

Biblical/Philosophical Purposes of *NSCBC Youth Ministries*

In any church based youth ministry there are five biblical purposes of the church that need to be present and balanced for that ministry to be effective. *Worship, discipleship, evangelism, fellowship and ministry* are those five purposes. These purposes are reflected in our mission statement:

By God's Grace the NSCBC Youth Ministry exists to: Glorify Him as we...

- **Worship** Him in Spirit & in Truth
- **Fellowship** with one another in brotherly love
- **Disciple** and teach one another in biblical truth
- **Evangelize** & participate in Missions so that the light of Christ can transform the hearts of the lost
- And **Serve** in steadfast dedication to God

Evangelism

Relational evangelism is both effective and biblical. Jesus ate meals with tax collectors and sinners (Luke 5:27-32). Eating with someone is an intimate experience, because we are sharing part of our lives with another person. Jesus, by eating with sinners, was investing His life in them to let them know that He genuinely loved them. By being around them, supportive and loving of them in their world, we become their trusted friend and not just people that would like to convert them to our religion. By investing our lives in others, we earn the right to be heard. We gain their trust and respect for what we have to say to them. Telling people about the Gospel of Jesus Christ is more fruitful when they are actually listening. Therefore we should be in the world where unbelievers are, meeting them and building relationships with them, and not expecting them to come to us. When doing this we are ministering to them with our lives as well as with our words. However, relational evangelism needs to be complemented with exposing non-believers to Truth. Salvation comes from hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17). Therefore I believe that it is necessary to communicate the Word of God to non-believers in a way that is not watered down but is relevant and contextualized for them. In doing this the cross can be the only stumbling block, and not the way in which we communicate it to them.

Worship

Worship is a lifestyle (Rom 12:1) that is evoked from objective truths about God and the gospel of truth (John 4:23). Worship is our heart's response to the grace of God that affects the way we live our lives. Worship needs to be lived out in our lives, not just through songs. We as human beings are created by God to be worshipers of God. We are to give glory to God simply because He is holy and deserves our praise (Isaiah 43:6-7). It is for this reason that *NSCBC Youth Ministries* should be an instrument that reflects God's glory to the world, and encourage all involved (youth, leaders, parents, sponsors etc.) to do so as well.

Fellowship

It is the desire of *NSCBC Youth Ministries* to welcome new believers into a community of believers. Ephesians 2:19 says, "Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household." God did not intend for Christians to live in isolation, but in fellowship with other believers and to be identified as the body of Christ. True biblical fellowship happens when students are known, cared for, held accountable, and encouraged in their spiritual journey.

Discipleship

NSCBC Youth Ministries will train adolescents in the knowledge of scripture and its application to contemporary life, to equip them with the tools and spiritual maturity to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Adolescents should have fun in a youth program but never at the expense of the spiritual growth of all involved. The spiritual growth of the adolescents that God has entrusted to us to disciple must be taken seriously. This should be a priority because we care more about the spiritual maturity of our adolescents than entertaining them. Jesus modeled this for us in training the twelve. He knew that His time on Earth would come to an end when His redemptive work was finished, so He recruited others to carry on His ministry with the help of His Spirit. The Apostle Paul through his letters to different churches and individuals also models this. These letters were meant for their rebuke and correction, to teach them, and to train them in righteousness. All other scripture is also useful for this (2 Tim 3:16). Therefore the Bible and its doctrine should be the basis of training adolescents (Deut. 4:9; Acts 2:42; and Titus 2:1).

Service

NSCBC Youth ministries will serve both the body (Gal 5:13-14) and the surrounding community (Matt 5:16; James 1:27). We will teach and encourage adolescents to serve other believers in order to show them that in Christ we are all one body (Rom 12:4-6). God has given us all gifts to edify the body as well as evangelize to an unbelieving world according to the grace that has been given to each of us. I believe that we should serve the community as a whole to be a witness to the unbelievers around us. Service is needed in any youth ministry to teach adolescents the value of ministering to others through their service. It shows them in a tangible and practical way that God can use them now for His purposes.