



6 Youth Ministry Building B.A.S.I.C.S.

By Paul Evans & Al Millergrén

Copyright 2002 Teen Life Ministries

Pass this report along to all you know who work to lead teens into a deeper walk with God.

This report is brief, but bold. It's not about programming, but ministry concepts. You can build a BIG ministry without them, but you cannot build a SIGNIFICANT one without them.

Each brief section ends with a question. It's not rhetorical. AND some of them might not make sense at first. So think. Answer them all in detail, not just "yes," or "no." In fact, get out your journal, or a clean sheet of paper, and search your spirit. Also, write out a prayer to God that reflects or corrects your heart thoughts.

BE

Stop trying. If we readily admit we can't DO enough, why do we keep beating ourselves up?

God doesn't say, "Try holy," He says, "**BE** holy" (1 Peter 1:16). What are you being? What do you exist as?

We ask children, "What do you want to **BE** when you grow up?" We ask adults, "What do you DO for a living?" We get satisfaction when we do what we **BE**. Why? Because we're simply reflecting our created state. We are being who God intended and created, not what the world expects. That's the reason so many people hate their jobs. They're doing what they think will result in a living, instead of **being** what will result in a life.

Are you trying to **BE** something or someone you're not?

BE who GOD created and designed. I Corinthians 12:18 makes it clear... God has placed you in the body **exactly** where HE wants you.

What You BE?

AUTHENTIC

In *Becoming a Contagious Christian*, Bill Hybels writes, “People don’t expect you to be perfect, they expect you to be authentic.”

Real. That’s what people want. That’s why Jesus hammered the Pharisees. They weren’t real. If Jesus didn’t like a fake, guess what, neither will anyone else. Masks only provide a front for a short time. Sooner or later someone will spot what is underneath. What’s your mask?

WYSIWYG (WhatYouSeelsWhatYouGet). When web design programs went from HTML trained programmers to WYSIWYG such as FrontPage, almost anyone could draft and upload a webpage. Those we minister to want us to be WYSIWYG. People would rather have honest arrogance over hypocritical humility.

Of course we’ve rationalized the reasons for not being **authentic**...

1. Acceptance. “If people knew the real me, no one would like me.”
2. Fear. “If I really take a hard look at myself, I won’t like me.”
3. A long road. “I have too much to overcome, it’s just not worth it.”

Those are all lies. Satan has done a good job. You can choose to believe him, or believe God (1 John 3:1).

What I admire most about Jesus in the Gospels is His reality. He never got pressured to say or do the wrong thing. He never put on a mask. He never hid who He was on the inside. What about you? Are you afraid of being discovered? If you’ve been fake, stop and ask God for forgiveness and to allow you to be the you HE created.

When Are You Most REAL?

SPIRITUAL

Have you ever noticed what demons did in Scripture? They always confessed Jesus as the Son of God. That's because they saw reality (the unseen). We see virtual reality (the visible).

Our fight is not in the flesh (programming, getting the bus back clean, a kid on the fringe). Our fight is **spiritual** (the kingdom agenda, a deacon's bad attitude, a kid's dark heart). Read Ephesians 6:11-12.

Stop just reading the bible.

Start studying God's Word.

Stop just praying.

Start opening your heart and communicate to God.

Stop just attending church.

Start looking to give and receive a blessing when you're assemble with God's people.

How Do You Spear-It?

IN LOVE

If you ain't got **love**, you ain't got nuthin'.

The greatest commands involve loving GOD and loving Others. Period. Everything hangs on those two commands. Let those flow through your soul and your life in Christ will be smooth. At least as smooth as possible when you're carrying a daily cross.

Love God. Do you really **LOVE** Him, or have you bought into a system? Take time out right now and express your love to Him. Write a poem, sing a song, or do whatever you feel like doing to convey your love. Let your emotion stream from your spirit. Until we learn to love HIM we cannot love others. How does GOD know you **love** Him?

Loving Others. Who do you love? God has called us to love others instead of hating them; in spite of their hating us; and in search of becoming perfect (Matthew 5:43-48). How do the teens know you **love** them?

Loving God and others is top. More important than your doctrine. More important than your worship style. More important than your ministry philosophy. Isn't it amazing how much time Christians spend arguing over belief systems, when they can't get the top two priorities right?

How Great a Lover Are You?

CONNECT

Jesus talked about soil, fields, rocks, fishing, and anything else that connected to His people. What about you? Do you talk about skating, games, movies, hanging out, and other things that relate to your group?

Sometimes we so seek to spiritualize everything that we fail to use our greatest tool – being relational. Honestly, most Christians talk and act like they're from another planet. But look at Jesus. He was literally from heaven, but his word pictures were earthy. He connected. The people were amazed. Are you?

Most of us major in **disconnection**. We undermine our effectiveness because we center on what **WE** want the teens to be instead of who **GOD** wants them to be.

Every teen has a favorite area of **connection**. Seek and you will find.

Do You "Dis"- Connect Teens?

SOW

Parental patience is low. I've yet to meet a parent who didn't want their kid to be perfect spiritually yesterday. However, much of what we do is sowing. We plant, another waters, and God brings the increase (1 Corinthians 3:7).

How long does it take to grow a plant? It depends on the plant. Some break through the earth in days; some in months; some in years. You and I are the same way. The teens are the same as well. Some seem to be spiritual giants at twelve, while others don't flourish until their forties.

How does your garden grow? By God's power. If you get frustrated and disappointed because a promising crop fails to emerge, you're focusing on the wrong thing. Be faithful in plowing, planting, and watering. God, not you, not me, makes the plants grow.

Sow What?

B **E**

What You Be?

A

UTHENTIC

When Are You Most Real?

S

PIRITUAL

How Do You Spear-It?

I

N LOVE

How Great A Lover Are You?

C

ONNECT

Do You "Dis"-Connect Teens?

S

OW

Sow What?

Teen Life Ministries

“Taking the Guesswork Out of Youth Work”

236 Foxdale Rd. Montgomery, AL 36109
334-277-7726 TeenLife@TeenLifeMinistries.com

FREE Weekly Ezine

Lesson Outlines, Tips, Tools, & Techniques
To Maximize Your Youth Ministry.

<http://www.TeenLifeMinistries.com/maximizer.htm>

Or blank email: teenlife@followup101.com

The Youth Ministry Resource Factory



A New Resource Each Month to Help
You Build Your Youth Ministry.

<http://www.TeenLifeMinistries.com/maximizer.htm>

Free Youth Ministry Consulting

<http://www.TeenLifeMinistries.com/maximizer.htm>