



Families of Faith:
Comprehensive Plan for Youth and
Family Ministry

Table of Contents

[Overview](#)

[Important stats](#)

[Birth - 4th Grade](#)

- [Focus: Family](#)
 - [Practicals, practices, procedures:](#)

[5th - 6th Grade](#)

- [Focus: Friends](#)
 - [Practicals, practices, procedures:](#)

[7th-8th Grade](#)

- [Focus: Faith](#)
 - [Practicals, practices, procedures:](#)

[9th-12th Grade](#)

- [Focus: Fruit and Future](#)
 - [Practicals, practices, procedures:](#)

[10 Components to a Healthy Youth and Family Ministry](#)

Overview

Our mission is to help foster and facilitate “families of faith” and help every family have the necessary tools to have Christ centered homes.

The Chicago Y&F Ministry Leaders have identified 4 different age groups with different focus for each age group based on Dave Pacta presentation at Denver Y&F conference. These age groups consist of the following:

- [Birth - 4th Grade](#)
- [5th - 6th Grade](#)
- [7th-8th Grade](#)
- [9th-12th Grade](#)

Based on research the leaders of the ICOC Y&F Ministries have identified [10 Components to a Healthy Youth and Family Ministry](#) that will be applied throughout this plan.

Of the [10 Components to a Healthy Youth and Family Ministry](#), there are 4 that are crucial to every stage and is the foundation and building block of Y&F ministry: **I, II, III, X**

In addition, Phil Arsenault, the leader of Y&F in Boston identified two things that are non-negotiable for Y&F ministry to be a thriving ministry:

1. Lordship - Jesus must be Lord in the home.
2. Leadership - Must have spiritual Leadership in the home¹.

Important stats:

- Teens spend about 10 hours a week with the church, 158 hours elsewhere, 158 hours can have a positive impact or a negative impact depending on how they are spent.
- Parents have 3-4x more influence over their kids than the church²

In a survey taken of over 250 disciples who were baptized as Teens and remained faithful beyond their Sophomore year of college they said that the most influential people in their spiritual development were the following:

1. Parents
2. Mentors
3. Y&F Workers.

¹ From Phil Arsenault opening Lesson at Denver Y&F conference, “All Generations”

² From Phil Arsenault opening Lesson at Denver Y&F conference, “All Generations”

Birth - 4th Grade

Focus³: Family

- Children's Ministry is the foundation of Y&F
- Parents should be having consistent parenting Devotionals
- Parents and guardians should be equipped with training tools
- Sunday Kids Kingdom Classes

Notable Components involved⁴:

Building strong foundational Components in this age group

I, II, III, X

Practicals, practices, procedures:

I. Christian Parents who are committed and involved in the spiritual lives of their Teens.

- Parents having in home devotionals
- Building Sphere of influence* (This includes friends, mentors, and Y&F workers)

II. Parents being regularly equipped by the church leadership through both discipling and training.

- Church Leaders and/or Y&F workers lead Parents Devo.
- Teach parents how to do Devo's in the home
- Do a course together such as Good enough parenting course or other course or just reading through a book together at the same pace and coming together to discuss it.

III. Strong teamwork between Church leaders, Y&F workers (Children's Ministry Workers), and the parents.

- Y&F workers meet once per month with Children's Ministry workers

X. A Dynamic, discipling and growing Y&F Ministry

- Choosing the right curriculum for Children's Ministry
 - This is needs based and will require collaboration.

³ All categories are based on Dave Pocta presentation from Denver Youth and Family Conference ****

⁴ Components are from "10 Components to a Healthy Youth & Family Ministry"

5th - 6th Grade

Focus: Friends

- These are the Pre-Teens
- Get them around some good company (promotes good character)
- Faith building studies (previous: character studies)
- Fun Events
- Pre Teen Devotionals
- Parenting Classes

Notable Components Involved:

[I](#), [II](#), [VII](#). [X](#)

Practicals, practices, procedures:

I. Christian Parents who are committed and involved in the spiritual lives of their Teens.

- Parents do faith building studies between 11-13 years of age or partnering with mentors to do these.
- Parents organizing activities with other families in the church with kids in the same age group to help build strong friendships.
- Parents continuing to build their kids Sphere of influence [*](#)

II. Parents being regularly equipped by the church leadership through both discipling and training.

- Teach parents good practicals while doing the Faith building studies
- Parent Devotionals/workshops

VII. Strong Spiritual relationships with others*

- Mentoring program - Thinking and planning to begin asking someone to come and mentor
- Starting to see the pre-teens have really great friendships

X. A Dynamic, discipling and growing Y&F Ministry

- Y&F workers eating in the homes with families, really getting to know the family and their kids. Focus here is on having a lot of fun and building a great rapport with the parents.

7th-8th Grade

Focus: Faith

- This group consists of young Teens
- Take faith deeper
- Faith building studies (previous: character studies)
- Mentors⁵
- Classes devotionals and fun times
- Parenting Classes

Notable Components Involved:

[I](#), [II](#), [IV](#), [VII](#), [VIII](#), [VI](#), [X](#)

Practicals, practices, procedures:

- I. Christian Parents who are committed and involved in the spiritual lives of their Teens.
 - Parents partner with Mentor and make sure mentoring is in place
 - Implementation will vary, but it is important for the Teen to have ownership in this process and contribute.
 - Parents continue to foster great friendships with their kids by spending time with other disciple parents with kids around that age.
- II. Parents being regularly equipped by the church leadership through both discipling and training.
 - Church leadership develop a mentoring program with clear parameters and boundaries as well as teach parents how to go about implementation.
 - Parent Devotionals where parents are equipped by church leaders and Y&F workers.
- III. Strong Teamwork between Church Leaders, Parents, and Teen Workers
 - Church leaders help to promote the Mentoring program by making announcements and asking for people to volunteer.
- IV. Teens disciplined and matured in faith, character, knowledge. And the use of God's word.
 - Faith building studies
 - Great conversations with mentor and parents about building character

⁵ Having a strong mentoring program by this stage is key based on all research Mentoring has huge benefits spiritually, psychologically, and in development.

- Parents partner with mentors to make sure the Faith building studies are happening
- Parents participate in HOPE projects and community service activities with their kids.

VI. Teen disciples successfully transitioning into other ministries

- These teens will be getting ready to go into the Teen Ministry (in some ministry structures).
- Y&F workers having a dinner in the home of the transitioning Teen.
- Making sure the Teen that is transitioning is feeling welcomed and Y&F workers engage the disciples to help pull them in.

VII. Strong spiritual relationships with other teens, campus students, and adults across the church.

- Mentoring program
- Having other families in home

VIII. Strong Connection to other Y&F ministries

- All State/Regional devo's
- All State/Regional events
- Pre Teen camp

X. A Dynamic, discipling and growing Y&F Ministry

- Y&F workers eating in the homes with families, really getting to know the family and their kids as well as the dynamics.
- Y&F workers also getting time with just the parents

9th-12th Grade

Focus: Fruit and Future

- Making Jesus Lord here
- Preparing them for the future
- Devotionals, fun times, classes, D-Groups
- Parenting Classes

Notable Components Involved:

[I](#), [II](#), [III](#), [IV](#), [VI](#), [VII](#), [VIII](#), [V](#), [IX](#)

Practicals, practices, procedures:

I. Christian Parents who are committed and involved in the spiritual lives of their Teens.

- Continuing spiritual discussions through Teen years, respecting that they are growing up.
- Parents discussing regularly with Y&F workers.
- Parents participate in community service activities with their kids

II. Parents being regularly equipped by the church leadership through both discipling and training.

- Parent Devo's
- Times in home with parents and Y&F workers
- Y&F leaders have an opening at staff meetings and leadership group meetings to discuss

III. Strong Teamwork between Church Leaders, Parents, and Teen Workers

- "Family talk⁶" when bible studies first begin and at the end of the bible studies if both parents are disciples.
- Parents do 3 follow up studies with their kids - Teens select these
- Y&F workers discuss best time with church leaders to have parent/teen devotionals.

IV. Teens discipled and matured in faith, character, knowledge. And the use of Gods word.

- Follow up bible studies, dtimes, dgroups
- Parents do 3 follow up studies with their kids - Teens select these

⁶ The "Family Talk" consists of some scriptures and questions to help understand the family dynamic and discuss practicals on how to improve it.

- Sharing Faith together and getting in bible studies with other Teens together.

VI. Teen disciples successfully transitioning into other ministries

- Y&F leader should know campus calendar and have a copy
- Teens pre-select campus devotionals to attend and communicate that to Campus ministers.
- Y&F leader reaches out to Campus leader that teen will be attending to discuss the transition and help them to know more about the Teen they will be receiving.
- Y&F workers facilitates at least one meaningful contact between the Teen going to University and the Campus Worker of that University

VII. Strong spiritual relationships with other teens, campus students, and adults across the church.

- Great relationships with other Teens through Teen activities
- Mentors involved in bible studies and continue to help Teens
- Mentors collaborate with Y&F workers during the bible studies
- Seniors attending campus events

VIII. Strong Connection to other Y&F ministries

- Strength in numbers
- Teen Camps, Hope Youth Corps, really taking advantage of what the kingdom has.
- All State/ regional events

NEW Components at this age:

V. Majority of the Kingdom Kids being converted and staying faithful through their later Teen Years⁷.

- Teen Workers studying the Bible with Teens
- Teen workers partnering with mentors to do follow up studies
- Follow up Dgroup
- Teens select Universities where they know a campus ministry exists that they can get to.

IX. Teens of non-members and their families being influenced by teen disciples and their families, studying the bible, and getting baptized.

- Y&F workers meet non-member parents and build rapport.
- Introduce parents to disciple adults with kids around the same age
- Families getting engaged in the community and inviting families from school over to have in the home
- Teens dreaming for their schools (Bible talks, Community service events with HOPE, ect)
- Have Fun Teen devotionals and family groups where Teens can invite friends.
- Making disciples as a family.

⁷ This really only happens if the foundation is being laid throughout all stages

10 Components to a Healthy Youth and Family Ministry⁸:

- I. Christian Parents who are committed and involved in the spiritual lives of their teens is the most important factor.
 - Parents investing in spiritual upbringing of children: parents personal example; parents connecting heart to heart with their teens.
- II. Parents being regularly equipped by the church leadership through both discipling and training.
 - Consistent/competent training: parents being trained; Teen workers working with the parents.
- III. A strong teamwork between the Church leaders, the Youth and Family Leaders, the Parents, the Teen Workers, and the Teens.
 - The big three unified: Leaders of church, Y&F leaders, and Parents
- IV. Teens discipled and matured in faith, character, knowledge. And the use of Gods word.
 - Discipling partners and dgroups; follow up studies
- V. The majority of Kingdom Kids (those with Christian parents) being converted and staying faithful through their later teen years.
- VI. Teen disciples successfully transitioning into campus and/or single ministries where they continue as faithful and giving disciples.
 - Solid transition into their next ministry.
- VII. Strong spiritual relationships with other teens, campus students, and adults across the church.
 - Teens connected to the whole church, being intentional about finding mentors.
- VIII. A strong connection to other Y&F Ministries in sister churches, to the International Conference of Youth and Family Ministry, and HOPE Youth Corps.
 - Strength in numbers for Teens; Learning from others and getting ideas from each others ministry.
- IX. Teens of non-members and their families being influenced by teen disciples and their families, studying the bible, and getting baptized.
 - Winning gentiles/ Lifestyle evangelism
- X. A dynamic, discipling and growing Youth Ministry.
 - Great, God glorifying events; Teens called to be like Jesus; Growth by seeing teens become disciples

⁸ 10 Concepts discussed at the Denver Youth and Family Conference with the exception of the “add on”

Circle of Friends



Building a Circle of Friends





