

THE IMPORTANCE OF ADULT VOLUNTEERS

You're a great youth pastor. Simply amazing. One of our time's true tragedies is that there is only one of you. So for your disciple-making efforts to become more widespread, you need a team of volunteers by your side. They will make more of a significant impact in your ministry than any curriculum ever could.

Programs don't make *the* difference in your student ministry. People do. Studies have shown that teenagers need around five adults investing in them to flourish spiritually, mentally, and emotionally. Just in case you struggle a bit with math (and who doesn't), that's you *plus* four more. We understand that if our volunteers can build these strong relationships, students will turn to them to learn the truth about Jesus Christ. And that is how disciples are made. Our goal for each volunteer is to reach a second-level relationship with students.

Second-level relationship? What's that? Good question. I'm glad you asked.

A first-level relationship is where a leader recognizes a student's face and knows some facts about their life.

EXAMPLE: *That's Josh, and he plays soccer.*

A second-level relationship is where a leader has some understanding of a student's feelings, fears, and faith.

EXAMPLE: *Josh injured himself at practice and is worried about losing his starting position as a midfielder. This is also causing him some doubts about God's goodness.*

You and your adult leaders should strive for second-level relationships because that's where trust is established. We have dedicated a whole training session on this topic for your volunteer team.

Discipleship cannot take place outside the context of a meaningful relationship. Students want to learn from people who care about them; they want to be discovered and known. For us to effectively make disciples, we must first effectively build relationships. A meaningful relationship is what lays the foundation for continued discipleship. To have a strong and growing ministry, your students need a second-level relationship with multiple adult leaders. This is one of the best strategies for multiplying disciples.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THIS FOLDER

VOLUNTEER EVENTS

- 5 Volunteer Training Sessions that cover:
 - A “Kick-Off” session that helps you cast a vision for the year
 - Building Meaningful Relationships
 - How to Disciple a Student
 - Making the Most of Your Time as a Volunteer
 - Noticing Warning Signs in Your Students
- 1 Volunteer Celebration Event

VOLUNTEER COMMUNICATION

- 5 Encouragement note templates for emails or handwritten letters to your volunteers
- 7 Postcard templates with graphics to help reach out to your volunteers

VOLUNTEER ROLES

- A Guide for the importance of volunteers and a strategy for placing your volunteers in the right roles
- 8 Training Cards for volunteers to have a quick reference to their roles and goals for each area they serve in.

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

- The Discipleship Pathway Tool
- Quick User Guide to the Discipleship Pathway
- 6 Training videos on How to Disciple a Student plus discussion guides for each video

LEADERSHIP PATHWAY

- The Leadership Pathway Tool
- 6 Training videos on How to Use the Leadership Pathway plus discussion guides for each video

