

Youth Work in Shore Baptist Church

The Purpose

Specifically our youth work exists to glorify God by calling youth to repentance and training them to be like Christ.

1 Pet 4:11; Eph 3:20-21; Lk 24: 46-49; Ac 1:8.

Practically our youth work exists to love God, love each other and love the lost.
Eph 4: 11-13; Jn 13:34; Matt 28: 18-19.

Our Foundational Principles

1. Such a work is to be built wisely and carefully upon Christ and governed by the authority of the Word of God alone.
1 Cor3: 9-15; Eph 2: 20-21; 2Tim 3:16
2. Colossians 1:28-29 sets out six directives which are to be applied to our youth work.
“We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labour, struggling with all his energy which so powerfully works in me.”
 - (i) the right message - “ We proclaim Him “
 - (ii) the right methods - “ admonishing and teachingwith all wisdom”
 - (iii) the right vision - “ everyone.....everyone “
 - (iv) the right goal - “ perfect in Christ “
 - (v) the right effort - “ I labour, struggling...”
 - (vi) the right strength - “ with all his energy “
3. Our youth work recognises that God has given primary authority over children to their parents. He has not placed the church or the youth worker in this position. The local church exists as a support to the family, never a replacement.
Deut 6: 6-7; Eph 6: 1-4.
4. Ministry among youth is a gift based ministry by people whom our church(members) recognise as possessing the gifts necessary and lives which commend them to this work. The standard should be that of a “ good minister in Christ Jesus.”
Rom 12: 3-8; Eph 4: 11-16; 1Tim 4:6-8, 11-16;
5. The Bible refers to only two stages of life: childhood and adulthood. Therefore we are to view our young people as young adults, treat them accordingly, have high expectations for them and hold them accountable and responsible

for their actions, attitudes, and choices. Thus we are to help, encourage and support them on their journey from dependency to independency.
Gen 37:2; Dan 1; Ps 119:9; Ecc: 9-12:1; Gen 2:24.

6. Whatever is done associated with youth work ought to be done with every detail reflecting our great God and His excellent name. He deserves nothing less than our best efforts.
Ecc 9: 10; 1 Cor 10:31.

The Practical Approach to our Youth Work (How do we do it?)

1. Bible class is the central focus of our youth work. The emphasis here will be on the gospel, the development of christian character and the impact of the Word in their world.
2. Parents ought to have significant input into the direction of our youth work and be actively involved in supporting it. Accordingly parents meetings to review, plan and pray should be held at least twice a year.
3. Parents are encouraged to support this work by opening their homes to host meetings where practicable. Other families in the church are also welcome to offer their homes for this purpose. A roster should be drawn up.
4. Youth work will be led by a team made up of parents and other gifted and interested members of the church family who are suited for this work.
5. Activities will be held at least once a month and seek to promote their own happiness together, their interaction with people of all ages and walks of life and their place in the church family.
6. Service projects/opportunities will be sought to expose youth to serving both within our church and in our community.

The Elders
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