

Youth Ministry Events as Faith Formation: Part One

Part One: Why Event Ministry?

Planning an Event Phase One: Planning and Registration

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Outline for Youth Ministry Events: Part One and Planning Phase One

Part One: Why Event Ministry?

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 - a. What is event ministry?
 - b. Partner Sharing Activity
 - c. Bridge Analogy
 - d. Kenda Creasy Dean Quote

Planning an Event Phase One: Planning and Registration

2. How to Plan an Event
 - a. Reminder of purpose
 - b. Program Pyramid
 - i. Discuss: Types of events and their purpose
 - c. Steps to planning:
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 - ii. Create Timeline
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 - b. Promotion: Getting Youth to Attend
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- ii. Team Qualities
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- 5. Congregational Community Investment
 - a. Baptismal Promise
 - b. Make it Visible
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 - d. Involve youth in worship
 - e. Create ways for adults to pray for youth
 - f. Inform the congregation about program and impact
 - g. Consider congregational covenants
 - h. Brainstorm: Congregational investment ideas

- 6. Conclusion
 - a. Summary
 - b. Closing Prayer

Supplies Needed:

- PowerPoint/LCD Projector/Screen/Laptop
- Blue construction paper
- Markers or pens
- “Bridge” materials: paper, tape, marshmallows, toothpicks, blocks, Legos, etc.
- Poster paper
- Plain paper
- Puzzle Pieces
- Handouts
 - Program Pyramid
 - Faith Interest Levels
 - Adult Leader Categories

Overview of Session

Transition from *(or reference to)* the “Opportunity or Despair: Youth Ministry at the Crossroads” session. (15 minutes)

For our next portion of training, we will focus on a specific part of what we just heard from the Exemplary Youth Ministry study.

We learned that 44 assets were divided into 4 spheres:

- Congregation as a whole
- Direct ministry with young people
- Family/household in which the young people lived
- Leadership

All four spheres are equally important and no sphere should be ignored. However, our training this spring and next fall will focus on event ministry, which falls into the sphere of direct ministry with young people. Even as we discuss event ministry and its blessings and benefits, we also stress that event ministry is not and should not be the only way we approach youth ministry.

BUT, when done with intentionality, event ministry has an important and vital place in youth ministry as a whole.

AND, before we talk about WHY event ministry...we should know WHAT event ministry is!

Event ministry happens when we gather young people together in community for the purpose of growing their faith and building up the Body of Christ. Therefore, an event could be a short evening program, a year-long Confirmation class, a week-long service/mission experience, or any number of other events designed to bring youth together in the name of Christ. Event ministry opens up spaces for relationships to be built and conversations of faith to take place. And, when event ministry is done with intentionality, the theology and quality of ministry themes that the exemplary study uncovered are lifted up...

There is:

1. Sense of the presence and activity of a living God
2. Emphasis on spiritual growth, discipleship, and vocation

And the events:

3. Promote outreach and mission
4. Reflect congregational priority and support for youth ministry
5. Foster significant relationships and a sense of community
6. Develop committed competent leadership

When event ministry is carried out with intentionality, transformation is expected.

Partner Sharing (5min)

With one or two people around you, share a story about a young person you have worked with in ministry and how an event had a significant impact on their faith life. (You may use your own personal story instead if you choose.)

- What was the event?
- How did you see transformation in the young person or yourself? I.e. what was different about that person and/or their faith as a result of the event?

Have about 3 people briefly report from their partner groups to the larger group.

Before moving to the next activity, divide participants into small groups of 3-5 around their tables.

Bridge Analogy (10min)

There is a river of youth culture that continually flows, changes, evolves, and informs the lives of our youth.

(Hand out a piece of large blue construction paper and markers to each small group.)

This blue paper represents the river of youth culture we have been learning about today. Take a moment and write on your blue paper things you have heard about the current state of the river of youth culture during the landscape section of this training.

(Give each table group materials to build a “bridge” over their “river of youth culture”. Materials may be paper and tape, marshmallows and toothpicks, blocks, etc. This bridge will serve as the image/analogy for youth ministry. This activity also seconds as a group builder that will give participants an activity to use with their leaders or youth.)

In front of you are some supplies. In your small group, you have 3 minutes to build a bridge over your “river of youth culture”.

(Allow each group 3 minutes to fashion a bridge.)

You have created an analogy for what we are about.

(As you present the next paragraph, use the Powerpoint to “build” the bridge.)

Youth Ministry strives to provide a bridge that can help youth transition from an unknown or parent owned faith to a personally owned faith. We do this by bringing a solid theology and Biblical basis into youth culture.

The bridge has a Christ-centered vision as the base and is supported by family, congregation, and community.

Moving along the bridge are effective youth ministry cars driven by committed, trained, prepared, vital adults of faith. Parents are primary drivers, but a variety of authentic, affirming and available adults are needed as well. Parents and adults build relationships with young people in their cars, and fill their trunks with effective ministry tools and programs, so that in relationship with young people they can duck (*get out of the way, it's not about us*) and point to the cross of Christ behind them (*it IS about Jesus*).

This bridge building makes us different than Boy Scouts or the YMCA. As committed, trained, prepared, vital adults of faith, event ministry/programming is one tool we have in our trunk to help youth along this bridge as they transition to a personally owned faith.

In a recent article in the **Youth Workers Journal**, Kenda Creasy Dean was asked what she saw the role of youth ministry programs being, knowing how important parents and spiritual mentors are in a teen's faith formation.

(Clip on Powerpoint slide)

Kenda responded, "When you've got more than five people, you have to structure things. Programs never replace relationships, but they can create space and offer nutrients for relationships that wouldn't take root otherwise. Ideally, a youth program allows teenagers to befriend people who are united in Christ but not much else. It allows teens to create paths where youth and Christian adults can practice together being faithful to God and each other."

Therefore we need to know how to do programming well.

How to Plan an Event:

Youth ministry programming varies in forms. You may be planning a one hour event, a year long confirmation program, or a week long mission event. There is a need for all of these, and other programs in between. Whatever you are planning, youth programming and events need to be planned with a specific and clear purpose and audience in mind. Always begin in prayer. What are the needs of your youth? What is God up to and how is the Spirit leading?

Purposeful Events – Using the Program Pyramid

Youth Leadership¹ suggests that youth ministry events fall into different categories each with a different purpose to reach youth at varied stages of faith development². This can be helpful in thinking through event planning.

(Use the Powerpoint, adding the layers of the pyramid. Provide the handout. You may also want to provide each small group with large poster paper to draw their own program pyramid as they follow along. They will use these handouts or the poster for a later activity.)

You may plan:

Come and Enjoy Events: These events are aimed at creating a fun environment in which youth have a positive encounter with the church. These events help youth meet one another. The event is successful if you can answer “yes” to the question: Did youth have fun? Did the youth feel welcomed/accepted in the community?

Come and Listen Events: These events may be mostly fun events that additionally try to share something of the good news. Maybe it’s a pizza party followed by an enthusiastic speaker. The event is evaluated by the questions: Did we communicate something of the gospel? Did the youth hear and understand?

Come and Grow Events: These events strive to deepen the faith of the youth attending. A Bible study or prayer event may be a grow events. We ask: Did we create an opportunity where students were able to grow in their faith?

¹ Youth Leadership is a ministry organization that educates, equips and encourages leaders in youth and family ministry. www.youthleadership.org.

² Tiger McLuen/Youth Leadership, *Timothy Project*. Used by permission.

Come and Serve Events: These events create opportunities for youth to serve others. Did we create a significant experience of service that stretched them and helped them see God at work in the world?

Come and Lead Events: We plan these events for our growing leaders. Did we create an opportunity where students were trained, developed and used in leadership roles that helped them grow in faith?

Begin by considering, what you are hoping to accomplish through the event? Who are you hoping will attend? What are your goals?

Each congregation is different. Our varied contexts and audiences will require different types of programs.

DISCUSS: Think of events you have had in your congregation. What type of events were they? Did they accomplish the intended purpose?

Steps to Planning

After the team has set a purpose and considered the youth who will attend:

Communicate the purpose and audience to the team planning the event.

Create a timeline. For larger or ongoing events consider, what needs to be done right now, six-months out, within the last month, during the last week before the event, on the day of the event?

Assign different tasks to prepare for the event and set deadlines. It is helpful to make a list with four columns. (*Show PowerPoint grid.*)

- The first column lists the layout of the event.
- The second column lists the jobs that need to be done for that section of the event.
- The third column names the person responsible for the job.
- The fourth column lists the deadline for the job.

Create needed permission slips and paperwork. We will talk more about how to do this in the Fall training.

Recruit adult leaders and youth.

Deciding Who to Invite: Youth

Not all youth should attend all youth ministry events. Events should be designed with a certain audience and purpose. It is helpful to recognize where your young people are on their faith journey. Youth Leadership³ describes the spiritual interest levels of young people in these descriptive categories:

(Direct participants to a matching handout.)

- **Disinterested:** Young person has no understanding or interest in faith matters.
- **Attending Resister:** Young person attends worship or youth events, but not of their own free will.
- **Status Quo:** Young person holds a primarily cultural view of God. They are not looking to grow in their faith or be challenged. They often attend because their friends are involved or it's the "normal thing to do." They may listen and participate if something piques their interest, but are often more engaged with the snacks and Wii.
- **Seeker:** Young person shows interest in God, the Bible, faith and church. They want to learn and ask a lot of questions.
- **Committed:** Young person is serious about his/her faith and tries to live it out on a daily basis.

Activity: Take a moment to reflect on the youth in your congregation. Write the names of youth that fall into each category.

Ask: What type event might you invite an attending resister too? What type event would you most likely want to invite a seeker too?

You would not plan a deep Bible study for a disinterested. They would be overwhelmed. Likewise seekers and committed youth can become frustrated with an event that only includes pizza and games.

When considering who to invite to an event, a congregation must consider the purpose of the event and the target audience you are seeking. The Holy Spirit can and does work through all situations to bring young people into a deeper relationship with God. It is also our responsibility to help set up our young people for the most successful faith experience possible.

It is important to help youth to discern whether or not God is calling them to participate in an event. Encourage youth to pray about their involvement.

³ Tiger McLuen/Youth Leadership, *Timothy Project*. Used by permission.

Promotion: Getting Youth to Attend an Event

- Making youth and their parents aware of this event early is key.
- Flood youth with information on the event: posters, announcements at youth events and meetings, newsletter announcements, postcards, email. Use the technology they use on a regular basis. Create an event on Facebook and send out invites. Text the youth on their cell phones. Send youth a link to the church website where you can have your information posted.
- Have participants from past events share their experience and pictures at a youth meeting, confirmation or online.
- Direct invitations are still the best way to get youth signed up, even if they take the most time: “I really want you to go to this!” “I think you’d have a great time at this event. Let me tell you about it.”
- For larger events, hold a meeting for interested youth and their parents to receive details and ask questions. For youth who do not have a committed parent, consider inviting an adult mentor from the congregation to walk with the young person through the preparations of the event, or pairing the young person with another youth and his/her family.

When it is time for youth to register:

- Set your registration deadline several days before the official deadline. This gives you time to follow-up with youth who had shown interest and allows you to track down incomplete paperwork!
- For larger events, get a financial commitment! Even if your church intends to pay for the entire event, have youth or their parent(s) pay a deposit that can be reimbursed during the event for spending money or after the event. It is too easy for well intentioned youth to be excited when it’s time to sign up, then back out the day before if they have nothing to lose. For families who cannot afford a down payment, be creative: have them commit by giving them a volunteer opportunity related to the event, or some other option to serve as their down payment.

Discuss: Share an example of a successful idea you used to promote an event.

Deciding Who to Invite: Adult Leaders

It is always our hope to have as many adults as possible invested in youth ministry. Having said this, adults come with different gifts and therefore their investment should take different forms. Adults also invest in youth ministry at different levels. There are categories that can help us think about the different kinds of people who can support youth ministry programs:

(Use the Powerpoint to walk through these categories. Provide each person with the matching handout.)

Coordinator/Point Person: This person(s) may be paid staff or volunteer. It is the person(s) recognized as being the driving force behind the effective youth ministry within the congregation.

Leadership and Planning Adults: These people serve on the youth ministry boards and committees. They are the small group of people who get together to think through intentional youth ministry and plan the events.

Relational Youth Ministry Adults: These are the adults who really enjoy youth. They are your mentors and small group leaders. They are the adults who sit beside one of the youth on Wednesday night or attend basketball games and dance recitals. They are building relationships that point to the cross of Christ.

Consistently Involved Adults: These are the adults you can count on to be involved in youth ministry on an ongoing basis. They may not be a small group leader but they will drive, run for a meal, provide an activity, or staff an overnight.

Task Oriented Adults: These adults may not be comfortable with youth but they understand the importance of youth ministry and will support you by helping with tasks. These are the adults that will stuff a mailing, build the props you need, cook a meal, send out Birthday cards, etc.

Aware and Supportive Adults: These are the adults that you don't see volunteering in youth ministry but are aware of what is happening with youth and are supportive of the program. They will smile at the youth who is ushering, purchase a share in the ministry, pray for the youth.

Unaware or Disinterested Adults: These are the adults that are either ignorant to youth culture and youth ministry or intentionally choose to avoid youth and youth ministry altogether.

Activity: Take a moment to think of and list people from your congregation that fall into each category that support youth ministry.

We should create opportunities for all adults to be invested. Maybe one adult is not comfortable leading a small group but is willing to bring a meal. Maybe another is uncomfortable sharing his faith verbally with teens but would be willing to provide a scholarship for the youth who would like to attend the event with a speaker.

Consider Jesus' ministry. He had twelve disciples. Of the twelve, he had three that he involved on a deeper level. Yet Zacheaus provided dinner, the woman anointed his feet, and someone provided that donkey.

Be Intentional. Adult leaders should be chosen intentionally. You are not just filling needed spaces, you are discerning how God is calling adults to invest in the faith lives of youth. For program leadership, don't just advertise for interested adults, **choose** adults who can **lead** youth. There are likely a few names that come to mind immediately, but others may not be so obvious.

*Be specific about the role you need the adult to serve in.

*Watch adults interact with youth to see who has the abilities, experience, and/or potential to relate well with youth.

*Ask youth who they see as caring adults.

*Pray for God's guidance in identifying the best adults for the event.

Qualities to Look for in Your Adult Leaders:

Activity: Pick a type of event from the program pyramid. Describe your event. Design the ideal volunteer for this event. Choose a volunteer from your group to be an "Adult Leader". In your group think of qualities you will be looking for in your adult leaders for this event. Write the qualities on post it notes and stick them to the volunteer.

Not every adult is capable or best to fill the expectations of a specific event. Some qualities you may consider are:

- A committed faith centered in Christ
- Cares deeply for youth and is able to relate well with youth
- Mature
- Focused on youth and their needs

- Can be firm in setting boundaries and limits
- Flexible and patient
- Possesses good common sense
- Sense of humor – especially in trying times!
- Committed and reliable
- Makes good decisions under pressure

Build a Team:

Activity: *(Consider the number of people who will be part of this training. Purchase two or three, 25 to 100 piece puzzles. Give each person in the group a puzzle piece or bag of puzzle pieces.)*

You are holding a piece of a puzzle. There are different pieces from different puzzles spread through this room. Your job is to find the others with pieces from your puzzle and assemble your puzzle the fastest.

Debrief: Was it hard to find your group? What happened if someone brought pieces to the wrong puzzle? How is this activity an illustration for team ministry?

The only way to see the whole picture was to bring all the right people with all the right pieces together. We all bring different gifts that God can use for specific ministry.

Effective youth ministry builds effective youth ministry teams. Try to build a team of adults with gifts that complement each other. Some qualities you might want to consider as you build a team are:

- Male/female ratio
- Extrovert personalities and introvert personalities (Up front, “let’s do it” types and behind the scenes, “Do you want to talk about it” types)
- “Big Picture” oriented and detail oriented
- Specific skills: carpentry/painting, health care, Bible study leader, organizational leader, etc.

How to Ask Adults to Be Leaders

How you approach potential adult leaders tells them as much about how you view this experience as what you say.

- Well in advance of the event, make an appointment to sit down with the adult leaders to talk with them about the event.

- Explain Why the congregation is investing in this event.
- Explain why you are asking them to be a leader for this event. Be specific:
 - What qualities do you see them bringing to this experience? Did youth nominate them? What special skills do they have that would be an asset?
 - We often assume adults know why we are asking them to participate, when in fact they don't. Describing their specific qualities lets them know they are needed and gifted for this role.
- Explain the expectations for them as an adult leader for this event.
- Ask what questions they have.
- Give them time to prayerfully consider your proposal, and a date to get back to you by.
- Follow up with them by the deadline.

Do Background Checks

It is highly recommended that you perform a background check on each adult leader that will have contact with youth, before they are officially selected to serve. This includes drivers, mentors, Bible study leaders, Lock in helpers, etc. Check with your church council and church policies to see if procedures for background checks are in place. If no policy is in place, consider forming a task force to determine how you will perform background checks for adult volunteers who work with youth. We will revisit this discussion during the fall training.

Train Your Adults

Once you have selected your adult leaders, spend time equipping them for the event. The ELCA Youth Ministry Network⁴ suggests that adult leaders in youth ministry benefit from opportunities that provide for renewal, education, and the building of connections. We desire youth ministry adults to be competent in areas of theology, youth ministry theory (why we do what we do), and youth ministry skills (how we effectively do what we do).

What areas of theology do your adults need to be trained in for this event?

If the event will include youth from a variety of denominations, adults might need training to understand the difference between the theology of the cross and the theology of glory. If the event will require that adults lead youth in Bible study, adults might need to be equipped to understand the way Lutherans approach the Bible as law and gospel.

⁴ The ELCA Youth Ministry Network exists to strengthen and empower youth ministry leaders in service to Christ. www.elcaymnet.org

What youth ministry theory would help prepare the adult leaders in your ministry?

Consider whether you could increase the effectiveness of your adults by teaching them the purpose for games, mixers, “highs and lows,” small group discussions, etc., and the intentionality behind the programs and events you offer. Would it help your leaders to understand the landscape of youth ministry? If you are working with a planning team, could you teach them about the program pyramid? Would they lead games better if they knew games could be used as teaching tools?

What skills will they need for the event?

If the adults will be expected to lead small groups, train them for small group leadership. Provide them with discussion starters. Teach them a variety of ways to lead prayer. If you will be asking your adults to help with a service project that involves painting, review how to safely hold a ladder, tape windows, etc.

Over the next year the ELCA Youth Gathering will provide two more face to face trainings that we encourage you to attend. There will also be seven online webinars available to all congregations. These webinars have been put together by youth ministry professionals and provide a wealth of quality teaching. The topics will include:

Lutheran theology: How God works in the world.

Lutheran theology: How Lutherans read the Bible

Leading a Small Group

Your role as a Leader

Planning for the Unexpected

Strategic and Intentional Planning

Faith Conversations with Teenagers

Adult leaders set the tone and example for the entire event. Make the most of the event by training your adults.

Provide an opportunity for questions or concerns. Take time to listen to their feedback. Youth ministry provides the opportunity for relational ministry with adults as well. How does your work with adult leaders and volunteers point them to Jesus as well?

Discuss: Pick an event you have coming up in your congregation. What type of training could you offer that would improve the experience and effectiveness of the program for youth and adults?

Congregational Community

Studies show that an effective Youth Ministry program is key to a vital church. We therefore need to communicate the importance of the congregation's investment in youth ministry.

-Remind your congregation of their Baptismal promise.

During a child's baptism the congregation is asked: "People of God, do you promise to support (name) and pray for them in their new life in Christ?" The congregation responds "We do". Investing in youth ministry is living out our baptismal promise. (ELW)

-Help youth ministry be visible to the congregation.

Put up poster and pictures in your narthex, post youth events on the church website. Have youth meeting in areas that are visible to the congregation.

-Create church wide intergenerational contact points

Create opportunities for youth to serve alongside of adults, encourage youth to mingle during coffee hour, ask youth to attend an adult forum or adults to join youth on a confirmation night, plan an intergenerational activity

-Develop ways for young people to be involved in worship

Have youth share about an event during announcements, ask youth to lay lead, give youth the chance to lead Children's time, do a youth skit, encourage youth to usher, read, greet, serve communion, join the worship band, provide special music

-Create ways for adults to pray for specific young people

Include youth who are attending an event in prayer petitions, slip an insert into each bulletin with the name of a youth that adult can pray for over the next week, invite youth forward for prayer time for commissioning and milestones

-Inform the congregation about the program and its impact.

Have youth write for the newsletter, put up bulletin boards or website pages with pictures from your events, use the gift of gab- talk to your council, your small groups and individuals you meet in the pews about youth ministry

-For Larger events, you may even consider a Congregational Covenant:

EXAMPLE: *(could be used for a mission trip)*

And you, people of God, will you support these youth, sent by God to serve God's people with the Gospel of hope and salvation? Will you pray for them, help and honor them for their work's sake, and in all things strive to live in peace and unity in Christ?

Spoken: *We will*

(LBW Occasional Services)

Brainstorm: *Divide into small groups. Assign each group a topic to brainstorm:*

- Group One: Brainstorm ways to be visible in the congregation
- Group Two: Brainstorm ways to create intergenerational contact points
- Group Three: Brainstorm ways to involve youth in worship
- Group Four: Brainstorm ways to help the congregation pray for youth around an event
- Group Five: Brainstorm ways to inform the congregation about the impact an event will have.

After 5 minutes, have each of the groups share a few of their key ideas aloud.

Conclusion

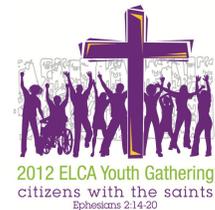
As we wrap up, let's return to our river of youth culture and our bridge. We pack our trunk with effective youth ministry tools and programs. These programs help us build relationships with youth that give us the opportunity to duck and point to the cross of Christ. The purpose of event ministry is to create paths that, supported by the rest of the structure and surrounded by the Spirit of the Living God, lead to transformation and personally owned faith for our youth.

(Have the group hold hands around their bridge and end the session with a closing prayer.)

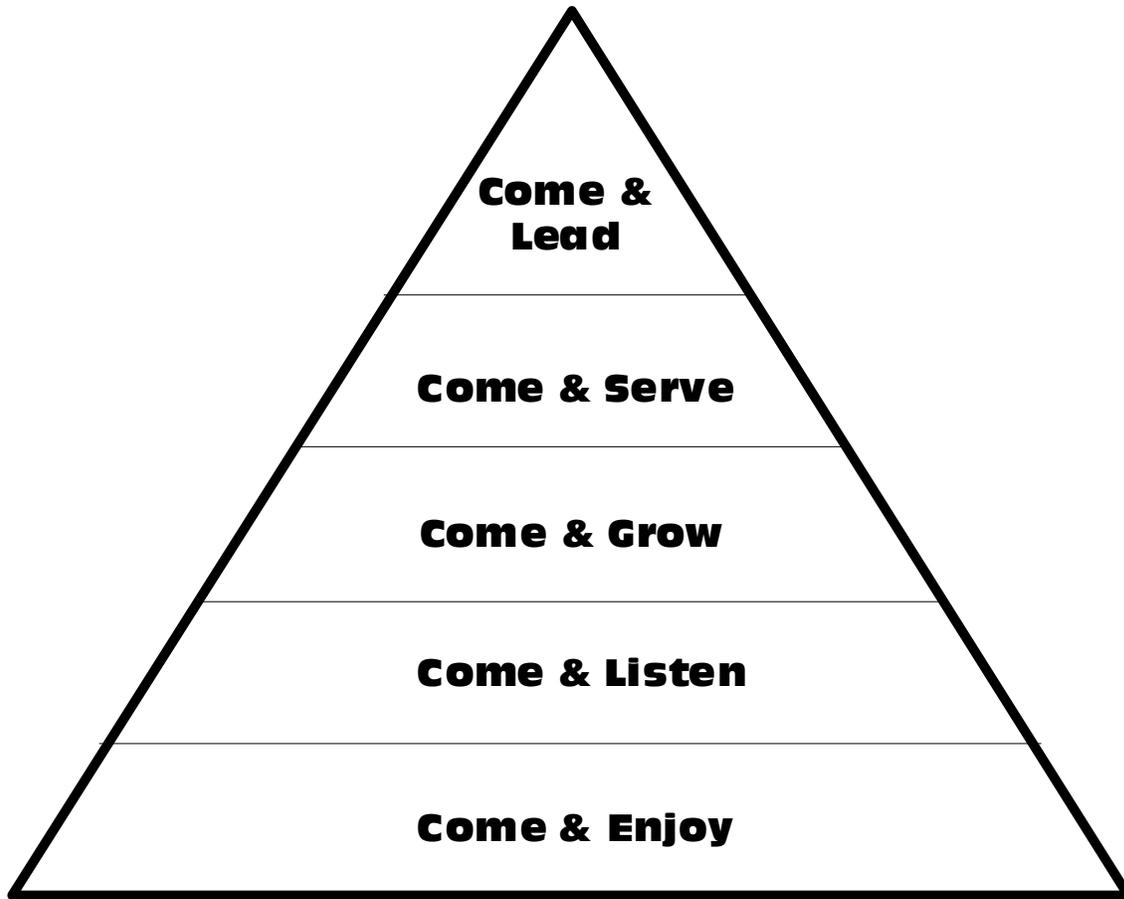
Helpful Resources

Timothy Project, Tiger McLuen, Youth Leadership. www.youthleadership.org Youth Leadership developed this curriculum to equip synods to provide training in local congregations. The content includes both theory and practical skills for ministry.

**This curriculum was developed for the Practice Discipleship Project, an initiative of the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering (www.elca.org/gathering) in partnership with the ELCA Youth Ministry Network (www.elcaymnet.org). While primary authorship belongs to the author noted above, this is a collective work of the Practice Discipleship writing team: Shivon Miller (Trinity Lutheran Church, Duluth, MN), and Heather Hansen (Texas Lutheran University: www.tlu.edu). Permission is given to use these resources in your local context, so long as no organization or individual profits from the use of these materials.*



Youth Ministry Events as Faith Formation Part One
*Handout One: Program Pyramid*⁵



⁵ Tiger McLuen/Youth Leadership, *Timothy Project*. Used by permission. Permission is granted to duplicate this handout for the purpose of this training. Please acknowledge Youth Leadership on handouts.
www.youthleadership.org.

Youth Ministry Events as Faith Formation Part One
Handout Two: Spiritual Interest Levels⁶



SPIRITUAL INTEREST LEVELS OF TEENAGERS

Think about the teenagers in your church or ministry, and the needs that they may have. Which youth seem to fall in each category? What type of events would be helpful for youth in each category?

SPIRITUAL INTEREST	TEENS WHO MAY FIT HERE	CHARACTERISTICS OF THESE TEENS
UNINTERESTED		These teenagers are not interested in spiritual things. They usually don't attend youth activities and may be cynical about such things. These young people have questions about life and faith, but tend to think that church and the Bible have no connection to their world.
ATTENDING RESISTER		These teenagers do attend some or all of your activities, but are there under duress. They are usually pressured to come by their parents and they have little interest in what is happening in the youth ministry. They may be passive in their resistance (apathy, non-involvement) or they may be active (negative, interrupting, sarcastic).
STATUS QUO		These teens attend youth activities, and may in fact be very consistent. They react with a variety of levels of enthusiasm to the activities, but the key issue for these adolescents is that they do not want church, God, or the Bible to affect their lives in significant ways. Their primary goal in life is to stay the same as the rest of their friends. All adolescents demonstrate this quality at various times, but these teens are focused in not wanting to change. They state belief in God, but have no interest in anything that may challenge them.
SEEKER		These teens are starting to ask questions and seek out spiritual things. They are more attentive in class and may talk to you individually. Their attendance may not be consistent, depending on their families, and what category they were in before entering this stage. Yet these adolescents are open to wondering what a life lived for God would look like.
COMMITTED		These teens are serious about their faith and are trying to live it out in their world. They are at different levels of Bible knowledge, and have a variety of personality types, but these teens want to live for God. They can get bored with pat answers, with being spectators, and with having no leadership roles. They want to try new things, be stretched, and get involved.

⁶ Tiger McLuen/Youth Leadership, *Timothy Project*. Used by permission. Permission is granted to duplicate this handout for the purpose of this training. Please acknowledge Youth Leadership on handouts.

Youth Ministry Events as Faith Formation Part One

Handout Three: Adult Leader Categories

It is always our hope to have as many adults as possible invested in youth ministry. Adults come with a variety of gifts and experiences, all of which are needed. At the same time, not every adult is suited to or desires to serve in every area of youth ministry. Use these categories to consider the various roles adults can take in youth ministry, and how you might more deeply engage adults in the congregation to support youth ministry programs.

Coordinator/Point Person: This person(s) may be paid staff or volunteer. It is the person(s) recognized as being the driving force behind the effective youth ministry within the congregation.

Leadership and Planning Adults: These people serve on the youth ministry boards and committees. They are the small group of people who get together to think through intentional youth ministry and plan the events.

Relational Youth Ministry Adults: These are the adults who really enjoy youth. They are your mentors and small group leaders. They are the adults who sit beside one of the youth on Wednesday night or attend basketball games and dance recitals. They are building relationships that point to the cross of Christ.

Consistently Involved Adults: These are the adults you can count on to be involved in youth ministry on an ongoing basis. They may not be a small group leader but they will drive, run for a meal, provide an activity, or staff an overnight.

Task Oriented Adults: These adults may not be comfortable with youth but they understand the importance of youth ministry and will support you by helping with tasks. These are the adults that will stuff a mailing, build the props you need, cook a meal, send out Birthday cards, etc.

Aware and Supportive Adults: These are the adults that you don't see volunteering in youth ministry but are aware of what is happening with youth and are supportive of the program. They will smile at the youth who is ushering, purchase a share in the ministry, pray for the youth.

Unaware or Disinterested Adults: These are the adults that are either ignorant to youth culture and youth ministry or intentionally choose to avoid youth and youth ministry altogether.