

## **Educational Ministry Plan According To The Ed-Cycle** - First Baptist Church of Memphis Youth Group -

### **- Introduction -**

#### Ministry Focus

The First Baptist Church of Memphis Youth Group was established in 2013 for the purpose of reaching the youth generation in the church. The church was currently in the process of a building project which involved moving the church to a more noticeable location. This move would lead to a significant growth in the church which included growth within the youth group. Over the course of the past four years the dynamics of the youth group have changed which has led to a reevaluation of this ministry. The purpose of the report to follow is to layout an educational ministry plan that, through prayer, will; be founded on biblical principles, develop a strategic plan, establish goals and objectives, create working programs and curriculum, provide relevant methods and materials, be organized, establish leadership (administration), and prepare that leadership to regularly evaluate the ministry.

### **- Prayer & Biblical Principles -**

#### Importance of Prayer

One of the clearest examples of prayer and its importance in leadership comes from the book of Nehemiah. In Nehemiah 1, Nehemiah was faced with troubling news of the condition of Israel. Being faced with this issue, Nehemiah fasts and prays, thereby setting an appropriate example of godly leadership and the importance of prayer. A ministry that is not founded on prayer is a ministry that is not founded on Jesus. Neglecting to bring a ministry and its needs to God through the Spirit, is neglecting to use one of the greatest powers a Christian has. The power of the Spirit also acts in interceding for us as we seek to bring the ministry before God (Romans 8:26). Nehemiah was faced with a very real problem, as he had to ask permission from the king to leave and attend to Israel's needs. Nehemiah 1:11 says, "O Lord, I beseech You, may Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant and the prayer of Your servants who delight to revere Your name, and make Your servant successful today and grant him compassion before this man." Now I was the cupbearer to the king.<sup>1</sup> Before Nehemiah approached the king, he seasoned himself in prayer, taking his requests to God. This is the attitude that we in the youth ministry must maintain, a life seasoned in prayer. It is important that this life of prayer happens not only on a corporate level and with a corporate focus (for the teens), but happens daily on a personal level. An effective leadership team will be devoted to prayer and personal spiritual growth and this ministry will only be as effective as its leaders. For these reasons we will be a ministry devoted to the pursuit of a prayerful life.

#### Biblical Principles

The following biblical principles form the bedrock on which the First Baptist Church of Memphis Youth Ministry stands:

**1. The Church is commanded to equip it's saints** - "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;" -

---

<sup>1</sup> Nehemiah 1:11 NASB

Ephesians 4:11-12.<sup>2</sup> The Youth Group, being a ministry of the Church, is commanded to equip its saints to do the work of the ministry. Therefore we must work to equip the teens to carry out their faith and spread it in their world.

**2. The Church is commanded to edify (build up) one another** - “Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.” - 1 Thessalonians 5:11.<sup>3</sup> In the present time that the Lord has given us on this earth, we are commanded to encourage and edify one another. We will work to edify and encourage the teens through teaching, prayer, discipleship, and service.

**3. The Church is commanded to evangelize** - “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” - Matthew 28:19-20.<sup>4</sup> All believers must obey this command, to go and spread the Gospel message. Therefore we will work with the teens to fulfill this command by evangelizing to those God has placed in their lives.

## - Strategic Planning -

### Core Values

**1. Commitment to the Word** - The Youth Group of First Baptist Church of Memphis is first and foremost committed to the teaching of the Word of God. If we are not training our teens and teaching them through God’s true Word, then we as a ministry should not exist. True spiritual life change will only come through the direction, teaching, and counsel of the Bible. We are committed to bringing the Bible to our teens in a way that they can apply to their life in a meaningful way. The biblical teaching of the Word will and must always be at the center of what we do.

**2. Commitment to Prayer** - The Youth Group of First Baptist Church of Memphis is committed to a lifestyle of prayer. As addressed earlier in this plan, prayer is essential to an effective ministry. We will engage the teens in prayer, teaching them to pray more effectively as well as praying for their specific needs. The leadership will also be devoted to a lifestyle of prayer both on a corporate level but on a personal level as well. In an effort for both our leaders and teens to grow spiritually, we will emphasize the necessity of prayer.

**3. Commitment to Accountability** - The Youth Group of First Baptist Church of Memphis is committed to accountability amongst its leadership. Admittedly this is an area in which we have failed to place much needed importance. However, we are committed to establishing relationships of accountability amongst the leadership in order to prevent any personal spiritual issues from derailing the ministry and leading to a lack of effectiveness.

**4. Commitment to Discipleship** - The Youth Group of First Baptist Church of Memphis is committed to providing lasting, impactful relationships with the teens. Again, another area of weakness in years past, we now seek to gain these more meaningful relationships through a direct process of discipleship.

---

<sup>2</sup> Ephesians 4:11-12 NASB

<sup>3</sup> 1 Thessalonians 5:11 NASB

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 28:19-20 NASB

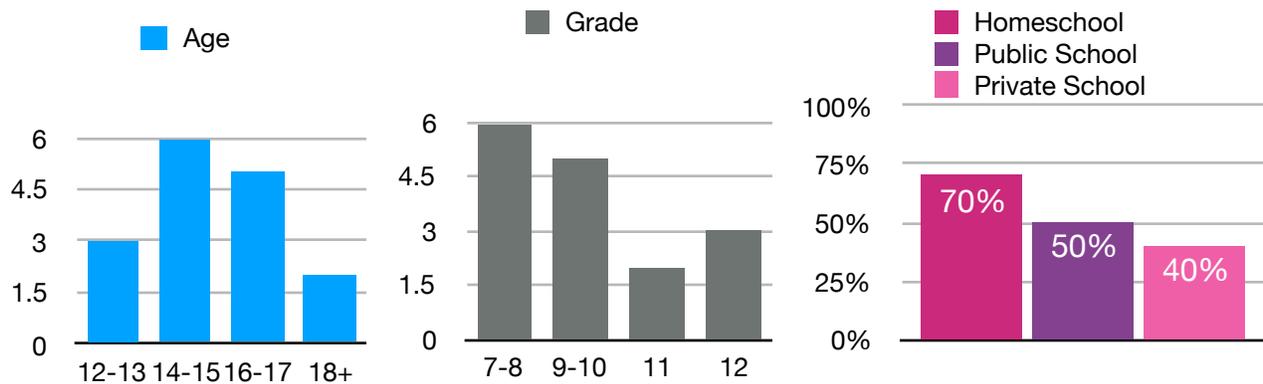
## Mission

The First Baptist Church of Memphis Youth Group exists to equip, edify, and evangelize.

## Environmental Scan

### **Internal:**

The First Baptist Church of Memphis Youth Group currently consists of 12-15 teens ranging from the ages of 12-18 years old. Currently the Youth Group consists of teens in grades 7-12, with about half of the group being homeschooled and the other half being public school or private school. The Youth Group also consists of 7 youth leaders, one of which being the youth pastor and another being his wife. The following internal scan will be illustrated in the charts below:



### **External:**

The First Baptist Church of Memphis Youth Group is located on the border of Elbridge and Camillus, New York. Being situated on the border allows us to focus primarily on reaching these two areas which are located outside of Syracuse, NY.

Elbridge - According to the U.S. Decennial Census, as of 2016 there is an estimated population of 5,763 people living in Elbridge. The population consists of 2,322 households and 1,688 families. Out of the 2,322 households in Elbridge, 36.5% include children under the age of 18; 56.9% were married couples living together; 10.9% included a single female as householder; and 27.3% of households were made up of non-families. The racial makeup of Elbridge is predominately white with 97.7% being white and the other 2.3% being made up of black, native american, asian, and other races.<sup>5</sup> Elbridge also contains 1 school (elementary school) but shares a middle school and high school with a neighboring town named Jordan. Elbridge approximately has 3 churches (2 Baptist, 1 Community) with one of those churches being the First Baptist Church of Memphis.

Camillus - According to the U.S. Decennial Census, as of 2016 there is an estimated population of 24,624 people living in Camillus. The population consists of 9,315 households and 6,595 families. Out of the 9,315 households in Camillus, 30.5% include children under the age of 18; 58.1% were married couples living together; 9.8% included a single female as householder; and 29.2% of households were made up of non-families. The racial makeup of Elbridge is predominately white with 96.45% being white and the other 3.55% being made up

<sup>5</sup> "American FactFinder". United States Census Bureau.

of black, native american, asian, hispanic and latino races.<sup>6</sup> Camillus also contains 5 different schools (1 High School, 2 middle schools, and 2 elementary schools) and approximately 15 different churches (Baptist, Ukrainian, Community, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Catholic, and Methodist).

### Vision

As the leadership has been seeking to establish a vision for this ministry, we seek to maintain that vision within our three major biblical principles. Our hope is that, Lord willing, this ministry will reach new levels of spiritual and numerical growth as we implement this ministry plan and seek to better serve our teens.

**Equip:** Our vision is that we will be able to equip our teens with effective knowledge and resources for them to establish a biblical worldview. Our teens will have a growing desire and passion for the Word and will be able to adequately defend their faith and deepen their resolve in their faith. Our vision would mean that every teen, no matter religious background or family dynamic, will be able to give an answer for why they believe what they believe. We will seek to provide our teens with adequate resources for spiritual growth through seminars, outings, conferences, as well as study material. The purpose of these things will all be directed in helping our teens mature in their faith and become better equipped to live in a world/culture in opposition to their beliefs. Our vision also includes assembling a core of mature students to join the leadership team in making decisions that determine the direction of the ministry as we continue to grow.

**Edify:** Our vision is that we will be able to establish meaningful relationships with all of our teens. These relationships will lead to purposeful conversations and start the discipleship process. We do not want to limit this edification solely to the teens, but our vision includes extending these relationships to parents, friends, and other family as we seek to impact them via this ministry as well. This edification process would also allow us to begin a follow-up and continual discipleship program with college students who have “graduated” out of the Youth Group.

**Evangelize:** Our vision includes providing opportunities for our teens to spread the Gospel to the world. Through training and discipleship we will seek to equip our teens with the education needed for effective evangelism. We will also practice the importance of evangelism through testimony as we seek to serve others in our church and community. The evangelism process will involve both short-term local and short-term global missions trips to provide context and an experience in which our teens can see the work of the Gospel first-hand.

---

<sup>6</sup> "American FactFinder". United States Census Bureau.