

Why Young Adult Ministry?

The church as a whole has a large gap that exists between youth group and "Adult Church". When the time comes for youth to transition out of youth group, they have a sink or swim option. They are thrown into a new territory that is unfamiliar and filled with adults who have decided to swim. The church is primarily of adults who have found or are finding their identity in Christ and their purpose.

Purpose Young Adults aims to make it a smooth transition from youth group to "Big Church" by helping young adults navigate being an adult and help them find their own identity and purpose in Christ.

1. Identity

Some young adults, especially right out of high school, are just learning how to be adults and make their way. They may have even been rebelling against their parents' direction for years and now want to figure it out on their own. We hope they'll see their identity in Christ, but they want to establish an identity of their own. They are learning, how they are growing, and how choosing to follow Jesus affects how they see themselves. Young adults are community-focused and want a place where they feel they belong. Purpose Young Adults strives to provide a welcoming, intimate space that allows for contextual learning, relationship building, and community outreach; It gives way to form healthy Christian relationships with one another that can help create a sense of purpose.

2. Purpose

Purpose Young Adults aims to change the standard view of success as the purpose of life and help young people comprehend their lives in the context of the much grander gospel narrative. Understanding our lives in the context of God's redemptive work in the world can enable us to live for something bigger than ourselves, build meaningful relationships, and develop a sense of meaningful direction for our lives. Their identity and belonging are in Christ, who has given each of them a purpose.

In a LifeWay article, we see confirmations that a higher percentage of people aged 65 and older believe that God accepts all religions' worship, while those aged 18-34 are less likely to think that. Young Adults are more likely to believe in the reality of sin and hell and how that impacts our eternity.

However, young adults are more likely to believe science or personal convictions over biblical teaching. They tend to lean toward the Bible being mythical, or they think that science disproves the Bible. It is essential to reach this cohort by helping them to have a Biblical context that they want to learn about. They are hungry for the historical, archaeological, and other context that ties into scripture with this group. There is an excellent opportunity to inform this group in an elevated way!

Evangelism and discipleship are of interest in young adults, and studies show that they are invested in encouraging other people to learn about Jesus.

Politics and worldly issues: On the problems that we see today (abortion, homosexuality, gender identity, and more), young people strive to separate Biblical teaching from civil and moral concepts. It is so important to tie these principles together again.

Purpose Young Adults ministry believes a successful transition involves:

- Leaning into context and history – Teach and study the Word during times of gathering.
- Having times of intimate worship – Spend time in active prayer and worship. Let it take over the majority of your meeting if needed. Young people need that built-in time with the Holy Spirit.
- Reading scripture WITH them in many different versions and translations (and talk about what they think about it) – This is an ideal way of helping this generation to learn and engage in God's Word actively.
- Being outreach minded – This generation WANTS to reach people for Christ. They want action. Services should be agile and unlimited as far as where worship and evangelism take you!
- Talking about identity and be a spiritual mentor – Discipleship with this group is vital. Imagine spending years being told what to do and then hunting down your identity for the next portion of your life. We need to lean heavily on the Great Commission here.

Young adult ministry is essential to Providence because young adults are essential to God.