

PARTNERING WITH PARENTS BASICS: 5 TIPS TO LAY A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR A PARENT PARTNERSHIP

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Description: Many churches talk about partnering with parents, but what exactly does that mean? Is it simply keeping parents informed about the lessons you teach their kids and updated on the church calendar? Or is it something more significant along with those activities? In this breakout session, Joe and Curtis will provide 5 tips to help you lay the foundation for a long-term, significant partnership with parents.

1. Shift the Culture of Your Student Ministry.

Like most endeavors, having the right mindset and beliefs is crucial. As student ministers, we have to understand our role. Parents live with the pressure of raising their teens every day, and no one loves their kids more. They are the greatest influencers in their kids' lives. When we truly realize this, our decisions surrounding ministry reflect this belief, resulting in healthier families and teens.

2. Create a Parent Advisory Team.

Do not make decisions about families in your ministry without having a good understanding of what your families are facing. We must allow parents to have a “voice” and speak into what will actually serve and bless them. Putting together a Parent Advisory Team is a great way to seek not only advice and council, but prayer and support. There are a number of strategic ways to do this.

3. Recruit Parents First.

We cannot claim to partner with parents if we do not actually have parents serving alongside us in ministry! We have to trust parents with the discipleship of our students. Though sometimes difficult, we have to find ways for them to serve. With all recruiting of volunteers, this takes wisdom and discernment.

4. Equip and Connect Your Parents.

There are many ways to resource and equip parents. Whether your church already has a vision for family ministry or you're developing one, there are simple steps we can take to add a parent's touches throughout the year. These could be as simple as giving parents in similar seasons of life opportunity to talk together and share struggles, victories, encouragement and wisdom.

5. Practice the Basics.

Emphasizing the family in student ministry doesn't have to be complicated. There are some basic, but foundational steps you can begin tomorrow that immediately start the culture shift of your student ministry. Some of these consist of building a “family friendly” student ministry calendar, communicating well and being available to meet with parents face to face.