

## **Teens Cycle One-Shift Three**

### **Community Missions & Parent Focus**

#### **Primary Objective**

Obey the Lord's command found in Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:8, by intentionally engaging the church's immediate mission field with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

#### **Secondary Objective**

Introduce Jesus to those students who are not saved and further disciple students who are saved through a missional experience.

#### **Third Objective**

Strengthen intergenerational relationships as older believers serve alongside younger believers through a missional experience.

#### **How This Can Help You Reach Teens**

Over the last 10 years, I (Stuart Lang) have learned the importance of intergenerational service through specific opportunities related to Disaster Relief. The events have typically been tied to rebuild efforts, in which a group of college students work under the supervision of a credentialed, highly skilled, and experienced Disaster Relief volunteer. Inevitably, the students fall in love with a "grandfather" figure. Even though they hail from two very different backgrounds, they find commonality and encouragement from each other, as they labor together for a joint purpose.

This activity in your church can have similar results. Millennials long for tangible expressions of the faith. For that matter, so does the younger segment of the Boomer generation. A missional activity in your church's community provides a beautiful opportunity for different generations to work together for a common purpose. In so doing, parents and grandparents have a golden opportunity to model the faith through ministry and evangelism. Students who are not saved will hear the Gospel, perhaps as it is presented to someone else in the community. Students who are saved will witness authentic faith in action and will, therefore, be encouraged in their personal faith journey. In addition, you can leverage the opportunity to invite unchurched teens to serve alongside. You may be surprised at their level of willingness; and you can rest assured that the Holy Spirit can use the opportunity to touch their hearts and to make them open to the Gospel.

## **Suggested Strategy**

Identify real needs in the community that your church can address in a day or weekend. Promote the community service event to the entire church as an intergenerational opportunity to do missions without leaving home. Meet at least one week in advance of the activity to orient participants in what they will be doing and how 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.

While you can do this with teens only, as a leader you can likely appreciate the value of an intergenerational event. Be sure that you consider ways to involve parents, whether through a combined missions' effort, a parent training opportunity, or through provision of good parenting resources.

Please visit [www.whytheystay.com](http://www.whytheystay.com) for a free video training series for parents. It is a 10-week series that instructs parents on what keeps teens connected to their faith into their adult lives.

## **Example of an Intergenerational Community Missions Effort**

After talking with key community leaders, you discover many children attending the Boys and Girls Club who are struggling in school. You realize you have within your church family several school teachers, students who score well in their school work, both students and adults who enjoy sports, and individuals who like to prepare food. Therefore, you plan a block party type event at the Boys and Girls Club on a Saturday, which includes games and recreation, a limited amount of time for tutoring in two to three specific subjects, a couple of inspirational testimonies, a presentation of the Gospel, and lunch for all who participate.

## **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 with key community leaders well in advance, 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!

### **Additional Ideas**

- Consider involving your students in a DiscipleNow weekend.
- Consider having your church adopt one or more local middle and/or high schools. This may or may not be related to the community missions event. Commit to pray for the school, its leaders, and to seek ways to minister to the school, its leaders, and students.
- Consider development of a *Christian Learning Center*. Did you know that your students, as well as others in your local school, can be released for a teaching period each day to receive accredited Biblical instruction? Learn more by contacting Butch Butcher at [bbutcher@gabaptist.org](mailto:bbutcher@gabaptist.org).
- Consider leading your adults to adopt one or more students each to attend a Christian camp or to go on a mission trip in the summer months.

### **Looking Ahead:**

Preview: (5) *Bible Study Groups (Re) Launch & Transitions Plan*

Plan: (4) *Summer Camp or Alternate Plans*

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