

A Philosophy of a Family-Focused Youth Ministry

"Exists To Assist"

by Mike Wilde

Purpose: Family focused youth ministry exists to help youth and their families succeed at being growing, healthy disciples of Christ.

Goals:

1. To intentionally support parents in their role as primary disciple-makers in their homes. Deuteronomy 6, Deuteronomy 29:29, Psalm 78, Proverbs, Ephesians 6:1-4.
How this will be accomplished:
 - a. We will do this by keeping parents informed of what is going on and why.
 - b. We will do this by assisting them with the resources and training to be effective in bringing up their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord.
 - c. We will do this by encouraging them to be involved in the lives of their kids and other youth.
 - d. We will do this by taking every opportunity to support parents by standing with them and behind them with the goal of making them successful.
 - e. We will do this by not substituting nor assuming the role of parents in the lives of the youth.
 - f. We will do this by inviting their input and wisdom in overall ministry goals.
2. To provide students with opportunities to know Christ, to become like Christ, and to make Christ known to both their peers and others. Colossians 1:28.
How this will be accomplished:
 - a. We will do this by reaching non-believing students with the life-changing message of the Gospel.
 - b. We will do this by building them up in their faith.
 - c. We will do this by equipping them to do the work of ministry.
 - d. We will do this by using youth's natural and inevitable attraction to peers for evangelistic and discipleship opportunities.
3. To assist the church family in promoting healthy Biblical community, Ephesians 4:12-16.
How this will be accomplished:
 - a. We will do this by intentionally involving youth in the total life of the church.
 - b. We will do this by promoting partnership opportunities between youth and adults.
 - c. We will do this by considering family times and other church activities when scheduling youth events.

Values/Beliefs of Family-Focused Youth Ministry:

1. The Bible is our final source for all matters of faith and practice.
2. The Family Focused Youth Pastor is a shepherd who guides and assists parents without replacing them.
3. Truth is shared in the context of a love relationship.

4. The process of how we do ministry is as important as the result we are trying to achieve.
5. Ministry is best accomplished together in community.