

# ASSUMPTIONS VALUES VISION



## VISION

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To see stronger families, to see youth witness for Christ among their friends at school, and to see youth who are theologically stable and passionate about Jesus so that they may be enabled to walk with Christ during the college years and beyond.

## VALUES

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- We desire for our families and members to love the Lord their God with all of their heart, soul, and strength. [Deuteronomy 6:5]
- We expect and equip parents to be the primary disciplers of their children. [Deuteronomy 6:6-9]
- We recognize God’s Word as absolute truth and rely on it as the foundation for our lives and ministry. [Deuteronomy 6:17]

## ASSUMPTIONS

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Our ministry model assumes:

- Salvation is of the Lord alone, through His Son, Jesus Christ. [John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5]
- God calls parents to be the primary disciplers of their children. The church is responsible for expecting and equipping parents to fulfill this role. [Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 11:18-21; Psalm 78:5; Proverbs 1:8-9; 6:20-21; Ephesians 6:4]
- The Church is called to provide “spiritual orphans” with “spiritual parents.” [James 1:27; cf. Psalm 27:4, 10; Isaiah 1:17]
- Generations should be unified in the Church, not separated. [Malachi 4:6; Luke 1:17.]



# BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

## Values and Assumptions that Undergird Ministry to Adolescents

1. The Bible is the foundation for youth ministry and the great commission is the goal of youth ministry (2 Tim 3:16-17; Mt 28:19-20).
2. The Bible recognizes that each youth is a gift from God and has great dignity in his sight (Gn 1:27; Ps 139:16).
3. Each youth has great potential for a powerful witness for Christ if he or she is walking in the Lord (1 Timothy 4:12).
4. The first task of church youth ministry is to empower parents to help bring their youth to faith in Christ. Once this is done, it is the task of church youth ministry to help the parents disciple their youth in the Lord (Deut 6:6-10; 11:18-21; Eph 4:12; 6:4).
5. Each youth struggles with identity and with the tendency to go back to the sinful nature lifestyle (Rom 7:14-25). They should be exhorted to flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness (2 Tim 2:22). Therefore, the young men and women need to be patiently guided through this season of tremendous change and temptation.

6. Proverbs gives important specifics on how the parents can exhort their youth on how to follow the way of wisdom.
  - a. God calls youth to heed the advice of wisdom and follow in its ways (Prov 8:32-36).
  - b. Youth are to fear the Lord first and seek after living a life that is pleasing to the Lord (Prov 1:7).
  - c. Youth are strongly warned about following the way of evil and following the ways of the adulteress—sexual promiscuity (Prov 1:10-19; Prov 7).
  - d. God promises to guard and preserve the way of the one who follows wisdom so that all a person's paths are kept from the deceit of evil living (Prov 2:7-12).
  - e. Youth are encouraged to be kind and to seek the truth of the Lord. They are called to make the ways of God a part of their everyday life (Prov 3:3-4).
  - f. When youth follow wisdom, God promises them good favor, prosperity, wealth, and healing (Prov 3).
7. The way of wisdom and faith in helping adolescents grow in Christ must be founded upon the parents guiding them toward life transformation as the church provides contexts, encouragement, and training for this parental discipleship.
8. Effective student ministry to adolescents co-champions the family and the church (Acts 2:42-47).



# PARENT ACRONYM

## A Family Focused Model of Discipleship of Youth

### PARENTS IN LEADERSHIP

- We will involve parents in the leadership, planning, and decisions of the youth group.

### ACCEPT YOUTH

- For youth who do not have Christian parents, we will seek to pair them with healthy families for growth while actively seeking the salvation of their parents.

### RELEVANT YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- We will provide events and programs where the youth can have fun, relevant, and God-centered fellowship.

### EVENTS FOR FAMILIES

- We will have event where parents can disciple their youth and where families can relate in positive ways.

### NETWORK WITH THE CHURCH

- We will encourage relationship with church members and youth.

### TRAINING FOR PARENTS

- We will equip parents to disciple their teenagers at home.