

Ministry Mutiny Notes

Mutiny (uprising, revolt, rebellion against the way youth ministry always has been)!

The youth ministry of entertainment, fads, sugar-coating message, numbers, excitement, games, etc.....not a community of young thriving believers—but a revolving door. People spun in, trusted in Christ, and spun out (but then faded into a spiritual isolation that proved disastrous for their tender faith.

We tend to pour all our energy into the top part of the funnel (focusing too much on the kids that don't care). We dazzle the teens and drew them in—but didn't teach them the things of God. They are a mile wide and an inch deep. Acceptance junkies. Don't gain the whole world and lose your soul.

Rebelling against felt needs and filler. We buy curriculum based on felt needs of our teens (what they want to hear) and filler in calendar (what will give us a foolproof 8 weeks worth of curriculum so that we can fill our calendar & not have to worry)—instead of giving them what they need to hear. Teach the Word and apply text to the needs of the youth group.

Why aren't we seeing kids coming to Christ every week in our youth ministry? Why are parents the center of the youth ministry equation? Why aren't our kids growing deeper in Christ?

The Mission 28: Youth Ministry..... Growth from new believers (evangelism—Go Wide) & Growth in them (Go Deep) NOT CHURCH TRANSFER GROWTH

Principles that are ancient (timeless biblical principles)—nothing new!

Come alongside Ty and learn:

- how to listen for God's whisper
 - what are realistic—biblical—expectations for growth
 - why churches should "go wide" with the gospel
 - how to challenge kids to "grow deep"
 - why you should engage parents to help
 - what are the biblical values for youth ministry as opposed to passing fads
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1 Listen for the whisper of God—Spend time with Jesus

- a. Spending time in God's Word
- b. Reading & meditating
- c. 1 Kings 18
 - i. God works more in the whisper than He does in the big, the loud, the fiery, and the blustery. It is a gentle consistent, and steady more often than sudden and radical. Elijah was looking for the flash, a sudden revival sparked by a huge showdown on top of Mount Carmel—but it didn't happen. The same way we are looking for an instant change/ revival flash in our youth ministry. Everyone is looking for the next big thing. Even the church in Acts (NT) had problems.
 - ii. God was working on the Israelites all this time (they didn't bow their knee to Baal). Life by life, year by year, in the midst of the mud and crud of life.
 - iii. Listen for the whisper of God (non-verbal cues, impressions from spending time with Him).
 1. TV, noise, busy schedules, etc drown out the whisper of God. He is always there (but we can't hear Him because of what is around us).
 2. Get alone with God everyday. He will guide you and it will be birthed by Him. Reflect on His Word, what is He saying?, how does it apply to your life? God of the moment!

3. You learn how to deal with teenagers more effectively because you are being sensitive to God's Spirit. Listening to His direction. Getting filled daily by His presence.
4. He will tell you how to deal with these teens and how to love them and get them the truth!

2 Get Real (Speak the truth & recognize where your kids are at spiritually).

- a. Matthew 28:16 (before the Great Commission...some of the disciples doubted and worshipped Jesus). Despite their doubt, Jesus told them to Go and make disciples.
- b. Get real about the teenagers spiritual condition (just as Matthew was real about the disciples spiritual condition)
- c. Jesus can do the same with the tiny faith of the teenagers as they continue to trust enough and obey. Not the size of your faith that matters but the object of your faith.
- d. In a postmodern world—teens aren't sure that a person can be sure about anything. As you reach them and teach them—they need to know that it is healthy for them to wrestle through their doubts to their faith—just as the disciples did.
- e. Think about it.....We believe in a God that we can't explain, trust in a Savior we've never met, and look forward to a heaven we've never seen.
- f. Having Raw Real Conversations with teens. Don't be afraid to talk about real hard issues. Provide a safe environment to talk about it. Pick a topic and have a free-for-all with the topic and discuss it.
 - i. Share insights from the Bible on.....euthanasia, abortion, pre-marital sex, Trinity, inspiration of the Bible.
 - ii. Life is messy, get real about it! Now OR when they get to college, their professors will bring it up and sabotage their faith. They need their own faith—not one borrowed from you.
- g. Hebrews 4:12-13—The Word of God pierces, cuts, and convicts all who hear it. It leaves us “naked and exposed” before the eyes of God. Lets not be afraid to use it!
 - i. Some don't believe that the Bible is true! If I am attacking you with a sword and you don't believe that what I have is a sword, does it matter? If the sword is real it will slice, pierce, and cut (do its job). God's Word will do its job of cutting, convicting, convincing the unbeliever—whether they believe the Bible is the sword of the Lord or not.
- h. Getting real about the Great Commission. Jesus said you had the right to share your faith. No where in Scripture do you see that you have to have a relationship with the person before you share the gospel (friendship evangelism is not biblical). Matt. 10
 - i. The disciples preached the gospel with confidence and conviction to everyone they met because Christ earned the right for them to be heard. All authority has been given to Jesus—Great Commission—authorizing us to preach the gospel with boldness!
 - ii. Instead of bringing up Christianity later in the relationship—do it right away! Be honest with what is important in your life! Paul built his relationships on honesty (1 Thess 2:6-12).
 - iii. Romans 1:16—the gospel is the power of God for the salvation for everyone who believes (we are not—IT IS). Let the Gospel do its work! Let the relationship flow out of this!
- i. BE REAL means getting real about the spiritual condition of your students and getting real about what will actually change the students for a lifetime—the Gospel and Word of God!

3 Go Wide—Evangelism

- a. Jesus in the gospels: Exposure—Burden—Urgency!
- b. Sow broadly (Go Wide) and invest strategically (Go Deep)
- c. Matt. 28:19—The Great Commission (it is the engine that drives the race car). Not about the flashy wheels, leather seats, etc...
- d. “Therefore Go and make disciples of all nations.....
- e. Acts 1:8—to Jerusalem, Judea (people zones—people they encounter everyday and knew), Samaria(outside their comfort zone—prejudiced towards, urban, poor—outreach in community), Ends of the Earth (outside time zones, mission trips or supporting a Compassion Child).

- f. Eph 4:11-12—equipping the church (preparing God’s people for works for service—evangelism, teachers). Training future evangelists. Equip them so they can equip others! How to bring up spiritual truths and sit at a new table at lunch, etc... Also get these leaders to get the new people in tribes (like-minded people).
- g. (CHART--INSERT) GO WIDE
- h. Salvation is a process and a point!
 - i. There was a process leading up to your salvation and a process afterward. But salvation itself was an exact point in your life.
 - ii. Before salvation you felt the need for something more, need for forgiveness. Also conviction. Then understood that Jesus dies for your sins—all of them. Then you put your trust in Him and was free.
 - 1. Conviction—what happens before salvation (empty, in need).
 - 2. Justification—declared righteous before God because of what Jesus did for you (point of salvation).
 - 3. Sanctification—process after salvation—begin to serve Christ. Receive Holy Spirit—the power to become more like Christ.
 - 4. Glorification—Become fully like Christ when you die.
 - a. Justification—have been delivered from the penalty of sin
 - b. Sanctification—being delivered from the power of sin
 - c. Glorification—will be delivered from the presence of sin.
 - i. Have been, are being, will be!
- i. Push kids to reach out every week and preach the Gospel!

4 Go Deep—Discipleship

- a. Starbucks Spirituality—Teenagers today (even Christians) are mixing beliefs like a barista mixing her lattes.
- b. INSERT (see skit on Starbucks Spirituality)
- c. Straight-up Jesus is looked down upon. John 14:6
 - i. If we don’t train them in the basics of their faith—then they will put their own spiritual concoction together—a little Jesus, a little New Age, a little universalism, a little whatever.
- d. Matthew 28:20--....teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”
 - i. All those who believe in Jesus follow His commands.
- e. As you go wide with the gospel they must also help these new believers to grow deep by teaching them active obedience.
 - i. They must be equipped to put into practice as soon as they learn it.
- f. Core Christian beliefs
 - i. Salvation, nature of God, inerrancy of Scripture, Trinity, Holy Spirit, Heaven and Hell, etc..
 - 1. This should be practical for students...not just stale doctrine.
 - ii. Primary doctrines VS Secondary doctrines
- g. Teens are looking for something bigger than themselves. Don’t sugarcoat or water things down—real thing.
- h. Self-image, friendship, family, sex talks—I try to tie in some biblical truth. Show how practical theology can be in the lives of teenagers (everyday lives).
- i. Hebrews 5 says....You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still and infant, is not acquainted with teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.
 - i. The believers were being rebuked for not being spiritually mature because they weren’t putting into practice the basic doctrines they were learning. Jesus said teaching them to obey everything He commanded.
- j. 2 kinds—many of them have learned so much Bible at least in a purely intellectual, non-relevant way, that they become puffed up, thinking they know it all. Or else they become hypocrites, who sing songs in chapel but really think Christianity is a crock.
- k. Give them practical ways to put their faith into practice (action).

- l. SEE INSERT—every teen and adult should know live and own the answers to these questions.
- m. It is important that teens know what they believe and why they believe—their limited Bible knowledge is no match for the intellect of the fully secularized, tenured teachers they will inevitably encounter in college. Why do you think so many Christian teens spiritually drop out in college?
 - i. 50% of born again college freshman abandon their Christian beliefs by their senior year. (75—80%)?
- n. We must push teens to grow deeper and deeper in their knowledge and application of God’s Word.
- o. CHART—INSERT—Go Deep
- p. CHART—INSERT—Go Deep & Go Wide
- q. People think either/ or. There are youth ministries that are a mile deep and an inch wide that focus purely on deeper truth. Then there are youth groups that focus almost exclusively on evangelism—that are a mile wide and an inch deep. Have both—mile wide and mile deep. Deep & Wide.

5 **No More Outsourcing—Get parents involved**

- a. Example in People Magazine—When parents outsource: Need to potty train your kid? Bake class cupcakes? End thumb sucking? These days there’s a pro for every parenting task.
 - i. Parents are delegating pros!
 - ii. How lazy do parents have to be to hire professionals to do what they should be doing every day—teaching their children. Includes teaching them the Bible and how to live for God. Its called being a mom and a dad.
 - iii. When parents get uncomfortable and realize how difficult it is to train their kid in the Lord—they begin to outsource to the youth pastor. Parents don’t want to look like hypocrites to their kids—so they send them off.
- b. Deuteronomy 6:4-9—
 - i. ⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.
- c. Parents are the primary influencers of their teens’ faith. Not the church! It is a partnership!
- d. Our job as the church is to be equipping parents and teens to build up the church and live for Jesus (Eph 4).
- e. Parents are to live out their faith authentically before their kids. They are with them more than they are with us.
- f. INSERT—connection between Canaan, Promised Land and now.
- g. INSERT—Poem by student about parents.
- h. Talk about spiritual truths when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down, and when you get up. Pass on your faith to your teens by talking about spiritual truths all the time in the home.
- i. Every week have a lesson for your youth group and then email parents with a summary of the lesson along with 3 to 6 questions to ask their teens during the week about that particular subject. Designed to create conversations—hopefully will lead to more discussions throughout the week. Become a norm (no more awkwardness).
- j. Monthly parent meetings to reemphasize this.
- k. Adult sponsors if no parents.
- l. 3 questions to ask any adult leader:
 - i. Do you love Jesus?
 - ii. Do you love the teens?
 - iii. Are you for real?
 - 1. Be real with them, to love them, and honestly pursue Jesus.
- m. MORE INFO FROM RE:Think Book.....

6 Build on Values...Not Fads—5 Ministry Areas

All these based on Acts 2:42-47.....

- a. Worship Team—Love God
 - i. Worship service, announcements, worship songs, messages, videos, drama, prayer team, etc...
- b. Discipleship Team—Love each other and *grow deeper*
 - i. Small groups coordinator, leaders, teachers, events—conferences...
- c. Evangelism Team—Loving those who don't know Jesus yet & *Go Wide*
 - i. Missions team, support those in other countries, trips, peer evangelism, street evangelism.
- d. Fellowship Team—Love each other
 - i. Community within the group to get to know each other (1 a month) events coordinators, greeters.
- e. Ministry Team—Love others
 - i. Outreach service team coordinator to the community, feed homeless, help elderly at the church.

Teen outreach strategy—Every week teens before service pray for the service—for salvations. They pray, pursue, persuade. They pray over those who don't know Jesus. They pursue them on a deeper spiritual level, and then persuade them to attend the group, connect to a tribe (of like minded kids that get along well), and believe in Christ.

Raise the bar—have high expectations for students (THE REBELUTION or DO HARD THINGS book)

Just as we can't improve on the laws of aerodynamics—but can improve on our planes, technologies, capacity for thrust—the principles are timeless and unchallengeable—so are the principles of Acts 2:42-47—we can change how we do things to reach our culture, but not the principles. The laws that the latest jets fly by are the same laws that the Wright brothers flew by.

Using timeless principles in a culturally relevant way.

2 Timothy 2:14-18 (warning against false doctrine). Correctly handle God's Word. Hebrews 1:1—be sure what you believe in.

There is NO quick fix—this is hard work and it takes time.

***Business world example—Think of the Great Commission as our company mission statement. The 5 biblical purposes in Acts 2 are our core values, the guiding principles of our organization. What drives us is the Great Commission. What guides us are these 5 values.

If flying airplanes....maybe the Great Commission is our destination, and the 5 values are how we get there—the plane.

The PLAN---If we want to get to the disciple making, then we must

reach them through evangelism,

teach them how to worship,

train them through discipleship,

unleash them for ministry,

encourage through fellowship,

turn them loose to do the same with others...

