

What is Youth Ministry? [by Justin Hutts]

Simply put, **Youth Ministry** is the Church's efforts to help each & every young person grow personally & spiritually.

The purpose of the **Youth Ministry** program is to prepare students for effective ministry to middle high, senior high, or college students and their families within the context of a local church or a parachurch organization.

Training young people to lead the cause of Christ, and apply Christianity to every area of life is what "**youth ministry**" is about. If we don't know that, the kids won't either.

Youth ministry is more than programs and events.

Youth Ministry is every effort by the Christian community to reach out to the youth with the love of God as revealed to us in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Youth Ministry is a means for both junior high and high school students to grow as individuals while exploring ideas, values, and faith within the context of a supportive community of peers and adults.

Youth Ministry is a church-wide ministry which strives to provide a variety of opportunities and experiences to draw teens into active, responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the faith community and the greater church.

Youth Ministry is designed to help spiritually train and equip teens in a fun and Godly atmosphere to the Glory of God.

Youth Ministry is an umbrella term that describes the systematic attention the faith community gives to young people which enables them to reach their full God created potential. That is, everything the faith community is involved in that promotes both healthy development and faith growth in adolescents.

Youth Ministry works to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person and seeks to draw young people into responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the faith community.

Youth ministry is the Church in its pastoral concern, reaching out to young people to embrace their gifts and to walk with them in their process of becoming all they can be.

Youth Ministry is defined as the response of the Church to the needs of young people, fostering their faith in Jesus Christ and their communion with the Blessed

Trinity, and drawing them into responsible participation in the life, mission and ministry of the Church.

Youth Ministry seeks to help youth share their gifts, grow in life skills, develop a positive self-image, overcome prejudices, develop respect for differences, serve those in need, and foster social change, participate in the sacraments, develop a personal spirituality and prayer life, apply Catholic faith to daily life, integrate Catholic values, participate in the Church, and develop a personal relationship with Jesus.

Youth Ministry is fun, faith, and friends, usually with a little food added to keep our engines going!

Youth Ministry is a series of programs and activities to give young people a chance to participate in Church life, develop their own faith and spirituality, and discover new friendships.

These are just a couple of the definitions for Youth Ministry that I could find online. Many ministries define "**what** they do" without really defining "**who** they are" and "**why** they are". It's good to sit down and ask these questions at least once a year and to make sure that your students understand the answers.