

Impacting the Next Generation: Principles for Bethel Chapel's Youth Group

1. The youth group primarily exists to love Jesus Christ, to see Jesus Christ, to long for Jesus Christ, and to believe in Jesus Christ through the gospel in anticipation of the day when we will worship Him in person.

1 Peter 1:8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,

2. The youth group does not live and learn the gospel by themselves. The youth group is a different part of the body, but it is not separate from it.

1 Timothy 4:12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

1 Corinthians 12:14-22 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

3. The job of teaching and discipling the youth group is not any one person's job. It is the responsibility of the young people's parents and of the entire church body.

1 Timothy 5:1-2 Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father. Treat younger men like brothers, ² older women like mothers, younger women like sisters, in all purity.

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

4. Teaching and discipleship can be done formally in group meetings, but is most effectively done in the context of relationships and in everyday circumstances. (Ministry is who you are, not what you do.)

Deuteronomy 6:1-6 ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Psalms 145:3-4 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. ⁴ One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

5. How we treat other members of the body--including our young people--is our best evangelistic tool.

John 13:35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Galatians 6:10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.