

## THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDENT LEADERSHIP

If we are not intentional about making disciples, it's easy for our youth ministry to become a spectator sport. Students come to church to watch us teach and lead, and then they go home. Week after week, they come in, watch, and leave. Rarely are they given opportunities to put into practice the lessons and godly principles that we teach. But true learning requires experience and application. And leadership development will call for a heavy dose of both.

As we read through the Gospels, we see Jesus teaching and equipping his disciples, then sending them off to do what they had seen him do. This was one of his methods for making disciples. He gave them authority (Matt. 10:1), opportunities to problem solve (Luke 9:12-13), allowed them to teach (Mark 3:14), and even sent them out in pairs to different towns to spread the message of Christ on their own (Luke 9:2-6).

As youth pastors, we can be great at the teaching and equipping parts of Jesus' example. But unlike Jesus, we can be a little reluctant to hand over ministry responsibilities to the students under our care. *Are they ready? Can they handle it?* But you are well aware the disciples were far from prodigies. They were undoubtedly learning as they went along. Still, Jesus allowed them to try and fail and try again.

Learning to lead is part of the discipleship process. Obviously, students will need guidance from you and your adult volunteers to grow into student leadership, but that progress doesn't happen accidentally. You need a plan. To help you develop your strategy, we have provided plenty of tools. The Student Leadership folder includes training videos, the Leadership Pathway that walks you through the process of developing student leaders, guides, assessments, leadership lessons to teach your Student Leadership Team, student-led service events, and a completely packaged leadership retreat weekend called *Foundations of Leadership*. Plus much more.

To follow Christ's example of making and multiplying disciples, you must train students to lead in God's Kingdom. After Jesus' ascension, the disciples continued Christ's ministry by doing what they had seen him do. When we are no longer capable of leading in ministry, our students will be the ones who continue leading the charge. They become disciples who make disciples.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THIS FOLDER

### LEADERSHIP STRATEGY

- Leadership Pathway Tool
- 6 Training videos on How to Use the Leadership Pathway plus discussion guides for each video
- Leadership Style Assessment
- *Reimagining Student Leadership* E-Book

## TRAINING

- 12 Leadership Team Teaching Lessons that each includes:
  - Facilitator Guides
  - Student Guides

## EVENTS

- 3 Leadership Service Projects
- Leadership Weekend Retreat

