

:: ministry toolbox ::

For youthworkers...

For parents...

For Christian teachers & educators...

**How can I help
my students become
more effective ministers
to their friends and
their campus?**



Coaching Your Students

WHY?

Why do our students need coaching?

They are still growing up... (see more information on this at the end of this section)

- In High School: they can be coached to run their own ministries and helped to grow independently in Christ. They enjoy working together and can accomplish great things. One drawback: they can be unwelcoming of students who are not in their social group. They will need help in this area to become effective ministers of the Gospel in their culture.
- In Middle School: they need a more active adult presence than high schoolers. They can learn and do the basic Christian ministries of prayer, service and sharing their faith with their friends, but they need more help with these basic skills than high school students.

Their friends are unaware of their spiritual peril...

- This pushes some Christian students to wild and crazy efforts to influence their peers for Jesus. Competent coaching points them to the examples of Jesus, Paul and Peter. It can make the difference between kids who are merely shrill and loud about Jesus and those who are light and salt like Jesus says we were. See the Luke 10 Case Study below for more on this.

Secular society has made the campus an unfriendly place to share the Gospel...

- Christian students and teachers are often too frightened to express their faith on today's campuses. Authority figures and fear of looking "uncool" add to this pressure. Jesus and His disciples operated under similar pressures. Coaching, praying and working together will help our students overcome these barriers to Christ-like living and spreading the Good News.

They've never done this before...

- Most students have never worked hard at living like Jesus and being salt and light in a hostile environment. They are also new to being an adolescent. They meet new challenges and fears every day. They make mistakes. They need steady, encouraging voices to instruct them in how to avoid repeating those mistakes. Spirit-led, prayer-focused coaching can do this for them.

They face three major enemies...

- The world system: Youth and commercial culture encourages students to focus only on themselves rather than meeting others' needs. Following Jesus is a foreign thought to anyone existing in this culture. Our students are faced with a kind of spiritual schizophrenia...trying to be friends both with Jesus and the world. They NEED our prayers and our help here.
- Their old sin nature...the "flesh": Our culture begs students to be selfish...even celebrates it! Our culture says that if sex, drugs, etc. make you feel better and more in control without "hurting" anyone, then it's okay. They are confused and need wise, patient counsel. Our students will fail, but they need faithful friends who, like Jesus, will not give up on them!
- The Devil: We need to be there for them as they confront the Enemy and his tactics. Lost friends and unsaved teachers are NOT the Enemy. The real Enemy wishes to destroy them in every possible way. HE will not rest until he wins. But Jesus is STRONGER. Our students need our help to learn how to successfully combat Satan and his strategies. The Enemy will try:
 - to discourage them...so they give up
 - to distract them from following Jesus whole-heartedly...so they grow distant from Jesus
 - to divide them from their Christian brothers and sisters...so they grow weak and alone

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Coaching Your Students

WHAT

What Christ-like coaches are...

A simple definition of Christ-like Coaching

We come alongside our students to help them become who God created them to be
AND

We help our students cooperate with the Holy Spirit's plan
to transform both them and their friends

Simply put, we are Christian adults seeking to see our students grow in Christ and begin to discover and accomplish what God has in mind for them to do. THEY are our product...not their ministry!

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Do

What Christ-like coaches do...

Tendencies of Christ-like Student Ministry Coaches

A Christ-like ministry coach operates more...

- as a Facilitator instead of a Conductor
- as an Encourager instead of a Manipulator
- like a Pee-Wee soccer coach than a professional sports coach

A Christ-like ministry coach would rather...

- Model Christ for their students than merely make ministry assignments to them
- Equip students to do ministry rather than push them to accomplish some adult's agenda
- Empower students to be more like Jesus than merely criticize them for their shortcomings

A Christ-like ministry coach MOST of all...

- Listens to students...giving them a chance to tell their God-stories to someone who cares and is on their side
- Offers practical help to students who are trying to become more Christ-like
- Builds support individually
- Prays for their students daily and engages other Christian adults to join them in prayer

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Word Wisdom

* 2 Timothy 2:2
And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others...

* 1 Peter 5:5-9
Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves in humility toward one another, because, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'

* Hebrews 10:24-25
And let us consider how to spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some have the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...

* Acts 19:8-10
Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months...some of them refused to believe...so Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily...this went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.



Case Study

LOOK

Case Study in Luke 10: What did Jesus do with His disciples?

Jesus sent His followers two-by-two to preach the Gospel. They were not graduates of any theological school or Bible college. When they returned from their mission trip, Jesus had his own "praise service" (Luke 10:21-24). Luke describes Jesus as "crazy with joy" in the Holy Spirit (v 21).

Jesus was excited that un-learned and ordinary people, like His 70 disciples, did the same kind of ministry He had been doing to announce the Gospel! In fact, Jesus describes Satan "hurrying back to earth" because of the effect of these 70 missionaries getting busy for the Kingdom (Luke 10:18).

What did Jesus send the 70 disciples to do? What instructions did He give them? The answers to these questions are found in Luke 10:1-10. If you study the Book of Acts carefully, you will see the same pattern followed by the early church as they sent out their church-planting teams.

Jesus sent the 70 to mostly believing Jewish people. Your students go to school with huge numbers of mostly non-believing young people. In some ways their job is harder than the one the 70 disciples had to do. Yet the same Holy Spirit will work in them that worked 2,000 years ago.

Below are seven basic truths about spreading the Gospel (Luke 10:1-4) and four actions to take as missionaries to our friends (Luke 10:5-9). These principles are applicable for students and adults.

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LEARN

Seven Basic Truths About Evangelism (Luke 10:1-4)

1. Jesus IS coming! We have HIS WORD on it. He will one day come to our city, our street, our schools. Everyone will know Who He is! They will either love Him or be frightened to death! When He comes in full power, it will be too late for conversion, only for an abject admission that HE IS LORD! Heaven and earth will shake with the sound of every single voice proclaiming Jesus to be THE ONE AND ONLY LORD! No one, not even Satan, will be silent!
2. Jesus sends us ahead! Since Jesus IS coming and since He is filled with compassion for all people everywhere, He has sent our students out ahead of Him, like He sent the seventy. Paul says, in 2 Corinthians 5, that Jesus has asked us to finish HIS task of reconciliation. Christ did what ONLY HE could do: die for our sins. He now sends our students to do what ONLY THEY can do: tell their friends the good news about Jesus!
3. Jesus sends us in teams! The early church followed Jesus' practice of sending out missionaries in teams. When we work alone, we can get lonely and discouraged, easily lose focus, and we may even quit. We will get defeated by the world and the Enemy when we insist on working alone. It is not good for us to be alone, just as it was not good for Adam to be alone. It is wise to help our students build teams for added strength in ministry and personal life.

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Case Study

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- 4. The harvest is BIG! Revelation 6:9 talks about an innumerable multitude that gets saved during the last days alone. God's grace is huge! Acts 19:10 says that ALL of Asia had heard the Gospel (without TV, radio or internet). Around 10% of the students at your school believe in Christ. How many Christian students is that? 200 per campus? 300? 400? How would your school change if even half of them got serious about Jesus this year? This leads to the next point.
- 5. Unless we PRAY FIRST, not much will happen! Jesus NEVER intended one person to win their school to Christ ALONE! He sent the 70 out in two's and He intends to send our students with friends from their youth group (and others) to reach their campuses! Therefore, we must pray...FOR CO-WORKERS. Notice that Jesus says we are to... "ask the Lord of the harvest" to lead us to others who will share Jesus alongside us! That's what (then 16 year-old) Arthur Garcia of San Dimas did, when he started playing worship songs in the quad at lunch time. He gathered a bunch of Christian students together who then gained courage to share Christ! He came upon this idea after praying for help. God expects us to depend on Him for each step of the journey.
- 6. We have to GO! Jesus says to go out as "lambs among wolves." But Jesus promises us protection, so that the wolves cannot stop us! (Read Romans 8:28-39) Ron Hutchcraft says that Christian students need to "go to school as a missionary of Jesus Christ cleverly disguised as a student." But for them to do this, they need our help, support and encouragement.
- 7. Hurry...don't worry! Jesus tells his guys in verse 4 that the Good News is too important to let secondary things stop them. It is so easy to get caught up in busyness and forget why God has put us here in the first place. While God wants us to be good students, good sons/daughters and good friends, He wants us to be even better followers of Jesus! When you and I TRULY follow Jesus FIRST...we become Spirit-filled people (Ephesians 5-6). Sharing the Good News needs to our top priority. We are not to worry about resources, peoples' response, etc. God goes before us...it is His battle not ours. We need to help our students keep this in mind.

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Look

Four Actions of Evangelism (Luke 10:5-11)

- 1. Bless the lost! Luke 10:5 says to "pronounce peace on each house you enter..." Our students should be in the business of praying for their fellow-students in their classes. They should pray for their grades, safety, happiness...every day! The Prayer Lighthouse movement suggests that: during first period, each student takes time to pray for two rows of students (by name)! 100 students could pray for a school of 3,000 each week! Praying for a person, class, neighborhood, or campus will have a powerful effect on both the object of prayer as well as the ones who pray!
- 2. Have fellowship with the lost! Luke 10:7 says to "break bread with them..." This means that our students shouldn't just eat lunch with their Christian friends. What about the students they're

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Case Study

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- praying for each day? For one thing, we are NOT to forsake fellowship with Christians, but we are also told to reach out to our unbelieving friends. In His day, Jesus was called a "party person" by His critics, because He was at so many parties. He didn't "party" to get drunk...but rather to truly minister. Where do we think Jesus met people like Mary Magdalene? One cautionary note: When Paul warns us against "unequally yoking" ourselves with unbelievers, he is NOT telling us to have nothing to do with unbelievers. He makes that very clear. Rather, Paul is speaking about not forming lasting partnerships like marriage, serious dating, etc. with them. We need to carefully distinguish between fellowship with non-Christians for Christ's sake and damaging partnerships with non-believers.
- Meet their felt needs. In Luke 10:9, Jesus tells us to "heal the sick." What does that mean? At the very least, it means to pray for and minister to the needs that our un-saved friends feel! Parents splitting up? Pray for them! And then help them! Did they break up with their boyfriend or girlfriend? Pray for them! And then give them the help they need. Our students will be surprised at what can happen if they ask to pray for their un-saved friends. They should even ask them if they want to pray together right then. Why do this? Because Jesus told us to. All of the help we can give them comes from Jesus...and when we pray, we acknowledge this important fact. The Gospel is truly the Good News that can help their friends...IF they will listen to it. Our students' friends are far more likely to listen to the Gospel if they FIRST know that they are cared for by our students...AND by God. When our students unleash the power of God through prayer in an unsaved person's life, they will be surprised at what God can and will do!
- Preach the Gospel. In Luke 10:9, Jesus says to announce the kingdom of God to them. Jesus leaves this till last because the word Gospel means "good news". Most people see the Gospel as religious news rather than truly good news. If our students' friends understand their need for Jesus and how He can meet their needs, THEN the Gospel will be good news for them. Jesus' exact words were, "...tell them that the kingdom of God has come near them." Because our students carry the King within them, they carry His kingdom as well. When they enter a person's life, it is ONLY because God has allowed it and intends to work in this person through them!

Some people have shortened this to three simple steps:

PRAYER.....CARE.....SHARE

Finally: Leave the results to God! It really is His battle, not ours! Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3 that some water, some plant...BUT God causes the growth! When Jesus sent the seventy, He did not tell them what to expect, because results were not why He sent them out! He wanted to show them that they could do His ministry without His physical presence when they obeyed His instructions! The same is true for us today. IF we obey Jesus and let the Good News about Him loose on our campuses, in our neighborhoods, in our own hearts...God's Will SHALL be done!





Coaching Roles

Look

Possible Roles for Christian Adults Coaching Students

Mentor...modeling, mentoring a few students (from one to three) in the faith-ministry-walk

- A very specific role that is focused on one or two dedicated students who wish to make a kingdom difference
 - by modeling Christ-like behavior and lifestyle
 - by personally coaching these students into a close walk with Jesus Christ
 - by connecting these students to other like-minded Christian students and adults on campus
 - by connecting these students to networked local churches to deepen their kingdom influence as salt and light
 - this can be done from off campus
- This role involves:
 - The spiritual work of abiding in Christ and leading/coaching others into living Spirit-directed lives
 - The relational work of modeling and coaching these individuals as they assist one another in their kingdom efforts

Campus Ministry Coach...coaching a team or two of students in their ministry on a campus

- A more specific role focused on a small number of dedicated students and adults who wish to make a kingdom difference
 - by building teams of students (and adults) desiring to have effective kingdom influence as salt and light
 - by coaching these teams into effective kingdom influence as salt and light

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Coaching Roles

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- by connecting these teams to one another and to networked local churches to deepen their kingdom influence as salt and light
- this can be done from off campus
- This role involves:
 - The spiritual work of abiding in Christ and leading/coaching others into living Spirit-directed lives
 - The relational work of helping people assist one another in their kingdom efforts

Campus Servant...working to serve the spiritual needs of a campus

- A larger, more apostolic-style role for people (possibly professional or wholly dedicated volunteers) who wish to make a kingdom difference...
 - by servicing as many needs as possible on a campus OR more importantly...
 - by networking (empowering and enabling partnerships between) a number of churches and campus groups to do this important task
 - this role assumes some access to the campus either directly or indirectly through interested Christian students and adults already on the campus
- This role involves:
 - Surveying needs (using things like the PULSE, etc.)
 - Bringing these needs to people's attention
 - Praying and organizing many Christians (students/adults) for Spirit-directed action

Prayer Coordinator...working to serve the spiritual needs of a campus through prayer

- A role that is built around mobilizing prayer for a campus
 - by finding out the needs of a campus
 - by asking students, teacher and administrators what needs prayer number of churches and campus groups to do this important task
 - by offering practical help whenever possible
- This role involves:
 - Surveying needs
 - Bringing these needs to people's attention (www.momsintouch.org)
 - Praying and organizing other Christians adults toward regular Spirit-directed prayer

Miscellaneous Other Roles...

- Campus Ministry Parent...a dad or mom who adopts a local school to provide encouragement to students on the campus in a variety of ways
- Administrative Assistant...providing help in details of things like calling, keeping records, rosters, email lists, etc.
- Campus Ministry Supporter...someone providing physical things like food, funds, equipment, etc.
- Athletic Coach...volunteering to coach a team to support both the team and the Christian students on it in their effort to live like Jesus

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Ministering Through Students

Thought: Limitations are opportunities for growth. With your help as coach/mentor/example, you can build relationship through these very limitations.

LEARN

Middle School Students

Opportunities in Ministering Through Middle School Students

- Need a lot of coaching & encouragement for "up front" assignments (football coaching style)
- Can handle short term assignments...with step-by-step instructions...they are eager for this help
- Can create & lead a "who what where when why" Bible study session
- Can give a testimony with help
- Can pray for & witness to their friends
- Can invite friends to church, etc.
- Can do well-supervised service projects
- Can plan parties & special events
- Need a lot of "hands-on" supervision
- Need a lot of practice for "up front" assignments
- Less busy than high schoolers...more apt to want you to find something for them to do
- Better at listening to authority figures at the younger ages
- They like & listen to adults who pay attention to them
- They are still building their basic value system

Middle School Students' Limitations

- Still think in concretely and don't comprehend many simple Bible verses & passages
- Short attention span and forget easily...need entertainment...easily bored
- Tend to be self-centered & self focused
- Uneven physical & social development with their peers
- Need LOTS of encouragement for even simple things where failure is possible or a past reality
- Love being in a group doing things together

High School Students

Opportunities in Ministering Through Senior High Students

- All of the above plus...
- Can create effective ministry largely on their own with help present (basketball coaching style)
- Can think in abstract terms & can handle the Bible more accurately when given good mentoring
- Listen to one another more carefully than they do to adults
- Can develop more personal courage in "taking a stand" for Christ
- Can develop long term plans with some limitations (see below)
- Tend to persevere with good coaching
- They (often secretly) desire consistent adult friendship & mentoring

Senior High Students' Limitations

- They tend to become VERY independent at the upper end of high school
- They listen ONLY to advice given by trusted friends or a respected authority figure
- Tend to have very cluttered, busy lives...hard to squeeze into their schedule
- Typically don't plan for details ahead of time...they lack training in these skills, not the desire
- Will lose long term focus without outside encouragement
- Can be more unaccepting of those outside their social circle than middle schoolers

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