

What youth group students need from a Leader

Changing the world for teens happens one student at a time. People do not connect to programs, they connect to people. The most effective way to influence students is through significant relationships. Our goal is to develop adult and student leaders who will minister to students. Our youth group students need leaders who will:

Love God and let Him live through them

- Keep God first
- Glorify him in all things
- Give Him authority of your actions, words, and thoughts.

Be interested in their lives

- Ask what students have coming up: sports, theatre, music, etc.
- Let other leaders know what is coming up so that others can make plans to attend events.
- Show up at student events as your schedule allows.
- Ask other questions about their life.

Pray for them

- Refer to above.

Be real

- Be authentic, but use discernment
- Don't pretend you have it all together, but let them see you are a work in progress too.

Say encouraging words

- Be positive, even in negative situations or when you feel like going negative.

Laugh

- God has a sense of humor, he gave one to you, find it and use it.
- Transition lightly from fun time to serious time.

Remember their names and care for them

- Use sign in sheet if you don't remember.
- Ask other Leaders.

Share God's love through personal experience

- Share your salvation story.
- Use experiences in your life to illustrate good things and bad, but again use discernment.

Be consistent in life and ministry

- You are always a Christian leader, every minute of every hour of every day of the week.
- Your personal life and behaviors outside of church and youth group should reflect your commitment to God and youth ministry.

Be patient

- With students and with other leaders.
- Nobody is perfect. We all make mistakes, we all hurt each other.
- Extend to others the Grace that Christ extends to you.

Enjoy life

- As a leader you are a target.
- Watch out for the enemy trying to bring you down, be aware of his methods.
- Look for the blessings in your life that come from God.

Be a leader, not a peer

- Be authentic but model Christian discipleship for youth.
- Be a "mentoring" friend, one that comes alongside youth and does life with them, but also mentors them in how to obey God and live for Jesus.