



TEEN LEADER TRAINING



INTRODUCTION

Young teen leaders are a great asset in the life of any ministry – provided that they are given clear guidelines and real opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others.

The following is a simple set of guidelines to help you develop your own training that will fit your children's ministry needs and policies of your church.

1. Your young teen leaders will feel important if you ask them to sign a form (see our sample) that sets out the guidelines that you will teach them in the training session.
2. Aim to make the training session as fun and as interactive as you can. You can use the online training video... but it will always be much more effective if you use this as a resource for YOU and develop your own training. The content is serious ... but communicating it in a fun way will ensure that the content sticks.
3. Point out the advantages of volunteering in children's ministry. Volunteering will help teens to build confidence, people skills, leadership and organizational skills. Volunteering can help them to get jobs and earn money. As a kids/youth pastor, you can write your teens an amazing reference when they need one.

VOLUNTEERING IS GOOD FOR YOU AND GOOD FOR OTHERS

Talk to your teens about the positive advantages (see Introduction) for them and others of being a volunteer/ teen leader.

SECTION 1: THE BIG PICTURE

This section is designed to talk about teen leadership within the context of their own personhood and as a part of the Body of Christ.

1. YOU ARE A GIFT

Read Romans 12:3-6. Encourage the group to talk about their talents and gifts. If the group know each other reasonably well, then an even better option is for them to talk about the gifts and talents that they see in someone else in the group (rather than talk about themselves). As a leader, you will need to ensure that everyone participates in this conversation and you may need to be ready to prompt or point out gifts in each teen.

Goal: emphasize that everyone has a contribution to make that is important and necessary.

2. YOU ARE AN INFLUENCER

Ask for a volunteer to be blindfolded. Set up an obstacle that they need to get through. Get two more volunteers who will act as "guides" for the blindfolded person to get through the obstacle. One of the "guides" needs to give good advice. The other needs to give "bad" advice.

Open up a conversation about how we can influence the people around us in a room. Guide the conversation towards considering how we influence others not just by what we say, but also how we can influence others by what we do. You may like to start yawning through the conversation until everyone in the group is yawning!

Goal: the kids will be influenced by how you speak and act as a teen leader. You want to be a positive influence so that all of the kids have the opportunity to hear and respond to Jesus and each other.

SECTION 2: THE PRACTICAL STUFF

This section is designed to set out clearly but simply expectations of teenagers as leaders.

Hints for communicating this information to your teens:

Get as physical as you can as you work through each element. Get everyone to look up, look in, look out etc. You may like to make symbols on large cards and get teens to hold up each one until you have a whole line of pictures. Look for ways to reinforce what each one means by going back through the pictures at the end to see how much has been remembered. Keep these symbols around for a few weeks in your teenage ministry area as a reminder for them.

THIS IS YOUR MISSION (SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT IT!)

- **LOOK UP** to the Adult Leaders in the room. You are a role model for respect and good behavior no matter what the activity is (games, worship, creative activities, small groups, prayer, story time ...)
- **LOOK IN** and **OUT**. Many teen leaders get so caught up in getting involved with kids that they forget that they also need to keep an eye on the bigger picture. As a teen leader, you need to be aware of the kids around you (looking IN) but also about what's going on around you (OUT). This is how you can notice kids who are not fitting in, or who have gone missing (hopefully not!) etc. This is an important task – especially during transition times between activities (like moving from worship into small groups).
- **HANDS ON:**
 - Be ready to help set up activities and to help with packing away during and after the ministry programme.
 - Give out handshakes and high 5's to kids to encourage them (but pick appropriate times – not during prayer!).
- **HANDS OFF:**
 - Picking up kids, giving piggy back rides, having kids sit on your lap are all things to avoid!
 - Mobile phones ... u can txt & FB l8r :)
- **LISTEN**. If there is any kind of emergency (and accident or an incident), listen carefully to the instructions of the adult leaders and do exactly what they ask you to do. You can be a huge help by keeping kids away from danger and helping to keep them tight and together in a group.
- **YELL** (seriously!). If you see something dangerous and no-one else sees it – then yell for an adult leader to help.
- **ASK**. If you are unsure about what to do, ASK an adult leader. There's no such thing as a silly question!