

Faith Beyond Youth Group

Character

We have to help student develop good character

We have to talk with students not at students

What teenagers need is a relationship with Jesus that changes not just ninety minutes of their week but 100 percent of their lives, because if a teenager's faith is just a youth group faith, it's too small to captivate their entire week.

So, character from scripture matters when we define character as: "Living out Jesus' goodness every day by loving God and our neighbors.

If faith is what is believed, then character is faith lived out in real time.

The goal of Christian formation isn't just to make good kids. It's to form disciples with the character of Christ.

Two of the primary differences between good kids and teenagers with Christlike character are action and motivation.

When it comes to students' faith, we get what we are. Likewise, when it comes to character, we get what we are.

How people view God is one of the strongest predictors of a range of social and moral attitudes.

We focus our youth ministry around information transfer. The issue we find with young people is that the longing of their hearts is not to know more but to belong more.

Identity = Who am I?

Belonging = Where do I fit?

Purpose = What difference can I make?

Faith Beyond Youth Group Compass

The five points of the Faith Beyond Youth Group Compass are Cultivate Trust, Model Faith, Teach for Transformation, Practice Together and Make Meaning.

And they are constantly assessing whether they can trust you to be there for them when-not if, but when they make a mistake, or their life unravels.

We can never go faster in building faith and character than the speed of students; trust in us.

Trust is built in very small gestures.

Remember Jesus built trust through consistency and closeness.

Character is caught before it is taught

Many youth group graduates leave church knowing what they're supposed to believe but not why it matters or how to live out their faith in their daily lives.

Let them lead

Equip teenagers to teach

Practicing together builds muscle memory

Practicing together equips you as a discipler of teenagers

What we don't want to do is communicate an idealized Christianity to young people by overfocusing on Jesus' perfect example and shaming or pressuring them into behavior modification. Rather, we want to communicate that throughout the disbelief, mistakes, and failures of his disciples, Jesus never abandoned them.

But remember we are not just hanging out with teenagers. In order to consistently Make Meaning we must be intentional

Know the purpose behind your ministry's work.