

Downtown Youth Ministry Foundation



Our Foundation is to **Love God** and **Love Others**.

Matthew 22: 37-40

Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Downtown Youth Ministry Goal



Our Goal is C.O.R.E., and it builds off our Foundation.

Commit (Ps. 31:5)

Love God

Obey (Jn. 14:15)

Reach out (Eph. 2:13)

Love Others

Encourage (Heb. 3:13)

Downtown Youth Ministry Lens



This facet of our ministry philosophy is to provide a filter through which we can determine our success or failure in reaching our goal. We recognize that the way we determine achievement of a goal changes as we grow and mature. Thus, our aim is to map out the progression in spiritual development we hope occurs for teens during their time in youth group.

At different stages, a teen has a certain attitude about the youth group based on their maturity level. For each attitude, we have given a corresponding question a teen might ask in reference to their involvement with a group or event.

	Attitude	Question
7th and 8th grade	<i>What this group gives me</i>	<i>Who else is going?</i>
9th and 10th grade	<i>How this group grows me</i>	<i>How can I make sure I am there?</i>
11th and 12th grade	<i>How I grow this group Or What I give this group</i>	<i>Who else can I make sure is there?</i>

Using this lens, we believe we will better evaluate a teen’s spiritual development in the areas of Commitment, Obedience, Reaching Out, and Encouragement.

Downtown Youth Ministry

Seeing the Goal through the Lens



Here, we combine C.O.R.E. (the Goal) with “Asking Different Questions” (the Lens). In other words, if we expect teens to be asking different questions as they move through the youth group then we should consequently understand that words like *Commitment* or *Encouragement* will continuously take on new meaning as they grow, too.

	7 th and 8 th grade (Do It. Learning the practice.)	9 th and 10 th grade (Want To Do It. Asking why. Checking motives. Character development.)	11 th and 12 th grade (Want To Help Others Do It. Removal of self. Becoming so filled up that you must pour out.)
Commit	Being Present. We come as often as we are able. With spiritual disciplines, our goal is that we will train ourselves to consistently practice them.	Priority. Choosing this over that. Participation. Engaging and being fully present. With disciplines, learning to open up to God.	Purpose. In everything we are involved in, we have an agenda. In disciplines, it's who we are. Recognizing our need for spiritual disciplines and taking the initiative to develop them. *Making the connection that being a person of commitment in other areas (i.e. church, family, a ministry) shows them how to better commit to God.

Obey	Based on Consequences. We do what we are supposed to do, most often because we are aware of the reward or punishment.	Obeying even when it doesn't make sense to us. We obey because we love and trust. But we are still being asked to obey.	We no longer have to be asked. We obey because we know what God wants from us. We are most pleased when we are accomplishing God's purpose. *Making the connection that obedience to authority helps us learn to be obedient our Heavenly Father.
Reach Out	... to those like us. Stay inside our comfort zone, but still learning to invest in someone else.	Realizing we can be the hands and feet of God. Understanding that it is good <i>for me</i> to get uncomfortable.	...because we love that person and we want them to know the love of Jesus. It is also reaching out to the fringe kids. It might mean approaching someone very different. It's also recognizing that we are setting an example for others to follow.
Encourage	The focus is being positive and practicing encouragement... even if we encourage in hopes of being encouraged.	Being able to articulate deeper qualities in someone else. Speaking God's Truth into someone. Still learning to create opportunities for encouragement.	Led by the Spirit to pick out certain people that need it most. Drawing out the image of God until they are able to see it too (and then live into that image.) We are also not uncomfortable anymore getting on that level with people.