
MIN330 3 credits

Becoming a Youth Specialist

Description:

In this foundational course, you will think and pray through your philosophy of youth ministry and explore ways to maximize your effectiveness in reaching young people for Christ. You will examine the theological, developmental, sociological and historical frameworks for youth ministry and evaluate various models both old and new. You will look at the skills needed for effective youth ministry and allow the Holy Spirit to examine your life to reveal your strengths and areas in which you need to grow. Finally, you will assess various resources for youth ministry and how you can use them more effectively.

NOTE: This course requires you to apply what you are learning in an actual youth group. If you are not currently working with a youth group, you will need to develop a relationship with one for the duration of this course.

Course Objective

Knowing the Scriptures:

- I Timothy 3:2-7
- I Thessalonians 2:10-12
- I Timothy 4:12-16
- James 1:19,20
- Jeremiah 33:3
- I Thessalonians 5:14-18
- Titus 2:4-8
- II Timothy 2:14-16

Knowing the Facts:

- You will summarize the approximate ages and focuses of Developmental Stages 2 through 4, and prepare a lesson for each group.
- You will state three elements which must be properly blended for an excellent youth ministry.
- You will contrast the meanings of the terms “youth ministry” and “youth movement”.
- You will state at least ten axioms of youth ministry with which you agree.
- You will state, briefly define, and give at least two possible examples of each of the four strategic points of ministry.
- You will state eight questions to consider for effectively communicating to students, especially non-churched groups.
- You will state three characteristics which are absolutely necessary if young people are to find long-term, life-changing help from you.
- You will state the three major sources of help to whom experienced youth leaders turn, and evaluate your life in light of their insight.
- You will state and in your own words briefly describe each part of the acronym CRITERIA for choosing resources.

Knowing Yourself:

- You will summarize your theology about the following topics, and how your theology affects your life and ministry: God; Scripture; Man; Sin; Salvation; the Local Church; Prayer; Knowing God’s Will; Evangelism and the Gospel Message; Sanctification; Eschatology; Forgiveness; Worship.
- You will honestly evaluate your personal readiness for youth ministry, committing yourself to personal growth in all areas the Lord brings to your attention.
- You will examine your personal and your church’s philosophy on the use of parents in a volunteer capacity for your youth ministry, evaluating its effectiveness.

- You will evaluate your theology concerning women in ministry and how it applies to your beliefs concerning women in youth ministry. You will examine your practices to be sure they accurately reflect your stated theology.
- You will examine your own life to discover the people and groups to whom you have turned for help and input, as well as looking to see if there are others whom you should seek out.

Knowing Your Community:

- You will examine the community in which you minister, developing a foundational knowledge about its sociocultural make-up, activities, businesses, helping resources, etc.
- You will be aware of the social activities of the teens in your youth group, and those in your community who encompass your mission goal, particularly during key weekly time slots. You will use this information to more productively plan your future outreach and ministry in this community.
- You will identify the various interest groups represented in the community where you minister, who belongs to each group, and which members of your youth group identify with which of the interest groups. You will use this information to more productively plan your future outreach and ministry in this community.
- You will explore ways in which contact can be made with young people who do not yet know Christ.
- You will have an excellent overall knowledge of the local middle/high schools in your area: its administration, strengths, weaknesses, attitude toward religious clubs, general schedule, etc.
- You will evaluate the openness of your local public school, and ways in which the Lord wants you to be visible there.

Knowing Your Church:

- You will evaluate the process used in your church to recruit, support, assist, and train youth ministry volunteers, as well as your relationship with your volunteer staff.

- You will evaluate the youth ministry of which you are a part, becoming acquainted with its history, philosophy, perception in the church, relationship to other ministries, etc.
- You will quote the mission statement of your ministry.
- You will examine the place of youth Sunday school and its relationship to the overall youth ministry of the church.
- You will explore the unique challenges of various ethnic ministries.
- You will evaluate the young people to whom you minister and their worship experience and involvement.
- You will explore the parachurch ministries in your community and the relationship of your ministry to them.

Building Your Database:

- You will plan and lead a youth meeting in which you use or examine contemporary secular music.
- You will explore the concept of Family-Based Youth Ministry.
- You will develop a list of qualified individuals to whom you can refer your young people whose needs you are unable to meet.
- You will examine the place of retreats, conferences, camps, etc. in youth ministry, and evaluate their effectiveness in your ministry.
- You will examine the place of sports and physical activity in youth ministry, the purposes they can serve, the dangers they present, and precautions necessary.
- You will explore the use of missions outreaches, mentoring relationships, and small groups in youth ministry.
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Course Texts:

Reaching a Generation for Christ by Richard R. Dunn and Mark H. Senter III

Course Requirements:

NOTE: Save your answers into a digital document to be emailed to your instructor. Use Microsoft Word, Google Docs, any other word processor or even just save it as an email draft or in the Notes application of your mobile device. Handwritten work will be not be accepted without prior approval from your instructor.

1. Read the entire text *Reaching a Generation for Christ*, completing the related exercises here in your Student Notebook.
2. Earn at least a “B” on all Tests.
3. Write a paper describing what the Lord has done through this course both in your own life and in the youth ministry in which you are involved. What have you learned and how will it make a difference? What has the Lord said to you personally and what effect will it have? How have you applied what you have been learning? What was the result? Have there been any changes in your ministry or your young people because of this course?

This paper is to be a minimum of four typewritten pages, maximum 12-point font, and is due in the final lesson.

Standards for Grading Assignments

As indicated below, “C” or 2.0 level work is considered average. **Leaders are not average people.** You are therefore expected (required) to put forth the effort necessary to demonstrate at least “B” (3.0) level work or higher on all assignments which you submit. Any which do not will be returned to you with input from your instructor on how you can raise your grade to the expected level. **A course grade will not be given until your assignments demonstrate that you have understood the material presented in the course and allowed your life to be transformed by the Spirit and the Word studied** — the requirements for attaining a “B”.

Your individual assignments (notebooks, tests, reports) will be graded according to the following standards. These grades will be averaged together to determine your course grade. Remember, we are training leaders and leaders are above-average people. Your work will reflect that.

- “D”
 - Indicates barely passing work that is inferior to the average both in quantity and in quality.
 - Manifests a lack of initiative or sense of responsibility or both.
- “C”
 - Average work; either steady work of an acceptable quality, or work of a high quality which is uneven, irregular or fragmentary.
 - May be mechanically or outwardly correct but shows little reflection upon or personal assimilation of the material.
- “B”
 - Intelligently has fulfilled the requirements of this course.
 - Understands the subject matter presented and has applied it to his life in a limited manner but has not really made the truths his own.
- “A”
 - Grasped the material with thoroughness, industry and correctness of detail.
 - Made the material his own by thinking about it and integrating it, using originality, natural ability, and insight.

Lesson One

Assignment to be completed:

NOTE: Save your answers into a digital document to be emailed to your instructor. Use Microsoft Word, Google Docs, any other word processor or even just save it as an email draft or in the Notes application of your mobile device. Handwritten work will be not be accepted without prior approval from your instructor.

Read through the entire Course Syllabus so you have an overview of what you will be learning in this course.

Carefully read the Preface, Contributors and Chapters 1 and 2 of *Reaching a Generation for Christ*, answering the related questions here in this Student Notebook.

Memorize I Timothy 3:2-7.

Complete and correct Self-Test One.

Subjects to be explored:

Putting Youth Ministry into Perspective

A Theological Framework for Doing Youth Ministry

Related objectives:

- You will quote I Timothy 3:2-7. (An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money. He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?); and not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.)

- You will summarize your theology about the following topics, and how your theology affects your life and ministry: God, Scripture, Man, Sin, Salvation, the Local Church, Prayer, Knowing God's Will, Evangelism and the Gospel Message, Sanctification, Eschatology, Forgiveness, Worship.
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Exercises

NOTE: The following questions often refer to "your church" as the mother organization of your youth ministry. If you are working with a parachurch ministry or other youth outreach, simply substitute "your organization" in questions about your church.

Lesson One

1. What are six reasons why a thorough theological framework for youth ministry is necessary?
2. What are four reasons why an adequate developmental framework for youth ministry is important?
3. What are six reasons why an adequate sociocultural framework for youth ministry is significant?
4. Complete the Theological Worksheet found on page 67 of the text for each of the following topics: God; Scripture; Man; Sin; Salvation; the Local Church; Prayer; Knowing God's Will; Evangelism and the Gospel Message; Sanctification; Eschatology; Forgiveness; Worship.

This will not be a quick or easy assignment. Perhaps you have never really thought about what you believe in some of these areas. Or, if you are sure of what you believe, you have not consciously examined the personal or ministry implications of those beliefs. You may find that your current life or ministry practices reveal a deeply held belief which you were not even aware of. Take the time to prayerfully and thoroughly complete this assignment. Your personal life and your youth ministry may be changed forever because of this exercise.

Self Test

Quote I Timothy 3:2-7.

Answers to Self Test

I Timothy 3:2-7

An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money. He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?); and not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.