



# Y-ME Academy

*A Process for Improving Ministry to and with Youth*

## **ASSUMPTIONS**

- Youth ministry encompasses and includes children from birth through the end of high school.
- God's Word is the guide for all youth ministry and all ministry "programs" exist to share the gospel with their members/constituents/participants.
- Youth are vital and valuable members of the body of Christ; their input should be sought and their services included in appropriate ways in the overall ministry of the congregation.
- Parents are the most influential people in their children's lives and vital partners in any youth ministry endeavor or effort.
- The pastor is the spiritual head and shepherd of the congregation; his positive support, encouragement, and influence are key to any ministry's success.
- The best youth ministry is accomplished in positive, professional, organized, and outreaching settings.
- Leaders/teachers/volunteers in any ministry to youth must be adequately trained and equipped.
- God has gifted his children (youth and adult) with unique learning modalities/styles that must be engaged for learning and retention to be maximized.
- Congregations and those called to minister in them, take gospel ministry very seriously and will do all they can to ensure that the ministry—whatever its form—is the best it can be.
- Congregation teams attending a *Y-ME Academy* are self-motivated and will seek to implement whatever plan they develop as a result of the Y-ME experience.
- There exist overarching precepts that apply equally to all levels of youth ministry and that provide a solid framework from which to evaluate and endeavor any youth ministry. Understanding and applying the framework is the key to youth ministry improvement.
- Youth ministry is a very broad topic and youth ministry in congregations can be quite diverse. A *Y-ME Academy* cannot teach congregations everything they need to know for all areas of youth ministry, but it can—by helping congregations apply the framework to a specific area of youth ministry—teach them a process for applying the framework to any area of youth ministry.
- Congregations attending a *Y-ME Academy* will be best served if they focus on one area of youth ministry and leave with a definite plan for that ministry.

## **TOPICS COVERED**

The plenary topics, facilitated by the Y-ME Team, will offer the philosophical/conceptual framework that is applicable to youth ministry at all levels and some very practical, real-life applications of the framework.



### **The Results Are Out of This World: Why Christian Education Really Matters**

*This topic will serve as an opening worship/devotion/Bible study. Through song and script, it will cover the biblical directives to train youth in the Word and remind participants about the great blessings that result when youth and families are in the Word.*

### **Painting the Picture: Developing Vision and Connecting It to Ministry and People's Minds**

*This topic will help participants to see that job one for any youth ministry is deciding where you are going and what it will look like when you get there. Included is getting others to "see" the vision and get excited about it.*

### **We're In This Together: Partnering with Parents**

*This topic will emphasize that ministry to youth that does not include parents in some way is no youth ministry at all. Without a doubt, parents are the most influential people, positive or negative, in the lives of youth.*



### **Count Me In: Recruiting, Training, and Sustaining Staff/Volunteers**

*This topic will explore things that must be done to ensure that any ministry to youth has the right team of people involved. Finding and keeping staff/volunteers is probably one of the biggest issues facing youth ministries today, and it does not have to be that way.*

### **Bringing the Word to Life: Teaching That Engages All Learners**

*This topic will help participants to better understand that the way we teach God's Word to youth has a huge impact on what they take away. God has gifted people to learn according to certain learning styles/modalities that must be accommodated.*

### **Tend It and They Will Stay: Maintaining Quality, Confidence, and Participation**

*This topic will discuss how continuous improvement of the ministry is a function of how much prayer, commitment, time, effort, evaluation, and celebration is put into it.*

### **Spreading the SONshine: Promoting Ministry in Positive Ways**

*This topic will help participants to reflect on the impact attitudes have on ministry. Any Christian ministry should be a highly positive endeavor, marked by the up-beat attitude and approach of those serving in it.*



# **SCHEDULE / AGENDA**



7:30-8:00	Getting Situated	30
8:00-8:15	<i>Y-ME Academy</i> Coaches and Teams Get Acquainted	15
8:15-8:30	Welcome/ <i>Y-ME Academy</i> Overview/Introductions	15
8:30-9:00	<b>Session 1-The Results Are Out of This World: Why Christian Education Really Matters</b>	20
	<b>Teams Planning – Part 1</b>	10
9:00-10:00	<b>Session 2-Painting the Picture: Developing and Connecting Vision</b>	40
	<b>Teams Planning – Part 2</b>	20
10:00-10:15	BREAK	15
10:15-11:20	<b>Session 3-We’re In This Together: Partnering with Parents</b>	50
	<b>Teams Planning – Part 3</b>	15
11:20-12:00	<b>Session 4-Count Me In: Training and Sustaining Staff/Volunteers</b>	40
12:00-1:00	LUNCH	60
1:00-1:20	<b>Teams Planning – Part 4</b>	20
1:20-2:30	<b>Session 5-Bringing the Word to Life: Teaching That Engages All Learners</b>	60
	<b>Teams Pop Quiz – Part 5</b>	10
2:30-2:40	BREAK	10
2:40-3:50	<b>Session 6-Tend It and They Will Stay: Maintaining Quality, Confidence, and Participation</b>	50
	<b>Teams Planning – Part 6</b>	20
3:50-4:50	<b>Session 7-Spreading the SONshine: Promoting Ministry in Positive Ways</b>	40
	<b>Teams Planning – Part 7</b>	20
4:50-5:00	<i>Y-ME Academy</i> Coaches and Teams (Homework Assignment and Accountability) – Part 8	10
5:00	Closing Prayer	



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