



10 key things for parents/guardians to know

10 - When/Where/How Much?

- For anything that might be going on with the youth group, it's best to ask your students to make sure they know. We'll pass out fliers, send out emails, texts, and so on, and we know very little gets retained or gets to you – so ask to make sure they know. If all else fails, call, or email me or one of the leaders.

9 - We are not here to simply entertain your youth.

- Yes, we will do some wild, crazy, and absolutely ridiculous things with them – but our primary goal is to provide multiple opportunities where they can be influenced by God.

8 - Parents/Guardians, you are the primary influence in students' lives.

- As you know, we are *an* influence, not *the* influence. We're only directly involved in your son's/daughter's lives for 6 years; you're directly involved for a lifetime. You have the greater authority and responsibility. Thus, we want to assist you, bless you, and encourage you, and share in the journey with you.

7 - Family over youth group.

- Your lives can get busy, and we don't want to steal your students away from your family time or distract them from what matters in the family at home. We want to join you in the effort to make this clear to the youth.

6 - Verify anything your teenager tells you.

- Sometimes students can exaggerate or edit things on their own terms. If you hear something that sounds appalling or troubling, always call us and verify the story. (For example, "One of the youth leaders was beating me up," when in fact all 15 guys were playing a game and there was a collision.)

5 - We want to listen.

- We do not want to put up walls of pride, self-defense, excuses, and justifications. We want honest communication with you so it's always a teamwork effort, not a Kung Fu Fighting Match. So, share with us, please!

4 – Building the youth group is an unhurried, relational process.

- It takes a few years to build consistency, trust, communication, and individual growth. We don't want any youth left behind, ignored, or put off to the side. So understand this so that no hurried expectations get in the way.

3 – Breaking the routine: the rut.

- One of the best ways to burst into the worldview and mindset of the youth is to drag them away from their routines, their patterns. Removing them from their comfortable contexts, their luxuries – all help remove barriers to the Spirit of God.

2 – Serving is crucial.

- Being involved in our community and our world is a crucial part of serving in God's Kingdom. This involves organized youth service times, but also helping students find their passions and gifts God has given them. Allow students to venture out a bit and experience where God may be calling them.

1 – Take the Lord seriously.

- He is more interested in you and you're your children than even you are. Open yourself to the strength he provides in Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 22:6 says to *“train up a child in the way that they should go, so that when they are old, they will not turn from it.”* Families, we are committing to serve with you in ministering to your child. We know that God will work in and through Bethany Student Ministries and that He has some amazing things in store for all of us to learn. We will continue to strive in serving the Lord by teaching truths through scripture, fellowship, and discipleship. There is no greater voice in the life of a teenager than that of a parent, and we are truly thankful for the small part you allow us to play in their lives.