

4 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

High school is an exciting and stressful phase of life. High schoolers are fun, challenging, and, most importantly, they've each been uniquely created by God. As youth ministry leaders, how can we honor this life stage while ministering to young people? Here are four things to remember about high school ministry.

1 *THEY NEED AUTHENTICITY*

As youth leaders, it's easy to feel like we need to be cool, relevant, or popular to have influence on high schoolers. In reality, teenagers need authenticity. They won't notice if you've listened to all the latest music, but they will notice if you remember their name, or check up on them outside of church. They need to know you care.

2 *THEY NEED A SAFE SPACE*

Your ministry should be one of the safest places for teenagers to bring the messiness of their lives, let their guard down, and breathe. Don't worry about lecturing or providing advice. Instead, focus on helping high schoolers along on their faith journey. Be honest enough to share your own questions and struggles. Teenagers should know that you're still in process, too!

3 *THEY NEED BETTER QUESTIONS*

Long-term transformation comes as a result of asking better, more challenging questions. We only have a short window of time to equip teenagers for living a life of faith after high school. Instead of giving them the answers to all their questions, teach them what it looks like to think critically and ask themselves challenging questions. They might hate this in the beginning, but stick with it.

4 *THEY NEED THE REAL GOSPEL*

The Bible is not a G-rated book where every story is wrapped neatly in a bow. Present teenagers with the real, subversive, difficult Gospel. When we fail to do this, students walk back into a hurting world convinced that the Gospel is too tidy to be relevant to their lives.

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