



# **STARTER KIT**

## ***Lead a Thriving Youth Ministry***

### **START LEADING A THRIVING YOUTH MINISTRY**

At LeaderTreks, we know that you want to lead a thriving ministry, but sometimes it can be challenging to know where to start. That's where the *LeaderTreks Starter Kit* comes in. Use this set of resources to take steps toward a thriving ministry by reengaging students, equipping adult volunteers, and growing your own leadership.

Here's what is included and how it can help you lead a thriving youth ministry:

- 1. Help discipleship thrive**  
with Gospel-centered lesson series and adult volunteer training videos
- 2. Help student leadership thrive**  
with leadership lessons to start students in leadership
- 3. Help events, trips, and retreats thrive**  
with outreach curriculum and Pre-Trip Training for mission trips
- 4. Help intergenerational relationships thrive**  
using the *Pray for Me Campaign*
- 5. Help your personal leadership thrive**  
with youth worker tools, training, and assessments

# #1

## **HELP DISCIPLESHIP THRIVE**

When we aren't sure what to teach students about Scripture, the result is that students graduate from our ministries with critical gaps in their knowledge of the faith. Gaps can take on a number of shapes and sizes, but the results are most often the same. Like seeds planted in rocky soil, students look healthy as they sprout up, but many will soon wither away and fall to the wayside because they weren't rooted deep in the soil. Teaching students the whole Gospel message is a crucial step in leading a thriving youth ministry. The **Search and Rescue** and **Savior Solution** lesson series provided in this section will help you teach and reinforce a core Gospel truth to both Junior High and High School students.

Another critical step in leading a thriving ministry is training adult volunteers in a step-by-step process to disciple students. Remember, most of your adult volunteers have never been disciplined themselves. They may want to utilize their small group time for the purpose of discipleship, but they need to know how. Use the **“How to Disciple a Student” Video Training Series** to equip volunteers with the practical skills needed to for discipleship.

### *WE'VE INCLUDED THESE RESOURCES:*

- 1. Search and Rescue series**  
from HERD Gear Up (for Junior High)
- 2. Savior Solution series**  
from Deep Discipleship Pursuit (for High School)
- 3. “How to Disciple a Student” Video Training Series**

# #2

## ***HELP STUDENT LEADERSHIP THRIVE***

The church is one generation away from being without leaders – but the obstacles that stand in the way of developing those leaders are growing by the day. Students are busier than ever. Parents are more demanding than ever. And great adult volunteers are getting harder and harder to find. Unless we make student leadership a focus in our ministries moving forward, we will be hard pressed to find the leaders that the church desperately needs today and in the future.

Getting students started in leadership is a great step towards a leading a thriving youth ministry. Students first need to understand what leadership is, how they're uniquely wired to lead, and how leadership affects their lives before they're likely to get on board with leading the ministry. Lay a strong foundation for student leadership with the **Leadership Foundations** lesson series, and use the set of devotions for student leaders inside of **Student Leadership at Home** to encourage students to take their first steps as leaders.

*WE'VE INCLUDED THESE RESOURCES:*

- 1. Leadership Foundations**
- 2. Student Leadership at Home**

# #3

## ***HELP EVENTS, RETREATS & TRIPS THRIVE***

Without question events, trips, and retreats are a great place for ministry. But because our time is limited, it's important to make the most of every minute we have with students. When we focus less on getting through the experience and more on being intentional with students, those experiences are more likely to thrive and we are likely to see more fruit in students' lives.

For events to thrive, it's important not to lose sight of the Gospel. Let the gospel be the main message that's communicated through every aspect of what you do, and give students the time and space to reflect and respond. Avoid telling students what you think they want to hear. Avoid cutting corners where the gospel is concerned. And avoid making your games, activities, and other production elements the star of your event. Clearly present the Gospel at your next outreach event with the **Everlasting** retreat curriculum.

For trips to thrive, it's crucial to focus on pre-trip training. Trips move from fond memories to huge milestones when we help students understand how to have a positive impact on their mission trip. Students should learn to look after the needs of critical others, push past their tipping points, and how to finish strong as a team. Use the **Imprint Pre-Trip Training** series to prepare students for Kingdom impact.

If you want to see your students grow in faith while having an opportunity to serve, consider a LeaderTreks Mission trip. We'll get to know your expectations, find the right trip for your group, and prepare your team for impact. Explore the **2021 Trips Information Packet** to see how a LeaderTreks trip could unite your students and energize your youth ministry.

### *WE'VE INCLUDED THESE RESOURCES:*

1. **Everlasting retreat curriculum**
2. **Imprint Pre-Trip Training**
3. **2021 Trips Information Packet**



[www.leadertreks.org/products/leadertreks-starter-kit](http://www.leadertreks.org/products/leadertreks-starter-kit)

# #4

## **HELP INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS THRIVE**

In most churches, the generations are disconnected from one another, which tends to hinder the passing on of faith from one generation to the next. Research shows that students who have multiple adult believers intentionally investing in their lives are more likely to stay connected to the church and flourish in their faith, even after graduation.

Another step towards a thriving ministry is to encourage and create intergenerational relationships at your church. The **Pray for Me Campaign Quick Start Kit PREVIEW** shows you how to introduce and link the generations at your church through prayer. Rooted in the truths that God uses his Word, his people, and prayer to change the world, the *Pray for Me Campaign* creates a vast web of intergenerational relationships and equips adult believers to pass on a sustainable faith to the next generation. During the campaign, adult believers from various generations become Prayer Champions and commit to a year of prayer for one student or family with young children.

*WE'VE INCLUDED THESE RESOURCES:*

1. **Pray for Me Campaign Quick Start Kit PREVIEW**
2. **Pray for Me Prayer Guide (Adults Praying for Student) SAMPLE**

# #5

## ***HELP YOUR PERSONAL LEADERSHIP THRIVE***

The majority of ministry problems are actually leadership problems. Many ministries aren't thriving because youth workers are leading from the passenger's seat instead of the driver's seat. They allow the calendar, the past, or even the latest trend to dictate the direction of the ministry rather than God's leading through them.

Getting back in the driver's seat first requires a good, hard look at the state of the youth ministry. Use the **Intentional Youth Ministry Assessment and Video** to evaluate the health of the youth ministry in the areas of volunteers, programming, discipleship, partnering with parents, and student leadership.

After some evaluation, it may be helpful to reimagine your youth ministry strategy. Use the **Youth Ministry Strategy Video and Worksheet** to create a clear and simple strategy that follows the "Reach, Grow, Go" model.

### *WE'VE INCLUDED THESE RESOURCES:*

- 1. Intentional Youth Ministry Assessment**
- 2. Intentional Youth Ministry Video**
- 3. Youth Ministry Strategy Video**
- 4. Youth Ministry Strategy Worksheet**