

What Got You Here Won't Get You There

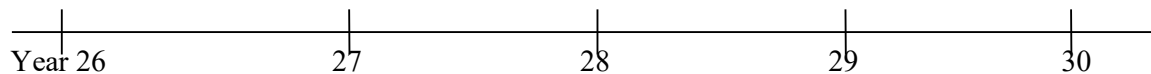
What it takes to start a youth ministry is very different from what it takes to grow one or what is needed to expand its impact after it is healthy. Youth ministries follow certain patterns of development, and require a shift in focus from the leader at each stage. Not understanding these stages can create barriers to growth, since a youth leader will often not naturally concentrate on the right things. Looking at development of Christ's ministry, how do we understand these stages, and how do we lead our youth group through them?

Kristy Williams has 15 years of experience as a full-time missionary in the context of youth ministry and leadership training. She has been serving primarily in Ukraine, though her love for training youth leaders leads her to different opportunities in Central and Eastern Europe with her missionary organisation, Josiah Venture. Kristy is passionate about disciple-making and teaching leadership principles to youth leaders. She also develops materials that help local churches build relationships with the teenagers and teachers in their neighborhood schools. Kristy and her husband, Ben, live in Lviv, Ukraine with their two school-aged children. She holds a Bachelor's of Science in Finance, a Master's of Business Administration, an MA in Global Leadership, and is currently working on a PhD in Organisational Leadership.

I. Introduction to building a disciple-making ministry

A. Take a guess as to where the following events would be placed during the three and a half years of Christ's ministry

1. Choosing of the twelve
2. Teaching on the cost of discipleship
3. Feeding of the five thousand
4. Sermon on the mount
5. Temptation of Christ
6. John the Baptist



B. As we look at the events of Christ's life, we observe that the focus of his ministry changed over time. It is possible to view his ministry in five distinct phases, each which have different priorities.



C. As we look at each phase, we will ask 2 questions:

1. Observations about Jesus
2. Application for my youth ministry

II. Phase One: Preparation of a leader

- A. Character
- B. Calling
- C. Empowerment

III. Phase Two: Building a Healthy Core

A. Christ's priorities during this phase

1. Read John 1:35-51. What were the characteristics of Jesus' ministry during the first few days after his baptism by John and his time of testing?
 - a. Building **Relationships** (John 1:35-39)
 - b. Forming a group characterized by **love** (John 1:45-49)
 - c. Building **vision** and a sense of expectancy (John 1:42, 50-51)
 - d. Communicating **God's Word** (John 1:46)
 - e. Building a **prayer** base (Luke 4:1,14)
 - f. Communicating a proper understanding of **Jesus Christ** (John 1:36,41,49,51)

B. What Jesus taught in the foundation phase (Mark 1:14-15):

1. Repentance and faith
2. The Kingdom of Heaven

IV. Phase Three and Four: Ministry Training and Expanded Evangelism

A. Teach, Act, Reflect

B. Cultivate, Plant, Reap

V. Phase Five: Ministry Multiplication

A. Restructure

B. Support

C. Empower

D. Train

VI. Going deeper:

A. Write down the three most important issues or questions that you are facing in your ministry right now.

1.

2.

3.

B. What insights or help do you find when you look at these questions through the lens of the Jesus model? Remember the key commands of the great commission – make disciples and look to Jesus.