/____/____, I took the following steps of obedience in response to Jesus' lordship in my life:

Signature _____

4. To encourage you in responding to Jesus' lordship, memorize Philippians 2:9-11.



SESSION 4

Making Jesus Lord, Part 2

Every New Year people make resolutions that usually include bad habits they intend to give up and good habits they plan to begin. But those good intentions are usually forgotten by mid-January. Making Jesus Lord of our lives is far beyond resolving to do better.

Jesus calls us to excellence in our walk with Him. But that excellence comes from His power working in us as a result of our obedience. What will that obedience cost us? Let's take an honest look.

PAYING THE PRICE

Jesus explained to His disciples the cost of following Him. "Then Jesus said to his disciples, If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it" (Matthew 16:24-25). Jesus uses very strong statements to describe what it means to follow Him. He asks us to lose our lives for Him. How can we do that?

Losing our lives involves forgetting ourselves. Several translations of this passage use the phrase "deny yourself." That means we must replace our self-centeredness and personal ambition with a desire to please Jesus Christ. The world says to "look out for number one." But Jesus says forget number one because He has taken responsibility for looking out for us. We don't have to worry (or even think) about our own lives! He knows that when we are preoccupied with our self-interests, then those self-interests motivate us.

Losing our lives involves carrying our crosses. The Apostle Paul paints a clear picture of a person who carried his cross. We have already memorized Philippians 2:9-11, which explains how God exalted Jesus. But in the verses before that, Philippians 2:5-8, Paul describes what Jesus did before He was exalted. He made himself nothing. He took on the nature of a servant. He humbled himself. He became obedient unto death. Jesus took up His cross as an obedient servant of His Father. We carry our cross the same way. Seeing ourselves as nothing compared to God, becoming a servant, humbling ourselves, and obeying, even in the face of death.

Losing our lives involves following Jesus. Following Jesus means we walk step-by-step with Him as His companion. To do that we need to agree with Jesus' goals for

our lives and to be willing to submit to those goals daily. The more we see how incredible He is, the more desire we will have to submit.

RECEIVING THE BENEFITS

Forgetting ourselves, carrying our cross, and following Jesus will be the “price of admission” if we are going to make Jesus Lord of our lives. But we will receive many benefits from making Jesus Lord of our lives.

We will make the best decisions. When Jesus is Lord of our lives, we live in the center of God’s will. As a result, when we make decisions, God will give us specific guidance (Proverbs 3:5-6).

We will find satisfaction. Think about how your mouth feels when you are really thirsty. Jesus is our spiritual “thirst quencher” (John 4:10-14). Jesus is a “river of life” flowing out of us that satisfies every need we have.

Our character will change. “We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers” (Romans 8:28-29). Being “called according to His purpose” is another way of saying “He is Lord of my life.” “Conformed to the likeness of His Son” means Jesus is working in us to express His character through our lives.

Our future will have hope. Many things can make life tough: losing a loved one, being disliked because of your convictions, not having a job, etc. No matter how bad things look right now, we have a bright future! If we remain faithful during our tough times, a time will come when He will fulfill His promises and we will reign with Jesus forever (2 Timothy 2:11-12).

We will be winners. Jesus makes us victorious in life and victorious over death. “Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57). When Jesus is our lord, we share in that ultimate victory!

Focus on Matthew 16:24-25. Whoever loses his life will find it. Jim Elliott, a missionary who was killed by Auca Indians in 1955, wrote this in his journal: “He is not a fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose” (*Shadow of the Almighty*, Elizabeth Elliott, Harper and Row).

Think of it this way: We give Jesus the blank sheet of our lives, and He gives us back a blank check. We let Him write on our blank sheet of paper whatever He desires for our lives. In return, we can use His blank check to “cash in on” promise

after promise He has made to us. Check out Romans 8:32, Ephesians 1:3, and 2 Peter 1:3 to discover a few of His promises.

New Year's resolutions don't stick, but laying down our lives for Christ does stick. It's the only way to please Him and the only way to reach our full potential in Him.



ACTION POINT > SESSION 4

1. Study Romans 12:1-2. Look for practical ways to make Jesus Lord for you personally. List them below.

2. Romans 12:1-2 also has the answer to how you can stop “looking out for number one.” When Paul says to “offer your bodies,” he means that we must place our minds, feelings, and desires as well as our physical bodies at Jesus’ disposal. The phrase, “as a living sacrifice,” means dying to those areas of our lives where we are still putting ourselves before God. Spend at least 30 minutes reflecting on some specific ways that you are still “looking out for number one.” Consider the following areas.

Your thoughts (2 Timothy 2:22; Matthew 5:27-28)

Do you read books and magazines or attend movies that stimulate impure thoughts? Do you let your mind turn to lustful thoughts of the opposite sex?

Your relationships (Matthew 5:23-24; 6:12-14)

List the people with whom you have a wrong relationship. Do you hold a grudge toward anyone? Do you have a good relationship with your parents, spouse, children, and other family members?

Your attitudes (Ephesians 4:31-32; Philippians 2:14-15)

Is there anyone toward whom you have a bad attitude? Do you complain? Gripe? Criticize? Do you lie, steal, or cheat?

Your desires (Matthew 6:33; Colossians 3:9-10)

Do you put too much emphasis on material possessions (clothes, cars, making money)?

Your physical body (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

Are you careless with your body? Do you have habits which defile or weaken your body?

3. Read and study Philippians 2:3-11. You have the mind of Christ. What needs to happen in you to transform your thoughts, relationships, attitudes, desires, and physical body into His thoughts, relationships, attitudes, desires, and what He wants for your physical body? Write down one action that you believe God wants you to take in each area. Which action do you need to take first? Write down the immediate result of taking that action.

ACTION	PRIORITY	RESULT

4. Memorize Matthew 16:24 and continue your daily quiet times in Mark.

Remember: as we die to ourselves, God will inject His life into us in return.



SESSION 5

Becoming A Leader, Part I

When working with young people, do you ever wonder, “Why am I doing this?” Check the activities below that sometimes frustrate you as you work with students.

- Serving cookies and Kool-Aid after meetings.
- Keeping students out of the bushes on church retreats.
- Driving on youth outings with music so loud the windows could blow out any minute.
- Cooking on retreats without one person ever saying, “Thanks.”
- Teaching Sunday School for students who don’t want to be there.
- Leading a bored youth group on Sunday nights.
- Leading songs when kids don’t sing.

Have you ever thought, “There has to be more to youth work than what I am experiencing?” If so, you are right where you need to be. Leadership involves more than being a cook, Kool-Aid server, or bus driver. Each of those serving activities is important, but none of them substitute for becoming a spiritual leader to the students in your church and community.

Webster defines *leadership* as the “ability to show the way or guide the course of action of another by going before or going beside.” As we examine that definition, one thing becomes apparent about being a leader. We can’t show someone else the way to go unless we have been there (or are going there) ourselves. In other words, *the quality of our lives will determine the quantity of our influence*. As we minister to students, we must catch hold of the concept that, “If I take care of the depth of my spiritual life, then God will take care of the breadth of my ministry.” Simply stated, leadership is a lifestyle. God can use us to influence others, but our influence will be in proportion to the type of lifestyle that we lead.

Jesus had a very definite leadership lifestyle. His approach to leadership expressed itself in four phases: (1) I do it; (2) I do it and my students are with me; (3) My students do it, and I am with them; and (4) My students do it and I am in the background to encourage. Let’s examine the first two phases in this session and the other two in the next session.

I DO IT

Jesus said, “I always do what pleases Him [God the Father]” (John 8:29). Jesus was completely committed to do everything God asked Him to do. In order for us to effectively lead others, we need the same kind of approach to God.

“Lord, I always want to do what pleases you.” Our lifestyle needs to be one that we want others to follow. If we are not walking with God or desiring to please God by spending time alone with Him each day, memorizing Scripture, sharing our faith, or showing love toward others, we can’t expect those things from the people we lead. As we please God the Father, others will want to follow us. Paul was confident enough in his own relationship with God to say to others, “Follow my example” (1 Corinthians 11:1). We can have the same confidence as we obey what God asks us to do.

I DO IT, AND MY STUDENTS ARE WITH ME

Take a minute to read John 13:1-10. These verses show Jesus as a man who was willing to serve His disciples. He did that with real transparency. In everyday situations, He demonstrated His vulnerability to His disciples – like washing their feet. Others will learn the most from us when we serve them in ways that reveal our transparency.

The importance of being “transparent” became evident to me as I was discipling a high school student named Kent. I had asked Kent to help me move some couches in my house. When we pulled the first couch out from the wall, we discovered all sorts of junk that had fallen behind it (with the help of my kids) – a wash rag, some moldy raisins, various toys, and other junk. I looked over at Kent, and I just knew he was thinking, “*Trashy, really trashy.*”

We went downstairs to get a hide-a-bed to put where the first couch had been. After we got it in place, we opened it and a wad of stuffing as big as a pillow dropped out onto the floor. Kent stood there with an embarrassed, sheepish grin on his face. I could tell he was thinking, “*What a cheap couch.*”

Well, we had one more couch to move, but this time we ran into some logistical problems. This couch was 80" x 35" and the doorway we were trying to go through must have been 79" x 29". We pushed, we shoved, we sweated, and we got pinched fingers. We also got frustrated and angry. When he gouged a six inch hole in the wall, I got angry. Later I asked him to forgive me. Kent had seen me struggle. He had watched me “blow it.” He began to see me as a person not only with strengths and talents, but also with flaws and weaknesses.

When we lead by bringing someone alongside us, a natural tendency is to try and cover up anything that indicates we don't have everything under control. But we know the truth about ourselves. We don't need to hide that. Part of leading others is being vulnerable with them. Giving the impression that "we have it wired" only leads the person following us to think, "I could never be like that." On the other hand, when we are open and honest, then that person will say, "She's not perfect. Hey, I can identify with that! Maybe I can follow Christ after all."

When people see us in life situations, warts and all, then we realize what Paul meant by, "I will boast all the more gladly about my weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). Paul knew, and we can too, that God's *strength* is made perfect in our *weakness*.

Leadership is a lifestyle – our lifestyle – of setting an example and servant leadership. That kind of leadership will leave a lasting impact on the lives of students.



ACTION POINT > SESSION 5

1. Prior to this session, what would you have listed as your top three responsibilities as a youth leader? Would you change your list as a result of reading this session?

2. Study John 13:1-10. What style of leadership does Jesus portray? Why is that style important to us?

3. Are you comfortable telling students "Follow my example"? Why? Why not?



SESSION 6

Becoming A Leader, Part 2

Think about a leadership experience from your past when you felt like no one was following. Obviously, leadership is not supposed to be that way. When you lead, people should follow. As we apply the two principles we discussed in the last session, students will follow us because our lifestyle will make them desire what we have. As we develop friendships with students, they will want to hear what we have to say because we have the lifestyle to back it up. The first two leadership principles – “I do it” and “I do it and my students are with me” – will help young people know how to have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through our personal example and our servant leadership. The next two leadership principles change focus from setting the example to helping our students become examples and servants themselves.

Someone once said: “You can catch a fish and feed a person for a day, or you can teach a person how to fish and feed him for a lifetime.” Jesus did the latter with His disciples. He clearly demonstrates that in His next two principles of leadership: “My students do it, and I am with them” and “My students do it, and I am in the background to encourage.”

MY STUDENTS DO IT, AND I AM WITH THEM

After Jesus’ disciples had seen Him minister, the time came for them to minister on their own. He first sent out the 72 disciples in pairs “like lambs among wolves” to go ahead of Him and tell about His coming (Luke 10:1-3). They were “out there.” But Jesus was never far away. He gave them firsthand experience at doing the things He had taught them to do. He wanted the truths and skills He had taught them to become cemented in their hearts by putting those truths and skills to work. He provided them with on-the-job-training.

So what had he taught them to do? What was the “it” in each of these four phases of Jesus’ ministry? Let’s look at these verses to understand what Jesus taught them to do.

Isaiah 61:1-3. The Messiah is coming to do three ministries: 1) preach the good news; 2) bind up the brokenhearted; 3) set the captives free.

In Luke 4:18-19, Jesus came as the Messiah and fulfilled the prophesy of Isaiah 61:1-3. He came to 1) preach the good news; 2) bind up the brokenhearted and 3) set the captives free. As we turn from page to page in the Gospels, we see Jesus doing that very thing. His disciples are with Him watching every move. Every day they see

the message preached, blind people see, lame people walk, demon-possessed people released from bondage.

Now look at Mark 6:12-13. Who is doing “it” now? Not Jesus, but His disciples. They are 1) preaching that people should repent; 2) anointing sick people with oil and healing them; and 3) driving out many (not just one) demons. They were doing “it” – the ministry of Jesus.

What comes next is revolutionary! In John 14:12 Jesus says, “. . . anyone who has faith in me, will do what I have been doing, and he will do greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.” Who gets to do Jesus’ ministry? Anyone! Does that include you and me? You bet! Sadly we have been robbed of that opportunity in many churches. But that promise is for you and me! In fact, if we do not do the ministry of Jesus, we will never reach the generation of students who don’t know the message, are broken-hearted and need healing, and who are addicted to alcohol, drugs and sex. Without the ministry of Jesus they have no hope! And we get to do “it”!

MY STUDENTS DO IT, AND I AM IN THE BACKGROUND TO ENCOURAGE

In the three years that they were with Him, Jesus’ disciples experienced the miracles that Jesus performed. Then they saw themselves performing those miracles with Jesus’ authority. But they also faced the great disappointment of the cross.

The disciples experienced supernatural living with Jesus, but one final step needed to be taken before Jesus’ ministry in their lives was complete. As Jesus ascended to heaven after the resurrection, He promised the disciples that His Spirit would come to empower and motivate them (Luke 24:48-49; Acts 1:8). Then He commissioned them to complete His ministry on earth through the power of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20). Jesus moved into the background. He filled them with power and then gave the ministry to them. From that point on, the ministry took place through His disciples as they were filled with the Spirit. And through their leadership the world has never been the same. May we be Spirit-filled leaders like that!

When we are, we will have no greater joy than watching God use us to lead students to the point where they do the ministry of Jesus. What a privilege! What a challenge!

**ACTION POINT > SESSION 6**

1. Using a Bible and a concordance, trace Peter's growth as a leader. Begin in the Gospels when Christ first called him and follow his growth to Acts 2 where 3,000 people were converted after he preached. (Look up the references in your concordance under "Peter.") Write your own outline below.

2. From your study of the life of Peter, respond to the following questions.

What was Peter doing before he met and followed Jesus?

What leadership skills and training did Peter learn from Jesus?

When did Peter become inwardly motivated to be a leader?



SESSION 7

Moving Students Toward Maturity, Part I

How many people were in your youth group when you were in high school? What percentage of those people do you think are still walking with Christ?

Your estimate may or may not be accurate. But statistics from one of the largest evangelical denominations reveal that only six percent of all the students who attend church throughout high school continue to attend regularly when they go to college or to work. Such statistics indicate that “growing up in the church” does not necessarily mean that students will “grow up in Jesus Christ.” We must be missing something!

Most youth ministries are “a mile wide and an inch deep.” They are about programs, not people. They operate on activities, events, and entertainment. Surely there has to be something more! There is! It involves making disciples. Disciple-making is unique because through it, changed lives become a reality.

Students’ lives are transformed through the disciple-making process. As Christians, we are to be “conformed to the likeness of His Son” (Romans 8:29). In other words, we are to mature in Christ to the point that we begin to take on the likeness of Christ. Both Jesus and Paul understood that that takes place best in a discipling environment.

PRACTICAL ELEMENTS OF DISCIPLE-MAKING

Paul understood the value of disciple-making and knew that discipling others is an essential key to spiritual growth. He gave Timothy some practical insight into how to disciple others: “My son, be strong in the grace that is Christ Jesus. These things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others (2 Timothy 2:1-2). Let’s take a closer look at what Paul was saying and identify some underlying elements of discipleship.

Element #1. Receiving (“My son, be strong in the grace that is Christ Jesus.”)

Creating the best environment is essential in any situation. At home, at school, at church or wherever. Creating the right environment is particularly important in making disciples. The environment we want to create is the grace environment.

Why do so many students who have grown up in church get their driver’s license or graduate from high school and leave their “faith” behind? It happens because the church has communicated to students that following Jesus is rules, religion, and attending church, not a dynamic, intimate relationship with Jesus.

We have missed “grace.” What is it? “Grace is God’s supernatural ability in us through the cross and the resurrection.” Grace is God’ Spirit living in us and empowering us to live the Christian Life.

The church has told young people what they need to know, think, do, believe, and how to behave. The emphasis is on *external motivation*. But grace focuses on *internal motivation*. How can we appeal to the Holy Spirit in our students? Instead of telling them what to do, we can ask the question, “What do you think God is telling you to do?” That simple question helps students make decisions that are their own. They will develop internal convictions that are their own. Legalism and religion will never allow students to take that risk. Only an environment of grace encourages them to let the Holy Spirit build convictions from their hearts!

Element #2: Relationships (“The things you have heard me say”)

Lee was a member of my first discipleship group. I began to reevaluate our group experience when I heard that he had begun taking Jewish confirmation classes after completing my discipleship class. His action told me that our discipleship group hadn’t gotten through to him. I knew our material had been good, but we had gone through it in a classroom type setting. We had not taken time to build relationships.

I met with Lee to find out what had gone wrong. We began meeting together regularly, and over the next couple of months we worked through some of the problems Lee was having in his relationship to God. When we got right down to the issues, he had never really received Jesus Christ. Within the context of our relationship he committed his life to Jesus. Over the next couple of years it took even more time to help Lee grow into a fruitful disciple. Today, Lee is the editor of the largest Christian magazine in America.

Through that experience, I learned that disciple-making takes place in an atmosphere of love and acceptance. That kind of atmosphere can only develop through a close personal relationship as we pour our lives into another person.

Element #3: Reflection (“... entrust”)

When we go to the bank to get something out of our safety-deposit box, we can’t do it alone. In addition to our key, we also need the key of the bank official to open the box. The word “entrust” expresses the idea of taking two keys and opening the safety-deposit box together.

When Paul tells Timothy to “entrust,” his point is to build a trusting relationship in which the riches of Christ are taken out of the box and transferred to another person. Before Timothy could transmit Christ through such a relationship, he already had to have deposited into his life the character of Christ – His attitudes, thoughts, actions, and habits.

Believers are called to be mirrors that “brightly reflect the Lord’s glory” (2 Corinthians 3:18). The statement is trite, but true: “Christianity is caught, not taught.” If we as leaders are to transmit Christ to others, our lives must reflect Christ to them.

As people imitate us in the discipling process we:

- *teach* so that they will gain knowledge
- *train* so that they will gain skills
- *build* so that they will be strengthened in character
- *send* so that they will carry out Christ’s mission

Element #4: Reality (“... in the presence of many witnesses”)

This phrase means “in the midst of real-life situations.” It has been proven again and again that people respond best to leaders who are real. Personally, I find myself sometimes “blowing it” with people. But I’ve found that what matters most is how I respond to blowing it, not the fact that I blew it. Being real draws people closer together.

Be encouraged by what Paul says about being real: “I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power” (1 Corinthians 2:3-5, author’s emphasis).

Students will see Christ living in us through both our strengths and weaknesses as we respond to everyday situations.

Element #5: Recruiting (“... reliable men”)

Whom do you disciple? I once worked with a guy who was president of the student body, a big football star, and who dated the head cheerleader. On the outside he looked like a good candidate for someone to disciple. He had expressed a desire to become involved, but I kept putting him off because I sensed that deep down he wasn’t hungry for God. After graduation, he lost the prestige that football and student body leadership had provided. His girlfriend dumped him. He was humbled and began to desire God above all other things. That’s when he became ready for discipleship.

When it comes to being a disciple, it is more important what a student is like on the inside than what he/she is like on the outside. Potential disciples need to be F-A-T:

- *Faithful* – desiring what God desires

› *Available*-taking time to grow

› *Teachable*-willing to learn

Paul trained F-A-T disciples in the Thessalonian church: “We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3).

Element #6: Reproduction (“... who will also be qualified to teach others.”)

Paul had a vision for discipleship that included not only Timothy and the men he would personally disciple, but also the future generations that would follow. Paul wrote of four levels of discipleship in 2 Timothy 2:2:

› Level #1 – Paul

› Level #2 – Timothy

› Level #3 – Faithful men

› Level #4 – Others

We need that same vision of multiplication in making disciples.

I met and started discipling Bill while he was in college. During that time, Bill became friends with a guy named John. Through their friendship, John became a Christian and was disciplined by Bill while they were both on an exchange program to the Soviet Union before communism collapsed.

One Sunday they attended a Baptist church in Moscow, and after the service a young Russian approached them. He had heard that they were Americans, and because he spoke English, he wanted to talk with them. As they talked, Bill and John discovered that the young Russian had come to the church because he was searching for meaning and purpose in life.

Bill and John took him to their room. John spent the rest of the day sharing Christ with the young man, but he was not ready to make a decision to receive Christ. However, later he wrote John and told him that he had become a Christian. Miraculously, he was granted an exit visa and came to the United States for training in Bible and communications. For years he had a radio program that preached the Gospel to 10 to 15 million Russian people each day.

Discipleship often results in spiritual reproduction far beyond our expectations or imaginations. Spiritual reproduction occurs when:

One maturing believer

Reproduces his faith in other maturing believers

So that they are able to reproduce their faith

In other maturing believers.

This reproduction is the sign of healthy discipleship.

The cost of helping students mature in Christ is high in terms of time, energy, and commitment. The process of disciple-making is much more intensive than youth programs, but the end result is changed lives. Only a few are willing to pay the price of disciple-making, but the ones who pay that price will help change the world. Will you be one of them?



ACTION POINT > SESSION 7

1. As we begin to think of discipleship in terms of “life change” and not just “knowledge gained,” take a few minutes to read through the first two chapters of 1 Thessalonians. Outline the principles that caused Paul to be a “life-changer.”

2. As you think about building close personal relationships with students, what are the problems and opportunities facing you?

3. Think of one time recently when you felt like you “blew it” in front of the students in your church. What happened? How did you feel?

4. Now read 2 Corinthians 12:9. What does this verse tell you about always feeling like you have to be a “super” Christian? How can God use times of failure to develop character in your life and in the lives of the students you are working with?

5. What are “the riches of Christ” in your safety deposit box that you would like to pass on to your disciples?

6. Name some F-A-T students in your youth group. Which ones would you like to disciple?

7. Do you really want to be a disciple-maker? Why or why not?

8. Memorize 2 Timothy 2:2. Continue your daily times alone with God and readings from Mark.



SESSION 8

Moving Students Toward Maturity, Part 2

Think about the people who influenced you while you were growing up. Then single out the one person who had the most influence. Why do you think he or she had such an impact on you?

As leaders, we can have a significant influence on students today. Jesus tells us how we can make a deep and lasting impact on the lives of others. Take a minute to read Matthew 28:18-20. Circle the words “make disciples,” because those are the key words in that passage.

The last session contained six elements that anchor our ministry as we disciple others. This session considers the process we take students through to grow them toward maturity in Christ.

THE AUTHORITY FOR DISCIPLE-MAKING

The beginning point for making disciples is authority. Jesus said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me” (Matthew 28:18). Having that authority, Jesus had the absolute right to exercise His power using all of the resources of heaven and earth. Disciple-making is characterized by life change because God’s supernatural power works in the lives of people. Before we can truly disciple others, we must have authority based on Christ’s supernatural power.

Jesus wasn’t the sole possessor of God’s authority. He told His disciples, “I have given you authority” (Luke 10:19). A judge’s authority when he is holding court comes from the power that a higher authority has given him. The same principle is true of believers. We have Christ’s delegated authority because He resides in us.

Because we have Christ’s authority, we also have all the resources of heaven and earth available to us. Why is it then, that some people don’t experience more power in their lives? The problem stems from a lack of spiritual maturity. God doesn’t want us to have power that we can’t handle. Think in terms of a relationship between a father and his teenage son – regarding driving the car, for example. The son wants more authority, but sometimes lacks the maturity to respond properly to increased freedom. So the father grants privileges gradually. Similarly, Jesus’ authority is unleashed in direct proportion to our levels of maturity to handle it. As believers mature, more of His power flows through them to others.

THE PROCESS FOR DISCIPLE-MAKING

As youth leaders, we have Christ's delegated authority to "go and make disciples." We can impact others' lives through disciple-making in such a way that they will grow toward maturity. In this session, we will look at four stair steps that every youth leader needs to help his students to climb. Each step builds on the preceding one(s).

Step #1: Evangelize – Jesus said, "Go and make disciples."

Implied in His statement is the fact that before a student can grow as a disciple, he must first become a disciple. So if we are to be disciple-makers, we must first know how to help someone come to know Christ. As leaders, we can follow the example of the early church. Michael Green, a noted author and evangelist from Oxford, says that the early church "gossiped the Gospel." Jesus was the topic of conversation because the believers in the early church were convinced that everyone needed to know Jesus Christ.

Jesus modeled a conviction to evangelize. He "went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Good News of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field'" (Matthew 9:35-38).

Communicating our faith to others needs to be a part of our daily lifestyle. If it is, we are already on the road to becoming a disciple-maker. If not, ask the Lord to give you a desire to communicate Him. Then ask someone to show you how to share Christ with others.

Step #2: Establish – Jesus said, "Make disciples...baptizing."

The reason Jesus connected "make disciples" with "baptizing" is because baptism identifies people with Jesus. It was His desire that people immediately identify with Him. For a disciple to become firmly established in his faith, Jesus knew that we must "raise the flag" concerning his new relationship with Jesus. Baptism is the outward sign of the inward reality for a disciple.

After baptism comes growth. Young children pick up habits and attitudes from their parents that are unique to their family. In much the same way, God's children need nurturing so they will reflect the attitudes and habits of Christ (See 1 Thessalonians 2:7, 11-12).

This nurturing process was beautifully carried out in Acts 2 as new believers identified with Christ through baptism. Devoted to the apostles' teaching, they were surrounded by an atmosphere of fellowship, "breaking of bread" (eating) and praying as they met together daily. Disciples who are established in these basics of the faith are much more likely to grow.

Step #3: Equip – Jesus said, "Make disciples...teaching."

Jesus meant for His followers to move beyond the basics of their faith. Part of the process of development is preparation "for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Ephesians 4:12). After we firmly establish new believers in their faith, the next step is to equip them and help them equip others.

The disciples became equipped to help others in much the same way an unskilled carpenter becomes a skilled cabinet-maker – through apprenticeship. Jesus' disciples watched His example, listened to His teaching, and then obeyed His commands. They also received His Spirit. They became equipped and equippers.

The early church also understood the importance of equipping. They selected "seven men...who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom" (Acts 6:3). These men were fully equipped to help others grow. One of the prime marks of a healthy disciple is that he is ministering to others. The way we teach a student to minister to others is by letting him see us doing the ministry of Jesus (see Sessions 17-18).

Step #4: Extend – Jesus said, "Make disciples of all nations."

Jesus had this in mind as the ultimate end to His earthly ministry. He knew He would leave all of His work in the hands of His disciples. In order for His disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, He knew they must learn to extend their ministry. It's obvious that the disciples learned well from Jesus because in Acts 1-5 the church added to its membership. But from that point on, the church multiplied. It experienced exponential growth.

As a person moves to the extension level, the relationship between the discipler and the disciple changes. One student described it this way: "When we started out we had a 'father-son' relationship. The leader did the motivating, teaching, and guiding. Then as time went by, he began to give me responsibility for ministering to others. During that time, we moved more to a 'partner' relationship. I remember us often saying that a discipler's responsibility is to work himself out of a job."

When we move into a "partner" relationship with our student disciples, we have extended our ministry from one to many. At this level, we are on our way to fulfilling the Great Commission.

As we help others grow toward maturity through the disciple-making process, we will experience the ultimate in ministry to students. And we will be able to say with the Apostle Paul: "For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when He comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy" (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20).



ACTION POINT > SESSION 8

1. Review *Step #1: Evangelize*. Beside each of the following characteristics of Jesus' life in Matthew 9:35-38 write out how you think it could relate to you as you work with students:

He related to others. _____

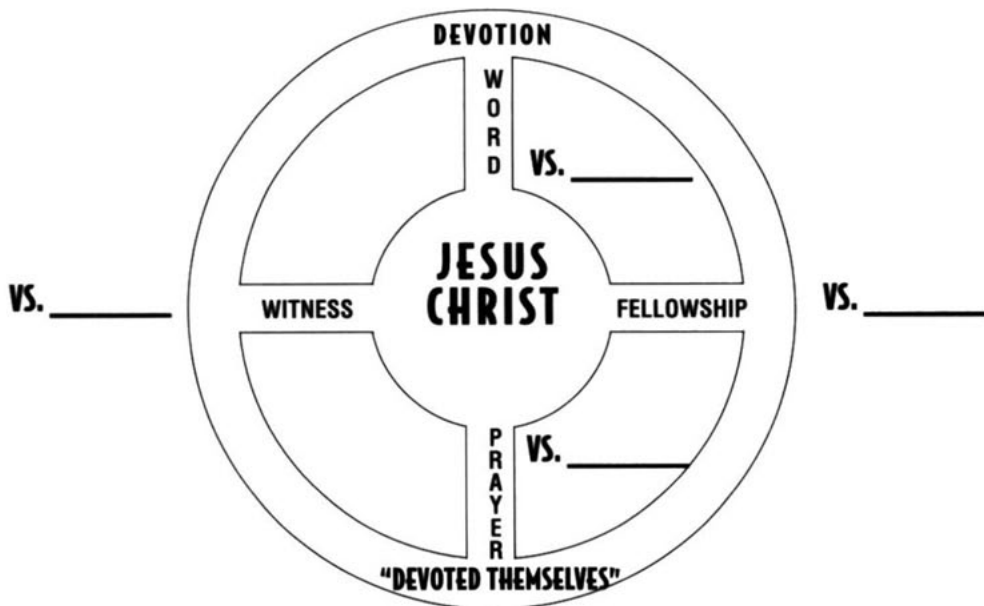
He was a personal witness. _____

He had compassion. _____

He called for laborers. _____

He asked us to pray. _____

2. Read Acts 2:41-47. How did new converts in the first century church begin to grow? Using the following diagram, plug in the verse(s) that applies:



3. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10 and look at the chart below. Describe how Paul established believers in their faith. What is one practical way you can implement each of his principles as you disciple students?

(1) He told them why (v. _____) _____

➤ How Paul established them - _____

➤ How you would apply this principle - _____

(2) He showed them how (v. _____) _____

➤ How Paul established them - _____

➤ How you would apply this principle - _____

(3) He got them started (v. _____) _____

➤ How Paul established them - _____

➤ How you would apply this principle - _____

(4) He kept them going (v. _____) _____

➤ How Paul established them - _____

➤ How you would apply this principle - _____

(5) He taught them spiritual reproduction (v. _____) _____

➤ How Paul established them - _____

➤ How you would apply this principle - _____

4. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:4-12. List five prerequisites for becoming an equipper. Beside each one, explain why you think that would be necessary for equipping someone.

PREREQUISITES	IMPORTANCE OF PREREQUISITES
(1)	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	

5. What effect do you think this process of discipling (evangelizing, establishing, equipping, and extending) could have on your youth group?
6. In what ways is your church already carrying out the process of discipleship? In what ways is it not carrying out the disciple-making process?
7. Memorize Matthew 28:18-20. Continue to spend time alone with God in Mark.

**SESSION 9****Penetrating the Student Culture, Part I**

Think back to your days in high school. Make a mental list of the things that were popular. What clothes were in? What cars did people drive? What music did you listen to? What did you do on Friday nights? What kind of parties did you have? What constituted a “hot date”? What has changed since your high school days? What has not changed?

Face it. You have changed! But you aren't the only one. Walk down the hall at the local high school and you'll notice that student culture has changed as much as you have. Different hair styles. Different clothes. Different cars. Different values.

But the basic needs of students remain the same. What are some of those needs? And how can we begin to meet them?

THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS

Students need heroes. Does that somehow sound unspiritual? Or juvenile? It really is not. During adolescence, students develop their own personal value systems and lifestyles. They look around to find people whom they consider successful, sharp, and content with life. Young people want to pattern their lives after these “heroes.”

Students need love. On a deeper level, they need role models of loving relationships. According to statistics, the average family spends less than 38 minutes each week in meaningful conversation. Such a lack of communication suggests to students that they are not important. Many students live with only one parent and miss out on having a full and rich relationship with the other. And many young people from two-parent families rarely experience a loving relationship between their father and mother. As a result, many students have no idea what real love is.

Students need hope. Many students today realize the truth of Proverbs 13:12: “Hope deferred makes the heart sick.” High school campuses are filled with young people who feel like they have been let down by their family, their friends, and life itself. Some try to escape through drugs, sex, or suicide. Only Jesus Christ can give them a hope that “does not disappoint” (Romans 5:5).

Students need purpose. They are searching for answers to nagging questions like “Who am I?” “Why am I here?” and “Where am I going?” The answers aren't easy. Students need to hear that they have a better option than “just getting by.” They need to know that lasting purpose can be found in Jesus Christ. Only when they

come “to know Christ and the power of His resurrection” (Philippians 3:10) will they understand that they have been created for a specific purpose.

When facing similar needs, Jesus responded: “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field” (Matthew 9:37-38). Jesus’ exhortation has never been truer than it is today concerning the student culture. Students are becoming more open to change than ever before. This session will examine one exciting way that He wants to “send out workers” into the ripe fields of today’s students.

BUILDING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS

To penetrate the student culture we must put adults in touch with students. Building relationships is the key. In the context of a relationship we can introduce students to abundant life in Jesus Christ. To build strong relationships we must go where they are.

What are the characteristics of a person who builds relationships to kids by going where they are?

➤ *A desire to be with young people* (Luke 15:1-2; John 1:14). If we want to reach students, we must move out of the secure, comfortable environment of the adult world and into the world of the school campus and/or the local hangouts. After visiting a high school campus, one person said, “The thought of going into their territory was a little overwhelming. When you think of how many students there are, it can be a little scary. When you begin wondering if they’ll accept or reject you it gets more scary. But when I got there I realized the impact we could have on students’ lives. I was surprised at how many new relationships could be built by just being on campus.”

➤ *A desire to win the friendship of young people* (1 Thessalonians 2:8). Spending time with students is the key to building friendships. Students spell love, T-I-M-E. As we show concern for them as individuals and try to learn what their interests and needs are, your friendships with students will deepen. One youth leader said, “Penetrating the Student Culture gives us credibility with students who are outside of our church. Our being on campus makes students feel like they are important to us. They’re right. They are important!”

➤ *A desire to see young people come to know Jesus* (Matthew 4:19). Availability and sensitivity to the needs of young people eventually provide the opportunity to share Christ openly, boldly, and lovingly. As one leader put it, “Nothing is quite as exciting as sitting down with a student one-to-one and telling him about Jesus Christ and then helping him ask Jesus into his life.”

➤ *A desire to love students right where they are* (Luke 5:12-16). Students today have a tremendous need for love. Try not to be scared by their actions, angry at their rebellion, or frustrated by their apathy. Students are crying out through their behavior for real relationships. Being involved in a ministry with students gives you the opportunity to work through your own feelings toward students and begin to really love them. One youth minister summarized it this way: “As a result of being part of a ministry on the campus, I feel a great compassion toward students. What they really need is love, encouragement, and someone who has a solution to their problems.”

Take a few minutes to think about the students in your youth ministry. Pray that God will give you His love for them. What are some unique talents and gifts that you possess that will help you relate to students? Ask God to show you how you can begin to use those gifts and talents to minister to students.



ACTION POINT > SESSION 9

1. What are some characteristics of student culture that you have observed recently?

2. Read Luke 5:12-16. What qualities did Jesus have that caused Him to touch the man in spite of his disease?

3. What can you learn from Luke 5:12-16 about touching students' lives?
4. Who are some students you could reach by going where students are?
5. Do you sense a desire on your part to build relationships with non-believing students? Why? Why not?
6. Memorize Matthew 9:37-38. Continue your daily time alone with God and your readings in Mark.

**SESSION 10****Penetrating the Student Culture, Part 2**

The Apostle John gave us a perfect cure for overcoming any fears about stepping into the student culture: perfect love. “Perfect love drives out fear” (1 John 4:18). John’s statement has two different applications. First, our love for Christ will motivate us to do whatever is necessary to bring students to Him. Second, as we get to know students, we will grow to love them so much that we will soon feel very much at home with them. Below are some tips that will help us “get into gear” as we begin to build relationships with students on their turf.

➤ **Pray.** Because Christ lives in us, we can do anything! (Philippians 4:13) Jesus is the One who helps us overcome the initial fear of going on campus. Claim His promises and provision, and pray for God’s peace about meeting new students (Philippians 4:6-7).

➤ **Think aggressively.** Our first reaction to going where students are may be, “That’s not my personality.” But as Christians, we are all “fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19). A fisherman does not expect the fish to jump into his boat. He goes where the fish are and aggressively tries to get them into his net. That’s one reason why we need to go where students are. Fearless youth workers are needed to “go fishing” for students!

➤ **Get involved.** Jesus had no fear of sinners. He talked with them and He ate with them. As we get involved with students, it will be amazing how our fears will disappear. We focus on their needs instead of on our fears.

➤ **Identify with students.** The greatest act of identification took place when Jesus came to earth as a man so He could reveal God to us (John 1:14). In the same way, we need to identify with the hurts, problems, joys, and triumphs that students experience so we can reveal Jesus to them.

➤ **Respond with sensitivity.** Jesus had a phenomenal ability to sense the needs of individuals. Students may need the healing touch of a hug, a pat on the back, a shoulder to cry on, or someone they can count on. We can be that kind of friend to them.

➤ **Go with confidence.** As a minister, Paul saw himself as God’s representative—whether or not other people saw him that way (2 Corinthians 5:20). He knew who he was and where he was going. Students may not always understand what we are doing, but as Christ’s ambassadors we will know that God sent us.

➤ *Care about people.* Paul spent time investing his life in other people. He loved others as a mother loves her baby. He said that he gave people not only the Gospel, but also his very own life (1 Thessalonians 1:2:7-8). As we work with students, nothing will be more important than having caring relationships with them.

GETTING STARTED

Once we begin to practice these principles with students, we will find that our fears melt away into real love for students. So how do we begin to penetrate the student world?

Step #1 – Get permission. If we are starting from scratch and want to go on the campus, then we must set up an appointment with the school principal to explain who we are and what we want to do. We can begin by telling him that we care about students and want to help them. Offer to help in any way you can. If you are a parent, the door is already open. If not, this approach opens the door. Making requests or demands doesn't go over very well, even for a worthy cause like a Bible study or an assembly. Stay away from that.

Even if the school is closed to off-campus visitors, this approach still works. If we look for creative alternatives concerning student activities outside of school (football practice, drill team rehearsal, students walking home, local hangout, ball games, choir practice, drama rehearsals, etc.) it's pretty easy to connect with students. We can always find a way to meet students where they are.

Step #2 – Select the best time. Fit this into your daily and weekly schedule. Some possible options:

➤ Before school – Give students a ride to school. Meet them at school and walk with them to class.

➤ During lunch – Eat with students in the school cafeteria. Make an appointment to eat with one young person from your church. This will give you a good reason to go. Then they can introduce you to their friends. Or take a group of students out for lunch. Make sure they have permission.

➤ Extracurricular activities – Become a club sponsor, a coach for a school sport, a chaplain of a team, etc. Attend games, matches, meets, plays, and other school functions.

➤ After school/evenings – Become a “regular” at the local hangout and spend time with students there.

Step #3 – Surround your relationships with prayer. We need to pray constantly. Concentrate on praying before, during, and after meeting with students. Prayer not only helps alleviate our fears, it gives God an opportunity to prepare us to meet students' needs.

Step #4 – Continue to meet new students. The tendency is to stick with the students we know and like. Don't fall into this trap. We must discipline ourselves to spend time with different groups and meet new people on a regular basis.

Step #5 – Don't ask for school time or facilities. The temptation is to try to get a room for devotions or for a Christian club, or to request a time for an assembly. Resist the temptation! First build a trust relationship with the leadership at the school. Always have a reason for being on campus. Do not go when school is in session except by permission of the administration or for special occasions such as assemblies, pep rallies, and other events open to the public.

Whether we are on or off campus, remember the following basic tips:

- Look for ways to serve students.
- Play no favorites.
- Practice learning names.
- Be yourself.
- Have a sense of humor without being insulting or sarcastic.
- Be available.

Build relationships, don't promote the church. Don't share Christ on the campus, but take students to a neutral setting to do that. Serve the needs of the school and the students.

If we build friendships based on love, acceptance, and trust, students will want to know Who we know! Then all we have to do is tell them.

**ACTION POINT > SESSION 10**

1. Using the principles from Scripture described in this session, how can you overcome any personal fear of being with non-believing students on their turf?

2. What steps do you need to take to begin to meet some non-believers on or around a campus each week?

3. Begin now to compile the following information about your local campus and students.

Number of students in school:

Names of student leaders:

Administrative leaders:

Athletic programs:

Names of coaches:

Extracurricular activities:

Rules for visitors:

Names of school counselors:

Clubs:

Local slang:

4. What times and activities fit you best for building relationships?

5. Write down the names of three non-believing students you know. Jot a little information about each person beside his or her name.

1.

2.

3.

6. Keep a record of your meetings with students during the rest of the quarter. Include the following information:

Student's Name	Date	Time	Place	What You Talked About
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

7. Memorize 1 Thessalonians 2:8. Continue your daily times alone with God.



SESSION 11

Presenting Christ to Students

Think about the students you know. List the extracurricular activities that they find fun and exciting. Would you include “going to church” on your list? Probably not! Often going to church doesn’t appeal to students. Unless, of course, someone they respect asks them to go or unless the church has a reputation for being “the place to go.”

Any church can become “the place to go.” When Jesus spoke to the crowds, He did things that were exciting. He kept the attention and gained the respect of His audience. Our churches can reach students for Jesus Christ in the very same way. If we make church meetings exciting, Christian students won’t be afraid to bring their lost friends. And those lost friends will enjoy coming.

Creating outreach opportunities provide an exciting forum to reach unbelieving students with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

WHAT IS AN OUTREACH EVENT?

An Outreach Event *is a meeting where the claims of Christ are presented.* Jesus used life situations to present Himself to others. He was “Living Water” to the woman at the well. He was a “Fisher of Men” to Andrew and Peter (fishermen). He was “the Good Shepherd,” and “The Great Physician.” And today Jesus needs to be presented to students in a form that they can understand and relate to.

An Outreach Event *involves a group of students.* Wherever Jesus went, crowds were attracted to Him. Marks tells us: “Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around Him was so large that He got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water’s edge” (Mark 4:1). An Outreach Event involves gathering a “crowd” of students.

An Outreach Event *encourages believing students to bring non-believing friends.* Jesus called a taxgatherer named Levi to follow Him and to become a disciple. Later, Levi had a fun event at his house so all of his friends could meet Jesus. “Then Levi held a banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them” (Luke 5:27-29). In the same way, an Outreach Event provides a fun place for believing students to bring their non-believing friends.

WHY IS AN OUTREACH EVENT IMPORTANT?

An Outreach Event offers *a meeting structured with young people in mind.* An Outreach Event should not be planned to meet the needs of the church board, the

deacons, or any other age-group (although support from these other people is important). When young people feel comfortable with the environment, they will be more enthusiastic about inviting their friends.

An Outreach Event *focuses on evangelism*. Take the time and money spent on other outings and pour it into an Outreach Event geared to non-believers. This keeps the event focus of your ministry on evangelism.

An Outreach Event *encourages Christian students*. Not only is an Outreach Event an opportunity for students to have a good time and talk about Jesus Christ, it is also a time when they see their friends come to know Christ. An Outreach Event offers a terrific opportunity for students in discipleship groups to reach out to friends. Students being disciplined can bring their friends, witness to them, serve them, counsel them, help them receive Christ, and then follow up on them.

An Outreach Event *brings together all of the other aspects of the Five Core Principles*. When adult leaders (Leadership Team) reach out to students (Penetrate the Culture), and when students are growing in their faith (Discipleship Groups), then an Outreach Event becomes a powerful tool to draw young people to Jesus Christ.

The success of an Outreach Event is not automatic. The way we approach it will determine its success or failure. A couple of things can kill it from the start.

➤ *When adults leaders do not know lost students*. An Outreach Event is not an Outreach Event if it is a meeting of Christians only. If our leaders don't lead the way in sharing Jesus Christ with non-believing students, our student disciples will imitate that attitude and have no desire to reach out to their friends.

➤ *If believing students are not being disciplined, then they will have no enthusiasm for witnessing*. Let's face it, students will never come to Christ without bold, believing students who share Christ with them. When students are disciplined, they not only develop the ability to share their faith, but also they gain the enthusiasm and power that the Holy Spirit provides to impact their friends. Only then will they influence their friends for Jesus Christ.

WHEN DO WE BEGIN AN OUTREACH EVENT?

Youth workers can easily fall into the trap of planning only for events. Even though these events may draw a lot of young people, that approach will fail in the long run because new converts from these meetings are rarely incorporated into the Body of Christ through follow-up and discipleship. So certain building blocks must be set in place before an Outreach Event is planned. If those building blocks are not there, an Outreach Event will fail.

Building Block #1 – Adults leaders must be involved.

The Leadership Team needs to know when the ministry is ready for an Outreach Event. What will it take to do it? Are they willing to invest the needed money and time? Are the other principles of the Five Core Principles functioning properly? These and other questions have to be answered before the Leadership Team makes a decision.

Building Block #2 – Students must be involved in discipleship.

Discipleship creates depth and a vision of what God can do through them. Their growth in discipleship groups makes them want to see other students know Christ. Active discipleship results in strong student involvement in creating an Outreach Event.

Building Block #3 – Students must be actively involved in sharing their faith.

Until students develop a desire for evangelism, they will not feel a burden to bring their friends to an Outreach Event. A big question: How can we equip our students to share their faith?

Building Block #4 – Leaders and students must penetrate the student culture.

How can we expect unbelieving students to show up at an Outreach Event if we have not built relationships with them? Penetrating the culture is the bridge from church to non-Christian young people. As adults and students reach out to students on campus, they are opening a channel through which they can draw students to an Outreach Event.

Building Block #5 – Key church leadership must be supportive.

Having the pastor and the church leaders support the youth ministry is an important piece of the puzzle. One suggestion: Write out the entire Five Core Principles strategy (3 to 4 pages) to present to the pastor and other church leaders. That way they will know exactly where the youth ministry is headed. Give them a vision!

Building Block #6 – Invite the Lord to show up!

God has a way of working out the timing and the smallest details that our best plans can't match. From beginning to end, pray! Invite Him into the planning process, then ask Him to show up in power at the event itself.

If this is worth doing, it is worth doing right! Count the cost before you begin!



ACTION POINT > SESSION 11

1. Think back on your experience as a Christian. What “event” do you remember attending that was very meaningful to you? What made it meaningful?

2. What made the Outreach Event in 1 Kings 18:20-40 so exciting?

3. Assess the needs of one lost student that you know. How could an Outreach Event be structured to help him?

4. Realizing that you have limits to your time and priorities, is an Outreach Event a viable option for your church now? What needs to happen for it to become a viable option?

How do you need to prioritize or re-evaluate other activities and events if you decide to do an Outreach Event?

5. Memorize John 7:37-38 and continue your times alone with God in Mark.



SESSION 12

Bringing Everything Together

In the last eleven sessions we have examined the essential elements that comprise a healthy, well-balanced Jesus-focused youth ministry: the Lordship of Christ, the Leadership Team, Discipleship Groups, Personal Evangelism and Outreach Events. Now it is time to pause and answer a couple of questions:

- “What is God’s purpose for me as a leader?”
- “What is God’s purpose for our youth ministry?”

These two questions relate closely to each other. In fact they are intertwined. Your purpose as a leader and the purpose of your youth ministry can be one and the same. Ephesians 4:11-16 helps us define that purpose. Read the passage and jot down phrases that describe that purpose.

RESULTS OF FRUITFUL MINISTRY

When we understand the purpose of our ministry as described in Ephesians 4:11-16 and then look toward it, we can expect certain results:

- The group as a whole will be built up and unified, both in faith and in knowledge (Ephesians 4:12).
- The individual members will “become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13).
- The youth ministry will equip leaders (Ephesians 4:11).

Then all the people involved (youth pastor, volunteers, parents and students) will become mature in Christ (Ephesians 4:13).

SIGNS OF MATURITY

To “become mature” implies change. People will no longer be “infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching” (Ephesians 4:14). And they will be “speaking the truth in love.” That truth and love will cause the entire group (“the body”) to “in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ” (Ephesians 4:15). This is how the group will be “joined and held together” (Ephesians 4:16).

What a purpose! EQUIPPING LEADERS (adults, volunteers, parents and students) so that every individual is moving toward maturity and the group as a whole is moving toward maturity as well.

FOCUSED PURPOSE

That takes us back to the question posed at the beginning of this session.

“What is God’s purpose for me as a leader?” The answer is very focused: **EQUIP LEADERS.** Through the Five Core Principles, with Jesus as the model, you will find your place in this purpose!

Right now, spend some time in prayer. Thank God for the ways He has already equipped you to help others “become mature.” Ask Him to build in you a deep desire to see Ephesians 4:11-16 accomplished in your life and in your church’s youth ministry. Ask Him to show you how to maximize these Five Core Principles to accomplish that purpose.



ACTION POINT > SESSION 12

1. How well are you equipped to equip others to become mature? What specific steps can you take to become better equipped?
2. As you think about your church’s youth ministry in light of Ephesians 4:11-16 and the Five Core Principles, how would you evaluate it? When you finish, compare your answers with those you gave for question #2 of the Action Point for Session 2.

	WHERE WE ARE NOW	WHERE I'D LIKE US TO BE
The Lordship of Christ		
Leadership Team		
Discipleship Groups		
Personal Evangelism		
Outreach Events		

3. How would you evaluate the students who are involved in your youth ministry? Create a data base of all of the students involved in your ministry. Make a similar list of parents and volunteers. Place a C, NC or NS by each of their names.

Christians (C)	Non-Christians (NC)	Not Sure (NS)

Of the Christian students, parents, and volunteers in your youth ministry, how would you categorize them?

New Believer	Being discipled	Discipling others

[This will give you a starting point to move them from where they are to where they need to be.]

4. Fill out the Personal Plan of Action below.

Plan of Action	Lordship of Christ	Leadership Team	Discipleship Groups	Personal Evangelism	Outreach Events
What goals need to be accomplished?					
What steps must you take to accomplish your goals?					
What is your first step? When will you take it?					
What barriers will you encounter?					
How will you overcome your barriers? How can you check your progress?					

5. Memorize Ephesians 4:11-13. Continue your daily times alone with God and readings in Mark.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Make sure you have completed all assignments from *A Vision For Life And Ministry* (daily times alone with God, memory verses, and weekly studies and projects) before moving on to *Skills And Abilities For Leading Students*.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Since different people will lead the group, as the leader you can help them by pointing them to the appropriate discussion guide for that week. The questions and suggestions will help them get to the heart of each session. These guides by no means exhaust the material or the possibilities of discussion. Add your own questions, ideas, and applications as long as that topic and the material in the session are the focus.

SESSION 1 (GROUP PROJECT)

1. Contact each person prior to this special meeting to confirm that he/she plans to attend.
2. Gather individual prayer requests ahead of time and make copies (with the individual's permission) to hand out at the half day of prayer. Encourage each person to pray for these requests during their "Prayer for Others" time.
3. Write a set of evaluation questions to use when the group reassembles after the half day of prayer. ("Was this a beneficial experience?" "If so, what prevents us from having in-depth prayer more often?" "How can we do this more regularly?")
4. Gather materials that might be beneficial to the group members during the half day of prayer. (See the list in Session 1 for suggestions.) Also assemble lists of the young people in your church, other youth leaders, teachers and coaches at local schools, so the group can pray for them.

SESSION 2

1. Have each person write down and then express to the group three significant ways God has worked in his/her life through the studies and/or the group sessions.
2. Divide into four groups. Assign each group to study one of the first four chapters of Mark. Ask them to look for the principles Jesus used in His ministry. Reassemble and report.
3. Explain to them the five basic principles of a Jesus-focused ministry. Be brief. Let them know that the group will learn how to apply those principles in personal relationships with young people over the next twelve weeks.
4. Ask the group to select one student listed under Action Point #3.
5. Discuss: *Is our present youth ministry capable of producing that kind of student? Why? Why not?*

6. Discuss how the principles of a Jesus-focused ministry can take that student from where he/she is right now to where he/she is a spiritual leader in the youth group. (Think about how much you have grown during the last thirteen weeks in the Leadership Team.)
7. What fundamental changes does our youth ministry need to make in order to implement the principles of a Jesus-focused ministry?

SESSION 3

1. Discuss: *What is one thing you do well? How did you get to be good at it?* (Practice, sticking with it, motivation, etc.)
2. Ask: *What does it take to get “good at” following Jesus?*
3. Divide into three groups and assign each group one of the following passages: Colossians 1:15-16; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. Reassemble and ask the groups to report on what they discovered about Jesus’ capability to take charge of our lives.
4. Have everyone study Acts 22:1-16 quietly on their own. Say: *As you consider the Lordship of Jesus Christ in your life, how do you think Jesus would answer you if you asked Him, “What shall I do, Lord?”* Reassemble and discuss their answers.
5. As a group, read and discuss Philippians 2:9-11. Discuss: *Do you honor and revere Jesus?*
6. After that discussion, say: *How can you bow with your head and confess with your mouth that He is Lord?* Write down the biggest barrier that stands between you and Jesus’ lordship in your life.
7. Get up and go to each person in the group. Ask each one to verbalize that barrier, confessing it to God. You pray for each person out loud asking God to release him/her. Ask the Holy Spirit to heal him/her and fill up that area of his/her life.

SESSION 4

1. Have each person describe one funny or wild New Year’s Resolution that he/she has made in the past, but hasn’t kept.
2. Explain: *New Year’s resolutions rarely work. That’s because when we “turn over a new leaf” it is just as dirty on the other side. Following Jesus is not about “doing better” but about “letting go.”*
3. Read Romans 12:1-2. Discuss as a group the practical steps that Paul offers toward Jesus becoming and remaining Lord of their lives.

4. Read Matthew 16:24-26. Discuss the following questions:

What does it mean to deny yourself?

What does it mean to take up your cross?

What does it mean to follow Jesus?

What did Jesus mean when He said, "Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me will save it"?

Why is it more important to have Jesus as your Lord than to gain the whole world?

5. Encourage each person to continue to express one specific prayer request concerning the Lordship of Christ in his/her life. It may be the same one as the week before. Have people pray for each other regarding these issues week after week. You may want to have everyone write their requests on cards and then exchange cards. Pray for the requests that are shared either as a group or in smaller groups. [Note: If you see that anyone continues to struggle with his/her particular lordship issue, meet with him/her during the week to talk about it and pray. If this issue is bigger than you think you can handle, suggest going to talk to the pastor with this person.]

SESSION 5

1. Give everyone a paper plate and some markers. Have each person draw a composite picture of the average youth worker and then interpret his drawing for the group.
2. Read John 8:29. Discuss how people can build their confidence as leaders by taking Jesus' approach.
3. Read John 13:1-10. Ask: *How did Jesus express His "servant leadership?" How can we do the same?*
4. Ask each person to select one student in your church to befriend this week. Meet with that student this week. In that meeting ask God how you can be a servant leader to that student like Jesus was to His disciples.
5. Have each person explain why he/she wants to meet with that particular young person.

SESSION 6

1. Have each person tell about a specific time when he/she felt inadequate as a leader.
2. Say: *Peter had many personal and leadership weaknesses, but he became one of the world's greatest leaders. Let's trace the progression of Peter's transformation from his denial of Jesus until he became a powerful leader in Acts 2.* (Use a piece of newsprint or poster board to chart out Peter's transformation.)

3. Ask: *When do you think Peter become inwardly motivated? Discuss: Are you inwardly motivated? When did that happen? How did it happen?*
4. Review the four phases of Jesus' leadership described in this and the previous session. Discuss each principle by asking, *How can you put this principle into action?*
5. Have each person tell about his/her meeting with a student this week.
6. Have them describe how they can become a "servant leader" to that student. Encourage them to continue that relationship. Ask: *How do you think you can take that student through all four phases of leadership?*

SESSION 7

1. Read 2 Timothy 2:1-2 aloud as a group. Have them go back through the passage and identify the six principles of discipleship. Write that principle on a chalkboard or poster board. (List the principles in a single column.) Then discuss the central focus of each principle. Write the central focus beside each principle.
2. Discuss these questions about each principle:
 - "Receiving" – *Does your church exist in an environment of grace? Your youth group? What does that look like? What do you need to do to create it?*
 - "Relationships" – *What do you find easiest about forming close relationships? What is hardest? Why is having close relationships with students so valuable in your efforts to disciple students?*
 - "Reflection" – *How can you develop a trusting relationship with students? What obstacles might you face?*
 - "Reality" – *Can you recall a time when you "blew it" in front of students? What happened? How did you feel? How can you turn that into to a positive experience? Are you willing to be transparent and vulnerable with students?*
 - "Recruiting" – *Why is it important to recruit F-A-T students? Who are the F-A-T students that you know?*
 - "Reproduction" – *As you consider the six principles of discipleship in 2 Timothy 2:1-2, imagine how God might use you to disciple students in a way that will have an impact for generations to come.*
3. Ask each person: *Why do you think becoming a disciple-maker is so important?*

SESSION 8

1. Read together Matthew 28:18-20. Write on poster board or a chalkboard the four aspects to making disciples.

2. Discuss the “Evangelize” step by reading Matthew 9:35-38. Ask: *How did Jesus relate to those who were “harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd?” How can you relate to students like Jesus related to that crowd?*
3. Discuss the “Establish” step by looking at the wheel diagram. Ask: *Why is each of these elements important? How can we use those same steps in establishing students in their faith in Jesus Christ?*
4. Discuss the “Equip” step by dividing into two groups. One group examine 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10. Look at their faith. The second group examine 1 Thessalonians 2:4-12. Look at how Paul equipped them in their faith.
5. Discuss the “Extend” step by asking: *What impact do you think carrying out this stair-step process of discipling students will have on your youth group?*

SESSION 9

1. Divide into two groups with older leaders in one group and younger leaders in the other group. Have each group come up with a skit about what life was like when they were in high school. Allow five to ten minutes for preparation. Encourage creativity with existing props. Each skit should be at least two minutes long.
2. Have the same two groups come up with a written definition of what “Penetrating the Culture” means. Reassemble and ask each group to give their definition.
3. Assign one person to respond to and discuss each question on the Action Points for this session. (See pages 39-40)
4. Ask each person to bring a yearbook, calendar, and school newspaper from the school(s) where your student attends. Bring it to the next session.
5. Close the meeting by praying for each of their students and the school where they attend.

SESSION 10

1. Ask each person to list five adjectives he/she would use to describe today’s student culture.
2. Discuss: *What scares you most about getting to know teenagers?*
3. Ask each person to select the one element of the Penetrating the Culture principle that he/she thinks will be the hardest to do. Which does he/she think will be the easiest?
4. Using the collected school materials (school annual, calendar, and/or newspaper), compile as much information as possible about the schools in your area. (Divide into smaller groups. Each group can represent a school.)

5. Ask: *What first step do you need to take to get to know non-believing students?*

Have each person describe the one step he/she will take this week.

6. Have each person name one non-believing student he/she can get to know. Decide on one activity he/she can take part in to get involved in the life of that student.

SESSION 11

1. Discuss: *In today's student culture, what do students most like to do?*

2. Discuss: *Can we take the positive aspects of those activities and build them into a Christ-centered outreach event designed to communicate the Gospel to students?*

3. Ask: *What do we have to change to truly communicate to post modern, secular students the [Gospel of Jesus Christ]?*

4. Discuss: *Is our church and our youth ministry leadership prepared to do that?*

5. Ask: *What changes do we need to make in our current structure to present Jesus Christ in a more appealing way? What steps do we as youth leaders need to take to make those changes happen?*

6. Review the building blocks necessary to design an outreach event. (see pages 47-48) For each one, evaluate how your church is doing in meeting that requirement.

SESSION 12

1. Read Ephesians 4:11-16 aloud to the group. Discuss: *Are we prepared to do what Paul describes in these verses? If not, what do you need to do to prepare ourselves?*

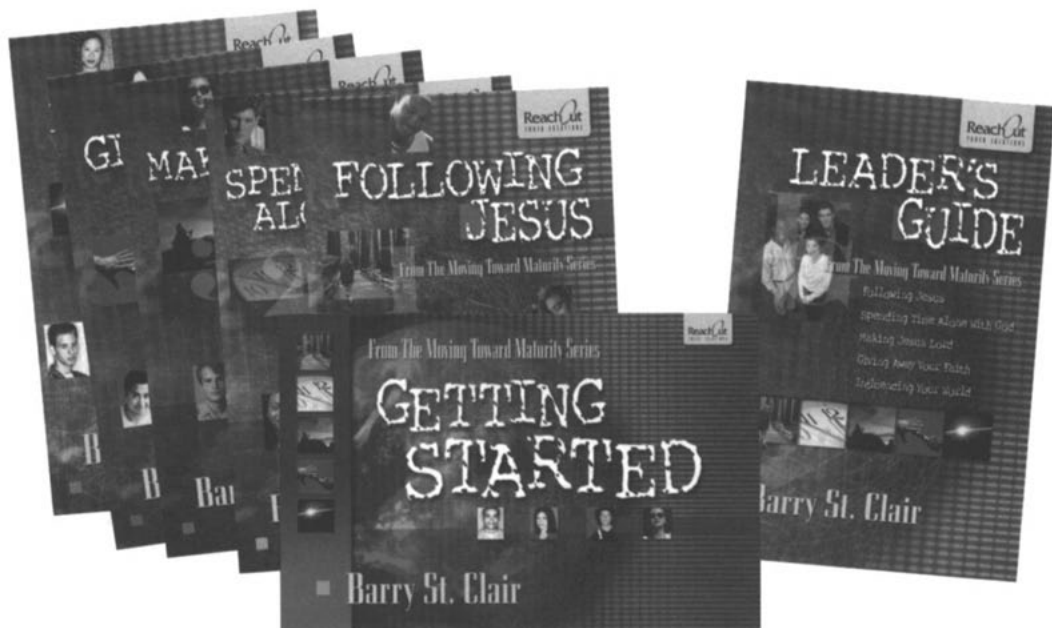
2. Let each person discuss his "Personal Plan of Action" for putting the Jesus-focused youth ministry into practice. Challenge them on the points where they are not being either practical or specific. Have them decide the first two actions they will take to get started.

3. Evaluate the students in your youth ministry using your group members' answers to Action Point question #3. (see pages 51-52)

4. Discuss as a group the evaluation of the various areas of the Jesus-focused youth ministry asking: *Where are we now?* and *Where do we need to be?*

5. Engaging the whole group, ask them to describe their vision of the church's youth ministry.

6. Commit that to prayer in the group. Ask them to pray about it every day this week.



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Following Jesus — builds a foundation for a strong relationship with Christ

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Making Jesus Lord — challenges students to obey Jesus and give Him control in the day to day issues students face

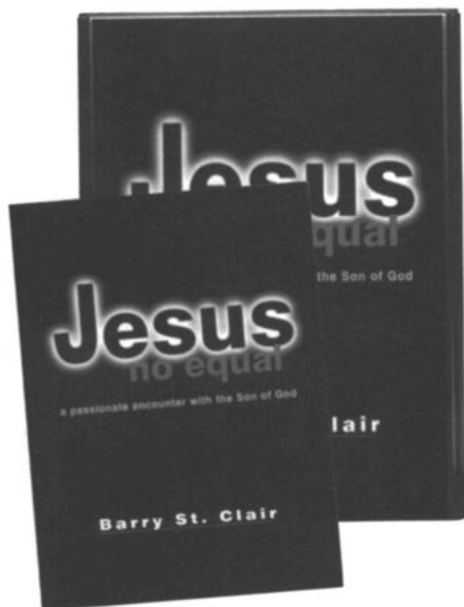
Giving Away Your Faith — creates a desire and gives students the ability to share Christ with their friends

Influencing Your World — prepares students to become servant leaders in the church and at school

Moving Toward Maturity Leader's Guide — This book provides leaders with tools and discussion material to successfully lead a discipleship group. It includes leader's material for all six books in the series.

For these and other books and resources:

Order by Phone: 1-800-473-9456 or online at: www.reach-out.org



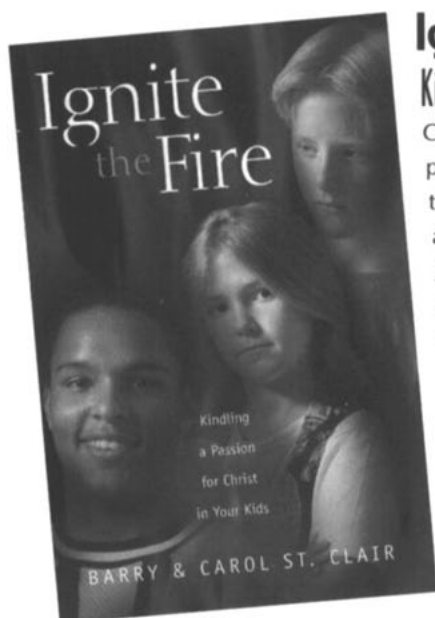
Jesus No Equal

A Passionate Encounter with the Son of God –

This student devotional creates an intense encounter with Jesus that traces Christ's coming, His birth, life, ministry, death, resurrection and second coming. The challenge of this book is for students to spend at least 20 minutes a day discovering Jesus. They will come to know Jesus for who He really is and will follow Him more passionately. That encounter will create the enthusiasm they need to take Jesus to their schools with the good news that in Jesus there is no equal. This book is much more than a resource. It is a campaign to place Jesus at center stage in the lives of the younger generation.

Jesus No Equal Leader's Guide – for use with the student devotional *Jesus No Equal*.

This six-session leader's guide is an in-depth discipling resource that will help you equip students to intimately know and confidently walk with Jesus as they discover Him. You can use it in a variety of settings.



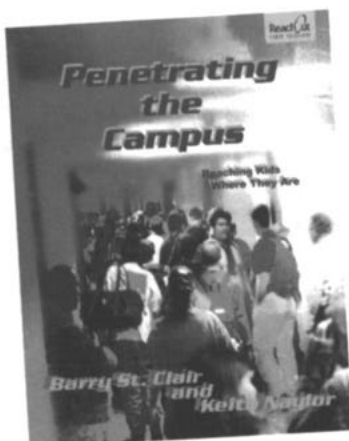
Ignite The Fire

Kindling a Passion for Christ in Your Kids – Barry and

Carol St. Clair have raised four children who are living proof of the message of this book. The circumstances that brought this book into existence are compelling – a couple who loved each other, parents who placed Jesus in the center of their home, children who responded to love and discipline, and their mother who died while the book was being written. Most parents ask the question: "What can I do to help my children turn out right?" In *Ignite the Fire*, Barry and Carol suggest a better question: "What can I do to help my children love Jesus more?" This book offers ten biblical actions that parents can take to help motivate our children to pursue Jesus.

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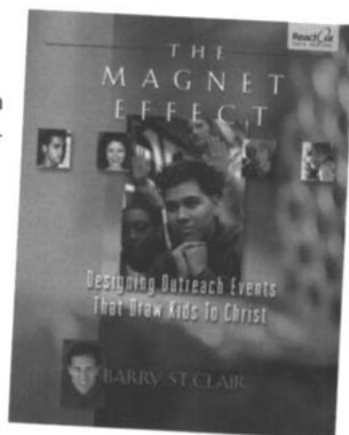


Penetrating the Campus

How To Reach Students Where They Are — Designed to teach youth leaders how to relate to young people on their turf, this book helps leaders understand non-believing students as they face the emotional, social and spiritual challenges of adolescence and of life on their middle school or high school campuses. In *Penetrating the Campus*, Barry St. Clair and co-author Keith Naylor, a veteran youth leader, give youth pastors and leaders in-depth practical advice for communicating God's love to high school students. This book helps youth leaders bridge the gap between their church ministry and the public school campus — probably the most important mission field in America today.

The Magnet Effect

In *The Magnet Effect* book and video, Barry St. Clair teams with the Willow Creek Youth Ministry Team to challenge youth leaders to create events designed to draw non-believing students to Christ. *The Magnet Effect* book offers simple yet powerful strategies and tools that enable youth leaders to equip students to reach their friends. *The Magnet Effect* video illustrates an excellent outreach event. This set is an essential tool for youth ministries that want to reach students.



Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry

This Jesus-focused approach to youth ministry creates an environment of powerful prayer and then builds on 5 Core Principles within that environment. Church based and campus oriented this strategy answers these questions based on the principles that Jesus used in His ministry:

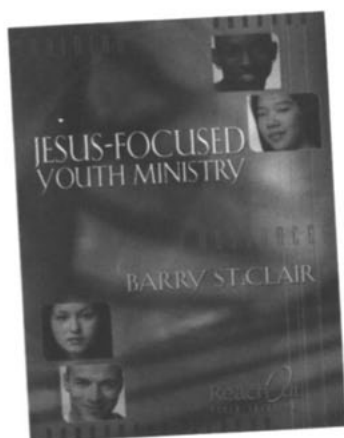
Going Deeper with Christ — How do you develop intimacy in your relationship to Jesus and reflect Him to others?

Building Leaders — How do you build quality leaders for a long-term ministry?

Discipling Students — How do you disciple students to have spiritual passion and become spiritual influencers with their friends?

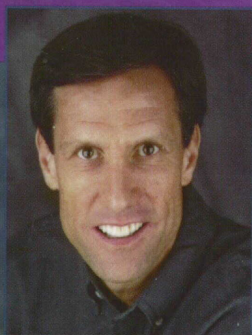
Penetrating the Culture — How do you motivate and mobilize your leaders and students to penetrate the student culture?

Creating Outreach Opportunities — How do you design outreach opportunities for students to reach their non-believing friends?



For these and other books and resources:

Order by Phone: 1-800-473-9456 or online at: www.reach-out.org



Dr. Barry St. Clair's desire is to influence as many teenagers as possible to become followers of Jesus Christ. As the founder and president of Reach Out Youth Solutions, Barry lives on the leading edge

of national and international youth ministry. He speaks to and trains thousands of students, parents and youth leaders each year in the United States and around the world. Barry, author of over 20 books, wrote *Ignite the Fire: Kindling a Passion for Christ in Your Kids* along with his late wife Carol. Barry has run the Boston Marathon and played on the number three basketball team in the nation. Barry and his wife Lawanna live in Atlanta and have a combined family of eight children.

Reach Out Youth Solutions was founded by Barry St. Clair in 1976 to equip leaders for Jesus-focused youth ministry through the church around the world. They provide training opportunities and cutting-edge resources for students, parents, volunteers and youth pastors. Reach Out Youth Solutions establishes youth ministry equipping centers all over the world in places like Eastern Europe, Russia, Mexico and Egypt. For information, write Reach Out Youth Solutions at: info@reach-out.org, visit our website at: www.reach-out.org or call us at: 1-800-473-9456.