

# **CBC YOUTH**

## **MINISTRY MANUAL**

### **(PARENTS EDITION)**



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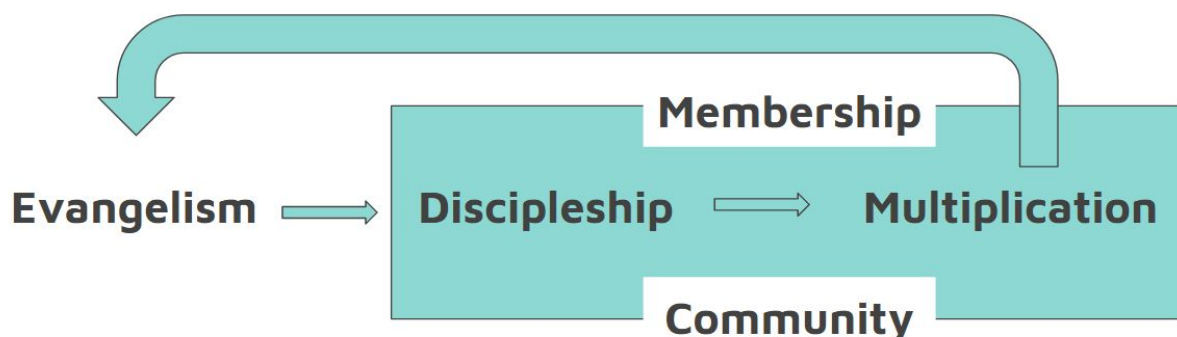
## **VOL. I: PROFILE OF THE MINISTRY**

### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

CBC YOUTH exists to glorify God by making disciples of all people through Gospel truths and Gospel living. Our hope is to equip all youth to love God with all their heart, soul, and mind as well as loving their neighbor, community, and church.

### **VISION & DIRECTION**

“To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...”  
(Eph. 4:12)



### LONG-TERM VISION:

- **Equip disciples to make disciples:** As our members are faithfully living out their call as representatives of Christ, they are actively and faithfully sharing the Gospel in faith that some will come to a saving knowledge of Jesus. Furthermore, our members are discipling those in the youth group to become mature believers.
- **Send out disciples that are equipped to plant, revitalize, and transform.** One of the “dreams” of our youth group (which we call our “golden unicorn”) is that our students are trained, equipped, and mature that when they are considering colleges to attend senior year of high school, they are processing which college campus around the world needs a Christian presence and they partner up with other gospel-centered, committed Christians and apply to that college campus in order to start a campus ministry their first year of college while studying and training in their own respective majors.
- **Provide excellent resources** for all youth ministries around the world. As we continue to grow, learn, and mature as a youth group, we always want to be able to train and provide other youth ministries around the world with everything we have. We want our students to study and learn so that they can write and provide bible studies, devotionals, and training material for youth groups everywhere. We want our youth leaders and youth parents to be able to provide other leaders and parents with excellent resources so that they are able to equip the saints in their own contexts.

## CORE VALUES of CBC YOUTH MINISTRY

1. Depth
2. Community
3. Discipleship
4. Truth
5. Service
6. Missions
7. Prayer
  - a. Sabbath
  - b. Meditation
  - c. Fasting
  - d. Tithing
  - e. Repentance
  - f. Thanksgiving & Encouragement

## OUR BELIEFS & STATEMENTS OF FAITH

We affirm a set of statements that ground our understanding of the Gospel, the Church, and the Christian life. Our ministry adheres to orthodoxy, historical, evangelical doctrinal positions. The following is just a further explanation and delineation of some of the topics we want to be more explicit.

1. **THE GOSPEL:** We believe that the gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ—God’s very wisdom. Utter folly to the world, even though it is the power of God to those who are being saved, this good news is christological, centering on the cross and resurrection: the gospel is not proclaimed if Christ is not proclaimed, and the authentic Christ has not been proclaimed if his death and resurrection are not central (the message is: “Christ died for our sins . . . [and] was raised”). This good news is biblical (his death and resurrection are according to the Scriptures), theological and salvific (Christ died for our sins, to reconcile us to God), historical (if the saving events did not happen, our faith is worthless, we are still in our sins, and we are to be pitied more than all others), apostolic (the message was entrusted to and transmitted by the apostles, who were witnesses of these saving events), and intensely personal (where it is received, believed, and held firmly, individual persons are saved).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/about/foundation-documents/#confessional-statement>

2. **BIBLICAL INERRANCY:** God, who is Himself Truth and speaks truth only, has inspired Holy Scripture in order thereby to reveal Himself to lost mankind through Jesus Christ as Creator and Lord, Redeemer and Judge. Holy Scripture is God's witness to Himself.

2. Holy Scripture, being God's own Word, written by men prepared and superintended by His Spirit, is of infallible divine authority in all matters upon which it touches: it is to be believed, as God's instruction, in all that it affirms; obeyed, as God's command, in all that it requires; embraced, as God's pledge, in all that it promises.

3. The Holy Spirit, Scripture's divine Author, both authenticates it to us by His inward witness and opens our minds to understand its meaning.

4. Being wholly and verbally God-given, Scripture is without error or fault in all its teaching, no less in what it states about God's acts in creation, about the events of world history, and about its own literary origins under God, than in its witness to God's saving grace in individual lives.

5. The authority of Scripture is inescapably impaired if this total divine inerrancy is in any way limited or disregarded, or made relative to a view of truth contrary to the Bible's own; and such lapses bring serious loss to both the individual and the Church.<sup>2</sup>

3. **BIBLICAL SEXUALITY:** WE AFFIRM that God has designed marriage to be a covenantal, sexual, procreative, lifelong union of one man and one woman, as husband and wife, and is meant to signify the covenant love between Christ and his bride the church.

WE DENY that God has designed marriage to be a homosexual, polygamous, or polyamorous relationship. We also deny that marriage is a mere human contract rather than a covenant made before God.

WE AFFIRM that God's revealed will for all people is chastity outside of marriage and fidelity within marriage.

WE DENY that any affections, desires, or commitments ever justify sexual intercourse before or outside marriage; nor do they justify any form of sexual

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<sup>2</sup> The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy (International Council on Biblical Inerrancy)

immorality.<sup>34</sup>

4. **OF GOD AND OF THE HOLY TRINITY:** The Lord our God is but one only living and true God; whose subsistence is in and of himself, infinite in being and perfection; whose essence cannot be comprehended by any but himself; a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions, who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; who is immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, every way infinite, most holy, most wise, most free, most absolute; working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will for his own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; the rewarder of them that diligently seek him, and withal most just and terrible in his judgments, hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty.<sup>5</sup>
  
5. **THE FALL:** We believe that Adam, made in the image of God, distorted that image and forfeited his original blessedness—for himself and all his progeny—by falling into sin through Satan’s temptation. As a result, all human beings are alienated from God, corrupted in every aspect of their being (e.g., physically, mentally, volitionally, emotionally, spiritually) and condemned finally and irrevocably to death—apart from God’s own gracious intervention. The supreme need of all human beings is to be reconciled to the God under whose just and holy wrath we stand; the only hope of all human beings is the undeserved love of this same God, who alone can rescue us and restore us to himself.<sup>6</sup>
  
6. **THE CHURCH:** A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ are those who are saved through faith in Jesus Christ. This new people, whom Christ gathers from all nations, ages, ethnicities, and stages in life, is called the universal church whom comes under the headship and authority of Jesus. This church is distinguished by the gospel message and the identity of holiness unto God. Although all true Christians make up the universal church, they gather regularly in smaller communities as the local church. There they read the scriptures together, worship together, disciple one another, partake in the ordinances together, serve one another, and love one another. These Christians commit themselves to one another and the authority of their leaders through biblical church membership which provides accountability and safety. The

<sup>3</sup> The Nashville Statement (Coalition for Biblical Sexuality)

<sup>4</sup> For clarification on: homosexuality and transgenderism, see Articles 7-10 in the article above.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.arbca.com/1689-chapter2>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/about/foundation-documents/#confessional-statement>

church, then, is God's manifold wisdom displayed to the world. And its purpose is to worship as believers while engaging a lost and dying world.

## **VOL II - PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY**

### **What is "Meaningful Membership"?"**

Meaningful membership" means four things:

1. The members of a church should be Christians. In Acts those who believed the gospel were added to the church (Acts 2:41, 47). Paul letters to churches are letters to Christians (Rom. 1:7, 1 Cor. 1:2). While no church will be able to perfectly discern who is and is not a Christian, every church should open its membership only to those who credibly profess faith in Christ.
2. The members of a church should be regular attenders. Church membership helps churches oversee the lives of their members. If someone doesn't regularly attend, the church has no way of knowing how the person is doing.
3. Members view the church as their primary context for fellowship and ministry. "I'm a member of First Presbyterian Church, but my real ministry is..." is an unbiblical way to begin a sentence. The New Testament is full of "one anothers" that were written to the members of local churches. That's not to say that Christians shouldn't fulfill those commands among Christians in other churches as occasion arises. Still, the New Testament envisions Christians fulfilling those commands primarily among a concrete group to whom they are accountable (e.g. 1 Cor. 12).
4. The members of a church should have certain biblical privileges and responsibilities. The members of a local church should have the privilege of being admitted to the Lord's Supper. They also have the responsibility to:
  - a. Attendance and participation
  - b. Pray for the church.
  - c. Be in transparent relationships with other church members in which they care for, encourage, rebuke, teach, and learn from each other (Eph. 4:15-16).
  - d. Submit to the church's leadership and teaching (Heb. 13:17).
  - e. Promote unity in the body (Eph. 4:3).
  - f. Financially support the church's ministry (Gal. 6:6). Use the spiritual gifts God has given them to build up the body however they can (1 Cor. 12:7).



## **YOUTH & BAPTISM**

Our youth group understands the historical and biblical approach to baptism as a public declaration of an individual's confession to Christ as their Lord and Savior and a repudiation of their former life and the ways of the world. We understand baptism as the next faithful step after a personal confession to Jesus and baptism is closely tied to meaningful church membership within a local body. We baptize those who are confessional Christians and who understand the meaning of their confession as well as church membership.

## **CHURCH DISCIPLINE**

**"The local congregation's role in helping someone to grow as a disciple of Jesus"**

1. Context of Membership
2. Consider the offense
  - a. Width
  - b. Depth
3. Community Care
4. Pastoral Care
5. Membership Care

## **PARENTS & YOUTH MINISTRY**

Our philosophy of parents in our ministry is simple - the parents are the MAIN agents of discipleship to their youth. The youth ministry only comes alongside as a help in order to provide additional support and resource for the student and the parents. The youth ministry does not in any way, shape, or form REPLACE the parents and their responsibility.

We believe that the youth ministry exists to partner with parents in the discipleship of students, the community, and the church. To this end we desire to see:

- Parents actively engaged deeply in the spiritual, emotional, psychological development of their students.
- Parents actively engage in all levels of our youth ministry - from weekly events, meetings, and church services, to large events, mission trips, and praying.

- Parents actively communicate with our youth ministry and leaders understanding that we are limited in knowledge, wisdom, and are maturing at different rates. We desire our parents to receive and provide grace to our ministry and leadership often.
- Parents encourage deep faith for their students as well as participating in gospel-centered living outside of the given church context. We encourage our parents to encourage their students to attend seminary, the mission field, and vocational ministry for those who might be called.

## **VOL III - STRUCTURE & PROGRAMS**

**YOUTH PRAISE:** scheduled on every first Sunday of the month during the SS hour. Our purpose in having youth praise is to give our students a time where they can gather corporately for teaching, worship, and fellowship. This is really the only time during the month where everyone is together for an extended period of time. The teaching time is designed to inform and direct the spiritual temperature for the month. This is mainly done through the youth pastor or designated leaders. In addition, our student worship team and program team leads our youth in activity and song. This method also allows our DG leaders to take a break and join their own sunday school for the week.

**DISCIPLESHIP GROUP:** A community group is our understanding of what inter-connected youth ministry ought to look like. It is based off the understanding that the Gospel creates community based solely on the fact that Jesus brings people together. A Discipleship Group (DG) is made of a small, same gender group that is divided between middle school and high school. The DG is lead by a youth leader and college sponsor.

**WHAT IS THE GOAL?** The goal is to have all of our youth cared for. Discipleship groups allows our members to care for and be cared on by each other and other members of the church. The goal of each discipleship group is to make sure that each person in the group has a safe space to share about their lives, struggles, thoughts, doubts, and needs. The goal is to foster discipleship of believers into maturity and witness to non believers through word and example while they look at the beauty of community groups.

**WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE GROUP LEADER(S)?** The role of the group leader is mainly to coach and to provide wisdom. We ideally want the members of cbc

youth to lead and take charge of their own group. The group leader is to coach those members to lead well. Give encouragement, advice, and correction for them to succeed.

**WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE COLLEGE SPONSORS?** Your role is to provide the support for the group in addition to the group leaders. Work with your group leaders to make sure all of your students are cared for that week. In addition to praying for each member of your DG, get your college community to come alongside of you to love and support your DG. You can do that by asking them to pray for them, sponsoring them, group chatting and video calling them, serve with them when you're back on break, etc. You are the big brother/big sister to these youth in your DG.

**WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE YOUTH MEMBER?** I'm defining youth member as those CBC youth who are Christian and have (or on the their way of becoming) baptized members of CBC. Their role is to take care of their own DG. They are to mentor those younger than them and be mentored by those older. They are to set the example for the rest of their group when it comes to honesty and vulnerability. They are to pray for their group and check in with all the members. But they are also to grow themselves.

**ACCESS** - Is our annual event that takes place in the Fall (August). It is the second largest, in-house CBC event that our church hosts and it is primarily put on by the youth ministry. We have historically used this event as a post-camp/back-to-school event in hopes to build further community with other churches and as well as a chance for our youth ministry to partner with local businesses around Houston for the purpose of support and partnership and evangelism. We offer food, live music, raffles, and a silent auction as part of the overall event.

**Fridays 7:00-9:30pm**

|           |                       |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| 7:10-7:45 | Games (Group or Free) |
| 7:00-7:10 | Group Prayer          |
| 7:45-8:45 | Tracks                |
| 8:45:9:00 | Worship/Response      |
| 9:00-9:05 | Announcements         |
| 9:05-9:30 | Snacks                |

## **MEETINGS**

Parents Meeting - Every other first Sunday starting October 1:15-2:30pm

Youth Members Meeting - Every last Sunday of the month 1:15-3:15pm

Adult Meetings - Every other first Sunday starting September 1:15-2:45pm

First 30min: Care

Next 30min: Counsel

Last 30min: Plan

**JAVA JAM:** Is our annual event that takes place in the Fall (August). It is the second largest, in-house CBC event that our church hosts and it is primarily put on by the youth ministry. We have historically used this event as a post-camp/back-to-school event in hopes to build further community with other churches and as well as a chance for our youth ministry to partner with local businesses around Houston for the purpose of support and partnership and evangelism. We offer food, live music, raffles, and a silent auction as part of the overall event.

XIII - August 9, 2019

**WINTER RETREAT:** This is our annual in-house event for our youth group to pull away and spend time together studying, worshipping, and fellowshiping together as a youth group. We typically go to a campsite in order to pull away from the familiarity of the city. We rely heavily on parents and college students to provide the support it takes for something this large to take place.

CMC - Dec. 26-29 @ Hilton Americas

**CAMP:** This is our summer camp that usually takes place the last week of July. Discovery Camp is our 4-day camp experience open to all incoming 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grade students. Camp Impact is a five day camp experience open to all incoming 10th, 11th, 12th and graduated seniors. This camp seeks to provide students with a chance to break away from their yearly routine and experience gospel-centered preaching, discipleship, community, and witness.

**MISSION TRIPS:** Provides an opportunity for our students and leaders to connect with other youth from around the country/world in order to care for others in the name of Jesus. We see great value in mission trips not only for the tangible work that it accomplishes but also for the building up of the individual, the youth group of cbc, and the churches we partner with.

**SPAGHETTI LUNCHEON:** It is our annual youth fundraiser where our students and leaders get a chance to serve the local body here at CBC. While the funds raised from the event goes towards ministry, the ultimate goal is for the church to get to know the

youth ministry and its leaders while providing a chance for the youth group to give back.

Feb. 2019

**YOUTH SYMPOSIUM:** This is our annual youth leaders/parents training that takes place in January. The beautiful thing about this training is that it is organized by the youth pastors in our own network so they know the students, the culture, and the needs of the leaders. This is an amazing opportunity for leaders and parents to gather for a day to train, pray, and network with other parents and leaders.

Jan 2019

**MEMBERSHIP BOOTCAMP:** This is our annual training for our youth who are members of the church. It is typically a weekender where they plan, study, and prepare for the upcoming year.

Aug. 2019

**SENIOR BANQUET:** Our yearly celebration for our graduating seniors. It is a chance for the church as a whole to come together and commission them off as representatives of CBC to their respective campuses.

### MONTHLY CALENDAR

First Sunday:

- Youth Praise (11:15-12:20 Chapel) All youth come together to play, worship, and sit under teaching. Parents encouraged to come and worship with your students.
- Parents Meeting (1:15-2:30 Chapel) We gather to discuss youth culture, calendar, youth development, and we want to provide a space for parents to meet with and gather with other parents.

Second-Fourth Sunday:

- Community Groups (11:15-12:20 Chapel) More details within the packet.

Last Sunday:

- Membership Meetings (1:30-3:30 Chapel) Required for all youth and adult leaders who are Christian and members of CBC. We gather once a month to play, pray, and set vision for the month. This meeting is crucial for the growth and health of the member in order to learn theology, counseling, and leadership.

Fridays:

- **ACCESS (7:00-9:30 Chapel):** Weekly all-youth gathering. Purpose is to build community, serve, play, and fellowship together.

## **YEARLY CALENDAR**

### **THE RHYTHMS OF THE YEARS**

**JANUARY:** (Reboot): To start the spring semester we're going to recalibrate after a long break. Use this month to reconnect with your students. Get them to look ahead for the semester. Revisit goals and plans.

**FEBRUARY-MAY:** (Missions/Evangelism): This block in our calendar is going to be dedicated to acting on the Gospel. Building off of the Fall's series of "Foundations" the spring is going to put our understanding into work.

**MARCH:** (Shalom): We're doing to dedicate this month to researching and partnering with local and global organizations to push back the darkness. So we want to get each DG to find their own organization, research about it, and find ways to get involved.

**JUNE-JULY:** (Development): We're going to use our two prime months in the summer to work on social and developmental skills with our youth. Of course come from a biblical understanding of it but we want to use this time to hit on topics like "cooking, auto-mechanics, repairs, budgeting, etc."

**AUGUST:** (Bootcamp): It's the start of the youth year where we transition students in and other students out. We'll set vision and direction for the year. We'll do heavy training this year (bootcamp yes?)

**SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER:** (Foundations): This block of time will be to teach our students the foundations of scripture and basics of doctrine and theology. .

## **LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT & EXPECTATIONS**

### **ROLE OF THE ADULT LEADERS:**

1. Matthew 22:37
2. Live the Core Values

3. Love & Invest in our Youth
4. Expect to be present
5. Work as a team (communicate, forgive, initiate)
6. Be a student of students

#### **COMMITMENT OF THE LEADER**

- I commit to and living out the 7 core values of CBC's Youth Ministry consistently and intentionally
- I commit to humbly serving for at least 1 year as a covenant member I commit to protecting the unity of CBC, the youth ministry, and its leadership.
- I commit to fulfilling my duties as a leader by: attending meetings, events, communicating, and actively serving CBC.
- I commit to being a godly witness to the youth at all times by my words, actions, and attitude.
- I commit to humbly submitting my rights and authority to CBC's leadership & community for accountability, growth, and discipline.
- There are no active sins in my life that would disqualify me from ministry at this moment

## **VOL 4. THE BASICS OF YOUTH**

### **SPIRITUAL**

At the end of the day, all who work with youth must remember that we are not just dealing with a unique demographic, not just planning and implementing programs and structures, not just forging relationships with teens...but we are dealing with spiritual beings at a very, deep spiritual level. I think we forget this sometimes and it makes sense. I mean, there's so much going on in the world of youth ministry that it's actually easy to forget what we're supposed to be doing in the first place. So when we talk about the spiritual aspect of youth ministry, there's a few things to note:

And in closer inspection, let's be very clear, **Moralistic Therapeutic Deism is religion, but it isn't Christianity.** It's nowhere close to biblical Christianity. Christian Smith and his colleagues summarize their findings this way, "To the extent that the teens we interviewed did manage to articulate what they understood and believed religiously, it became clear that most religious teenagers either do not really comprehend what their own religious traditions say they are supposed to believe, or they do understand it and simply do not care to believe it. Either way, it is apparent that most religiously affiliated U.S. teens are not particularly interested in espousing and upholding the doctrines of their faith traditions, or that their communities of faith are failing in attempts to educate their youth, or both."

It becomes increasingly clear that **the majority of American teenagers are not rejecting doctrines they have been taught, rather they've never been taught these doctrines at all.** What they are doing is absorbing from the larger culture the doctrines of a secular age, the doctrines that comes from

- Moralism, the belief that all God really wants is that we behave, that we be nice; we teach our students to avoid bad things for the sake of getting caught and do the right things because it is the "good" thing to do. There's no larger view behind the actions, not motives of worship.
- Therapeutic, meaning that we understand our problems, primarily in therapeutic categories. We believe that there may be a problem with us, but it's something that can be resolved by feeling better about ourselves or coming to a more satisfactory self-identity.
- And then Deism; let's be very clear, Deism is a persistent heresy. It is the belief that there is some kind of God but not a God who is sovereign ruling over the universe, not a God who cares particularly about me, not a God who desires to have a personal relationship with me, but rather just a generalized deity who probably created the world and has some relationship to it, but only in the most distant and abstract sense.<sup>7</sup>

**THE CHALLENGE:** Millennials are leaving the church. Nearly six in ten (59%) young people who grow up in Christian churches end up walking away, and the unchurched segment among Millennials has increased in the last decade from 44% to 52%, mirroring a larger cultural trend away from churchgoing in America. When asked what has helped their faith grow, "church" does not make even the top 10 factors.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.albertmohler.com/2017/06/16/briefing-06-16-17/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.barna.com/research/the-priorities-challenges-and-trends-in-youth-ministry/>





1. **Physical Maturity** comes to fruition between ages 16-18. This is when the body's full potential is in place. Practice can make it better, but the potential is there.
2. **Knowledge Maturity** peaks at ages 18-20
3. **But Wisdom Maturity** peaks at age 25. (think car rental company policies)

## **THE BASICS OF YOUTH: CULTURE**

### **The MILLENNIALS & GENERATION Z**

#### **5 Defining Characteristics of Millennials Gen Z<sup>10</sup>**

1. **Autonomous Self**
2. **Wi-Fi Enabled:** Millennials as being “digital natives,” due to their comfort and innate abilities with digital technology.
3. **Multiracial:** 4th wave of immigration following the passage of immigration reform in 1965 (majority of immigrants coming from Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean.)
4. **Sexually Fluid**
5. **Post-Christian**

## **YOUTH TRENDS & INFLUENCES**

### **A. TEENS & SOCIAL MEDIA**

### **B. ADOLESCENTS AND MENTAL HEALTH**

### **C. #MeToo:**

### **D. Obergefell v. Hodges, June 26, 2015**

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<sup>10</sup> Meet Generation Z by James White

E. Black Lives Matter (July 13, 2013)

F. Bruce/Caitlyn Jenner (June 2015)

### **DISTINCTIVES TO CONSIDER**

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

1. Ages 11-14
2. Shorter Attention Spans
3. Concrete Thinking ("What?")
4. Start of puberty (menstrual cycle, acne, voice change, nocturnal emissions, pubic hair, breast buds)
  - a. Increase in hormones
  - b. Major brain development & pruning
5. 2 Big Transitions - entering and exiting middle school
  - a. Anxiety of entering bigger schools
  - b. Leaving close friends behind
  - c. Riding the bus
  - d. Getting lost in school
  - e. Worried about bullying
6. Discovering & Creating Identity
  - a. Apart from parents
  - b. Social groups
  - c. Navigating social cues, pressures, norms, and truths
  - d. Introduction to social media
  - e. Platonic and sexual relationships
7. Give more responsibility
  - a. Choosing classes
  - b. Extracurricular
  - c. School parties, dances, societies, etc.
  - d. Social events without parents
  - e. Cell phones & Computers (with access to internet)
8. Much harder classes & more homework than Elementary school
9. Significant increase in pressure (peer, parent, or self)
  - a. Academics (STAAR)
  - b. Appearance (changing body with girls progressing quicker than boys)
  - c. Status (formation of social groups and categories)

- d. Lifestyle (relationships, music, advice)
- 10. Spiritual
  - a. Build basis of faith
  - b. Relearn basic concepts from Elementary
  - c. Freedom to ask questions and doubt
  - d. Experience spiritual growth within community

## **HIGH SCHOOL:**

1. Ages 14-18
2. Experience major life changes
  - a. Rites of passage - coming "of age" 16 & 18
  - b. Major failures and hurts
3. Relationships are key (want to be heard and understood)
  - a. Finalizing identity
  - b. Who are my true friends?
    - i. Those who love me for me
    - ii. Those who are there for me
4. Abstract thinking ("Why? How?")
5. Continuation of puberty (massive increase in hormones)
6. 2 Big Transitions - entering and exiting high school
  - a. Entering much bigger schools
  - b. Leaving parents
  - c. College applications, scholarships, finances, resume building
7. Given more responsibility
  - a. Finding a job
  - b. Taking care of younger siblings
  - c. Driving
  - d. Balancing extracurricular activities
  - e. Curfew
  - f. Spending more time with friends than with family
8. Academic Pressure
  - a. Pre-SATs, SATs, and ACTS
  - b. Advanced Placement and Dual Credit
  - c. Top 10% and class ranking
  - d. More homework, tests, and grades
  - e. Comparing against other classmates, church friends, and parent's expectations
9. Social dynamics

- a. Establishing identity (multiple - at school, church, online)
- b. Communications
- c. Dating, Hookups, Sexual “norms”, Masturbation, etc.
- d. Friend groups (childhood friends, church friends, school friends, online friends, etc.)
- e. Relationship with family changes (boundaries, communication, perception, and expectations)

#### 10. Spiritual

- a. Understand and be able to teach doctrinal truths
- b. Freedom to doubt and hear from the skeptic
- c. Come to a personal decision on spiritual issues
- d. Sense a vision and purpose beyond themselves
- e. Coaching from multiple sources
- f. Loving correction from established relationships
- g. Experiential journey
- h. Opportunities to lead and coordinate
- i. Provide resources for growth

### **GROWTH PATHS FOR YOUTH**

**TRAJECTORY:** What this means is if you were to ask us what we would hope to see from our youth who have been with us since the beginning. When they graduate out of our youth program, what would we wish for them? How would we want them to grow?

We understand that this is our “hope” and sometimes reality will push back against this. We also know through our many decades of ministry that students come in and out, make great strides and have great setbacks. We account for these realities but we still must have goals and paths for our students to grow.

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

1. **DEPTH (expose)**
  - a. To understand and accept the Gospel
  - b. To desire growth
  - c. Begin to build a disdain for sin.
  - d. Begin to ask questions about spiritual things
2. **COMMUNITY (belong)**
  - a. To join a biblical community
  - b. Attend regularly

- c. Start to share openly with community
- 3. **DISCIPLESHIP (seek)**
  - a. Find a mentor
  - b. Communicate with mentor
  - c. Ask mentor questions
- 4. **TRUTH (learn)**
  - a. Learn how to study the bible
  - b. Read through the Gospels and the Law
  - c. Basic Christian Beliefs
- 5. **SERVICE (Involve)**
  - a. Serve regularly at youth events
  - b. Volunteer at church-wide events
- 6. **MISSIONS (Steps)**
  - a. Share the Gospel with friends and family
  - b. Pray for your sphere of influence
  - c. Attend youth missions
- 7. **PRAYER (Practice)**
  - a. Understand prayer
  - b. Set up daily prayer schedule
  - c. Understanding & Implementing: Tithing, Repentance, and Thanksgiving

## **HIGH SCHOOL:**

- 1. **DEPTH (Passion)**
  - a. To understand and accept the Gospel; contextualize the Gospel for self and others
  - b. To desire growth; plan strategies for growth
  - c. Begin to build a disdain for sin; more aware of sinful tendencies
  - d. Begin to ask questions about spiritual things; challenge self towards maturity
- 2. **COMMUNITY (Integrate)**
  - a. To join a biblical community
  - b. Attend regularly
  - c. Start to share openly with community; have at least 3 close peers who are your accountability partners
  - d. Lead and facilitate a small group
  - e. Build connections with other ministries
- 3. **DISCIPLESHIP (Mentor)**
  - a. Find multiple mentors

- b. Find multiple mentees/disciples
  - c. Invest with a few mentor/mentees
- 4. **TRUTH (Teach)**
  - a. Learn how to study the bible; Able to teach bible studies
  - b. Read through the Gospels and the Law; Overview of the entire Bible
  - c. Basic understanding of Systematic Theology
  - d. Basic understanding of Worldviews
  - e. Basic understanding of Apologetics & Comparative Religion
- 5. **SERVICE (Invest)**
  - a. Serve regularly at youth events & community events
  - b. Volunteer at church-wide events
  - c. Organize others to serve at community & church events
- 6. **MISSIONS (Lifestyle)**
  - a. Share the Gospel with friends and family; share with all you come in contact with
  - b. Pray for your sphere of influence. Pray local and global
  - c. Attend youth missions; attend church-wide missions
- 7. **PRAYER (Persistence)**
  - a. Understand prayer; Teach others how to pray
  - b. Set up daily prayer schedule
  - c. Understanding & Implementing: Tithing, Repentance, and Thanksgiving
  - d. Understanding & Implementing: Meditation, Fasting, and Sabbath.

## **VOL 5. PARENTS MINISTRY**

### **Relationship Factors & Spiritual Impact On Children**

#### **Heart connections between parents & kids:**

- Children and teenagers tend to embrace the faith of parents who have heart connections with their offspring. Spiritual impact flows from one generation to the next: "And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with a curse" (Mal 4:6)
- Research conclusions

- “Older children & teenagers who feel connected to their parents & siblings are less likely than their peers to suffer from emotional distress, experience suicidal thoughts and behaviors, exhibit violent behavior, smoke cigarettes, drink alcohol, or use drugs. They perform better in school, enjoy deeper relationships, and are well adjusted.” -Bruce H. Wilkinson, 30 Days to Experiencing Spiritual Breakthroughs
- “The benefits of communications between parents and adolescents seem to depend on BOTH parental values and the closeness between parents and adolescents. Without a close bond, the message - no matter how strong - stands less of a chance of being accurately perceived, accepted, and acted upon.” - Lezin, et. al., Parent-Child Connectedness
- “Parents might be spouting biblical truths at their kids, but where’s the relationship? Truth without relationship leads to rejection. We are losing our kids not because they don’t hear the truth, but because the people speaking the truth haven’t spent the time to build relationships with them.” -Josh McDowell, “It’s Almost Too Late,” New Man Magazine, June 2003

#### **Broken heart connections:**

- Children and teenagers not connected to the hearts of their parents begin a desperate attempt to meet their own emotional needs
  - Their emotional tank that should have been filled by parents is painful while empty and to make the pain stop they create plans for filling the tank themselves -- which while separated from parents and from God will be foolish
  - Clinical observation: “Teens left to themselves will gravitate toward the view that trusting themselves and pursuing pain relief is a workable plan for their lives, leading to drugs, dropping out of school, family conflict, etc.

#### **Heart connections can weaken with age**

- Parents who are not vigilant may find that heart connections with their children weaken as those children grow
- Research conclusions: “Youth and parents, independent of one another, both reported less unity and closeness as the children moved in age from fifth to ninth grade. There was a discernible decline in parental harmony, communication, parental control, and expressions of love as children approached adolescence.” -Strommen and Hardel, Passing On the Faith



### **Injuries to heart connections**

- Students that do not desire the opinions nor the presence of their parents push them away in order to protect themselves from hurt. They have been abandoned emotionally by parents preoccupied with career, income, self-fulfillment, failing marriages, new romances, adult recreation, community involvement, or even church busyness
- Unless something changes quickly, they will reject their faith, go off the deep end in terms of lifestyle, and spend their lives distant from parents
- Observations (Bruce Wilkinson, Experiencing Spiritual Breakthroughs)
  - “Injured relationships account for the overwhelming majority of long-term parenting problems in Christian families.”
  - “Injured relationships are the major, hidden force that drive our children away from (kingdom) living, and sometimes from the faith altogether.”
  - “If your child has received a heart wound from you or their other parent (or both), they will intuitively put up dividing walls, remaining aloof regardless of what you say or do.”
  - “...the most tenacious wounds are often the most deeply buried ones, the least expected, the most easily dismissed.”

## **VOL 6. POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

### **Rules & Regulations**

#### **General Types of Prohibited Conduct:**

- a. Horseplay, roughhousing, and other playful behavior that, though not intended to harm, presents a reasonable risk of harm or threatens the safety of others

- b. Fighting or scuffling that does not result in physical pain, illness, or any impairment of a physical condition
- c. Bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, or making hit lists. Name-calling, ethnic or racial slurs, or derogatory statement
- d. Engaging in harassment (see definitions) toward another student or leader, official, or volunteer, including harassment based on race, color, religion, national origin, disability, sex, gender (including, but not limited to, sexual identity/orientation), or age
- e. Engaging in sexual harassment, sexual abuse, or conduct that constitutes dating violence. Inappropriate verbal (oral or written), physical, or sexual contact toward another student or a camp employee, official, or volunteer, regardless of whether it is consensual
- f. Possession, using, giving, selling, or buying prohibited items (i.e. tobacco products, prescription drugs without consent from parents, blades, knives, or sharpened objects, firearms or other kinds of projectile weapons (real or fake), material that is sexually-oriented, pornographic or obscene.
- g. Stealing from others, committed or assisting in robbery, theft or burglary.
- h. Damaging, destroying, or vandalizing property owned by others or the Camp.

#### **ON CAMPUS DISCIPLINES: For Students & Leaders**

We believe that it is the duty of all personnel to ensure the safety and security of each member of CBC YOUTH MINISTRY. We empower those who witness an infraction of the rules to speak up boldly and confidently to a leader, pastor, or church staff immediately. The final arbiters of discipline will be the pastoral staff in conjunction with the appropriate parents and/or official.

Using our professional judgment, leaders and staff will consider a variety of factors when administering disciplinary consequences and determining the duration of the consequence, including but not limited to:

- The degree of severity and risk of danger • The effect of the conduct on the camp environment • The age and grade level of the student • The student's disciplinary history • Legal requirements • The frequency of the conduct • The student's demeanor

## **CBC YOUTH Disclaimers & Liability**

**DISCLAIMERS:** the following disclaimers are given to both students and leaders at the beginning of each year. We wanted to include them here in this section for visibility and clarity purposes.

- a. **PHOTO/VIDEO NOTICE:** I understand that as a participant of activities sponsored by CBC YOUTH MINISTRY, my child may be photographed or videotaped. I understand that these photographs/videos may be used in promotional materials, publications, and video presentations of the church. I also understand that these photographs/videos may be posted on the Church website and do hereby give my permission for such use.
  
- b. **CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE:** CBC YOUTH MINISTRY, its employees and or its designated volunteers (the "Receiving Party") may receive confidential information from church members, guest and participants ("Disclosing Party"). "Confidential Information" shall mean information that could be deemed personal and confidential obtained by the Receiving Party from the Disclosing Party by way of verbal discussion, written letters, email, text or electronic media and arising from church classroom sessions, forums, activities, counseling or sponsored church functions including retreats and camps. Receiving Party from time to time may use confidential information for statistical tracking, monitoring and reporting. The Receiving Party agrees to hold in confidence any and all confidential information and not share or disclose individual names of Receiving Party with the exception of Confidential Information received from a Disclosing Party that is illegal by Local, State and Federal government jurisdictions. Receiving Party agrees to destroy all written information after a 5 five year period from receipt. I hereby give permission for my child to participate in the activities of CBC YOUTH MINISTRY. I have read in full and understand the Confidential Information Disclosure and indemnify and hold harmless CBC YOUTH MINISTRY, its employees and designated volunteers as well as other participants from any and all liabilities, actions, damages and claims of any kind or nature that may arise.
  
- c. **PERMISSION FOR TRAVEL:** I hereby give permission for my child to travel by private vehicle chartered by CBC YOUTH MINISTRY for this particular event. I also give my permission for my child to travel with sponsored

CBC YOUTH MINISTRY transportation during the event.

- d. **PERMISSION OF TREATMENT:** In the event if becomes necessary, I hereby authorize any leader of CBC YOUTH MINISTRY or a designated trip sponsor to act in my behalf with respect to the medical treatment of my child listed above for trips sponsored by CBC YOUTH MINISTRY, for this particular event. I, the undersigned, do hereby verify that the information given on this form is correct and do hereby release and forever discharge all staff, sponsors, and the CBC YOUTH MINISTRY from all claims, demands, actions, past, present, or future arising out of any damage or injury while participating in activities sponsored by the church.
  
- e. **RELEASE OF LIABILITY:** The information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. On behalf of myself and any other parent or guardian of the person herein named, I do hereby grant permission for the person herein named to participate in the CBC YOUTH MINISTRY. Furthermore, on behalf of myself and any other parent or guardian of the person herein named I do hereby release unto the staff, chaperones, and volunteers of the CBC YOUTH MINISTRY all authority and responsibility to authorize any and all medical treatment necessary for the protection of the health and well-being of the aforementioned child. This authorization shall authorize any and all medical treatment as determined by qualified medical personnel, pursuant to the express authorization, whether written or oral of the aforementioned representatives. This permission shall be effective \_\_\_\_\_, inclusive or until it is expressly revoked. I hereby release the staff, chaperones, and volunteers of the CBC YOUTH MINISTRY from any and all claims and liabilities of whatsoever nature that may arise from my child's participation in this trip. I understand that I will be financially responsible for any medical costs and damages caused by my child to any property (car, facility, etc.).

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

CBC Youth Social    [cbcyouthofhouston@gmail.com](mailto:cbcyouthofhouston@gmail.com)  
 Group Me: [https://groupme.com/join\\_group/34724121/qnVpcT](https://groupme.com/join_group/34724121/qnVpcT)  
 Facebook: (invite only) Request from member  
 Instagram: cbcyouthofhouston

**Website:** <http://cbchouston.org/youth.html>

**Youth Pastor - Justin Wong**  
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Mrchewywong (facebook)  
Justinhwong (instagram)

**Assistant to the Pastor - Robert Liu**  
[liu.robs@gmail.com](mailto:liu.robs@gmail.com)