

MINIMIZING YOUR IMPACT AS A YOUTH WORKER

Introduction:

Youth work happens ONE on ONE! It doesn't happen in a group or by osmosis... and so I want to focus on how you PERSONALLY can keep from being an influence on teenagers.

If you will concentrate on not-doing these things you will have successfully “enlisted as a youth worker” but effectively “minimized your positive impact” on teenagers.

If you will follow these steps... you can feel good about yourself! You can feel good that you are serving in the ministry... but you can also rest assured that you are completely avoiding any activity that actually “makes a difference” in someone's life.

1. Completely stop maintaining your own spiritual walk and commitment to Christ.

That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; (1 Thessalonians 4:4)

If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, [and] prepared unto every good work. (2 Timothy 2:21)

This way, whatever you decide to do as a youth worker will have absolutely no “touch of God” upon it...no power...no Holy Spirit working through you can to change the lives of those you influence.

2. Never think of or pray about the teens over which you have an influence.

1 ¶ The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace, 2 That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and [certain] men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. 3 And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province [are] in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also [is] broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire. 4 And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned [certain] days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven, (Nehemiah 1:1-4)

Nehemiah did himself in then he went to prayer!!! Watch OUT!!!

If you think about them... your heart might be touched by God for them! This could be disastrous!! If you pray for them, you might remember their struggles, trials, their vulnerability to the Devil and his traps... you might consider their spiritual needs and actually develop a burden for them?

There is no telling where thinking and praying like this can lead... it could lead to a phone call... a note... even a VISIT!! This could have the exact opposite effect of that for which you are looking...

This could result in teens who actually feel cared about... prayed for... thought of. This will cause them to be soft in their hearts to God... and maybe even respond to the teaching of His Word in class and church. This could make them start living the Christian life and following your influence...

3. Make sure that EVERYTHING else in your life will take priority over visiting or soulwinning.

He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves [with him]. (Psalms 126:6)

The Devil will always provide something else that you can do ... no matter how small, trivial, or insignificant.

If you give soulwinning the VERY LAST priority, then you will be sure to NEVER GO... therefore those you would love, win, or disciple will go without your influence.

Some things you should prioritize over visitation or soulwinning are as follows:
Television – there's always something on to watch (this is a great one)
Internet – this is another 24 hour possibility... (another great one)
House work, relaxation, or personal time... (We always need these...)

Be careful, because they will tell you the soulwinning or visitation could take as little as one hour from your week... so you must be sure to have many things that could, in a moments notice, require an hour of your time...

4. Avoid all personal contact with teenagers during the week.

Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, [see that ye] love one another with a pure heart fervently: (1 Peter 1:22)

See everyone wants to be loved!! We all want encouragement, love and someone who cares about us!

There are a lot of ways that you could “casually” come into contact with a teen throughout the week that could positively influence their lives. Avoid the following...

- 1) Personal notes, cards or letters
- 2) Personal phone calls – even brief ones can be disastrous
- 3) Personal contact in public – stores etc.
- 4) Personal contact at church – conversation can especially be harmful...
- 5) Youth activities or functions of any type... avoid these at all costs (Again, make sure that even little things take priority over these... things like “grocery shopping, a favorite TV show, etc.)

5. Avoid any appearance of personal sacrifice or concern for the teens.

13 ¶ And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth [unto him] whom he would: and they came unto him. 14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, (Mark 3:13-14)

See... influence happens on purpose, as you do things with someone to intentionally disciple them...

Never take them to lunch

Never write or call

Never speak to them in Sunday school class (Talking to other workers is okay... but never speak to the teens themselves...)

Never sit near them, chat with them, and NEVER ask them “HOW THEY ARE DOING?”

Never leave your comfort zone for them...

Never give any thing up so you can be with them or influence them

Never let any of their needs take priority over a personal desire

Walk by them without seeing them

6. Live Inconsistently Outside of Church

Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. (1 Corinthians 4:16)

Be ye followers of me, even as I also [am] of Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:1)

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See... by placing you in class... the church leadership has basically decided to tell the teens to follow you... this means you can really neglect your influence by doing some simple things...

Let them see you listening to rock or country music in your car
Get real angry at people in public who do stupid things
Dress immodestly when you go shopping or around town
Go to movies, smoke, and frequent bars and questionable places
Display a bad attitude frequently about things that don't matter
Don't be faithful to church
Don't support the pastor or the staff in the purposes of the church

Conclusion:

This is the way to purposefully set out to minimize your influence on teenagers. If you will follow these steps, you can be a YOUTH WORKER, but simultaneously you can have little or NO positive influence on teens!

It's a great combination... the position... the title... the acceptance... the place of ministry... with no fruit... no result... no sacrifice!

How close are you to having no influence?
