



## **C-Bridge: Cycle One / Shift One**

### **On-Boarding Through Leadership Enlistment**

#### **Primary Objective:**

Enlist an adult leader to lead ministry to post high school grads/young adults.

#### **Secondary Objective(s):**

Enlist two or more volunteers to assist the adult leader and identify every post high school grad under age 23 with as much contact information as can be harvested.

#### **How This Can Help You Reach Post High School Grads/Young Adults:**

The first chapter of the book of Daniel could easily be a useful description of today's young adults raised to be followers of Christ. Swept up by a culture that neither knew God nor valued faith in Him, these four young men could stand by faith, rather than let faith slip away one temptation and one doubt at a time.

Prevailing culture and people in power over them simply wanted and coerced these young men to assimilate into pagan society around them. Sound familiar? The easiest path would have been to just go with the flow—do what others were doing; do what they were told without question—just fit in. They were told to forget about everything they had ever been taught about God. They were told that if they would just live by the same standards as everyone else, life would be so much better. They were told that their identity, as they knew it in relationship to God, was in the past. This was also because the people in power even changed their names, which had all been reminders of their connection with God. Everything that could be done to wipe out their faith was done. And yet, they stood faithful in the face of all temptation. They remained strong in the Lord, certain that their identity was found in Him alone.

So, we must ask ourselves, “How were they able to remain faithful?” There are several answers to that question. But it had to do in part with how they were raised. Who invested in their faith development? It did not occur in a vacuum. Parents, extended families, and communities of faith all contributed. These people of God were aware of the urgent instruction in Deuteronomy 6 to impress the truths of God upon their children, talking of them, and teaching them always and in all places—lest these truths be forgotten by future generations. These young men were RAISED in faith, with a firm foundation on which to stand when the temptations of a pagan world came to call.

Who is providing leadership for our young adults today? Who is giving them a foundation firm enough to withstand the temptations that they face every day? Who? If we expect the current and

coming generations to know and trust the Lord, the answer must be US! We need leadership. So, let's get busy.

### **Suggested Strategy:**

The first task is simply to identify a leader. Who has primary responsibility for leading the ministry to the post high school grads? You may refer to this as college/career, (single) young adults, collegiate (though admittedly not all attend college), or some other term of your choosing. For purposes of this strategy, you will often see the word *C-Bridge*, since this ministry is focused on helping teens cross the faith bridge into their young adult lives.

Who has the leadership responsibility in your church? The first step is to enlist, assign, or delegate the leadership responsibility to an adult volunteer or staff member.

To reach and effectively minister to this age group, you will need adults who are not only faithful disciples, but who are also young at heart—who are ready and willing to connect with older teens and young adults, as they are.

It is not always easy to understand the younger generation, so you should listen, love, and respect them, as you establish relationships from which you can lead. Frankly, if you have some adults who have been working successfully with your teens and who already have relationships with your high school juniors and seniors, they are the perfect candidates to “graduate” to the next level of ministry with the students who are exiting the youth group. Those relationships will give them a head start. If that is not possible, then we simply find someone who has a heart for the next generation to follow hard after Christ. You need leaders who care ENOUGH to invest themselves in the task of shepherding children into adulthood.

Did you know that per the research conducted for *Why They Stay* by Steve R. Parr and Tom Crites, an adult who grew up attending church was 33% more likely to still be in church well into their adult lives, if their home church had a ministry focusing on post high school age young adults? You need this ministry. To have ministry you must begin with a leader. Who is it? Who will it be? Perhaps it is you.

The secondary task is for that leader to enlist at least two other adults to serve on their team and to identify every post high school grad you can possibly find who might participate in this ministry.

### **Ideas:**

You can pray and enlist directly or consider these suggestions for calling out volunteers to lead and invest themselves in this crucial task:

- Consider scheduling with the pastor a Sunday focused on the future of the faith in your church, your community, and your country (from “Jerusalem to the uttermost”). Obviously, that future is always found in the next generation. Consider coordinating with other area churches, especially if this is a new area of ministry; and if several churches can find strength, as you commit yourselves together to this labor of love.

- Consider proclaiming the following week to be a time of prayer and fasting for love, wisdom, vision, and for action, as you give ourselves to the task of providing a firm foundation of faith for emerging adults. Be sure that all ages of the church participate, as they are able. This will allow children and young people to see how much the adults care about who they are becoming. That, in itself, will help lay a foundation for the ministry and discipleship that is to come. Design the fast as best fits the people of the church.
- Consider scheduling with the pastor for the next Sunday to be a day of commitment and investment, still focused after the week of prayer and fasting. Give each adult a commitment card. Ask those who are willing to fill it out, sign it, and place it in the offering plate as their offering to God. The card might look something like this:
  - I commit to pray...
  - We are willing to open our home to...
  - I am willing to personally mentor/disciple...
  - I am willing to meet with others and discuss further the needs of this ministry and how I might fit into it.
  - I want to know more about how I can invest in the discipleship of young adults.
  - I know someone who would benefit from such a ministry.
  - I am willing to discuss how I can be a leader.
- If you conduct the survey, follow up with every person who turns in a card.
- Enlist and gather with the most able, most worthy, and most committed of those who are willing to lead and help them come together with a common heart, prayer, and purpose.
- All of this should take no more than two weeks, so that the focus is not lost.
- Consider scheduling with the pastor a day/Sunday of commissioning/setting aside the leaders and all investors in this new ministry. Make public that not only are these people committing themselves, but the church is doing the same. If there are multiple churches involved, schedule these events together.
- Assign someone to audit Sunday school rolls, Bible study rosters, small group lists, membership rolls, prospect cards, and survey listed above to identify as many prospects for this ministry as possible. Can't find anyone? Take ownership, and YOU do this. It is an important step.
- And now, BEGIN!

### **Two Final Notes:**

1. Suppose you already have a ministry for this life stage. Great! You are challenged to focus on additional enlistment of leaders and identification of prospects. In addition, could you walk another church through this process, who has no current leaders for this ministry?
2. Conduct a leadership gathering of all adult leaders to pray, dream, evaluate, and brainstorm the next steps. The next step will involve bringing in the post high school grads to join in.

### **Looking Ahead:**

**Preview:** (3) *Community Missions* projects and *Transition Plan for HS Grads* coming up in April and May.

**Plan:** (2) *Fellowship & Vision* meetings.