

Ministering to Parents

Biggest Mistakes I made in Youth Ministry

- Mistake #1: ***“I’m the primary shepherd of our student ministry”***
- Mistake #2: ***“I have no role to play in the equipping of parents”***
- Mistake # 3: ***“I don’t need my student’s parents apart of the ministry”***

“I’m the primary shepherd of our student ministry”

- When starting as a Youth Minister I had the mindset thinking with the hour and a half time spent with my students a week I would inspire of lifetime of faith in Jesus in them. What I quickly discovered is the fact that I did not have the most influence on my students when it comes to faith, rather than what is displayed in front of them by their parents. It was then that I understood Youth ministry was not just about ministering to students, but parents as well.
- Whether we realize it or not, parents play not just a central role in raising, but they play the central role in their kids’ spiritual development.
- A study by Dr. Christian Smith, identifies that though many parents and teenagers don’t realize it, the most “important social influence in shaping young people’s religious lives” is the “religious life modeled and taught to them by their parents.
- To truly be effective to our students, we must extend our reach to their parents.

“I have no role to play in the equipping of parents”

- Support goes both ways
 - **Offer resources**
 - We need them making sure they are living out what we are teaching their children. **Make sure they know what we are teaching**
 - **Having a Life Group for Parents**
- Counseling
 - **Make parents aware of any advice you’re giving their child**

“I don’t need my student’s parents apart of the ministry”

- Partnering with Parents- It is important that we not only have the support of our parents but have the involvement of the parents as well.
 - **Make sure they know and support the Vision**
 - **Inviting them to check it out, but careful of letting them stay**
 - **Utilized them for Events and Outreaches**
- Consider the concerns of the Parents
 - **Always get feedback**