

GMSAM Youth Ministry

Curriculum Outline

Course: Youth Leadership Development

This course will focus on the basic development of a youth leader. The student will learn the principles of developing youth and student leaders, the five areas of student leadership, developing leaders, the six C's of student leadership, the character traits of a leader, and the life of a leader.

Introduction

Principles for Developing Youth and Student Leaders

What is a youth leadership?

Youth leadership is the practice of teens exercising authority over themselves or others.

Youth leadership has been elaborated upon as a theory of youth development in which young people gain skills and knowledge necessary to lead. Countless programs around the world seek to teach young people particular skills associated with leadership, particularly those programs associate with youth voice and youth empowerment.

Other Definitions of Student Leadership

A student leader is any student who has a desire to walk with God and influence other people.

These students exhibit leadership and integrity to others and are respected in their local churches.

Teens at the development (student leader) level are students willing to take the initiative, not only for their own spiritual growth, but for the spiritual growth of others as well.

Student leaders take both the responsibility and initiative to reach their friends for Christ and help them grow in Christ.

Student leaders are committed young people who are intentionally following Christ, and in doing so are leading their friends.

Five Areas of Student Leadership

1. Peer Ministry or Peer Helping

Teenagers turn to their friends first when they have a problem. Peer ministry happens when you train and equip teenagers to care and listen to their friends. Peer ministry can be a great help for teens to see another person's point of view from a different angle. It

will help them get along with other people by understanding what they're saying and feeling.

2. Peer Evangelism

Peer evangelism develops student leaders who use their leadership roles within their natural friendship circles to share their faith in Christ with their friends. These student leaders are equipped to share their faith and desire to use the youth ministry programs as tools to help them present the gospel to their friends. These students are taught about evangelism, but, more importantly, they're held accountable to actually share their faith with their peers. Peer evangelism works when students see their roles as being active in school communities as well as in their churches.

3. Ministry Leadership Teams

This ministry area puts teenagers in specific ministry roles that often use a public forum, making it different from Servant Teams or other areas. Ministry Leadership Teams usually involve group of teenagers who are comfortable in-front roles or doing public leadership.

4. Servant Teams or Work Teams

These teams address the need for certain tasks to be done, while at the same time they utilize the gifts and abilities of young people. This is where the youth ministry program creates intentional ministries where teenagers can serve the group with a wide variety of duties and responsibilities.

5. Program Planning Leadership Team

This group is involved in the overall leadership of the youth ministry. This group of teenagers is involved in planning and decision-making for the entire youth ministry program. They work in partnership with the youth president to implement the youth ministry.

Developing Leaders

What is leader? The number of books on the topic is endless, but this simple acronym may get you started with your group.

Leaders are **Learners**.

A teachable spirit is crucial. Leaders are always learning about themselves, their faith, and their leadership roles.

Leaders are **Encouragers**

Look for those who have a spirit of encouragement. A person with a critical spirit may have power, but they will not be a true leader.

Leaders are **Active**

Leaders do something. They act. They live life. Leadership is not just theory or ideas. Help your youth adopt the principle of active leadership and get them to consider the ways they're active as student leader in the different areas of their lives.

Leaders are **Deep faith in Christ**

Leaders are faithful disciples of Christ who want to be used by God. They have a solid faith that allows them to trust the Lord in all circumstances.

Leaders are **Examples**

Like it or not, youth leader are examples to youth group members and school peers. They need to understand and accept this important role.

Leaders take **Risks**

Youth leader need to take risks in other to stand up for their faith in their schools and in church. Leadership does not equate with popularity.

Leaders are **Servants**

Be sure all your youth leaders—especially those in public forms of leadership—are challenged to be servant leaders. Public leadership without the private attitude of service is empty and open to temptation.

The six Cs of Student Leadership

A student should have the six Cs to be considered for a youth/student leadership role.

- 1.** The most important is a **confirmation** of God's call into leadership. The student must be sure that God is calling them to this role.
- 2.** The student must also have **convictions**. Leadership requires people with convictions. If students have no guidelines or boundaries, they're more likely to slip and fall into sin. By having biblical convictions, students become more disciplined and have something to abide in.
- 3.** The student must demonstrate **commitment**. If the student cannot come to church regularly, maintain friendships, or show up at agreed-upon events or activities, caution must be taken if they're going to be responsible for spiritually feeding a group of students. Commitment must be a high priority no matter how spiritually fit the student may be to lead.
- 4.** The student must be capable or **competent**. Students need to be mature. If the student is at the same maturity level as those she or he is leading, there won't be much growth. This doesn't mean they should be perfect; it just means they must be farther ahead on their spiritual journey.

5. The most important quality is a **craving** for God. There needs to be a burning passion to get to know Jesus Christ. If there is no craving or passion for God, the student is not ready for the responsibility of uplifting and encouraging another student's walk.

6. The student must **care**. The best small group leaders are those with the gift of shepherding. If a student has no desire to shepherd others but still wants to lead, he should not be a small group leader.

The Character Traits of a Leader

Some great leaders are born and it is their destiny to lead. On the other hand, there are other great leaders who made the time and effort to become one and you can to. Here are 8 character traits that all great leaders possess:

1. Trust & Respect

If you lead you don't need to be liked on a personal level (although most good leader is). You simply need to have the characteristics that make you trusted and respected in the leadership role that you have assumed.

There is a key difference between generating respect and trust and being liked personally. People don't have to like you to trust and respect you.

2. Communication

Good leaders need to be able to communicate with your team and treat them with respect, encourage and be firm when needed.

A good leader tries to get the best out of their team by being understanding them, inspiring them and rewarding their efforts. A good leader never rules by fear.

3. Enthusiastic

Good leaders always have the character trait of enthusiasm about getting the job done. People will respect a person who shows hard work, passion and dedication.

Leaders are there to motive and inspire and people will respond to these character traits.

4. Confidence

If you are not confident you won't get anywhere as a leader.

Rock solid confident in your ability is a must to inspire dedication, trust and hard work from your team.

Confidence should not be confused with arrogance. Arrogance shows a non team player and will cause resentment.

Most great leader has a combination of confidence and humility.

5. A Cool Head

When things are going wrong you look for a leader to take control of the situation.

They need to show confidence, but do so in a cool, calm collected manner with the aim to putting things right or getting the job done.

No matter what the situation a good leader never loses his cool and this is critical to maintaining team confidence when the chips are down.

6. Focus on Key Elements

A good leader thinks analytically and can view the overall goal or aim, but also break down the sub elements of what needs to be done to reach the goal.

They organize, prioritize and workout the smaller parts into a logical pattern to reach the ultimate goal in the best possible manner.

7. Motivation & Innovation

A good leader is always looking to improve and to innovate to get better results even when things are going well. A true leader is looking to take himself and his team to the next level.

8. Improve Their Skills

Leading on from the above, a good leader will know they are not perfect (no one is) and they will be constantly trying to improve their skills and look at their past results no matter how good they were and see how they could have done better.

The above character traits are ones that all great leaders have and you can to if you dedicate yourself to becoming a leader. You never know you may even become a great one.

The Life of a Leader

Becoming a Leader

As leaders, we each need to understand our own God-given leadership qualities. We also need to build our team by knowing more about each other, including each other's leadership qualities, so we can work together effectively.

We all have leadership qualities, but what kind of leader does God choose to use? We're going to look at the life of a person from the Bible who as an unlikely candidate to be used by God, yet God worked mightily through him to accomplish eternal purposes.

What a leader look likes and Moses as the perfectly imperfect example.

- Moses the killer – Exodus 2:11-15
- Moses the wimp – Exodus 3:1-14, Exodus 4:1-13
- Moses the hero – Exodus 14
- Moses the micromanager – Exodus 18:13-27

It's no surprise that Moses had ups and downs as a leader, sometime he was a hero and other times he was a zero, but God still used him to make an incredible difference. The bottom line was Moses loved the Lord with all his heart and obeyed him. He took risks for the Lord, and he learned that he couldn't lead by himself.

In the same way, to become the leaders God wants us to be, we need to take on the attitude of Moses that no matter what the success or failure is, we will continue to love the Lord and serve him first.

God Can Use Me?

God can use you, imperfect as you are—no ifs, ands, or buts about it. Reluctant leaders have a bagful of excuses when God calls them to leadership positions. Yet God wants us to confide our doubts in him—and trust him that he trusts us as leaders.

Leading others in Christ is a huge responsibility. Sometimes we don't feel up to the task. We think we're not spiritual enough, not perfect enough, and not talented enough. But God uses imperfect people to accomplish his tasks on earth.

The Self-Esteem of a Leader—Attitude Check

Knowing your identity in Christ will help you lead and serve God's kingdom more effectively.

Many high school students believe three things are true about themselves: I'm ugly, I don't matter, and I don't fit in. The reason they feel this way is that they judge themselves by a wrong set of values. They're confused about what gives them true and lasting worth as people. In our culture we tend to develop our self-concepts according to these four standards:

1. Things we own—possession
2. Things we do—accomplishments
3. People we know—relationships
4. The way we look—physical appearance

All of these standards influence how we feel about ourselves, but they don't reflect our real self-worth. In reality a healthy self-image is based on three facts that are true about each person. There are three main points:

1. You're unique.
 - You were created by the living, personal God and made in his image.
 - There's nobody else like you.
 - You can make a significant contribution.
2. You have intelligence.
 - You can think and make rational decisions.
 - You have the potential to learn, to change, and to create.
3. God loves you
 - How can remembering these things boost our self-image in healthy ways?
 - Why is it sometimes hard to remember these things?
 - What can you do to remind yourself to base your self-worth on these truths?

What Pumps You Up?

What pumps you up? Whatever it is, God has given it to you as a guide about how and where you should minister to others.

God has placed in each of us a built-in magnet—call it a passion or motivation, if you want—that attracts us to people, functions, or causes where God wants us to minister.

Discover Your Spiritual Gifts

God has given you something special—something he wants you to help build his kingdom with.

Knowing and using their spiritual gifts help student leaders serve God and their church—not to mention help fulfill God’s purposes for their own lives.

Discover Your Spiritual Gifts—Part Two

God has given you something special, something he wants to use to build his kingdom—part two.

Leaders (student or otherwise) need to understand their place in the body of Christ by discovering their spiritual gifts—abilities and personality traits, given by God—that enable your student to serve God and the church.

Smile, You’ve Got Personality

Exploring personality, and how God uses it.

A team of leaders should understand each other’s personality (which is fundamentally God’s gift to an individual) and appreciate how God uses the team members’ similarities and differences.

A Leader’s Devotional Life—The Word

Leaders can receive spiritual direction and insight for ministry in the Bible. Student leaders should commit themselves to spending regular time reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating on the Bible.

A Leader’s Devotional Life—Prayer

Want to minister as a student leader? Start with listening to and conversing with God. The student leaders need to cultivate a daily, personal time of prayer.

A Leader’s Devotional Life—Time with God

If you want to know how to minister as a student leader, spend time with God. Students should nurture a devotional life if they want to recognize direction and insight for their lives and ministries.

Facing Temptation

Be prepared for excruciating temptation. If Jesus Christ himself was tempted, then Christian leaders should not think themselves exempt for temptations of every kind. The student can be at least somewhat prepared for what they will face, and understand the biblical nut and bolts of resisting temptation.

Becoming a Praying Team

Praying together, Praying is a tough thing to fit into our busy lives and hectic schedules, and it can become more difficult when we feel like God says no to our requests. One way to increase the amount of time we spend praying during the week is to hold each other accountable to regularly pray together as a team. We can easily do this by making prayer a top priority during our weekly leadership meetings.

If we’re going to make the effort to pray more often, then maybe we should take a look at how Jesus instructed his own leadership team—the disciple—to pray, and then try to follow their example. The Lord’s Prayer is a model for the prayers of Christian leaders.