

Chapter Three: Building the Bridge

It is vital that church leadership and the rest of the church build a community of healthy investment, genuine trust, and a commitment to unity.

If you are a **parent**, think about how you are speaking of church leaders in front of your children. Moreover, if there is conflict within the church or simply misunderstandings within leadership, it is important that you find space to dialogue about it in a healthy way with your children instead of simply ignoring it or assuming that it does not affect their perspective of the church.

If you are a **church member**, remember that young people are watching and hearing much more than you may think. Be sure that conversations are edifying to the body of Christ and when there is misunderstandings or conflict that we do not revert to gossip or backstabbing, but rather model effective conflict management and godly integrity rooted in the elements of love found in 2 Corinthians 13.

The point youth worker and a member of the senior church leadership need to walk through each of the elements in this chapter to determine what areas relate to their interactions. The purpose of this is not to create division but rather bring clarity and a healthy culture of feedback that leads to more effective ministry and relationship.

POINT YOUTH WORKER

- a. It is important to go over these areas highlighted in this chapter and meet with your supervisor to discuss what is going well and where you could experience greater support
- b. Remember that your supervisor is not a mind reader and often needs you to take the time to help them see where and how you could be more supported
- c. The key is that you are not making demands or threats. This needs to be done in the spirit of humility and respect with a posture of appreciation. This support should not come out of a place of entitlement; rather, allow it to become a means of ensuring your role for the long haul.

CHURCH LEADER: (Senior pastor or church board member)

- a. It is important for you to go over these areas and evaluate how you are investing into the person who is giving point leadership to your youth ministry.
- b. One of your most valuable assets to the development of an effective youth ministry is the youth worker who is mobilizing volunteers, giving strategic direction, and having meaningful relationships with the students, so be sure you are giving clear and effective feedback and tracking on the same page.
- c. Your intentional investment into them will see a correlating investment into the lives of the youth in the ministry.