

Oklahoma Youth Ministry Mentor Project

Overview

Purpose

The purpose of the Oklahoma Youth Ministry Mentorship Program is to promote excellence in Oklahoma Youth Ministry by pairing experienced youth ministers (mentors) whose lives and ministries demonstrate evidence of the Holy Spirit's leading with other youth ministers (apprentices) who are seeking to hone their professional skills, improve their leadership abilities, and sharpen their spiritual sensitivity. The mentor program is an extension of and serves to support the *Excellence in Youth Ministry Project*.

Structure

Mentorship Team

Each mentorship team consists of one mentor and one to four apprentices.

Mentor

A mentor is a youth minister selected by the Youth Leadership team of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO) who meets the following criteria:

- Leads both a personal and professional life that demonstrates evidence of the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Has 5 or more years of experience in youth ministry or has successfully completed a year of the mentorship program.
- Lives a life that points others toward Christ, actively discipling those whom God has placed in his/her life.
- Demonstrates maturity in both personal and professional relationships.
- Demonstrates an understanding of balance between family and profession.
- Models the Biblical Paul/Timothy mentor/student relationship in his/her personal life, having a mentor and actively mentoring.
- Lives a life of accountability to his/her spouse, church, and another personal accountability partner.
- Is a self-motivated, life-time learner who continually strives for excellence in his/her ministry field.

Apprentice

An apprentice is any youth minister, regardless of experience level, who feels that he/she could benefit from having a relationship with a mentor and meets the following criteria:

- Has responded to the call of God to vocational ministry.
- Is a practicing youth minister (paid, full-time, bi-vo, or volunteer).
- Has a desire to grow and mature both personally and professionally.
- Is whole-heartedly seeking God's direction in his/her personal and professional life.
- Is open to encouragement and constructive criticism.
- Is able to keep a confidence and to commit to intercessory prayer.

Time Requirements

Yearly

Mentorship groups will be formed for a term of one calendar year. Mentorship groups will meet autonomously, once a month, during eight months of the year beginning in January (initial contact and formation of the group will take place in November). Because youth ministry is event-heavy in the summer months, groups will not be required to meet during those months only maintain communication with one another. December will be an optional final meeting. During the month of November at the end of the program, all participants will take part in the evaluation phase.

Monthly

Mentorship groups should meet at regular monthly intervals as determined by the group. (For example: the first Monday of the month, every fourth Tuesday, etc.) Each meeting should last approximately two to three hours, not including driving time. *This will not happen without priority planning. Priority planning is the dedicated act of assigning time for an event or activity, ensuring that it takes place.*

Weekly

Mentors should expect to spend approximately one hour each week in evaluation or preparation for monthly meetings. Gathering information, making contact with apprentices, and praying for the entire mentorship team and process are essential to the success of the mentoring process.

Apprentices should expect to spend an average of an hour or more each week in preparation for monthly meetings. Completion of assignments, implementation of lessons learned, and prayer for the entire mentorship team are all essential to the success of the mentoring process.

Logistics

Monthly mentorship team meetings are to be held at a location to be determined by the mentor. The location should be convenient for him/her, yet take into consideration the length of driving time required by apprentice youth ministers.

Cost

All members of a mentorship team should expect to cover all of their own expenditures, including gas, mileage, food, toll, etc. Each should consider presenting such expenditures for reimbursement to the church where he/she is employed according to the church's individual policy for handling such requests.

Getting Started:

-Sign up for the project on skopos.org/mentorme

Upon sign up you will be sent an information packet and assigned to a mentor group.

-Await contact by your mentor regarding your first meeting.

Mentor groups will begin meeting in January or February.

It is encouraged that all leaders participating in the OKYM Mentor Program also participate in the Excellence in Youth Ministry Project.

The Mentoring Process

Curriculum content

During the course of the one-year commitment, mentorship teams will discuss eight general topic areas related to youth ministry as predetermined by the youth ministry team of the BGCO, stemming from four areas of emphasis (Love, Investment, Proclamation, and Proficiency) in the Oklahoma Youth ministry Excellence Project (see below). Within the parameters of each of the general topic areas, mentors will have the opportunity to choose from several sub-topics for a more specific and in-depth discussion during any given mentorship team meeting. Subtopics should be chosen on the basis of a mentor's expertise and the needs and interests of his/her apprentice(s).

Mentors will choose eight topics from the ten that follow. It is required that the first five topics (*) be covered with every apprentice. The mentor/team can then choose two of the final four options.

*Personal Spiritual Disciplines:

Ministry exists out of a life that worships, has been forgiven and is gifted for the task. However, ministry also drains your worship, your grace and your gifts. How can you minister and still be a growing Christian? How can you express your love for God through your family, your relationships, your rest and your work?

*Planning Youth Ministry:

There is a big difference between babysitting youth and equipping them. If we are not careful, we will fill a calendar, plan a year, and not intentionally reach students or meet their needs.

*Parents:

Parents are not the enemy of youth ministry, they are part of youth ministry. If you see parents as, "in the way" then you are missing a major part of youth ministry. Many students attend church whose parents do not. Some parents assume they are the youth minister and the parent. So what is your plan and what resources are available for helping your students grow in Christ through ministry to their parents?

*Sunday School/ Small Groups:

For most churches, the backbone of weekly ministry is Sunday school. It is also the toughest time and place for youth ministry in most communities. How can you design Sunday school (or small group ministry) so that it meets the goals of the ministry, rather than being the goal of the ministry? How can you use Sunday school (or small groups) as the primary strategy to connect students to Jesus, His truth, His community, and His mission?

*Evangelism:

Evangelism is a scary word to most people, but especially to most students. If you take a look at all the students who go to church in your town on a typical Sunday and all the students in the schools in your town, how many students are still left to reach for Christ? How is that going to happen?

-Staff Relationships:

Ministry would be easy, if it did not include people. Following would be easy, if it did not include leaders leading. No person in the church is perfect and no pastor or fellow staff member is perfect. Can you learn to serve with joy and develop great working relationships when you do not always agree with every staff member?

-Being a Role Model:

When you are a minister to students, they watch every area of your life to see what is “in bounds” and what is “out of bounds.” You are not just a minister on Sunday and Wednesday. How are you keeping yourself qualified to minister and challenging students to follow you in these areas of influence?

-Taking the Core Deeper:

In every group, there are a few students that have incredible interest in growing in Christ. The core group of students may attend for social reasons or spiritual reasons, but if you help them grow in their faith, they have incredible potential for the kingdom. How can you push them deeper and still bring the others along?

-Missions:

Missions is not just something you do, it is who we are as Christians. It is international and it is local. But, for some youth ministries, the missions focus is local and only an occasional project. What can be done to help open the eyes of your students to their purpose in sharing the love of God with the world?

-Camp / Retreats:

Youth ministers are not travel agents, but we do seem to take a lot of trips. Planning a successful camp or retreat is more than securing a bus and good housing. If the group is taking a trip, there should be a goal, and the whole experience should be designed to accomplish that goal.

Anatomy of a Meeting

Each mentorship team meeting should last approximately three hours.

The initial portion of this time should be spent catching up with one another’s lives and in accountability for personal spiritual development. The second portion of this time should be spent in review of the previous month’s lesson/assignment. At this time, apprentices will present their completed assignments to the group, sharing verbally any new insights that they have gained and asking any questions that the assignment may have raised. Mentors should respond appropriately, answering questions and making initial observations about the completed homework assignments.

The last portion of time should be spent addressing the topic chosen for that meeting by the mentor. Mentors should discuss the topic and allow apprentices to ask any questions that they have and attempt to answer those questions thoughtfully and comprehensively.

At the end of each mentorship team meeting, mentors will assign topic-related homework to the apprentices to be completed before the next scheduled mentorship team meeting.

Mentors should then provide information on the topic of discussion for the next mentorship meeting. Apprentices should study this information during the next month in order to facilitate good discussion the topic at the next meeting.

Contact between Meetings

Mentors should plan to contact each apprentice at least once half-way between monthly meetings either in person or by phone. [E-mails are acceptable (but not preferred) for this step in the mentorship process as they often do not provide the same opportunity for question and answer interaction.] The purposes of this contact are:

- To check on the ministry and personal well-being of each apprentice
- To give any additional feedback on previous homework assignments
- To give encouragement to apprentices as they work toward completion of homework assignments
- To answer any questions that apprentices may have
- To pray with them

(Note: Apprentices are not required to initiate contact with mentors between meetings; however, apprentices should feel free to do so as needed.)

Mentor Responsibilities

Commitment to serve & fulfill expectations of the role.

Mentors

-Train

Attend Yearly Training (mandatory)

Monthly Connection with Mentor Catalyst

Conduct monthly meetings with assigned apprentice youth ministers according to schedule

Take part in and use Excellence in Youth Ministry (eiym.org) with apprentice youth ministers.

-Communicate

Monthly contact with assigned mentors

-Promote & Recruit

Promote in area networks

Recruit apprentice youth ministers in your area

-Report

Monthly report to your Mentor Catalyst

Evaluate at program's end

Both the Mentor Project & Leadership Communities will kick off in January. Yearly promotion, enlistment, & training will culminate at OKYM Forum in November. ReConnect Catalysts will have a different time table.



Mentors are:

- To take a professional approach to the mentoring process. Mentors should set a professional example for apprentices, arriving on time to meetings, coming to meetings spiritually, mentally, and physically prepared (required materials in hand), and carrying out the remainder of their responsibilities “as unto the Lord.” (Col. 3:23)
- To choose the discussion topics. Mentors are responsible for choosing topics that will best serve the needs of their team members, taking into consideration their own level of expertise in a given area and the needs of the apprentices. When necessary, mentors should be willing to hone their own skills, to do any necessary additional research, to evaluate themselves and their own procedures, and to formalize their own thoughts and theories to provide students with the most comprehensive and helpful information possible. The BGCO Student Ministry Education Office (tsanders@bgco.org) may be used to resource your group as needed. In some cases, mentors may need to complete the homework that they have designed for the apprentices before ever making the assignment.
- To present a comprehensive lesson. Mentors should draw from their own experience as well as the experiences of others in ministry, compiling their thoughts into a comprehensive presentation that is both informational and motivational. When possible, mentors should provide written material for apprentices to take home with them that the apprentices may refer to when needed. By doing so, mentors will free the apprentices to interact more freely during the mentorship team meeting rather than spending the whole time trying to take detailed notes for later use.
- To address the concerns of apprentices. When responding to the comments and questions of apprentices, mentors should respond with the best interests of the apprentices in mind, allowing the apprentices to express themselves fully and always responding with tact and patience. Mentors should always answer an apprentice’s questions to the very best of their abilities, giving only answers that are the result of careful thought, and being willing to commit to do more research or seek an additional professional opinion when necessary.
- To keep meetings on track. Mentors are responsible for making sure that the required elements for each meeting happen on schedule and in a manner that gives adequate time for review, presentation of new material, discussion, and the assignment of homework. Mentors must also guide the team to stick to the subject matter at hand so as to make the very most of the brief time that the team has to spend together. Discussion of unrelated personal information may be a valuable and necessary component of the mentor/apprentice relationship, but should be kept outside the formal meeting time.
- To assign and evaluate homework. Homework should be given at each meeting. This element is designed to help apprentices develop their ability to self-start and to help them to discover the benefits of formalizing their own thoughts and becoming a disciplined life-time learner. Mentors should design homework assignments that will be

of immediate practical use to the apprentices in their ministries, but have consideration for the hectic pace, duties and responsibilities of an apprentice's work, family, and educational schedule. Homework for homework's sake is counterproductive to the mentoring process and a waste of time for all involved. When necessary, mentors should help apprentices see the benefit of completing a particular homework assignment and point out to them the progress that they have made as a result of their efforts. Also, mentors should always respond to completed homework assignments, praising hard work and insight and making appropriate suggestions. Depending on the assignment, it may be necessary for mentors to take completed homework assignments home with them to review and discuss with apprentices individually during their scheduled biweekly contact.

- To make biweekly contact with apprentices by phone or in person. During biweekly contacts, mentors should take an adequate amount of time to build relationships with apprentices, checking on their progress and general well-being, providing any additional feedback on completed homework assignments, and praying with apprentices.
- To pray for apprentices and the mentoring process.

Meeting Calendar

November (contact and group formation)

Meetings:

Jan and/or Feb, Mar, Apr, May / BREAK / Aug and/or Sept, Oct
Nov- Forum and/or Dec are optional.

Summer months will be for communication or special informal meetings according to group availability.

Evaluation and Terms of Completion

The formal mentoring process as outlined in this document is to be completed within one calendar year, beginning in August with an initial contact of apprentices by their mentors and ending in August of the following year with the completion of formal evaluations of mentors and apprentices and of formal self-evaluations by all team members.

Evaluation

Mentors. Mentors are to constantly monitor their own success as mentors, striving constantly to improve their professional, interpersonal, and leadership skills throughout the mentoring process, understanding that the success of their apprentices will be directly impacted by their efforts to do so.



- Monthly evaluation. While there is to be no formal system for the monthly evaluation of mentors, apprentices should feel free, at any time, to share with their assigned mentors any thoughts that they may have about the direction that the mentoring process is taking within their own team, positive or negative. The Youth Leadership team of the BGCO welcomes feedback as well.
- Year-end evaluation by apprentice. In December, each apprentice will carefully and prayerfully complete a year-end evaluation of his/her assigned mentor's performance during the mentoring process. This evaluation, along with a mentor's self-evaluation, will be used by the Youth Leadership team of the BGCO to determine the success of the mentoring process within an assigned mentorship team.

Documentation

Upon the successful completion of the Oklahoma Youth Ministry Mentorship Program, each mentor and apprentice will receive written verification of his/her very significant achievement. Such achievement is worthy of professional documentation.

The Excellence in Youth Ministry (EIYM) Project

The ***Excellence in Youth Ministry*** (EIYM) project is designed to unite youth pastors around a set of shared values and to help these youth pastors lead their church's youth ministry with excellence. There are three components to the project:

1 Statement of Values

This is a list of personal and ministerial values developed around Jesus' commandment to love God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength. (Mark 12:30). Our desire is that every youth pastor in Oklahoma will commit to participate in EIYM. The EIYM webpage on skopos.org will populate a list of youth pastors/leaders that will be available for all to see. As the list of youth pastors grows, hopefully others will be encouraged to join in as well.

BIBLICAL COMMAND

Love God with all your **Heart**

Love God with all your **Soul**

Love God with all your **Mind**

Love God with all your **Strength**

PERSONAL/MINISTERIAL VALUE

To **LOVE** well

Seek and provide **INVESTMENT**

Faithfully **PROCLAIM** the word of God

Demonstrate **PROFICIENCY** in work

2 Personal Evaluation

This is an evaluation tool to be used by a youth pastor to annually assess his or her areas of excellence and of needed growth. It is critical, once committing to a plan of action, to evaluate one's progress in that commitment. The EIYM Personal Evaluation is a series of questions related to the nineteen value statements that comprise EIYM. A copy of the Personal Evaluation is located in this booklet. It can also be accessed online for convenient personal use or as a part of the Staff Investment Plan.

3 Staff Investment Plan – Each participant in EIYM will also be given the option online to participate in the Staff Investment Plan. This investment plan is an opportunity for a senior pastor or supervisor to evaluate the ministry of the youth pastor, via the following:

- Encouragement in areas of ministry success
- Exhortation in areas of needed improvement
- Investment in varied ministry responsibilities.

For more information on ***Excellence in Youth Ministry*** visit eiy.m.org

Oklahoma Youth Ministry Mentor Project

Mentoring Discussion Guide

Mentors, you will choose eight topics from the ten that follow. It is required that the first five topics be covered with every apprentice. Furthermore, the first mentoring session should be “Personal Spiritual Disciplines.” This subject should then be revisited as a short time of accountability at the beginning of each mentoring session. The mentoring team can then choose one of the final four options. The ideas or sub-topics listed below each topic are not intended to detail the full scope of the discussion, but are only given as a guide.

We have also given you homework suggestions. If, and when, you assign homework to your apprentices, please consider the following:

- Make the assignment relevant to the discussion topic
- Be considerate of the apprentice’s time, the assignment should not be so lengthy or burdensome that it becomes virtually impossible to complete
- As much as you can, focus on the development of the types of things (calendars, documents, liability release forms, etc.) that should be in the files of every youth minister.

At the start of each meeting, each apprentice should be given time to “present” their homework assignment to the others in the group before the next topic is discussed. This helps them bounce their ideas off of others and gain valuable feedback.

Personal Spiritual Disciplines (required):

Ministry exists out of a life that worships, has been forgiven and is gifted for the task. However, ministry also drains your worship, your grace and your gifts. How can you minister and still be a growing Christian? How can you express your love for God through your family, your relationships, your rest and your work?

Subtopics:

- Worshipping corporately
 - o Make sure you have times to participate in worship and that you are not always leading in it.
- Worshipping privately
 - o How is your time of personal Bible intake?
 - o How is your prayer life?
 - o Does your schedule reflect this as priority?
- Worship in your home
 - o Planning private family time
 - o Prayer with your spouse/children
- Planning time away to rest and be refreshed
 - o Focused time on personal walk and not so much on youth ministry planning or upcoming lessons
- Keeping your work discipline when no one is looking over your shoulder
 - o Developing an office routine or schedule
 - o Time on the computer vs. time with people
- Finding true accountability
 - o Developing friendships where scripture is the standard, safety is the promise, and transparency is expected.

Homework idea:

- Develop a personal spiritual plan. Include in your plan what you plan to study from the scripture the next six months, in what areas of your life do you want accountability (and who will hold you accountable) and how you will balance hard work with real rest.

Planning Youth Ministry (required):

There is a big difference between babysitting youth and equipping them. If we are not careful, we will fill a calendar, plan a year, and not intentionally reach students or meet their needs.

Subtopics:

- Developing a Mission statement and plan of action
 - o Make sure your youth ministry mission statement reflects a respect for the one your church has adopted
 - o Make sure your plan of action goes beyond reaching the lost and discipling the saved. (That is every church's purpose as directed by Christ. What is the specific way you will accomplish this?)
- Focusing on the goal of making disciples
 - o Evangelism
 - o Spiritual growth
 - o Leadership development
- Spending more time on what matters and less time on what doesn't
 - o Prayer vs. props (Event focus)
 - o Prioritizing people vs. Promoting gimmicks (Ministry focus)
 - o Rifle shots vs, shotgun blasts (Discipleship focus)
 - o Recruiting, Screening, Placing, & Training Volunteers
- Planning events that achieve an objective
 - o Calendaring
 - o Creating an event checklist
- Budgeting according to the purpose
 - o Communicating your strategy and purpose
 - o Developing the budget
 - o Economy of resources (developing resources outside of the budget)

Homework idea:

- Develop a mission statement and basic mission plan of action; detail the plan with the calendar and budget.

Parents (required):

Parents are not the enemy of youth ministry; they are part of youth ministry. If you see parents as, “in the way” then you are missing a major part of youth ministry. Many students attend church whose parents do not. Some parents act as if they are the youth minister. So what is your plan and what resources are available for helping your students grow in Christ through ministry to their parents?

Subtopics:

- Developing a ministry that is friendly to families
 - o Calendar/budget/etc.
- Parent Resources
 - o Websites, seminars, activities, etc.
- Involving parents in the decision making process
 - o Lead teams, planning, discipline guides, etc.
- Using parents as volunteers
 - o More than bringing cookies
- Honoring parents, even if they don't deserve it
- Dealing with the angry Mom or Dad
- Communication with Parents
 - o Newsletters, e-mail, parent meetings, social media
- Equipping parents, even if you don't have teenagers yourself

Homework idea:

- Develop a plan for involving parents in the ministry. What can practically be done to get parents more involved in the youth ministry? Examine the calendar and look for opportunities to involve families and for events that hinder families.

Sunday School/ Small Groups (required):

For most churches, the backbone of weekly ministry is Sunday School. It is also the toughest time and place for youth ministry in most communities. How can you design Sunday School so that it meets the goals of the ministry, rather than being the goal of the ministry?

Subtopics:

- What is the goal of Sunday School?
 - o Reach, assimilate, teach, and equip students
- Making Sunday School Effective
 - o Raising the level of expectation (Students often come and endure a 30-45 minute lesson. Is this the level of their expectation? Discuss how this can be changed.)
- Utilizing Volunteers
 - o Recruiting
 - o Training
 - o Encouraging
- Curriculum (Is it a directive or a guide?)
 - o How to choose a curriculum
 - o Equipping teachers to use the curriculum
- Teaching Methodologies
 - o TPT (Total Period Teaching)
 - o MEA (Motivate – Examine – Application)
 - o PEC (Prepare – Encounter – Continue)
- Connecting Sunday School with the total ministry
 - o Tracking students
 - o Creating foundational youth workers

Homework idea:

- Develop a purpose statement for Youth Sunday School and determine how Sunday School fits into the total youth ministry plan for raising up leaders, making disciples, and reaching people. For more Sunday school or small group resources, visit *reconnects.com*

Evangelism/Outreach (required):

Evangelism is a scary word to most people, but especially to students. If you take a look at all the students who go to church in your town on a typical Sunday and all the students in the schools in your town, how many students are still left to reach for Christ? How is that going to happen?

Subtopics:

- Praying for each student in your community
- One-on-One Personal Evangelism Training
- Evangelism resources and presentations (how many methods do your students know?)
 - o
 - o One verse Approach
 - o
 - o Personal testimony
- Events vs. Relational Evangelism – How to have both
- On-Campus Evangelism
 - o FISH Clubs
 - o Campus Missionaries
 - o Other
- Teaching students how to pray with someone to accept Christ
- Training students to be ready to share Christ during events
- Follow through after the decision
- Baptism

Homework idea:

- Find out how many students are in the middle and high school in your area. Put that number next to the total number of students in churches in your area on a typical Sunday. Under those numbers, detail your plan for sharing Christ with the students in your community.

Staff Relationships:

Ministry would be easy, if it did not include people. Following would be easy, if it did not include leaders leading. No person in the church is perfect and no pastor or fellow staff member is perfect. Can you learn to serve with joy and develop great working relationships when you do not always agree with every staff member?

Subtopics:

- Working with your Pastor and/or other authorities over the ministry
- Being prepared for staff meeting and completing projects
- Working with other staff
- How do you handle conflict?
 - o Disagreement is inevitable, bitterness is not.
- Helping other ministry leaders in areas that are not “youth ministry”
 - o Being a servant
- Working with a secretary
- Working with volunteer leaders, helping them grow in their ministry calling
- Developing safe relationships in the church

Homework idea:

- List four areas where your staff relationships need to be strengthened and create a plan for making those relationships stronger.

Being a Role Model:

When you are a minister to students, they watch every area of your life to see what is “in bounds” and what is “out of bounds.” You are not just a minister on Sunday and Wednesday. How are you keeping yourself qualified to minister and challenging students to follow you in these areas:

Subtopics:

- Maintaining boundaries on the internet
- Music choices
- Movies you use see or use as illustrations
- What you watch on TV
- Spending time with the opposite sex
- Personal evangelism
- Modeling healthy family/marriage
- Dealing with conflict
- Personal finances

Homework idea:

- If you have already formed a spiritual plan, revise your plan to include accountability in the life areas listed above. This plan should be given to the mentor, but does not have to be turned into your other peers.

Taking the Core Deeper:

In every group, there are a few students that have incredible interest in growing in Christ. The core group of students may attend for social reasons or spiritual reasons, but if you help them grow in their faith, they have incredible potential for the kingdom. How can you push them deeper and still bring the others along?

Subtopics:

- Challenging the core to be an example to other students
 - o Giving them opportunity to lead or share
 - o Assign special responsibilities for older students
- Raising up leaders, not followers
 - o Challenge them with the Word
 - o Involve them in ministry projects
- Utilize Deep Discipleship Resources
 - o Ongoing Bible study tools
 - o Apologetic studies
 - o Evangelistic exercises
- Inputting essential doctrines, disciplines and values in the life of the student
 - o Developing a plan and sticking to it
- Paul/Timothy relationships
 - o Who is meeting with them?
 - o Who are they meeting with?
- Mentoring the “called to ministry” student
 - o Working through a book together
 - o Taking the person with you on ministry visits
- Helping the “called to ministry” student find a ministry
 - o Help them understand their gifts
 - o Encourage them to leave the nest of your youth ministry (by plugging in to mission opportunities, work programs, etc.

Homework idea:

- Identify and develop a two year plan for taking the core of the youth ministry deeper in their relationship with Christ.

Missions:

Missions is not just something you do, it is who we are as Christians. It is international and it is local. But, for some youth ministries, the missions focus is local and only an occasional project. What can be done to help open the eyes of your students to their purpose in sharing the love of God with the world?

Subtopics:

- Making missions more of a lifestyle and less of a trip
- Developing mission-minded students
 - o Educating students on the Cooperative Program
 - o Involving them in a variety of mission settings
- Mission resources
 - o Know what is available (Sojourners, Go Students, etc.)
- Prayer for the un-reached
 - o Helping them focus on God's heart for the lost
- Mission projects: Local, National, International
- Planning a mission trip
 - o Determining the location and needs
 - o Preparing the students and leadership
 - o Involving the whole congregation
 - o Fulfilling the mission
 - o Reporting to the church
- Funding for mission trips and missions
- Qualifications for students going on a mission trip

Homework idea:

- Develop a plan for raising up mission-minded students. Make sure the plan has ideas for students at different levels of spiritual development.

Camp / Retreats:

Youth ministers are not travel agents, but we do seem to take a lot of trips. Planning a successful camp or retreat is more than securing a bus and good housing. If the group is taking a trip, there should be a goal, and the whole experience should be designed to accomplish that goal.

Subtopics:

- Select the topics to teach and goals to accomplish at a camp or retreat
- Make the “main thing” the focus of planning
- Develop a budget
- Keeping track of money given and money raised
- Planning the devotional and teaching times
- Follow up after the event
- Ideas for a successful trip
- Travel guidelines (bus, van, personal vehicle, etc.)
- Dealing with cell phones, music, etc. on trips

Homework idea:

- Develop a budget and travel guidelines for a camp or retreat.