

CORE

TEACHING YOUTH A MATURING LOVE FOR AND DELIGHT FOR GOD THAT FULLY SATISFIES

Junior High Ministry **Adolescent Ministry** **Ministry to Youth ages 10-14**

Our concept of Junior High Ministry is based on the idea that we look at what God is doing and join Him. In the adolescent years, unlike any other stage of life, it is incredibly easy to see what God is doing, for it is during these years that God takes every child in the world through the physical and emotional changes to make them into adults. By perfect design of the creator, the adolescent years, for all of time, have been the time that the human body makes the transformation from child to adult, the most significant change being that adults have the ability to reproduce and the accompanying responsibilities.

In observing that this is a consequence of God's perfect design and thus the work of God's tender hand, we as ministers to these same adolescents must join the Father in His work in His children.

HOW? The Dilemma

There exists a dilemma in that in our society the general thing to do with an adolescent is to entertain them. Electronic games, skate parks, sports, camps, movies, television are all designed to entertain and provide fun for middle schoolers. Extreme catering to the 'fun' of a middle school student yields selfish and self-centered youth.

God on the other hand is steadily at work making these young people into adults. Which would dictate that at this stage we need to teach our young children responsibility, service and giving. Blended with this diet of fun must also be a very regular regiment of responsibility to others, fun in service and selfless giving.

Even Jesus went through adolescence and the Bible records this period of time like this (Luke 2:51-52):

- ⇒ He continued in subjection to His parents.
(This is why we teach Colossian 3:20 as our life verse for the adolescent years)
- ⇒ He grew in wisdom.
(This is intelligence and the skills to apply it. We address this in addressing responsibility to others.)
- ⇒ He grew in stature.
(God does this Himself through the very individual, preprogrammed instruction that He places within every person's genes.)
- ⇒ He grew in favor with God.
(This is spiritual intimacy, a love relationship with God.)
- ⇒ He grew in favor with men.
(This is the Christian's command to love others as himself.)

We will employ the precepts of Philippians 2 to battle the selfishness and self-centeredness that is so engrained and encouraged in the very fabric of our society. Selfishness is replaced with humility of mind, which regards others as more important than self. (Phil 2:3). Self-centeredness is balanced by concern for the interests of other (Phil. 2:4).