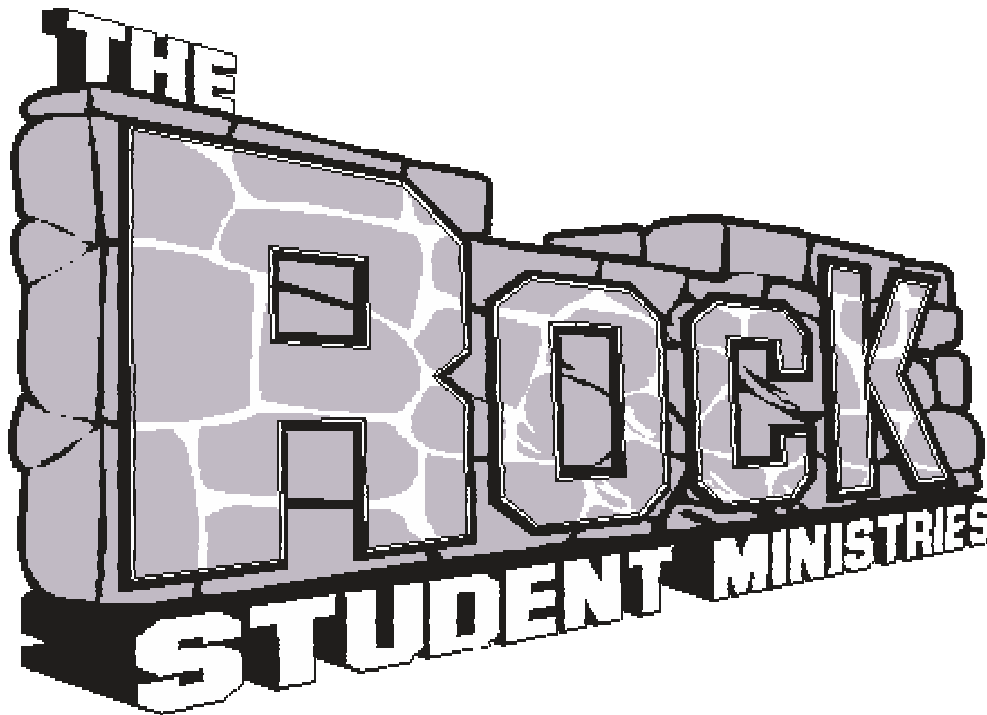


# *Student Ministry Team*



Recognizing that every individual is precious to God and is created for a unique purpose, *THE ROCK* Student Ministry exists to **REACH** non-believing students, to **CONNECT** them with other Christians, to help students **GROW** in their faith, and to provide opportunities for them to **SERVE** others, so that their lives will **HONOR** God.

## *Handbook*

**Dear Fellow Servant in Student Ministry,**

**First I would like to say thank you for answering God's call to service in the area of students. Student ministry can be one of the most challenging things a person could ever do in today's society. At the same time it can be one of the most rewarding ministries you could ever be involved in. God will certainly stretch you in student ministry. If you will be obedient to God, and let Him use you, you will impact many young people for the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. These are the same young people who can and will change our world in these last days.**

**In the following pages you will find the standards and expectations of those who serve on the Student Ministry Team at Rolling Hills Baptist Church. Each member of this team will be held accountable to these standards. First of all because Jesus Christ our Lord deserves it; secondly, because the students whom we lead deserve our best also. These standards are high, but they are well worth the results.**

**May God bless you, as you join in training and encouraging the church of the future!**

**In His Service,**

***Terry Taphouse***

**Youth Ministry**

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## ***Explanation of Leadership***

The Team Members are responsible to the Youth Pastor/Director.

### **Student Ministry Team:**

A group of people consisting of both adults and students, who help guide the Student Ministry in the planning, programming and completion of student events and ministries. This Team will include the 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade Student Sunday School teachers.

### **Student Leadership Team (Chaperones):**

A group of adults who either are currently serving on the Student Ministry Team or have served within the last 3 years on the Student Ministry Team.

A chaperone in **The Rock** Student Ministry at Rolling Hills Baptist Church is more than a baby sitter or muscle for crowd control. There is great responsibility in ministering to students. That is why this policy is in place. We must be committed to the health of students spiritually as well as physically and emotionally. Therefore, to be a member of the Student Ministry Team you must follow the process set forth.

1. Submit a written application to become a member of the Student Ministry Team to the Youth Pastor/Director.
2. Have a scheduled interview with the Youth Pastor/Director and possibly up to two other current members of the Student Ministry Team.
3. Requests are considered and approved or denied by the Youth Pastor/Director as openings occur.

Student Ministry Team members serve for a minimum of 3 years.

## ***The Student Ministry Team***

### **Minimum Standard to serve on the Student Ministry Team:**

- ◆ Be a Christian.
- ◆ Be a member of Rolling Hills Baptist Church.
- ◆ Understand and relate well with ALL students in the student ministry.
- ◆ Understand the concept behind The Rock Student Ministry and goals stated in there for each student.
- ◆ Lead by example.

### **Be a Godly example by:**

- Regularly Attending:  
Unless providentially hindered by sickness or work/family responsibilities.
  - ◆ Sunday School
  - ◆ Morning Services
  - ◆ Wednesday Prayer meeting
  - ◆ Outreach
  
- Ongoing Spiritual Growth activities:
  - ◆ Daily Quiet time
  - ◆ Daily Prayer
  - ◆ Daily Bible Reading
  - ◆ Attending Training  
Courses offered at RHBC and Ridgecrest  
Gwinnett  
Toccoa Falls Sunday School Training  
Student Ministry Retreat  
At least 2 annually.

### **Minimum Standards to stay active:**

- ◆ Be available to chaperone events, retreats, trips or activities of any kind unless providentially hindered by work, sickness or family responsibilities.
- ◆ Attend all scheduled meetings.
- ◆ Responsible for planning and organization of events.
- ◆ Show a continuing interest in students, their culture and understanding the daily issues they deal with.
- ◆ Maintain minimum standards to serve listed above.

## ***Student Ministry Team job descriptions***

The job of any Member of the ministry boils down to four things:

1. To take care of himself/herself.  
This means physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually.  
If he/she isn't caring for himself/herself, it is difficult to care for others.
2. To take care of others.  
We can't do everything by ourselves; we need the help of others.
3. To be learning and developing their abilities.  
Each of us must always be growing and learning.
4. To do assigned jobs.  
Working together is not only the most effective way, it is the way that God designed.

## ***Standard job description***

This is the job description for all the members of the Student Ministry Team.

- The Student Ministry Team member is here to do student ministry in the form that he/she is best gifted to do.
- The Student Ministry Team member will work toward keeping unity in the Body of Christ, and building up believers.
- The Student Ministry Team member is expected to regularly attend Rolling Hills Baptist Church.
- The Student Ministry Team member is expected to continue growing spiritually, to that end he/she is required to spend time every day in personal devotions/quiet time with God.
- The Student Ministry Team member will work to discover, develop, and use the spiritual gifts given to him/her. This means finding how to best use these gifts to let Jesus touch the lives of students through the worker.
- The Student Ministry Team member is to attend all Student Ministry Team meetings. If the member needs to miss a meeting, the Youth Pastor/Director is to be contacted.
- The Student Ministry Team member is expected to be praying for the Students, Staff, and the Ministry daily.
- The Student Ministry Team member is to spend time with students. This includes time at the ministry program. That time is for spending with students not staff. It also includes contacting time, such as phone calls, sending notes, and meeting with them outside of the church.
- The Student Ministry Team member will also take on tasks volunteered for or assigned.

***Minimum time requirements per week :***

- Devotion time - daily
- Church service attendance - 2 hours
- Ministry (Program) time - 2 hours (if applicable - Sunday School teachers or Reality Check)

***Sunday School Teachers***

- Prayer for the Youth Ministry - 1 hour
- Phone calls to students - 15 minutes
- Writing notes or e-mail to students - 15 minutes
- Meeting with a student - various times (as needs dictate)

Accountable to the Youth Pastor/Director.

**How does a student  
spell LOVE?**

**T - I - M - E**

# ***Student Ministry Philosophy***

## **I. Youth Group vs. Student Ministry**

- 1. The number one reason why most churches have a youth group instead of a student ministry is because their leaders have no passion, no vision, no mission, and no strategy.**
- 2. Most churches have a youth group because their leadership is complacent and comfortable.**
- 3. Most churches have a youth group because their students are religious and not real.**

## **II. Differences Between Youth Group and Student Ministry**

| <b>Group</b>                               | <b>Ministry</b>  |
|--|--|
| <b>1. Motivated by duty</b>                | <b>1. Motivated by passion</b>                         |
| <b>2. Activity driven (Social Events)</b>  | <b>2. Purpose Driven (Strategic Events)</b>            |
| <b>3. Focus is inward</b>                  | <b>3. Focus is knowing Christ and making Him known</b> |
| <b>4. Workers glory in the past</b>        | <b>4. Workers look for next opportunity</b>            |
| <b>5. Workers look to gain praise</b>      | <b>5. Workers look to give praise</b>                  |
| <b>6. Teenagers look to be entertained</b> | <b>6. Teenagers look to serve</b>                      |
| <b>7. Manufacture results</b>              | <b>7. Produce fruit</b>                                |
| <b>8. Deal with symptoms</b>               | <b>8. Deal with the problem</b>                        |
| <b>9. Build programs</b>                   | <b>9. Build people</b>                                 |
| <b>10. Grow dependents</b>                 | <b>10. Grow disciples</b>                              |

## **III. Why Groups Fail and Ministries Work**

- 1. Groups build on emotions; ministries build on scripture.**
- 2. Activities last for a moment; the Word of God lasts forever.**
- 3. Groups are self-serving; ministries serve others.**
- 4. Groups talk; ministries pray.**
- 5. Groups glorify people; ministries glorify God.**
- 6. Activities change location; the Bible changes hearts.**
- 7. Social events over time will frustrate people; ministries will feed your people.**

**YOU TEACH WHAT YOU WANT - YOU PRODUCE WHAT YOU ARE!**

***The Student Ministry Team Standards of Behavior are to be read and signed by all team members annually.***

1. Any verbal or nonverbal sexual behavior with any student is inappropriate.
2. Dating or going out with any student is inappropriate, except in the case that the worker and student are members of one of the groups which is older than the group being worked with.
3. Discretion must be used in dealing with all students, especially regarding physical contact. Innocent behavior can be misinterpreted. A hug around the shoulders is not sexual abuse, but a full body-to-body hug, stroking, massaging or an affectionate kiss raises questions. Any overt display of affection should be made in a public setting in front of other group members.
4. Sexual gestures or overtures to a staff member by a student should be reported to the Youth Pastor/Director so that a discussion can be held with the student.
5. Buddy systems should be used by staff whenever possible, especially when working with students of the opposite sex.
6. One-to-one counseling with a student should always occur in a public place.
7. Driving alone with a student of the opposite sex should be avoided at all times, especially when working with troubled teens.
8. If it is necessary to ride or drive alone with a teen, special care is to be taken with a student of the opposite sex.
  - Don't sit close to one another in the car.
  - No physical contact.
  - Do not stop the car to talk.
  - If you must stop, turn on the inside light of the car.
  - Avoid physical contact when saying goodbye (hugs and kisses).
  - Be aware of the time and your mileage when you depart and arrive. Mark those times in you diary or record.
9. Romantic or sexual attraction for a student by a leader should be brought up and discussed with the Student Ministry Team leader or the Youth Pastor/Director for prayer and guidance.
10. All suspicions of child or sexual abuse must be reported to the Student Ministry Team leader who will report it to the mandated reporter in the organization. That person will call it in to the abuse hotline.
11. Any knowledge or suspicion of any youth ministry staff having an inappropriate relationship with a student must be reported promptly to the Youth Pastor/Director. If the person in question is the Youth Pastor/Director, the report should be made to the supervisor of that person (the Senior Pastor).

Have you been involved romantically or sexually with any student in the youth ministry at any time during the past? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Do you know of anyone on the Student Ministry Team who is romantically or sexually involved with any student in the youth ministry? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Are you now a child abuser or have you ever been convicted of child abuse or sexual abuse? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

If yes please explain:

I certify that I have read the standards and agree to abide by them and that the statements above have been answered truthfully.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

# ***My Covenant as a Leader in the Rock Student Ministry of Rolling Hills Baptist Church***

Believing that the privilege of guiding people to a knowledge of God's Word and a total commitment in Christian discipleship is worthy of my surrender to God's call for service, I covenant as a lay worker of Rolling Hills Baptist Church to:

## **A. BELIEF AND DOCTRINE**

1. Believe and teach that the Bible is the divine, inspired Word of God, and that the Scriptures are "truth without any mixture of any error." (II Timothy 3:16)
2. Discipline my life to conform to the Bible doctrines commonly held by our church.
3. Cooperate with established church leadership and the organizational life of our church as to the curriculum materials and program plans.

## **B. CONDUCT**

1. Order my conduct in keeping with the principles of the New Testament, and seeking leadership and strength of the Holy Spirit that I may be an example of Christian living, that my conduct may not cause anyone to stumble and that I may be faithful and efficient in my work. (Ephesians 4:1)
2. Contribute God's tithe to the Lord through the budget of my church. (Malachi 3:10, I Corinthians 16:2)
3. Endeavor to make verbal and lifestyle witnessing a part of my life. (Proverbs 11:30)
4. To pray regularly for the church, the church program, the staff, and church-elected leadership.
5. Demonstrate a flexible and cooperative spirit at all times and be open to changes in programming, facility and room usage and calendaring when suggested by church leadership.
6. I will support the total church program, as led by the pastor and church leadership.

## **C. SUPPORT**

1. **Communication and Publicity:** Obtain approval from appropriate church leadership for any and all handouts, newsletters, booklets, pamphlets, advertisements, offerings or fundraisers and direct inquires to church leadership. Avoid "surprise" situations during regular meeting times.
2. **Guest Speakers:** Obtain approval from appropriate church leadership regarding speakers for all meetings. Seek to be knowledgeable about established church procedures for enlisting, installing and scheduling guests, substitutes and new leadership.
3. **Special Offerings and Mission Support:** Seek to be knowledgeable about established church procedures and guidelines for "special offerings", benevolence and missionary support. Stay within established procedures and guidelines that provide benevolence, financial counseling, Biblical guidance and Mission Support through existing ministries.
4. **Calendar Planning:** Before announcing upcoming events, obtain confirmation from appropriate church leadership with regard to calendar dates, times, facilities, food service, childcare, grounds, vehicles, maintenance personnel,

and etc. Endeavor to plan activities so individuals and families are able to attend worship at Rolling Hills Baptist Church each Sunday.

**D. RESPONSIBILITY**

1. Be regular and punctual in attendance, and in case of unavoidable absence, give notice thereof as far in advance as possible. (I Corinthians 4:2)
2. Make thorough preparation of my duties each week. (II Timothy 2:15)
3. Use the Bible as a basic teaching instrument with my group to help them to understand and love it. (Psalm 119:16)
4. Attend the regular planning meetings unless providentially hindered and/or unless prior arrangement is made with my leadership. (Luke 14:28-30)
5. If teaching or working with a Bible Study class I will make a special effort to see that my class contacts absentees each week and participates in visitation of prospects under direction of staff leadership. (Acts 2:46)
6. Avail myself of opportunities for leadership training, studies in more effective methods, and development of my spiritual life in order that I may be well informed as to good leadership principles and methods. (Proverbs 15:28b)
7. Cooperate wholeheartedly in the plans and activities of the church and set the example by striving to attend all worship services. (Hebrews 10:25)
8. Seek to discover and meet the needs of those who are under my care. (Galatians 6:2)

If at any time I am unable, or unwilling, to fulfill this covenant in all good conscience, I will relinquish my position of leadership.

***Basic Expectations of Working with Students***

1. To pursue holiness and model a fully-devoted follower of Jesus Christ before our students and their families.
2. To develop affirming, personal relationships with our students by spending time with them in class and beyond the classroom.
3. To be involved in contacting absentees and prospects each week through writing, phoning, and/or visiting.
4. To be prepared for your responsibilities and to be on time to Sunday School, Solid Ground and Reality Check each week.
5. To faithfully attend the once-a-month leadership meetings and twice-a-year leadership conferences.
6. To support the curriculum, scope and sequence.
7. To attend our Wednesday Reality Check (Student Worship) at least twice per month if not weekly. (Big Show – second Wednesday and Seek Week - last Wednesday)

## ***Top Ten Myths About Being a Great Volunteer Youth Leader***

1. You must be young.
2. You must have adequate Bible training.
3. You must be perfect.
4. You must be a captivating communicator.
5. You must be able to act like one of the kids.
6. You must have plenty of free time.
7. You must know everything about the latest youth culture.
8. You must be wild, crazy, and dynamic.
9. You must be liked by all the kids and parents.
10. You must own a 15-passenger van.

Youth ministry is not comfortable! It's not easy! But it is normal and okay to feel inadequate about your skills. Your confidence will grow the longer you do ministry and you see how God can use inadequate people to do great things.

### *The Key Ingredient*

"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and took note that these men had been with Jesus."  
(Acts 4:13)

# **Be an Example, Love Students!**

**1 Thessalonians 2:8**

***We loved you so much that we gave you not only  
God's Good News but our own lives as well.***

**THIS IS WAR AND THERE IS NO NEUTRAL GROUND...**

## ***Qualifications for a Student Leader***

- ✓ **Genuine Love of Christ.**  
"For Christ's love compels us ..." (II Corinthians 5:14) No other motivation is sufficient to carry you through the rigors of working with youth over a long period of time; Christ's agape love just gives and gives without expecting a response
- ✓ **Sincere Love for Kids.**  
"Love must be sincere" (Romans 12:9). Not everyone can tolerate adolescents! If you are uncomfortable with their music, language, dress, and style of life, it could be an indication you will have difficulty relating to them. Do not fake it—they can spot a phony.
- ✓ **Flexibility and the Ability to Hang Loose.**  
"Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction" (II Timothy 4:2). Each class, each week, each one-on-one situation brings a different set of circumstances. If you can't flex, you will be totally frustrated.
- ✓ **Enthusiasm.**  
"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23). Gloom and negativism is contagious—so is enthusiasm! Serving God by ministering to youth is one of the highest callings in the kingdom of God. Serve Him—enthusiastically with all your heart.
- ✓ **Loyalty.**  
"All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another" (John 13:35). If the youth leadership team functions in harmony and genuine love, it will spread to the youth. Let's support one another, empathize with one another, and encourage one another.
- ✓ **Dependability.**  
"Well done, thou good and faithful servant". The greatest ability is dependability! If you fulfill all your responsibilities to the best of your ability, you will honor the Lord and see a fruitful youth ministry.
- ✓ **Confidentiality.**  
"Be very careful, then how you live—not as unwise, but as wise" (Ephesians 5:15). If a young person confides in us, you must not share it with other students or other leaders or it is deemed gossip. In certain cases such as abuse or violence, you are legally required to report what you hear. Please see the Church Staff in such cases. Do not promise confidentiality to a student.
- ✓ **Strength and Firmness.**  
"Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power" (Ephesians 6:10). Remember you are a son or daughter of the King of Kings with all rights and privileges that go with it. Therefore, act like one, in royal humility. Most kids respond to strong, consistent leadership.
- ✓ **Cheerfulness.**  
"Rejoice in the Lord always..." (Philippians 4:4). A good sense of humor will get you through many difficult circumstances and add to the enjoyment of all. Kids need to laugh, they need to be around positive, upbeat people. They will feel welcome in an atmosphere of love and laughter.
- ✓ **Sensitivity.**  
"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:4-5). Compassion is feeling the need of others to the point that you do something about it. Biblical love is not passive; it is always active. It reaches out. It empathizes. It is personal. Be very tender with kids' feelings.
- ✓ **Patience.**  
"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" (Romans 12:12). To be in a room full of teenagers is not always easy. We tend to be judges when we should be patient friends. We must

win the right to be heard and this takes time. See these kids through the eyes of the Lord and we will see beyond their attitudes and behaviors.

✓ **Consistency of Spiritual Life.**

"I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6). There is no way to be an effective youth leader in **The Rock** Student Ministry apart from a daily vital, personal walk with Christ. Make time for prayer and Bible study. Find an accountability person. Let your students see you in your desire to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ.

The **mediocre** teacher **tells**.

The **good** teacher **explains**.

The **great** teacher **demonstrates**.

The **superior** teacher **inspires**.

## ***Ministry Ideas for the Time-Conscious Youth Leader***

**If you have 15 minutes a week...**

- write a note or e-mail a student
- make a phone call
- initiate a one-on-one conversation with a student
- have a Coke with a student

**If you have 30 minutes a week...**

- write a letter to a parent bragging on their son or daughter
- make a few phone calls
- go to thirty minutes of a youth event (sports, drama, etc.)
- have lunch with a student
- take a student on an errand
- fast one meal for your class

**If you have two hours a week...**

- get in the home of two or three students
- write several students
- listen to a book on tape

**If you have four hours a week...**

- visit a campus for lunch
- volunteer to help a school or team or club

**If you have ten hours a week...**

- read a student related book and do a review for our ministry team
- wash and wax the Youth Pastor/Director's cars

**If you have twenty hours a week...**

- get a life

**God will not call you to a ministry or ask you to handle more than He can and will help you with. Be creative. You do have the time. Use it wisely**

## ***The Fatal Flaws of a youth Leader***

You desire longevity and faithfulness in youth ministry. Are there issues which threaten to cloud your vision, or unresolved matters of the heart which impede your faith journey? For encouragement and evaluation, interact with these scripture passages in your devotion time for the next few weeks.

### **IRRESPONSIBILITY WITH MONEY**

Luke 16:10-11 —Do I properly handle church funds that pass through my hands? Am I a proper steward for my own personal resources? Do I understand the connection between worldly wealth and true riches?

### **THE RICH YOUNG RULER**

Mark 10:17-27—Do I value my personal comfort, status, possessions, or position more than the things of God? Do I tend to look at the world's resources philosophies as a "valuable addition" to what God teaches? Do I tend to want to be self-made?

### **HEROD**

Acts 12:21-25—Do I pride myself on my eloquence and ability to communicate with students? Am I secretly pleased when I get those, "What a good job you've done—I don't know what we'd do without you!" strokes? Do I ever fancy myself indispensable?

### **DAVID**

Samuel 1:1-4—Do I gaze longingly on members of the opposite sex? Do I have a deep, convoluted fantasy life? Am I morally and sexually pure? Does the loneliness of leadership cause me to misuse my privileges?

### **MARTHA**

Luke 10:38-42—Do I equate busyness with godliness? Do I worry and fret? Do I spend a lot of time in preparation for an event but very little in personal holiness?

### **MAN WITH THE BARNES**

Luke 12:16-20—Do I rest on successes of past ministry events or programs? Do I concentrate more on personal gain rather than "giving it away?" Do I let numbers and growth become my reason for ministry?

### **PILATE**

Luke 23:20-25—Do I take full responsibility for my actions? Do I graciously admit mistakes without casting blame on someone else? Do I let the crowd dictate my actions to the extent that I compromise on what I know to be right?

### **DEMAS**

II Timothy 4:9—Do I find myself pulled toward the things of the world? Do I spend a lot of time wondering how and much easier it would be if I weren't in youth ministry? Does the thought of quitting haunt me?

### **ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA**

Acts 5—Do I understand what it means to "test the Lord?" Have I found myself guilty of that? Do I tithe? Do I live a life of complacency and deceit? Do I understand that what man doesn't know of me, God does know? Does that affect my thoughts, attitudes, or actions?

### **SIMON THE SOCRER**

Acts 8:19—Do I find myself comparing my ministry to that of someone else's? Do I long for things God seems to have given others but not to me? Do I think I "deserve" a special blessing from God?

### **ENVYING SINNERS**

Proverbs 23:17—Do I often wonder what it'd be like to be able to participate in the same things the world does? Do I secretly covet the perceived freedom I'd have if I weren't on this ministry team? Do I genuinely fear God?

### **JUDAS**

Matthew 26:14-16—Do I "use" Jesus as a means to my own ends? Do I soft-pedal the truths of God to make Him more palatable to this generation? Do I let money motivate my ministry? Are there any ways I have personally betrayed Jesus?

## ***Youth Ministry in the Southern Baptist Convention***

- ❖ In 1972 there were 130,000 teenagers baptized in the Southern Baptist Convention. In 1996 there were 90,000 teenagers baptized in the Southern Baptist Convention. That's 40,000 fewer youth baptisms, yet we have more churches, more youth ministries, more youth pastors, more youth camps and conferences and more...
- ❖ Of the 90,000 teens baptized in 1996 through almost 45,000 churches, 60,000 of them were church-ed kids. Thus, it took 45,000 churches to reach and baptize 30,000 new teen converts.
- ❖ 88% of this teenage population do not attend church. Only 12% attend two or more times per month
- ❖ Of the 12% of this generation who attend church "regularly," 85% to 88% of those who grew up in the church will leave the church after graduation.

### ***Conclusion:***

We are failing to reach this generation and we are failing to keep them.

**85%** of all people who do not accept Christ by the age of 18 never will!

***The Need***  
***One Day in the Lives of American Children***

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 17,051  | women get pregnant   |
| 2,795   | of them are teens  |
| 1,106   | teens have abortions   |
| 1,372   | teens miscarry   |
| 1,295   | teens give birth   |
| 689     | babies are born to women who have had inadequate prenatal care     |
| 719     | babies are born at low birth weight (less than 5 lbs., 8 oz.)      |
| 129     | babies are born at very low birth weight (less than 3 lbs., 5 oz.) |
| 67      | babies die before one month of life                                |
| 105     | babies die before their first birthday                             |
| 127     | children die from poverty  |
| 10      | children die from guns   |
| 30      | children are wounded by guns                                       |
| 6       | teens commit suicide   |
| 135,000 | children bring a gun to school                                     |
| 7,742   | teens become sexually active                                       |
| 623     | teens get syphilis or gonorrhea                                    |
| 437     | children are arrested for drinking or drunken driving              |
| 211     | children are arrested for drug abuse                               |
| 11,512  | teens drop out of school   |
| 1,849   | children are abused or neglected                                   |
| 3,288   | children run away from home  |
| 1,629   | children are in adult jails  |
| 2,556   | children are born out of wedlock                                   |
| 2,989   | children see their parents divorced                                |
| 34,285  | people (including parents and teens) lose jobs                     |

## ***Six Basic Needs of Youth***

The young people we minister to face unprecedented challenges—changing gender roles, the lure of self-fulfillment as a primary goal, diminishing family roles, moral decay, and a spiritual and ethical environment pervaded by cultural and religious relativism.

What role can you play in the lives of our students and the unreached teenagers of Gwinnett County? The answer is rooted in six basic needs all young people share (adapted from *Religious Life of Young Americans* by George Gallup, Jr.):

**1. The need to believe that life is meaningful and has a purpose.** Sociologists say that Americans are growing more self-obsessive. Nevertheless, most young Americans believe it is "very important" that life be meaningful and have a purpose. Yet a high percentage of these same kids believe that "most churches today are not effective in helping young people find meaning in life." The fact is, many teenagers find churches to be irrelevant, unfulfilling, and boring.

**2. The need for a sense of community and deeper relationships.** Many factors conspire to create separateness in our society—among them, high mobility, divorce, and the breakup of the family. The world grows increasingly impersonal as megacities become the norm. "Radical individualism" has taken hold in the religious lives of Americans. Most Americans, for example, believe that one can be a good Christian without attending church.

One poignant consequence to this separateness is loneliness. American teens are among the loneliest. Our churches need to deal frontally with this separateness by encouraging corporate worship and participation in small groups.

**3. The need to be appreciated and loved.** This is certainly a basic need, yet one-third of Americans have a low sense of self-worth or self-esteem. Most of these simply don't feel loved or appreciated. Significantly, we've discovered that the closer people feel to God, the better they feel about themselves. They're also satisfied with their lives more than are others, and they are more altruistic. They enjoy better health, have a happier outlook, and are better able to forgive themselves and others.

**4. The need to be listened to (and to be heard).** We must win the right to be heard. The world wants our kids and will pretend to love them and listen to them. However, we possess the Truth and must effectively communicate this to them. They will listen to us when they know we care for them (remember, kids don't care what you know until they know you care). We must stop and listen to what they are saying. In the classroom setting, don't lecture. Discuss, dialog, interact, ask questions, let the kids talk...and you listen. In private conversation, give them your undivided attention and listen and then hear them.

**5. The need to feel that one is growing in faith.** People want to deepen their faith. Seven out of 10 persons say they've experienced a change in faith during their lifetime. Churches need to pay close attention to religious experiences which will change their life. Young people need help in understanding the significance of these experiences and building upon them.

**6. The need for practical help in developing a mature faith.** Clergy tend to assume that their church members' prayer life is more developed and that people have a higher level of faith knowledge and denominational traditions than is actually the case. We must help teens establish a deep-rooted faith in Christ—not built on their parents' faith but their own. We must help them become independently dependent upon God.

***Intent to actively serve on the Student Ministry Team.***

I have prayerfully considered this important leadership position on the Student Ministry Team, and I feel this is where God would have me to serve at Rolling Hills Baptist Church.

Therefore, I will be active in all areas as stated in the minimum standards. I understand that if I cannot actively serve, or am no longer meeting the minimum standards to serve, I will need to resign my position to allow the Student Ministry Team to get a replacement who can be active and productive. I further understand that at any time if my conduct, or commitment to the requirements for this position is contrary to the standards for this position, the Youth Pastor/Director reserves the right to ask me to step down and no longer serve on this team.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Five Stages of Involvement -***

### ***Intellectual Involvement:***

Becoming aware of a teen's world through nondemanding discussions. Asking about the teen's day or what's happening with their friends, exploring how they're feeling in specific relationships. It's crucial not to push too hard, or kids feel interrogated. If you don't earn their trust, you'll be viewed as playing psychologist.

### ***Material Involvement:***

Entering a teen's world through a shared experience. The key is entering the student's world, not bringing them into your world.

### ***Emotional Involvement:***

Entering a teen's world through shared thoughts and feelings. This usually happens only after you've invested chunks of time in a shared experience.

### ***Dynamic Involvement:***

Becoming able to shape a student's deep beliefs and goals as he reveals them to you and invites your views.

### ***Prolonged Involvement:***

Continuing in stages 1 through 4 for as long as it takes for an adolescent to develop a mature walk with Christ.