

Truth-drenched Youth Ministry

A Seminar for Children's Desiring God Conference 2009
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Introduction

>>> *5 foundations of a truth-drenched youth ministry:*

1) By grace, resolve to be a truth-drenched _____ (in your own soul and life).
(Psalm 15.2; 51.6, I Timothy 4.16, John 15.1-8)

2) By grace, resolve to have a truth-drenched _____ & family life.
(Ephesians 5.25-26 and Ephesians 6.4, 2 Timothy 3.14-15, Deut. 6.4-9)

3) By grace, resolve to cultivate a truth-drenched _____ and servant-leadership team.
(John 8.31-32, Acts 20.17-32)

4) By grace, resolve to preach and _____ truth-drenched messages/ lessons.
(Prov. 14.25, 2 Cor. 4.2, Eph. 4.15, 2 Tim. 3.16, 2 Tim. 4.2, 4:4/ Jn.17.17)

**5) By grace, resolve to develop and implement a truth-drenched _____
and _____ of youth ministry.**
(Proverbs 29.18, Jer. 23.16-22, {I Cor. 3.11/ John 14.6})

Sample of a Truth-drenched VISION for Youth Ministry:

Note: this is an imperfect, condensed, work-in-progress “sample”.

When I think “vision” I think Proverbs 29:18a which states, “Where there is no *vision*, the people are unrestrained.” Because the word “vision” in this text actually means “biblical revelation from God”, my *vision* for youth ministry is simply based on *God’s biblical revelation* for His church contextualized for ministry to youth and their parents.

With this said, my specific vision and prayer for ministry to youth/parents is:

- A loving community of passionate followers of Jesus Christ who have fallen out of love with the world and in love with the Lord Jesus Christ (I John 2:15-17, Acts 2:42-47).
- Young people who are so satisfied with Christ alone that they flee from the worldly and sinful things that other young people indulge in (Psalm 63:1-5, Daniel 1.8, I Peter 2:11-12).
- Young people who are so gripped by the amazing grace shown them at the Cross that they joyfully surrender all to their beautiful Savior (I Corinthians 15:10, Hebrews 10:34)!
- Young people who pray all the time (I Thessalonians 5:17)
- Young people who joyfully devour the Scriptures in their bedrooms (Jeremiah 15:16) and make melody in their hearts to their glorious God as they walk down their school hallways & throughout their communities and homes – giving glory to Him (Colossians 3:16-17)!

I envision a Christ-centered (Colossians 1:15-20), Spirit-intoxicated (Ephesians 5:18), Bible-saturated (Colossians 3:16), army of youth that have been so transformed through the ministry of the Word (John 17:17, Romans 12:2) that they fervently live out the great commandment and the great commission with all their heart, mind and strength (Matthew 22:37-39; 28:18-20). As blazing lights shining in this dark world, they will make disciples of Christ from their Jerusalem to the ends of the earth for the joy of all nations and the glory of God (Philippians 2:15, Acts 1:8, Psalm 67)!

I believe that this vision is best implemented “biblically” as the pastor focuses most of his energies on “equipping parents for the work of service” (Eph. 4:11-12) namely, *making disciples of their own children (Eph.6.1-4)*. This would take place within “a church setting” by way of family and inter-generational gatherings, of both large and small groups along with some student-separate times of worship and small groups.

My hope would be that through the partnership of pastor and parents, the Lord would produce young people and ultimately entire families that, together with the church body, experience what the early church did in Acts 2:41-47.....

- Spirit-empowered proclamation of the gospel (41),
- feasting on apostolic doctrine (42),
- calling on the Lord in fervent prayer together(42),
- loving, authentic fellowship with one another (42),
- self-less love, unity & service to one another (44-46),
- God-centered, awe-struck praise and worship to our great God (43, 47),
- and the Lord regularly adding souls to our number for His glory as we spread His fame (47)!

I envision this being facilitated through large and small group settings (Acts 20:20).

Sample of a Truth-drenched PHILOSOPHY of Youth Ministry:

Note: this is an imperfect, condensed, work-in-progress “sample”.

My philosophy of youth ministry falls into three categories which I call:

- ▶ **The Pillars** (*Why we do what we do?*)
 - ▶ **The Purposes** (*What we do?*)
 - ▶ **The Programs** (*How we do it?*)
- ▶ **The Pillars** (*theological foundation to why we do what we do*)

1. The Supremacy of the Glory of God

Key verses: Isaiah 43:7, Isaiah 48:9-11, Psalm 115:1, Romans 11:36, I Corinthians 10:31

Application: God exists for His own glory! Everything that He created also exists to *joyfully* join God in this supreme purpose of glorifying Himself. Therefore, our student ministry must be joyfully and radically God-exalting in all that we do!

2. The Authority of the Word of God

Key verses: 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21, Isaiah 40:8, Psalm 19:7-11, John 10:35

Application: Because the bible is the very literal words of God, they are absolutely authoritative in all that they say. Therefore, our student ministry must allow God to speak for Himself in His own words, realizing that God’s word is totally sufficient for all areas of life and ministry.

3. The Centrality of the Son of God

Key verses: Luke 24:44, Philippians 2:9-11, Colossians 1:15-20, Hebrews 1:1-3, Revelation 5:11-14

Application: Jesus Christ is God – the second person of the Holy Trinity! All things were created by Him. He is the Central Personality of heaven, redemptive history and all eternity. It is His incarnation, sinless life, sacrificial atonement on the Cross, resurrection and ascension to the right hand of God that is the glorious focus of the Christian life. Therefore, our student ministry must love, live, breath and embrace sweet Jesus as our treasure, pleasure and soon coming King!

4. The Efficacy of the Spirit of God

Key verses: John 3:3-8, John 14:16-26, John 16:7-15, I Corinthians 2:4-16, Ephesians 1:13

Application: The Holy Spirit is God – the third person of the Holy Trinity! It is the Holy Spirit that produces new birth in the believer through the gospel and transforms the believer in sanctification through the Word of God. Therefore, our student ministry must fully depend on the Holy Spirit's person and power to transform us and work through us to the glory of Christ!

5. The Depravity of Man

Key verses: Psalm 51:4-5, Isaiah 6:5; 64:6, Romans 1:18-32; 3:9-20, Ephesians 2:1-3

Application: Man is created in the image of God, but that image has been spoiled by sin. All humans are now born fully depraved with a love for self and sin. They hate God and have no desire nor can they desire to love and glorify Him in their spiritual deadness. As a result, they are currently cloaked with the wrath of God, destined for the lake of fire. Therefore, our student ministry must rely on the power of almighty God through the gospel to awaken the spiritually dead and inject love to Christ into the cold, hell-bound hearts of sinners.

6. The Sovereignty of God in Salvation

Key verses: Isaiah 43:11, Isaiah 48:9-11, John 6:37-40; 44; 65, Romans 8:29-30, Revelation 13:8

Application: Salvation is a supernatural divine act of God. Man can not save a soul. Therefore, our student ministry must depend on God and His supernatural means (i.e. His Spirit, His gospel) to convert sinners as we faithfully and passionately do our parts in preaching God's gospel!

7. The Primacy of the Church

Key verses: Matthew 16:18, Acts 2, Acts 20:28, Ephesians 5:25-27

Application: The church is dear to the heart of God. So dear, that Jesus spilled His blood to purchase her for His own glory! He has ordained the church as the primary means to advance His kingdom on earth. Therefore, our student ministry must cherish the church (i.e. local & universal) and give ourselves to her in labor and love for the advancement of the kingdom of God for the glory of God!

8. The Immanency of Christ's Return

Key verses: John 14:2-3, I Thessalonians 4:16-17, Titus 2:11-13

Application: The Lord has temporarily left His church on earth to finish the work He has planned for us in Christ. We are aliens and strangers in this world, eagerly awaiting the return of our Blessed Hope – Christ Jesus! Therefore, our student ministry must long for the return of our Lord and be motivated to preach the gospel with urgency and live lives of purity in light of His coming!

► **The Purposes** (*biblical implications guiding what we do*)

1. Sincere Worship – we purpose to passionately present everything we are to God as a pleasing offering to Him through our songs, prayers and daily lifestyle out of an overflow of satisfaction and joy in God! (Romans 12:1, Psalm 95:1-2, 6)

2. Salvation – we purpose to proclaim Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord to every student and call them to repentance and faith by grace alone in Christ alone (Acts 4:8-12, Ephesians 2:8-9).

3. Spiritual Growth – we purpose to teach the word of God expositively and topically with boldness, trusting God to grow His own into His image. (2 Peter 3:18, Romans 8:29)

4. Sacred Relationships – we purpose to model and provide settings where students can experience God-centered, loving, authentic relationships and fellowship with one another. (Acts 2:42-47)

5. Service – we purpose to present regular opportunities for students to proclaim the gospel locally and globally, as well as serve the poor & downcast in the love of Christ. (Mark 10:45; 16:15)

► **The Programs** (*practical ministry applications to flesh out how we do what we do*)

You're on your own here. ☺ It will look different for each church. (LUKE 6.46-49, JAMES 1.22)