

C-Bridge Cycle One-Shift Two

Fellowship and Vision Development

Primary Objective

Invite every post high school grad under age 23, that you can identify, to a fellowship and vision gathering.

How This Can Help You Reach Post High School Young Adults

It will be important for your leaders to determine and craft a vision for reaching out to and discipling young adults. Without a vision, you will have no way of knowing where you are going or how to get there. Without an **easily explained and sharable** vision, you will not be able to include others in it. Without a **common** vision, you will never execute the alignment that is necessary to energize your congregation to effectively reach out and minister to this life stage. A compelling vision is...

- EASILY COMMUNICATED.
- COMMON/AGREED UPON.

As leaders, you will need to have and agree upon a vision for your purposes and for what you hope to accomplish. If there are existing ministries for children and teens, hopefully a stated vision for those ministries is already in place. Vision for the ministry with emerging adults is simply the next step of the vision that is already in place for your children and teens; but specific to the adult stages of life. If you are starting fresh, you have the freedom to craft vision for each phase of maturing and forming something that is holistic and complete. If you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time! It is time to work with your younger adults to develop a vision and to create buy-in for reaching post high school grads.

Suggested Strategy

At this point, you should have a leader who has been assigned to guide this ministry. That person, whether staff or volunteer, should have enlisted other adults (at least two others) to serve on the team by this point. You also should have identified as many post high school grads who are single and age 23 and under by this point. You should have as much contact information as possible on each prospective participant. If any of these have not been done, back-up a step and do this first.

The objective now is to set a time to gather the adult leaders with as many of the post high school grads that you can possibly get together for a time of fellowship, brainstorming, and vision casting. You may have one young adult present, a hand full, a room full, or even more. If you have no prospects, invite some young adults (college aged) to come and serve as a focus group

for your adult volunteers. Get this on the calendar; set up an invitation plan; determine logistics, such as where, what time, and what kind of food or refreshments to serve; and be assertive about getting people to attend.

Your adult leaders should already have an idea about the dream and vision for this life stage, but now is the time to get young adults in on the process. It is important for the young adults to know and understand that they are being included in the determination of vision and direction of a ministry that is for them. Success hinges on the involvement of the post high school grads, as you respectively acknowledge their transition from life as teens to young adult status.

Ideas

- Familiarize the adult leaders with the general university system of calendaring—semesters, breaks, and summers. Adapt your schedule to times when students are available for gathering and times when they need reminding and encouraging.
- You do not have to wait until “cycle two” to do this, and it does not all have to be done in one gathering.
- Plan the time together. It might be for lunch after Sunday worship, but probably better for pizza on a weekend night in someone’s home. Schedule it based on the needs and availability of the students in your church and community. Consider including your high school seniors. If you have students away at college, try to plan it when they can be involved. If anyone cannot attend in person, arrange to Skype or Facetime them in. Include as many people as possible. Be sure to plan well in advance and give plenty of notice and reminders.
- Make the gathering fun, conversational, and relational.
- Share with passion the purpose of the gathering. Talk about the joy of following Christ and how everyone shares the path of discipleship together. Ask them about their lives and what following Christ means to them so far. Ask them where they want their lives to go and how they expect faith to take them there. Ask them what they NEED. Also, ask them what they need of you as adult leaders and mentors.
- LISTEN!
- Then together, begin to craft a vision for how these things can come to be. Visions and dreams can become reality. Commit to begin or to continue this path of discipleship together.
- Publish and communicate the vision that comes out of this shared effort. Share it with everyone in the group, including those who cannot be present. Share it with the church.
- Agree on ways to keep everyone connected. Start a GroupMe, Facebook group, email group, or whatever works for the people in the group. Agree on something and begin consistent connection.
- NEVER, EVER let anyone forget the vision and the goals. Keep reminding. Teach with them in plain sight. Talk about our progress. Celebrate the steps to victory.
- Turn the vision into strategy. Strategy will depend on the young adults involved and the circumstances of their lives. People present year around have different needs and opportunities than people away at college much of the year. The same can be said for people who are working rather than going to school. Formulate a plan that fits your audience.
- You will need strategy regarding:
 - # how, when, and where everyone can stay connected—meeting, encouraging, informing, serving together, playing, ...
 - # who will give leadership for planning, mentoring...

content of any needed materials

- **IMPORTANT:** Do your best to launch or promote a regular Bible study gathering for this life stage as a component of the strategy.

A clear and shared vision paired with realistic strategy will help this ministry with young adults become reality.

Looking Ahead

Preview: (4) *Summer Surge: 6 Fridays of Fellowship for C-Bridge Group.*

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