

College & Career Ministry

WORKING IDEAS for building a vibrant group

[I even know of a group which meets on Tuesday nights which rival the size of the congregation and draw from many neighboring churches as well as have an attraction of many unchurched single men & women.]

Possible facets of a ministry targeted to the 19-26 age group

1. Weekly Bible study *[possible times]*
 - a. Sunday School hour
 - b. Sun. eve in a home
 - c. Fri or Sat eve
 - d. weekday evening
 - d. restaurants know that Tuesday is the least busy night of the week
2. Bi-weekly activity *see below*
3. Evangelistic thrusts *[may be in connection with bi-weeklies]*
4. Quarterly Events or service projects

Needs

1. Nearby home to host some of group's activities
2. Sunday School class might even be held in a nearby restaurant or host home

Weekly Bible Study ingredients ??

1. Bible study book by book
2. Testimony time
3. Intense prayer time on our knees
4. Scripture memorization
5. Singing
6. 20-minute frivolity session: jokes, games, quizzes, drama,

Bi-monthly activities

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Rafting | 11. Outdoor symphony |
| 2. Paintball | 12. Pretzel making, ginger bread houses |
| 3. Snow tubing/skiing | 13. Game night |
| 4. Cherry blossoms or museums | 14. sporting events |
| 5. Bike hike | 15. Renaissance Faire |
| 6. Hiking or biking Trails | 16. _____ |
| 7. Christian concerts | 17. _____ |
| 8. Seasonal events | |
| 9. Canoeing | |
| 10. 4th of July fireworks | |

Every unsaved visitor is warmly included
and someone shares the message of
Salvation one-on-one.

Ideas for growth

1. Contact every family at church to ask for names of college-aged family members from their neighborhoods, relatives, or places of employment
2. E-mail everyone regularly
3. Diligent prayer for unsaved friends by name
4. Evangelistic Bible studies

Service projects [3 to 5/yr]

1. ESL
2. Tutoring
3. Deep-clean a widow's home
4. Rake leaves for senior citizens in church
5. Roto-till gardens for seniors
6. Fix-a-bike-day at a local mall
7. Church office or janitorial help *[mailings, phone calls, etc.]*
8. Umbrella shuttle on rainy days
9. Paint a home
10. Feed homeless at local rescue mission
11. VBS help
12. Baby sit small *[couple's]* group when they have an event
13. Raise \$ for missions projects
14. Computer workshop for church members: "How to use the internet for research"
15. Pull off children's missionary conference banquet

Retreats [2/yr]

1. Urbana or other nationwide missions events
2. ski trip
3. National or state parks
4. Singles Retreat

Evangelistic Thrust [multi-tasking with other planned events]

1. Skeptics Forum - 8 week series in a home, 2 or 3 series conducted a year
2. Fix-a-bike at a local mall parking lot or recreational park or the church parking lot
3. parades: face paint, mime, float, "fun tent" *[all with Bible story and salvation]*
4. Neighborhood Children's Olympics *[or "Marshmallow" Olympics]*
5. Spook Trail or alternative party— Halloween
6. Hospital/nursing home visitation *[This is an "easy" way to teach friends how to witness. Residents love to have visitors! And are easy to talk to. Take those who are scared to witness. They'll love it.]*
7. Campus witnessing
 I used to take my college-aged friends to the student commons and look for people sitting down. I'd leave my friends and approach a lone student studying or eating. My opening line was, "Hi, my name is Phil, and I'm a Christian. I tell lots of people what the Bible says about heaven. Would you do me a favor? I have a couple of friends over there who would like to hear what I say when I talk to others about Jesus. Could I bring them over and let them just kind of listen while I talk to you?"
P.S. I never had anyone turn me down.
8. Mime team
9. Christmas party
10. Seder

Website & social media

1. Quote-of-the-week
2. Memory verse of the week
3. Evangelistic tip of the month

4. Current prayer requests & log of answered prayer
5. Photo album [*changed monthly*]
6. Book review of the month
7. Apologetics corner [*monthly? Weekly?*]
8. Calendar [*monthly, with quarterly highlights*]
9. Poet's corner

Features

Quarterly days of prayer & fasting, a 12-hour excursion to a lonely place [*I like it outside*]

Annual welcome event for h.s. seniors who will join the group

Developing community within the group

1. Ownership of the group will be in the hands of the group, not the adult advisors.
2. The primary role of the adult advisors is to develop the leadership of the group members and to help represent the group to the church boards.
3. The adult advisors will serve as catalysts for growth, give guidance for direction, assume responsibilities only when the members are unable, provide encouragement and training in leadership, and serve in continuity as the group's complexion changes through the years.
4. Triads/Quads/Quids:
 - Each person in the group would belong to a mini-group consisting of 3, or 4, or 5 people.
 - How these mini-groups are formed would be decided later: they might be formed according to existing friendships, or gender, or similar interests, or geography, or age
 - Whether there is a "leader" is not important.
 - The triad/quad/quid would function to: share prayer requests, encourage each other in evangelism, remember birthdays, work as task teams in planning for larger group events, e-mail each other weekly, . . .
 - How newer members of the college/career group would be added, and how groups would divide would have to be determined; however, it is expected that these groups would not be static. Newcomers would be absorbed into these mini-groups easily and groups would divide when they reach about 6 people.
5. Leadership responsibilities should be distributed as widely as possible. Tasks will generally be naturally assumed by those whose spiritual gifts & talents lie in the areas where help is needed: music, phone calling, handling finances, photographer/historian, teaching, organizing, hospitality, evangelism, arranging transportation, secretarial, leading meetings, webmaster, etc.

Take the meat. Throw the bones away.
Enjoy!