

PARENT-LED YOUTH GROUP

The Rock Church

OUR MODEL

We highly value personal relationships at The Rock Church. One of our greatest concerns and commitments is to develop strong families. This has been our heritage and one of our greatest treasures. Because of these desires, our Youth Group follows a Parent-Led Model.

The main difference between our Youth Group and the typical model, is that our Youth Group is led and taught mainly by dads — this is no doubt a little different than what you might be used to. We feel that this model has had tremendous success and we're excited to share it with you!

OUR GOAL AND BIBLICAL MANDATE

The goal of The Rock Church Youth Group is to produce teens who will bring joy to God and to their parents as they are trained in righteousness (through godly modeling and parental input). The Bible is pretty clear on this:

***1 Thessalonians 2:11-12** For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.*

***1 Corinthians 11:1** Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

These truths form the core of our Mission Statement: *Empowering parents and equipping Youth to become fully devoted followers of Jesus.*

OUR PLAN

In order to have a successful Youth Group, there needs to be a practical plan. We've found our plan to be a great mixture of: having a teaching time in weekly meetings, opportunities to serve and grow, building strong relationships with one another and, of course, having a lot of fun! There are four basic ways we try to see this happen:

1. Weekly Meetings

We meet almost every week (usually skipping one week a month to allow for family time). During our times together, we believe that dads need to be the ones primarily instructing and guiding. So, they will take the lead in organizing and giving direction to the group. It's not as hard as it may sound; we have the year organized ahead of time for theme and content. That way, parents can easily step in and make the week-to-week lessons and meetings happen.

It has continued to be so good for our Youth to listen to their fathers in this format. Coming alongside their children as they grow spiritually, has an impact you can't quite imagine. Moms are plenty involved in all of this, too! During the weekly meeting, there is worship, prayer, verse memorization, small group discussions, often a fun game or activity and snacks. Those alone are wonderful opportunities to get to know one another. We also encourage a few Youth to share their testimonies with the group. It's always good to hear how the Lord is changing lives (especially with their peers).

***Hebrews 10:25** Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

2. Outreach Activities

We try to have a few activities during every school year specifically designed for our teens to bring their friends to. An activity where there will be good food, great fellowship — and the Gospel will be shared. We've had events like disc golf, cookouts, hiking, movie nights and parties. Everyone loves these times!

We strive to have our Youth involved in sharing their faith. We not only provide places and events where they can bring their friends (and speak up for the Lord), but we also help equip them to feel comfortable doing that. We discourage our Youth from having a "Christian ghetto" mentality — where they just hide out with their Christian friends. Our Youth live in the world; they need to know how to interact with it.

Romans 10:15 *And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"*

3. Conferences

Time away from "normal life" can be instrumental in shaping the lives of our Youth — plus, it's a lot of fun! It always leaves lasting impressions. Over the years, our Youth have grown to look forward to these get-aways and even the parents don't mind the lack of sleep for just a few nights.

Summer Discipleship Training Camp (DTC) — This summer conference is designed for the more seriously committed Christian. There are a lot of practical and applicable teachings, opportunities for our Youth to be involved in sharing their faith, serving others and getting to know other Youth from our M28 network of churches. DTC is usually held in Utah or Colorado. We have a Youth Bake Sale during the year to help raise money to offset the cost of these events.

These conferences are not considered outreach events.

Matthew 5:1-2 *Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them.*

4. Service

One thing we love about our Youth is their willingness to jump in, roll up their sleeves and work! We never want them to lose the desire to work hard — in fact, we want to increase it all the more. We provide many opportunities for our Youth to serve not only in our church (helping with Sunday School classes, working in different ministries, setting up for events, babysitting at leader meeting, etc.), but also in our community (events like Mission to The City). We believe our Youth should be known for their superb service and good work habits.

Matthew 20:26-28 "It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

SUMMARY

Our Youth will not turn out successfully if left on their own. They need our involvement and we need ways to make it happen. We *want* to make it happen. Our Parent-led Youth Group is an excellent way to help support you being able to:

- Learn to share/teach lessons to your teens and others
- Be involved with your teen during significant turning points in their life
- Help them respect godly authority
- Be an example of working hard and having fun
- Share your life with them
- Get knit in with other parents/families working towards the same goals
- Deepen your family life by growing together

Contact information for The Rock Church Youth Group

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