



Session 10

Lesson 18: Relational Youth Ministry - Target Groups Programs with Vision - Purpose + Target



Scripture Text

- Matthew 22 – “Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. Then he sent some more servants and said, “ ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’” But they paid no attention and went off – one to his field, another to his business. ... The he said to his servants, “‘The wedding banquet is ready, ... Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’”



Key Terms

- Levels of relational ministry
- Spectators
- Seekers
- Believers
- Disciples
- Leaders
- Vision
- Purpose and Program



Lecture Objectives

- Describe the various levels of relational ministry
- Identify the five audiences in a church and how they relate to one another
- Identify and explain the “formula for keeping programs meaningful and focused”



To Think About Before You Go On

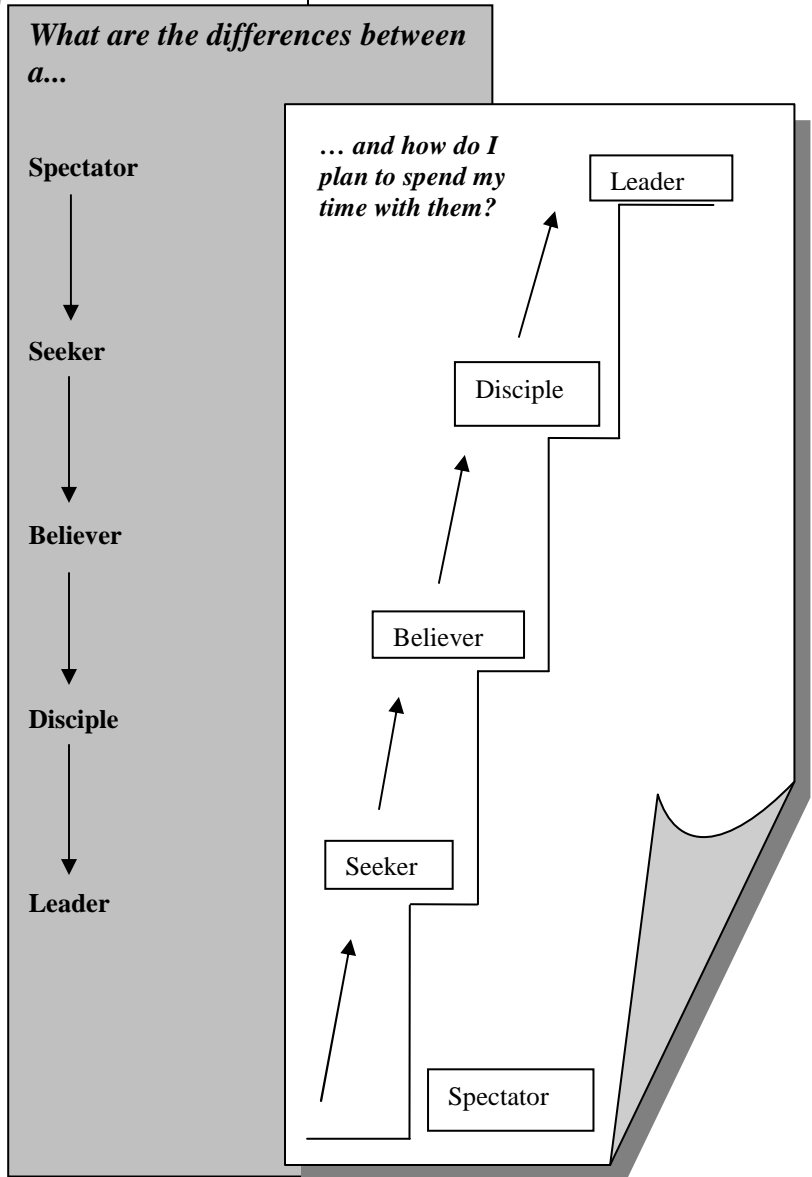
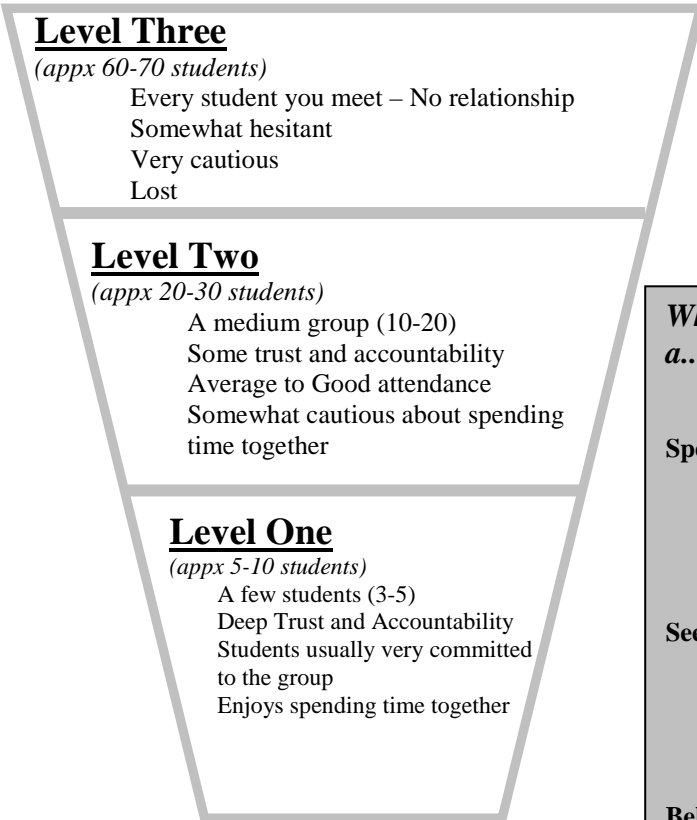
- How would you describe the purpose of the ministry (formal or informal; church-based or not) to which you have been called? How does that purpose relate to the group or individual to whom you have been called?

Spending Time with Students

How do I determine where I will spend my time and with whom? How do we handle numbers?

Different Levels of Relational Ministry:

Say you have a group of 100 students...



Programs with Vision



Many relational youth ministers do not like to use the word “program” for fear that their ministry will be perceived as simply a program-oriented approach to reaching kids. However, I have never seen a youth ministry that didn’t have programs – Sunday school, youth group meetings, small groups, etc. Programs are an important part of any healthy ministry as long as they have a relational focus.

Remember the Formula

As you develop programs to meet the needs of your church and community, remember Doug Fields’ formula.

$$\text{Purpose} + \text{Target} = \text{Program}$$

On the following pages is a list of programs that have been a part of or witnessed that effectively accomplish the five purposes. There are many more out there. You will notice that many of the programs that effectively reach students and help them grow in their relationship with Christ actually accomplish more than one purpose at a time. A youth group meeting may be designed to bring lost students, but at the same time will be a place for great fellowship. However, I do believe it is a great practice to try and label a singular focus for each program you develop.

At Chesterfield we change the purpose of our meetings and programs at different times of the year. For instance, Sunday school may have a Growth focus in the fall semester and switch to a Worship focus in the spring. We do this to keep our programs fresh and our students eager to be involved.

As you seek to develop and improve your own programs, remember the following.

- Use what works
- Watch what other ministries are doing
- Don’t model the impossible
- Don’t be afraid to fail
- Make changes at the right time
- Include your student’s input
- Evaluate frequently
- Have fun
- Borrow other people’s ideas
- Creativity is forgetting who you stole it from
- It’s OK to use resources
- Never, never stop asking questions!!! Interrogate your programs

What are the purposes of the church?

- *Worship*
- *Fellowship*
- *Evangelism*
- *Discipleship*
- *Ministry*

What are the target groups of a church?

- *Spectator*
- *Seeker*
- *Believer*
- *Disciple*
- *Leader*



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