



How to Create a 1 Year Youth Ministry Training

Note: This is Nick's notes from the training. So, it's written with cues to interact with people showing up live. Keep in mind these are Nick's notes (bullet points), and not a complete edited version.

You can watch the full re-recorded version here: <https://ministrytoyouth.com/training>

We ran into a technical glitch doing it live, so it was re-recorded and posted online at the above link.

Also, you can view the full scope and sequence of the examples Nick used in the training and learn more about the Exclusive Youth Curriculum here: <https://ministrytoyouth.com/exclusive-early-access>

Questions? Email Kate at kate@ministrytoyouth.com.

START

Hello everyone, thanks for being here.

My name is Nick Diliberto, I have 20+ years experience leading a youth and children's ministry. And I am the founder of Ministry to Youth.

Before we get started, a few things:

1/ Where do you live? Tell us in the comments

I live in San Diego, CA. Family just moved here in June from New Orleans.

What about you? Comment and let us know.

2/ This training will be interactive. So, feel free to comment.

We've have plenty of Q&A throughout our time together.

3/ Becky Forkel is on our team, and she'll be responding in the comments.

She's a rock star and has been with us for over 5 years. Shout out to Becky!

4/ Thanks to all of you who responded to texts and emails about what your #1 struggle is developing a 1 year youth ministry strategy.

That was very helpful. I looked for patterns in those responses and will address them in our time together.

Ok, let's get started.

START

Garden Illustration

In order for a garden to be beautiful, like this one, it needs some things like:

Fertile soil...

The proper amount of water...

Sunshine...

Your job is to provide the right environment, and then let the natural process unfold.

The same is true in youth ministry.

Your job is to create a healthy environment in your youth ministry, and let God do the rest.

- Basic truth. We all know this. But we can lose sight of it in the day to day of youth ministry.

- Everything we talk about today are ways to **create a healthy environment** for the students in your youth ministry.

With that in mind....

Question: If you could only focus on ONE goals for your youth ministry in 2021, what would they be? Comment below.

Let's look at 4 ways to develop a 1 year youth ministry strategy.

#1 - IDENTIFY A FEW GOALS FOR YOUR YOUTH MINISTRY IN 2021.

- Again, goals are about creating the right environment.
- Not a new idea, but there are a few common problems we run into with setting goals.

Problem #1 - COVID

- A good number of the #1 struggle responses emails/texts were related to COVID.

Some truths we've all learned through COVID:

1/ Constant change (Ex: Light Church).

- So, be flexible enough to pivot your approach as needed.

2/ It's messy and will probably be like this for awhile.

- Ex: Some of you still meeting online and no matter what you do, students not really engaged.
- Ex: Still trying to figure out socially distant games. Or meeting outside in the cold.
- So, let go of the need for everything **to be just right or back to normal**. Continually surrender to God.

Takeaway: Goals remain the same, but execution of those goals might look different.

- Ex: We don't stop discipling students because of COVID.

Problem #2 - Setting too many goals.

- Research shows that those who set more than a few goals rarely accomplish any of them, but those that set only a few goals are more likely to achieve them.
- Identify no more than 5 goals for the year. The fewer the better.

Problem #3 - NOT setting any goals.

- Imagine playing basketball with no goals. Ha! That would be crazy.
- Sometimes we're apprehensive about setting goals because we don't feel comfortable with results driven goals (ex: 20 students surrender their lives to Jesus).
- Those kind of goals are not what I am talking about. You can't control how many students make that decision. Remember, the goals you set are about creating the right environment.
- And you execute that goal by strategically doing teaching or small group series throughout the year on: Who is Jesus? Why did he die for us? What does it mean to follow him? Etc.

- We'll dive into how to execute in a minute. Kinda getting ahead of ourselves.
- Bottom line... It's important to set goals in youth ministry.

When setting goals:

- Pray, think, & brainstorm with team.
- **Key point: These goals should DRIVE everything you do - events, teachings, small group, training, etc. The rest of this training I'll show you how.**

Now...

Throughout this process, I'm going to use the Exclusive Youth Curriculum as a working example.

- Something new our team has been working on for over 8 months.
- We're pre-releasing it today. More about that later.
- Gives us something concrete to work through.
- Your goals might be totally different. And that is okay.
- We'll just use this as an example.

4 Goals of Exclusive Youth Curriculum:

1/ Students who don't know Jesus come into a relationship with him.

2/ Biblically Rooted

3/ Strategic path to discipleship

4/ God Centered Relationships

Your job is to figure out the goals of your youth ministry - all about creating the right environment.

With your goals in mind, the next step is to...

#2 - CREATE A SCOPE & SEQUENCE FOR TEACHING (AND SMALL GROUP) SERIES FOR THE YEAR

Basically, come up with the big idea for all series in a year AND put it on the calendar.

- Biblical focus and theme
- Not everything, just the big idea.
- Requires you to think/plan ahead. Strategic. Intentional.
- This is where many of us drop the ball.
- Lack of time or focus seem to get in our way.
- Imagine what would happen if you did this!

Question: How would creating a scope & sequence be a game changer for you in 2021?

- Comment below.

Align the scope & sequence aligns with your goals.

- This part is really important. Basically, you want to emphasize one or more of your goals throughout each series.
- And keep in mind the season of the year (New Year's, spring, Easter, summer, etc.).

Here's what we have done with The Exclusive Youth Curriculum...

1/ Teaching Series: KNOW, GROW & GO

- Touch on all 4 of our goals.
- Each series emphasizes one of the goals.

KNOW: Foundations of your faith.

- Rooted (March) - Grounded in Faith as follow Jesus
- I Am (April) - Easter explores the character of Jesus and how His death and resurrection impacted humanity.
- Born (December) - impact of Jesus' birth on the world.

GROW: Becoming more like Jesus & growing in your faith.

- Clean Slate (January) - Fresh start with God New Year's series
- Love Stories (February) - True love looks like by studying four great love stories in the Bible.
- Struggles (May) - Trust God, rely on him when facing struggles.
- Summer Survival Guide (June & July) - Grow their relationship with God this summer.
- Mood (October) - Learn to manage emotions in a healthy way.

PAUSE

- Do you see how you have lots of room for a COVID pivot or any other thing that comes up?
- Because you're just coming up with the main idea right now.
- Details as you get closer.

GO: Evangelism, sharing your faith and leading others by living out your faith.

- Others (August)
- Proof (September)
- Grace & Gratitude (November)

See how series are **intentional AND seasonal?**

2/ Small group series also touch on all 4 goals, with an emphasis on being Biblically Rooted and Strategic Path to Discipleship.

- 50% Talking, 50% Discussing (God Centered Relationships)
- Each series on a book of the Bible (Biblically Rooted)
- Don't have the scope & sequence in front of me right now, but will send you a link in a little bit.

Now, it is your turn to create a scope and sequence for your youth ministry!

QUESTION: Before we move on, ANY questions?

- Comment

Let's recap - How to develop a one year youth ministry strategy.

#1 - Identify a few goals for your youth ministry in 2021.

#2 - Create a scope and sequence for the year, and align it with your goals.

Next...

#3 - PLAN YOUTH EVENTS AND VOLUNTEER TRAINING FOR THE YEAR, AND ALIGN THEM WITH YOUR GOALS.

- Plan out the entire year in advance.
- Every event should focus on a specific goal that you've identified in the first step.

Question: Pause... what is your #1 favorite youth event you do each year?

- Comment.

Some questions to think through...

- What events will you do?
- How many?
- Which events focus on which goals?
- When will you do the events?
- How many volunteer trainings?
- How do you onboard new volunteers?
- What key things do you want to help volunteers really “get”?

These questions are just a starting point.

The big ideas are:

- Plan 1 year ahead
- Be strategic and intentional about events & training.

Now, let's go over how what this looks like with our Exclusive Youth Curriculum.
Exclusive Events & Trainings:

1/ Live online trainings once every two months.

- Tough getting volunteers to show up in person.
- Higher attendance online.
- If can't show up live, they get the recording.
- Every two months seems to be the sweet spot.

2/ Four events a year.

- Less is more.
- Spring, summer, back to school, holidays

WRAP UP

Ok, thanks for hanging in there with me. I went over A LOT of info.

Let's do a recap on the main points:

1/ Identify a few goals for 2021

- The fewer the better. Under 5.
- Laser focus

2/ Create a 1 year scope & sequence for teaching (and small group) series.

- Align scope and sequence with your goals.

3/ Plan youth events & volunteer training for the year, and align them with your goals.

— —END— —

Now, it's time to do the hard work of putting this all together.

- Encourage you to carve out some time before the New Year to do this.

Or, if our Exclusive Curriculum seems to be a good fit for you, then that's great.

Learn more about the Exclusive Youth Curriculum here: <https://ministrytoyouth.com/exclusive-early-access>

We are **pre-releasing** the Exclusive Youth Curriculum for those who participated in Thursday's training.

You get **early access** to the curriculum and a special set of bonuses if you purchase through today.

- Special bonus for those who showed up to the training today!

Becky, share link in comments and pin to the top.

Our team has been working hard on this for over 8 months, and we're really excited to release it!

What is it?

- One year of strategic youth ministry totally done for you!
- You save 82% on \$1,678 worth of NEW youth ministry resources!
- ****All new****
- 52 teaching lessons
- 52 small group lessons
- 4 youth group events and 6 training sessions.

1 year strategy... everything you need for the entire year.

4 Goals:

- Students who don't know Jesus come into a relationship with him.
- Strategic path to discipleship (small group, teaching, events, and training)
- Biblically rooted
- God Centered Relationships

Few important things:

- Pre-released today (everyone else Friday) with special bonuses.
- In development.
- Only available through next Thursday night, Dec 10
- Online and in person
- Everything is exclusive
- Samples on link
- Scope & sequence on link

Few things....

We'll also email you a link today. And text it to you if you signed up for text alerts.

We'll pin this video at top of our FB page thru next Thursday.

And we'll email you my outline from today's training. Probably by tomorrow.

****Q&A****

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