



Session 1

Lesson 1: The Growing Up of Youth Ministry



Scripture Text

- Luke 10 – “After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. ...’”



Key Terms

- History
- Para-church
- YMCA
- Young Life
- Youth for Christ



Lecture Objectives

- Briefly outline the development of youth ministry through the 20th century.
- Briefly describe your own experience with youth ministry and how that has shaped your own vision and sense of calling to youth ministry.



To Think About Before You Go On

- Reflect on your experience with the church as a youth (as an unbeliever, how did you perceive the church? As a believer, how did you perceive the church and its ministry to your age group?) Based on your understanding of Biblical ministry, what are some strengths that you would identify? What are some weaknesses you would identify? What were some things that your church did in their ministry to youth?
- In what ways do you think that “youth ministry” as a ministry area has matured since you were in youth groups?

Intro to Youth Ministry:

Devotion: Luke 10
Jesus Commissions the Seventy Disciples

Don't forget ...

***A Little History: Where are we and
from where have we come?***



Interactive question:

- What would it have felt like to have been one of the seventy? What are some things that they may have thought or felt that we also tend to think and feel as we consider God's call into new ministry?

A History of Youth Ministry in General

Important dates, people, and movements:

(adapted from Starting Right, Pages 77-85)

- 1824—Sunday School Union formed
- 1844—First YMCA founded in England
- 1851—First YMCA in North America
- 1931—Evangelistic Youth Radio Ministries begin (Percy Crawford)
- 1941—First North American Young Life Campaign (Jim Rayburn)
Youth for Christ rallies launched.
- 1945—Youth for Christ International formed.
- 1954—Fellowship of Christian Athletes formed (Don MacLanen)
- 1960's—Mainline denominations begin to dismantle youth departments in response to World Council of Churches' call to integrate youth into congregational life.
- 1966—Campus Crusade for Christ (Bill Bright)
- 1968—Youth Specialties Founded (Mike Yaconelli and Wayne Rice)
- 1970's—Para-church ministries plateau, mainline ministries "go local" as denominational support collapses; era of entrepreneurial youth ministry, resources by independent youth ministry publishers; youth ministry training and networking becomes a cottage industry for evangelicals and Roman Catholics.
- 1974—Group Magazine launched as first independent youth ministry magazine. (Tom Schultz)
- 1980's—Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development calls the decade an era of "massive cuts" in denominational support for youth ministry.
- 1990's—Seminaries and Christian colleges begin to integrate youth ministry into academic curricula.
- 1994—Youth Ministry Educators Union founded as first professional meeting for academic youth ministry (Ken Garland)

General Perceptions of Youth Ministry



Interactive question

- Consider this brief history of youth ministry. What was happening in the life of your church during these times? How was your church ministering to youth in the church during these times? To those outside the church?



Interactive question

- What are some perceptions of youth ministry that you have encountered in your church? How have you responded to them?

A Little History: Where are we and from where have we come?

A Personal History of Youth Ministry:

-- My Story

From Para-Church through Problem Church to Professional Church: What God used to make me reformed.

- Para-church
- Problem church
- Professional church
- Covenant Seminary
- YIMI



- Go back and rethink the ‘To think about before you go on’ questions on the first page of this lecture.