Don’t Bury Your Talent: Core Retreats

At least once a year: training for New Core Members, and separate retreat for whole team.

Pray about your goals for the retreat/training. Only you know your team’s needs.

* Training (Theory of ministry, practical tips, shared best practices)
* Team-Building/Fellowship (learn one another’s strengths and stories)
* Spiritual Development/Prayer (start your ministry in prayer!)
* Others?

Decide how structured/unstructured it should be (maybe if you usually plan a super-structured retreat, try leaving more free time/reflection times)

How long? Can you do a full weekend? (If you have a lot of young Core Members, this might work!) A full-day? Longer is better, so people can fully enter into the experience.

Some ideas to consider:

* Weekend in the woods to listen for God’s voice
* Day at a Retreat Center (might not even require any planning!)
* Team City-Wide Scavenger Hunt
* Have parents and/or teens pray for the Core Team during retreat/training, and write letters, prepare food for them, or even come pray for them in person.
* Prepare a day to have everyone reflect on their lives and, at the end, be able to write/present a witness that you can use at Edge/Life Teen during the year.
* Ask everyone to prepare one witness story or prayer experience to share with the rest of the Core Team.
* Strengths-Finder, or other gifts inventory
* Consider creating a Core Member Covenant to create accountability on your team.
* Keep administration/paperwork at a minimum. Save this for e-mail or reserve for during breaks.

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Core Retreat/Training

17 September 2014

**6:00-6:30** – Introductions/Ice Breakers/Opening Prayer – Rocky

**6:30-7:00** – Edge/Life Teen Structure & Relational Ministry – Rocky

* Road to Emmaus/Mass/Edge & Life Teen
* *Edge Night Example Sheet*
* 2 Main Tasks for Core Members, Relational Ministry & Small Groups
* Relational Ministry – video through 3:15
* Discussion/Sharing – How do you approach a teen?
* Have you ever been brought into a pastoral situation with a teen? How did you handle it?
  + Mandatory Reporters in cases of child neglect/abuse

**7:00-7:15** – Break (Virtus paperwork & Mass Sign-Up)

**7:15-7:30** – Team Building Exercise

**7:30-8:00** – Small Groups – Rocky

* Why Small Groups?
  + Invite the teens to engage with the material. (Experiential, participatory)
  + The process is different than a catechist teaching in front of a classroom. You are a facilitator, inviting the teens to grapple with some thoughts and issues. The trick with the facilitation is that you want to make sure that all voices are heard.
* Small Group Mock-Up
  + How did that go? What challenges did you meet? How did you face them? What are some things you could do…?
* Things to be aware of:
  + Unanswered Questions, follow up before next Life Night
  + Core Meeting afterwards: Disclosure, Sharing, Prayer support

**8:00-8:30** – Prayer Service – David & Rocky

* Peter had a lot of great moments in Scripture… and a lot of not-so-great moments. I think we could all say the same about each of our own lives. But that doesn’t mean that God isn’t calling us to be in ministry. Let’s look at one of Peter’s stronger moments: **Matthew 15: 22-33**
* My fears about getting into ministry.
* Think/Pray/Journal for a moment about your fears getting into ministry.
* Our fears come in when we’re not trusting God, who we know is all knowing and all loving. God has called each one of us here to this ministry, because we have something to offer the teens… Maybe a fresh perspective. Maybe a listening ear. Maybe a sense of creativity or humor. Maybe just a little bit of time and attention that they don’t get anywhere else.
* Think/Pray/Journal about what your unique gift for ministry might be.
* Peter got out of the boat. I’m going to give you each a rock. Write a word or a couple words of what your gifts might be.
* If you remember the story of David and Goliath… Another story of someone afraid. But David took all that he had – a simple rock, and he tossed it up, really, into God’s control, trusting that God would use it to do His will. … And that’s what we’re called to do. To surrender our gifts to God’s will, that He might do a good work in us. … Specifically, that through us, the teens that we will encounter this year will feel his love.
* Speak your gift and place it in on the altar, sacrifice to God.