

## Ministry Tips for Youth Pastors

### Balance- what does that even mean?

#### Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 Time for everything

- Always something to do whether it is ministry life or personal life. One of the hardest lessons I had to learn right away is learning the art of **SAYING NO**. **Ministry:** lesson prep, follow up with a student, volunteer recruitment, event planning etc. How about your **personal life** (e.g. house projects, kids going back to school, extra-curricular activities, date night with spouse etc.). All of this can be overwhelming, however I will share some helpful tips in a little bit on how to avoid burnout.
- As ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ we need to make sure we are obedient to follow through on the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment God has given to us **no other gods before me**. Make sure ministry does not become an idol in your life, which can be easy to do.
- The **first priority** in your life should be your **personal relationship with God**- you need to set aside time to **shut off the distractions** and the noise around you and connect with Him one on one (read the Bible to grow in your personal walk).
- Next should come your wife (spouse) if you're married **Ephesians 5:25** (NIV) Husbands love your wives just as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her. This is a mandate. You need to take care of your wife and look after her.
- Your family comes next and then the ministry. If you do not have balance in your life, then how are you going to allow others to pour into you and you into other people who need you. Personally, I tell my wife that if she sees any of these get out of order- to get my attention.

### Size of the youth group

#### Luke 16:10 Faithful in the small things God will entrust you with much

- My youth group started around 2-4 students and I had to earn trust with them.
- Some may be discouraged by this number, however to me it is all about building authentic relationships with these students by supporting students in their sporting events, theater productions, musical concerts etc.
- Staying present with the student is huge and I personally give out my cell phone number and allow them to text me any time because I want to be readily available. Doesn't mean I answer all the time, rather I can be an outlet or resource if they need anything.
- Connect with different students each week through text, Facebook, email.

- Build fellowship in group so they encourage one another to come to events and/or youth group.
- Ability to learn different learning styles.
- Bring in guest speakers to share a lesson with students as they will be engaged differently.
- God has blessed our youth group to grow to 8-10.
- Relationships, relationships, relationships

### **Administration**

**Colossians 3:23** Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,

- Make a to do list. I learned this when I was working in corporate finance- human resources  
PRIORITIZE- A, B, C, 1, 2, 3 (Must get done today – no sweat I can focus my attention on that later)
- Plan things in advance (fundraisers, events, gatherings) so not running around last minute trying to figure out details, work
- Over communicate with students and parents (Student gives green light- double check parent is aware- no surprises)
- Try my hardest not to bring work home (BALANCE). If you are up late for an event- you do not need to come in early (check with your boss)
- Look at the week or day of what you want to accomplish so you are not overwhelmed. No special formula, however it may be helpful to break up your day or days during the week (e.g. spend 2 hours lesson prep, 2 hours connecting with students, 2 hours event planning, 2 hours finding volunteers)