

Session 8

Lesson 15: Profile of a Relational Youth Minister



Scripture Text

• Philippians 2:1-4 – "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."



Key Terms

- Profile
- Fear
- Overcoming fear



Lecture Objectives

- Briefly describe some characteristics of a relational youth minister
- Identify the Biblical precedence for these characteristics
- Identify hindrances to relational youth ministry and ideas for addressing them



To Think About Before You Go On

•	How would you describe a "relational youth minister"? How does it compare and contrast with other types of ministers? Take time to write your ideas here.	er

Profile of a Relational Youth Minister

- Frequently seen at school events (sports, drama, music, etc.)
- Takes leaders/staff with him/her.
- Seems that he or she never works (or church secretary thinks so)
- Available to hang out with students (spends at least one night a weekend)
- Is on a first-name basis with all of the local fast food managers
- Organizes his schedule to be available when students are available (while keeping good boundaries)
- Loves a road trip
- Enjoys doing things kids like to do (mountain biking, music, computers, anything...)
- Does not spend the majority of his or her time in the office
- Sees himself as a missionary to a foreign culture
- Frequently seen with a car load of kids or in a car driven by kids
- Goes where kids go (listens, reads, watches)

Dealing with the Fear of Doing Relational Ministry

For some, going onto a high school campus seems easy. They get out of their car and are instantly greeted by a multitude of young friends, all eager to see them and invite them to meet their pagan friends. In my experience, however, most youth ministers, even the most gifted at building relationships, still feel uncomfortable when they walk onto a high school campus to meet students. This is especially true when you are new to an area and have very few contacts. The fear that is produced by this type of ministry keeps many youth ministers from ever stepping foot onto a campus. As a result, the ministry never grows beyond the students who regularly attend their church and the friends that they choose to bring.

to establish relationships with students at the local school. What sorts of things should you expect of the youth group members? Their friends? Yourself?	

You have been asked as a new youth minister

Youth Ministry Lesson 15, page 2

- Youth Ministry -

If the church is to effectively reach out to the multitude of lost students, youth ministers must be willing to go where kids are. This means that they must overcome the fears they are experiencing. **The question is how?**

- 1. Recognize the importance of your mission
- 2. Pray, and have others pray for you
- 3. Memorize Scripture
- 4. Find a companion to go with. Jesus sent the disciples out in pairs
- 5. Plan to meet kids you know
- 6. Educate your core kids on what you are doing
- 7. Don't sit in the parents' section
- 8. Stand outside by the concession stand until you meet some students you know
- 9. *Bring gum or candy, but be careful; Be fun and be appropriate.*

-- Next Session --

- 10. Bring cash for doing things afterward
- 11. Never introduce yourself as "Pastor ______"
- 12. Dress your own age, but in style
- 13. Be yourself
- 14. Recognize that as you get to know more students, you will become more comfortable
- 15. Remember kids' names
- 16. Ask fun questions
- 17. Try not to go alone

Be Yourself

We are all gifted in different ways. There is no one per chality that is most effective when it comes to building meaningful relationships with stude its need to be yourself and use the gifts God has tive of



• Go back and rethink the 'To think about before you go on' questions on the first page of this lecture.

Youth Ministry Lesson 15, page 3