

C-Bridge Cycle One-Shift Three

Community Missions

Primary Objective

Lead your young adults to engage and serve the community outside the church/small group.

Secondary Objective

Design a plan to help forthcoming high school graduates to cross the bridge of faith commitment beyond high school.

How This Can Help You Reach Post High School Grads

A community service activity involving your young adults, planned outside the church or small group setting, can be used to attract those looking for active ministry. It can also attract those who want to partner with a group that is making a difference, and it can appeal to the unchurched, as well as the active member of the group.

Suggested Strategy

Identify real needs in the community that your church can address in a day or weekend. Every community has differing needs, and the possibilities are limitless. Brainstorm ideas with your members and seek input from communities' leaders to generate ideas.

Promote the community service event to your group, in concert with the student ministry, or to the entire church, as an intergenerational opportunity to do missions without leaving home. If possible, meet at least one week in advance of the activity to orient participants in what they will be doing and how to utilize the activities to present the gospel. Gather at the church the morning of the event for continental breakfast, team assignments, and final instructions. Designate a time to report back for a time of celebration, and then be sure to share results with the entire church during a Sunday service.

Ideas

One way that you can connect a community missions' opportunity with the secondary objective of assisting post high school grads with their spiritual transition is to consider serving the graduating class following prom, baccalaureate, or graduation practice. This will involve early and frequent discussions with school administrators and senior class officers, perhaps beginning as early as the summer before their senior year.

Key Steps for Preparation:

Step 1: Identify real needs. By “real” needs, I mean to differentiate from what you perceive to be needs that may or may not be legitimate. To discover legitimate, real needs, converse well in advance with key community leaders, such as the school principal and teachers, or law enforcement and EMS. These people know what individuals and families within the community are facing.

Step 2: Determine which needs your church can effectively address. You cannot meet every need! So you need to discern what your target audience will be. Once you complete these two, the remaining preparatory steps will easily fall into place. If not, you need to consider a different target audience.

Step 3: Gather, purchase, create, cook, or collate whatever items you will need for the actual event.

Step 4: Promote and enlist participants.

Step 5: Group participants into teams, making sure each team is comprised of persons from different generations.

Step 6: Orient and train participants for what they will be doing.

Step 7: Begin the missional event with a prayer breakfast in which you make final adjustments and share instructions.

Step 8: Celebrate!

Steps 1-8: Bathe it all in prayer!

Attend to the Secondary Objective

What is your church’s plan to assist those who will graduate from high school this spring to stay connected, to get connected with a church if they will be moving away, and to cross the bridge of faith into their adult lives?

- Meet with key leaders to develop a plan. Consider inclusion of current post high school graduates, one or two leading high school seniors, parents of forthcoming graduates, and key ministry leaders.
- Consider having an event, such as a cookout for all graduates and their families, after graduation practice or following the baccalaureate service.
- Consider having upcoming graduates attend a banquet, cookout, or meal in a home to discuss “How to find a good church” for those who will be moving off; but also for future reference for all.
- Which Bible Study group will your high school graduates attend next? They will not connect with a “Young married group.” Is there a group for them? Do you need to start a new group in the summer or fall?
- Use every opportunity to get information related to the graduates and their future.
- Determine four to six contacts that will be made with those who move off to college, military, or work opportunities between Labor Day and Thanksgiving. What will be the message of that contact and who will make it?
- Information on college-bound students can be forwarded to your local Baptist Campus Minister or to jgraham@gabaptist.org for dissemination around the state or the US.
- Information on local tech school-bound students should be passed along to your college ministry leaders, local Baptist campus minister, and/or any churches that are actively reaching that school.
- Information on military-bound students can be forwarded to someone in your church who would like to develop a ministry with these students, preparing them for what lies ahead in basic training and other aspects of military life.

Looking Ahead

Preview: (5) (Re)Launch Groups & *Cross the Gap* Gatherings

Plan: (4) Six Friday’s of Fellowship

Gifts of Georgia Baptists through Mission Georgia and the Cooperative Program enable us to partner together in fulfilling the Great Commission.