

STUDENT MINISTRY

Church Health Suggestions:

1. Build a team of staff, parents, teachers and others to work with your students. Your team will teach classes, make calendar plans, recruit leaders, go on trips, help with camps and retreats, lead discussions, host fellowships in homes, plus other things. Students often value relationships with other adults in the church and they can leave a lasting impact on student's lives. Your team members will have different strengths like music, sports, speaking, driving a bus, etc.

2. Plan out a year of student ministry on your calendar. Having a strategy for each week, each month and the whole year will help you think about what needs you are meeting and which ones might be missing. It will help you plan ahead and not be too stressed in getting ready for each event if you have enough time to get the details ready. Having a calendar of plans also makes it easier to plan your budget. Giving the church, the parents and the students a calendar helps promote your events so people can invite friends and family.

3. Delegate. Whether your student group is small or large, it is always a good idea to delegate. This helps you get others involved, it helps you achieve your goals, it helps train leaders and make disciples, and it gives joy to others who are able to use their spiritual gifts. Letting others help and be involved spreads the vision and support for student ministry to others in the church, not just you.

4. Try to include the 5 purposes of the church in your student ministry: worship, discipleship, evangelism, ministry and fellowship.

- **Worship** – not just the Sunday Service but helping students read and pray by themselves during the week. If no one wants to sing the songs you are choosing, rethink your strategy.
- **Discipleship** – teaching your students to grow and to help others grow the rest of their lives. High school students are often ready to help with middle school. College students often enjoy helping with both Middle School and High School.
- **Evangelism** – choose a simple plan of the gospel and help your students practice explaining it to one another until they feel confident telling it to anybody. (Steps to Peace with God, The Four Spiritual Laws, The Bridge, The Three Circles, EE, CWT, FAITH, and other examples). Learning a simple plan will also mean memorizing 10 to 15 scripture verses. This will impact their lives in many ways by hiding the Word in their hearts.
- **Ministry** – Jesus taught his disciples, they had discussions, they asked questions, Jesus asked them questions AND Jesus sent them out to do ministry. A key component of being a disciple is learning to help others. Help your students find practical ways to serve others in the church, their family, their friends, and people in their community.
- **Fellowship** – some aspects of fellowship will be natural as students attend small group together, sit in worship together, go on trips and retreats and work together to serve others. But it doesn't hurt to help facilitate fellowship either. You can get students in small groups to pray for one another. You can ask discussion questions and give everyone a chance to answer so that students get to hear one another's faith stories, things about their families and the things they are learning. It might help to restrict the use of phones during student activities so that people talk to one another instead of staring at their phone.

5. When you have a Bible study for students, choose discussion over lecture. Discussion helps students voice what they are learning.

Help students interact with the Bible.

"In this passage what are some things we learn about God?"

“In this passage what are some things we learn about people?”

“Who can you identify with in this story and why?”

“What can we pray for as a result of what we learned today?”

“What is something you want to get better at or be great at as a result of the verses we just read?”

Discussion groups need to be small and let everyone talk.

Get other helpers if you have multiple groups.

6. If your church has a small student group and you think it would be helpful for your handful of students to be involved with a larger group of students:

- Do a camp with other churches
- Do a retreat with other churches
- Do a mission trip with other churches
- Do some service projects in the city with other churches
- Do a DNOW with other churches
- Is there a large FCA, Young Life or other Christian school organization that you can take your students to attend?
- Are there international students that you could invite to be part of your group?
- Could several student groups from different churches meet together on a Sunday or Monday night and share doing the music, speaking and small group discussion?