

LEADERSHIP SHORT



AS THE YEAR BEGINS

**5 THINGS TO
PRIORITISE IN
PLANNING.**

As February gets underway, in youth ministry it generally means the beginning of another year. Another year of friday nights (or saturday or sunday), another year of walking the journey with young people towards Jesus, another year of big plans and bigger dreams, another year of building leaders- or hoping for some, and another year of investing yourself over and above in the lives of those people we serve. Its exciting and daunting all at once.

We sit down sometime in Jan, or maybe December if you have an ounce of admin ability in your body, look at the year and start to fill the gaps. Eventually we find space with our team and begin to dream big- bigger games, bigger nights, bigger picture, bigger budget (we wish). Its an inspiring space to be in and stirs us to hope that this next year will be better then the one just been. However, sometimes in the midst of meeting the demands of ministry, we miss the big things that will actually make the difference. So as you begin this year, here's my thoughts on 5 things to prioritise in planning:

1. WHATS THE MAIN THING?

When we begin to think of the year ahead our biggest concern should always be- whats the main thing we are on about? Its the question about why we exist, why youth ministry is important and what at its heart it is there to achieve. Losing focus of the main thing means everything else is

simply activity- not ministry. So here's the question to ask- How are we doing at making disciples of young people? How does what we are planning build to this purpose?

2. HOW AM I GOING TO GROW?

If you don't grow this next year then neither will the ministry which you are a part of. We are called to be spiritual leaders, and out of the overflow of our own growth as a disciple we are able to lead others in this journey. If your not investing in yourself- spiritually, physically, professionally- then the eventual outcome is weariness, discouragement and burnout. How are you going to intentionally grow this year? What will you give up in order to make space for your own growth? Where can you go to grow?

3. HOW AM I GROWING THOSE AROUND ME?

As above, but focused on others. You have been given leaders, volunteers etc. who are investing in the young people of your youth ministry. They are the ones who have influence upon each young person who enjoys your community. Are you investing in the growth of your leaders in order to further develop your ministry? What will you build into your leaders? Your leaders set the culture and values for the ministry, invest well and intentionally in them and the influence will flow to everything else.

4. WHO ARE WE REACHING?

Often we don't plan this when thinking of the year ahead. We know that we are called to be missional- engaged in the mission of Jesus- but we don't always plan intentionally for those to whom we are sent. Rather we get caught up in planning for the current group and how to keep them happy. This year, plan intentionally for reaching those beyond your current group and invite your youth to be involved in the process.

5. WHAT'S GOD UP TO?

This one should have been first- but frankly, you will probably only remember the last one you read. The most important question you need to priorities this year is simply- WHAT IS GOD UP TO? As a leader and minister of the gospel you are invited into the incredible work Jesus is already doing in our world and in the lives of our young people. Discovering Gods kingdom agenda and pursuing that at the expense of all our other plans is exactly what we are called to.



“Discovering Gods kingdom agenda and pursuing it above all else is exactly what we are called to...”