

# Hillside Youth Group Plan for the Year

## **Love so they can Love/ Disciple so they can Disciple**

Mission of Hillside Youth Group: Hillside Youth Group is an outpost for the Kingdom of God in Westchester County NY. We will accept and embrace youth right where they are in their spiritual and emotional walk. We will seek to give them a safe place to discover Christ, receive the filling and giftings of the Holy Spirit, and guide them in a discipleship relationship with Jesus. We will encourage them to seek opportunities to serve others, pray for others, and represent the love of Jesus throughout their communities (schools, sports teams, clubs, friend groups, etc.). We will teach and equip students for this work directly through the Word of God, the life of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit. We will love God, love others, and love scripture, and by doing so, teach students how to love them as well. We will make disciples of our students, equipping them for leadership, and by doing so, teach students to make disciples as well.

(Matthew 28:19-20)- All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, even to the very end of the age.

Mission for the Year- Make our students disciples of Jesus

### What is a Disciple?

- A lifelong learner who is following and growing in relationship with Jesus Christ.
- A disciple is someone who also makes other disciples
  - o Francis Chan: Making disciples is for more than a program. It is the mission of our lives. It defines us. A disciple is a disciple maker.

### How do we do this?

- We will see every Sermon, lesson, small group and service project as an opportunity to not only teach “about” Jesus but rather also about how to **follow** and have a **personal relationship** with Him.
- We will initiate and engage in **intentional** relational ministry with the students.
  - o Our focus should be on making youth group more about attractive community rather than attractive events.
  - o This includes fun activities, retreats, and day out.
    - Fun is a quick way to a student’s heart! However, our main priority will be on being discipleship trainers more than Wednesday night entertainers.
  - o We should make every effort of meeting up with our students outside of just Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. This will develop a relationship with them that goes deeper than surface level behavior management ministry.
- We will be intentional about **identifying** the needs of our students

- Take time in your relationship with students to identify the areas of their lives that need to be faced with the love of Jesus.
- This ministry will not be about the pursuit of perfection, but rather the gift of repentance. This means we will prioritize the offering Jesus' forgiveness in a student's areas of need.
- We will **invade** students' lives with the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
  - We aim to take students away from only viewing their external problems, but instead help them explore the problems inside their hearts and minds.
  - The gospel will always be the answer.
- We will **invite** students on a weekly basis to give more of their heart to Christ and allow Him to be revealed through them in their daily lives.
  - Invitations are not commandments! It is our job to invite, and it is God's job to convict.

We will be **Intentional** in relationships, **identify** needs in students, **invade** them with the love of Jesus through the Gospel, and **invite** them to walk with him daily.

### Tactics for Discipleship

- **Expository Teachings**

“Expounding God’s word impacts people far more than human cleverness, humor, or creativity.”

  - Characteristics of Expository teaching are:
    - Seeks to expose what is in a single passage of scripture
    - The theme of an expositional sermon is derived from the main point of the passage.
      - We are to proclaim what the biblical author intended to say to God’s people back then in a way that is also applicable to teenagers today.
    - Expositional teaching proceeds through an entire book of the bible, from the beginning, passage by passage.
      - Ex. 4 sermons on “God’s grace for your enemies” from the sermon on the mount.
      - 8 Sermons on “The joy of suffering for the Gospel” From Philippians
- **Topical Series Teaching**

“All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in **all** righteousness”

  - Topic teaching is great way to address the topics that our students need and want to discuss in the light of God’s truth

- We will teach on relevant topics to students, however we will teach it from biblical knowledge and use scripture as our primary basis for instruction

#### - **Small Groups**

“Growing in a community is essential for spiritual growth”

- Small groups will be strictly based on scripture, teaching students both how to interpret and apply biblical wisdom into their lives.
- We will grow individually and corporately in our knowledge of how to become effective small group leaders.
  - Leading a small group is skill! And it must be worked on and developed through training.
- We will model for our students how a true disciple of Jesus carries on in their everyday lives.
  - To be a good leader, it takes more than just talking well... it will mean modeling for students (and at times even telling them) how to have a regular pattern and commitment to personal time of study in God’s word and preparation through prayer.
- We will embrace simple tools for our bible study that make for a skill that is practical enough for our students to follow.
  - COMA
  - 5 C’s
  - Swedish Method  
(I will explain what these are during training)
- We will derive prayer time based on the scripture studied during that small group meeting.
  - We want to teach students to pray as scripture instructs and by that have them experience more meaning and intimacy when praying to God.

\*Dates for small groups will be discussed within the first month of youth group when we have a full knowledge of the leaders we have.

#### - **Retreats**

“Retreats are a way to interrupt the daily routine of life and offer students a distraction free moment to experience the gospel”

- We will have retreats that offer the gospel to both believers and non-believers.
  - We accept all students, whether they are in our youth group or not on retreats.

- Our focal point will be on bringing students closer to Jesus, not just have an emotionally satisfying and entertaining weekend.
  - We will work hard and diligently to organize, plan, and provide a safe, fun, and spirit filled environment for our students to grow in their relationship with Jesus.
    - Retreats are amazing fun and allow for some of the closets bonds between leaders, students, and Jesus. *However*, they require much work and effort to be done effectively.
  - All leaders will be required to go on Retreats
  
- **Mission Trips and Service projects**

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 26:40)

  - Mission trips and service projects be an opportunity for students to experience God’s love by being his hands and feet in the world.
  - We will not make missions trips solely about doing good works, but help students understand why it is God has asked us to do these good works.
    - We will point everything back to Jesus and make sure that we are doing the work for the sake of his glory, not our own.
  - Interns and Volunteers are not required to be a part of the mission trip; however, they will be required to help in some areas of preparation.
    - I would love to have as many leaders as possible on these trips, however, they are during the summer and I know some leaders have other responsibilities that must be adhered to during the summer.
  
- **Student Leaders**

“Students leaders are saints that we must equip for gospel ministry”

  - We will seek out students whose lives show true change from the Holy Spirit and who have been in step with the Lord for a long time to be the voice for the students as a whole.
    - This will allow us to more accurately be able to meet the needs of our students as a ministry team.
  - We will ask these leaders to be responsible for different tasks and will encourage and push them to strive for deeper discipleship and discovery of their spiritual gifts.
  - We will model for them even more closely what a disciple of Jesus should live like.

