

Chapter Four: Two Legs Learning to Dance

Are you part of enabling or blocking the youth ministry in your church from reaching un-churched youth?

If you are a **parent**, take time this month to connect with the point youth worker to walk through the fears that you might have in regards to un-churched youth having a greater presence in the youth ministry and then come with ideas as to how the youth ministry could best engage youth seeking to find Jesus.

If you are a **senior pastor**, consider: are you protecting, enabling, and supporting the point youth worker in their mission to both disciple and reach out to this next generation?

If you are a **church member**, be intentional to understand the philosophy and structure of youth ministry, then consider how you aim to support the development of a healthy youth ministry before you make decisions or raise fears about what is wrong with how youth ministry is functioning.

If you are a **youth worker**, hold the posture of learner, listener, and servant leader through the conversations on engaging and reaching the next generation on their journey towards Jesus. Many parents and church members will go into protection mode without a full understanding of youth ministry. Your role should be to avoid the perception of being defensive or controlling. Instead aim to come alongside them in their journey realizing that, in most cases, they simply want the best for their youth and the church. Always aim for a win-win.

The point youth worker and a member of the senior church leadership should have a working document that highlights expectations:

- a. What is the strategy or structures for discipleship (small group, mentoring, curriculum, service projects, etc.)?
- b. What is the strategy or structures for evangelism (retreats, service projects, equipping students to share their faith, students reaching students, events, school involvement, etc.)?
- c. Establish a clear understanding of what spiritual transformation looks like and how to be a ministry that meets students where they are at rather than where you want them to be.

- d. Reflect" what is the difference between attractional and missional youth ministry and which way does the church want the youth ministry to function?