



IDEA SHEET

Youth Ministry

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Tips for Speaking to Youth

- **Be Real.** Young people will not receive what you have to say if they sense that you are speaking from a polished and professional standpoint. This is not to say that you cannot speak with eloquence, or that you should speak without preparation. But whatever you say, you must be real when saying it. An authentic message will grip the hearts of your young people.
- **Be Relevant.** This is not referring to the kind of relevancy that the charismatic movement has come to represent. We are not talking about diluting the Word of God to appease the postmodern agenda. We are talking about taking the whole Word of God and applying it in a way that relates to the issues that young people are facing today. The Apostolic message and lifestyle are both relevant to today, and young people need to understand that.
- **Be Revolutionary.** Many young people in this day and age are hearing messages that contain nice spiritual points, but have no substantial call to action. When you speak to young people, it is your job to be revolutionary and to break this mold. Your efforts to motivate your young audience to do something specific are so crucial to enact spiritual growth in your youth group.
- **Be Relational.** It is very important, especially when speaking to young people, to focus on relationships as the angle by which you approach your talks—that is, their relationship with God and with their fellow man. It may sometimes serve your purpose to give an informational talk, but be careful not to sound like an infomercial or a school lecture. By approaching your talks from a relational perspective, you hit on the core issue for youth.
- **Be Right to the Point.** It is important to consider that the attention span of younger minds, especially in the twenty-first century, do not last for lengthy periods of time. Say what you need to say in a concise, yet powerful way.
- **Be Biblical.** Never compromise the Word of God for the sake of an “easy lesson.” Young people desperately need the truth!

Youth Ministry Calendar:

- **November:** Begin preparations for your youth Christmas social. Establish a format for the evening – are you going to have a banquet, a caroling night, or a simple get-together with gifts? You might have a vote amongst the youth if your group is small enough. Determine costs, if any, and inform the youth and their parents.



Relationships Matter. One of the most important things that a youth leader can do for his speaking moments is actually quite simple. In order for a youth leader to effectively communicate to the hearts of his young people, he must first establish a relationship with them. It is true that, as discussed in this idea sheet, young people will generally listen to anyone as long as the speaker is real. But the depth of impact that a youth leader can have by speaking to young people with whom he has relationships cannot be ignored. As a youth leader, strive to make a personal connection with every single person in your youth group, and encourage your other faithful youth leaders to do the same.

Resource Files for You

YMGE118.txt
“#Connected”

How connected are you to your students?

YMGE132.txt
“15 Ways to Improve Your
Pulpit Ministry”

Improve communication to youth.

IBC Perspectives Magazine

If you are in ministry leadership, be sure not to miss out on an excellent publication written just for church leaders. The IBC Perspectives magazine is a 20-page color publication published monthly by Indiana Bible College. It features interviews with growing revival churches and explores the methods and programs that make them successful. It also features articles devoted to: Feature Ministry Opinions, Plainly Speaking, Ministry Columnists, World News, Apostolic News, News You Can Use, Guest Pulpit and more. To receive a free copy and subscription form, call 1-800-800-0247 or write Perspectives, P.O. Box 47917, Indianapolis, IN 46247, or e-mail: Perspectives@Apostolic.edu or visit our web page at www.apostolic.edu. Subscription cost is just \$20 per year for 12 issues.