

Relational Ministry 101

Goal: to enter into relationships with teens that will lead teens closer to Christ, not us.

Before we can share truth, trust must be established. Before teens will be open and honest about where they are in their personal life and relationship with Christ, we need to build a healthy relationship with them that lets them know we care.

Social media relational ministry is vital, but it will never replace the importance of a face-to-face conversation with a young person.

Relational Ministry Reality Check

Truth #1-Rejection Will Happen

Teens will reject you when you introduce yourself and attempt to get to know them. Not every teen, but some. If possible, approach teens with another teen they already know. This makes the introduction less awkward and more comfortable for everyone involved.

Truth #2- Every High School Insecurity Will Surface

When visiting a High School campus for lunch, sporting event, play, or pep-rally, your high school insecurities will come to the surface. If you were popular, you will notice the popular teens first. If you were an athlete, you will approach them more than you will approach another clique. Know yourself as you are now and approach each teen as a child of God. Whatever insecurity you have, let it go and focus on the teens God is calling you to meet face-to-face.

Truth #3-Relational Ministry Is Hard

If you ever moved as a child or even as an adult, you know how hard it is to make new friends. People tend to stay in relationship with those they are most comfortable with. Therefore, building new relationships, especially with teens, will be hard. No matter how hard it is relational ministry is worth it. Don't give up!

Truth #4 -Teens Just Want to Be Loved

Everyone wants to be loved, especially teens. The difference with you and most other adults in their lives is that you are not *required* to be in their life, you *choose* to be.

Outreach Ideas

*Relational Ministry takes work.
Work that matters. Work that changes lives.*

Campus Visits. Talk to your local high schools and see what their policies are. Chances are good, you'll be allowed to go! Bring another adult with you—it makes it less awkward.

Sporting events. Seriously, go to the games. Not just Varsity or the sports you like either. Bring another adult with you.

Musicals/Plays. These are a bigger time commitment than stopping by a baseball game, but you'll sure make your teenagers happy! Bring another adult with you.

Choral or Band Concerts. Bring another adult with you.

Dance Chaperone. Of course, make sure other adults are there.

Quinceñeras. Fun, cultural, and great food.

Graduations. Be ready, they are long. But, man, totally worth it. Bring another adult with you.

Go where they are. It's okay to meet young people at a coffee shop or your local frozen yogurt joint. Talk about just hanging out and being an example outside of the walls of church. Just make sure you have another adult with you.

Coach. If a school allows it and you have the gifts and time to do it, be an assistant coach for a JV or Varsity sport.

Visit teens at place of employment. Great way to stay connected. Don't buy alcohol from their lane at the grocery store.

Write real personal hand-written cards. Never gets old.

No matter what, always always ALWAYS follow the safe environment policy.