**10 Clues of A Healthy Youth Ministry**

Have you ever seen someone who looks healthy on the outside?

To some, a healthy youth program looks like:

* The youth choir/ programs
* Students coming
* Building / Facility

**1 Timothy 4:12-16** *“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in sprit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself; and those who hear you.”*

**Clue #10 Clarity of Vision**

**Acts 2:17** *“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. Your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.”*

* Your Pastor’s vision should be your youth ministries’ vision.
* Your role is to assist your pastor in fulfilling his calling.
* You find your pastor’s heart by spending time with him.

**[Messages, listening to him talk, watching him]**

* Your vision for the youth ministry should:

 - Declare who you are.

 - Declare who you are reaching.

 - Declare where you are intending to go.

* See yourself making a difference in this generation.

**Clue #9 Communicate at their Level**

**Mark 2:15-17** *“Now it happened, as He was dining in Levi’s house, that many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and his disciples. For there were many, and they followed Him. And when the scribes and the Pharisees way Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?”*

* Your messages should be taught so the youth can understand them.
* K.J. version / so deep you don’t understand it.
* The music should communicate to them. - You may not like it, but that’s fine anyway.
* We live in a sight and sound generation.
* Take time to understand young people - The way they talk, think, their world.

**Clue #8 A Heart of Excellence**

**Ephesians 6:15** *“And having shod your feet with the preparations of the gospel of peace.”*

* Excellence is when you give attention to the small things; starting on time, the team is sharp.
* Just because you can’t afford something at this time does not mean you have to look like it.
* Excellence and beauty costs much, but it pays for itself.
* Excellence is not what you do, it’s who you are - period.
* Develop a desire to walk in excellence.
* Excellence is finishing something you have begun.

**Clue #7 Solid Leadership**

 **Acts 6:3** *“Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputations, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.”*

* Ministry rises and falls on leadership.
* Leaders who have a heart and believe in young people.
* There must be commitment, responsibility and a calling.

“It takes a leader to know a leader, grow a leader, show a leader and attract a leader.” - **John Maxwell**

**Clue #6 Youth Involvement**

* Have young people participating in the ministry.
* Drama, announcements, praise & worship, altar ministry, greeters.
* Core, student leaders.

**Clue #5 Teach the Word**

**Joshua 1:8** *“This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success.”*

* We must use the Word of God to effectively inspire young people.
* The Word is God’s blueprint for our lives.
* It’s not just fun and games; it must be built on the Word of God.

**Clue #4 Cultivate Creativity**

**Mark 9:23** *“Jesus said to him, ‘If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.’”*

* Find fresh ways to reach young people.
* Big events, theme events, game units, facilities.
* Ideas are waiting to be discovered.

Excuses youth leaders use:

* I can’t be creative.
* Either you’re creative or you’re not.
* We can’t afford that.
* We have always done it this way.
* That’s not spiritual.

The ability to be creative is already on the inside of you.

**Clue #3 Continue to Grow**

We need to understand that we must continue to grow both numerically and spiritually.

* Student discipleship program.
* Devotions [5-5-5].
* Small groups.
* They don’t just have a knowing relationship with God; they have a growing relationship with God.

**Clue #2 Have Set Rules and Guidelines**

**Proverbs 22:6** *“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

* Rules are a set guide for conduct and structure.
* Rules give place for God to move.
* Respect is not given; it must be earned.

**Clue #1 Love God Above Everything Else**

**Matthew 5:6 *“****Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”*

**1 Kings 8:61 (NASB)** *“Let your heart be wholly devoted to the Lord of God, to walk in his statutes and to keep his commandments, as at this day.”*