

THE CONTACT

AFLC Youth Workers' Newsletter

Winter 2018

FRAMING THE
YOUTH MINISTRY
ENVIRONMENT





Event Planning: Where to Begin?

“Event Coordinator” was not a title I ever thought I would hold, but whether I’ve been working as a volunteer youth leader, Bible camp coordinator, dorm Resident Head, Christian Education Director, etc., “Event Coordinator” is a role I’ve filled on many occasions. I would posit that you, too, hold the unofficial role of “Event Coordinator” even though you may not have realized it!

As Youth Leaders, we plan an event every week: youth group. Pastors plan worship services and Bible studies. And then there are the “big” events—a Saturday youth event or lock-in, special meetings or conferences, a bus trip to a national youth convention, etc. Each of those things are events that need to be organized and executed and sometimes it’s difficult to know where to start!

I have found that choosing a theme can be a good starting place. It is possible that you are already using themes to organize your events, but you may call them topics, main points, goals, objectives, etc. No matter what you call it, having a main truth, thought, idea, etc. that you can develop and build off of can be very helpful as you plan, organize, and execute your events. It can help to focus the various aspects of the event, especially if you’re working with a team of people (assistants, speakers/presenters, musicians, etc.), and it gives you the “one thing” you want your audience to go away remembering.

For youth group, Bible studies, conferences, etc., it is a good idea to have a Biblical theme. It can be a verse of Scripture, a scriptural truth or an idea that is supported by Scripture (think “I AM” or “We Believe”), or in the case of a Bible study, the theme could even be an entire book of the Bible. A theme can carry over for multiple weeks or can be used one time, and there can certainly be sub-themes—in my church’s

youth group we are studying the book of Acts this year, so that is our **THEME**, but each week has a sub-theme which is the specific passage we are studying or the main idea from that passage.

Not all of the activities during your event have to be connected to the theme, but they can be. We have a meal before our youth group Bible study and we certainly don’t try to connect what we’re eating to the theme, but I know many Vacation Bible School curriculums that include snack ideas connected to the theme of the day/week. The Bible study/lesson and any planned discussion should be connected to the theme and if you are planning to include music, it can be helpful to consider the theme as you’re choosing songs to sing.

Sometimes an event has a theme that doesn’t really seem like a theme, but more like a goal or purpose. For example, when we’re having a game or movie night event there isn’t a theme that dictates which games we play or movie we watch, but our main focus is inclusivity—making sure that all of the youth can participate—which means giving game and movie options that are appropriate for all ages and abilities represented in our group or choosing a start/end time that works for all/most of the youth.

There is much more to discuss when thinking of fulfilling the role of “Event Coordinator,” but hopefully this brief look at choosing a theme for your events will be a helpful starting place—either something new to implement, or something to continue doing!



*Liz McCarlson
holds many titles, including
AFLC Administrative Assistant*

YOUTH WORKERS WEEKENDS

January 18-20, 2019

National youth leader annual gathering
Association Retreat Center, Osceola WI
Best Rate through January 3, 2018



Guest Trainer: Duffy Robbins

REGISTER HERE

YWW Promo Video: <https://vimeo.com/218029468>



Video Community

60-minute offerings for volunteer and vocational youth leaders

Tuesday, Dec 18 at 3PM (Central)

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/306350773>

Thursday, Dec 20 at 8PM (Central)

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/437575669>





Reference Room

By: Jason Holt

“Framing the Youth Ministry Environment”

Within the last month, The Gospel Coalition (www.thegospelcoalition.org) posted on Facebook an article from their website with the following heading:



What is it that sets apart the kids who stay in the church?

- 1. They are converted.**
- 2. They have been equipped, not entertained.**
- 3. Their parents preached the gospel to them.**

The Gospel Coalition (TGC) does a great job of keeping in front of congregations a commitment “to renewing our faith in the gospel of Christ and to reforming our ministry practices to conform fully to the Scriptures” (‘About’ section of their website). The TGC author draws the focus into these three action points, but he quickly acknowledges that this summary is not a formula. Does his appeal fit the Scriptures? If so, does it reflect our local practices?

Notice once again from the Great Commandment (Matthew 22 plus parallels) and from the Great Commission (Matthew 28), our Savior King’s call is to love the Lord, to love others, and to make disciples. Other passages demonstrate that the Biblical instruction to see individuals be born again (John 3:3), to serve the Lord (Luke 16:13), and to form God-honoring families (Eph. 5:22-6:4). In short, it is Scriptural to prioritize the three areas listed above.

For over two decades, AFLC Youth Ministries has used the four handles of win, build, equip, and multiply to capture the same tone that the author suggests. With these four markers, a youth leader can frame their youth ministry environment. Whether a Sunday morning study or a midweek group, the Kingdom worker finds direction from these terms and their implications. Let's examine them together.

WIN – Conversion Matters

“Win” means that a soul is won to Christ through the gospel. When the TGC author speaks of conversion, our focus is the same. Our AFLC heritage understands that we are preaching and teaching both the law and the gospel to bring hearts to the Savior King. On a national level, the FLY Convention's purpose keeps evangelism first, so our evening sessions communicate Christ, Him crucified, and risen again. On the local level, how does the frame of “win” work itself out? Are there special events or regular rotations of calling people to repentance and receiving of God's grace?

BUILD – Truth & Love Matters

“Build” means that the God's Word and God's love are impacting to both an individual and a group. Not specifically listed by the TGC author, it is implied that teenagers are encountering an authentic compassion of Christ and a diligent study of Scripture. I recently told some youth ministry students that I have been in 80 of our congregations covering Sunday mornings, midweek groups, and special events. In those visits, I can tell you that we understand both truth and love are significant. Do we always reflect them? No, because of our sinfulness. But Jesus is the Head of the church! He is at work and will continue to be at work. In our congregation, which one could be refreshed in focus for the remainder of this year?

EQUIP – Training Matters

“Equip” recognizes that teenagers are capable of being trained by the Scriptures and the Spirit of God. The TGC article stressed equipping in contrast to entertainment. This distinction is useful as long as it goes as well to the family. Bloomberg/Quint reported in October that 40% of all births in the United States occur “outside wedlock” (<https://t.co/ESRMagHRNs>). Equipping teens to walk with Christ and to share Jesus is significant, but the now and future reality of youth ministry means that workers must be ready to walk alongside of and seek to equip parents. In our youth ministry efforts, how could we better equip the teens that are active? In our congregation, in what ways could we offer training to parents of teens?

MULTIPLY – Coaching Matters

“Multiply” points to the influence of those equipped goes into and beyond the walls of the congregation. Multiply understands that growing Kingdom leaders benefit from being coached. Just as the coach gives direct feedback from the sidelines, a congregation can provide the caring adults alongside of maturing teens as they teach, serve, and lead. Jesus trained and released the disciples. He is training and releasing more than just adults into Kingdom service. What would coaching and releasing maturing teens look like in our congregation and community?

“Framing the youth ministry environment” means that we are actively praying for God's Kingdom work in our lives, and the lives of those that we minister with, as well as actively pursuing these Kingdom priorities by the strength of Christ. May His Kingdom come and His will be done!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

WIN – On the local level, how does the frame of “win” work itself out for us?

BUILD – In our congregation, do we need to be refreshed in our focus on God's truth or God's love for the remainder of the year?

EQUIP – In our youth ministry efforts, how could we better equip the teens that are active?

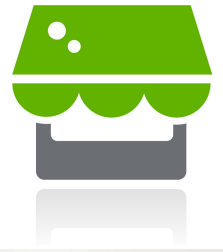
EQUIP – In our congregation, in what ways could we offer training to parents of teens?

MULTIPLY – What would coaching and releasing maturing teens look like in our congregation and community?



Pastor Jason Holt is the National Youth Director for the AFLC

Convenience Store



5 Questions To Ask Your Kids
–Paul Tripp–

<http://ow.ly/jDal50jrwW3>



17 Apps & Websites Kids are Heading To
–Common Sense Media–

<http://ow.ly/Ti4P50jrwWq>



The “One Another”s
–Cadre Ministries from Dave & Rennie Garda –

<http://ow.ly/2Jy250jrwXs>



“Youth Ministry & Winging It...”
–Walt Mueller’s Concern in CPYU Blog–

<http://ow.ly/6ePH50jrwXH>

Features

click a pic to see the link



Youth
Workers
Weekends



AFLBS
Campus
Days



Apprenticeship
Program
Youth
Ministry
Apprentices



FLY 2019 || ISAIAH 45:5-6

FLY Convention® 2019



Video
Community



See You
At The Pole



AFLC YM

AFLC Youth Ministries: A Treasury of Opportunities

**Jan. 18-20, 2019
YW Weekends**

Annual youth leaders
event

**Mar. 15-17, 2019
AFLBS Campus Days**

Saturday workshop for
youth leaders

Apr. 10, 2019

Apprenticeship Program

Application deadline for
2019-2020

Jul. 1-6, 2019

FLY Convention®

National youth gathering

Third Tues. & Thurs.

YW Video Community

Months of Dec, Feb,
Apr, June

Wed, Sep. 25, 2019

See You At The Pole

National student day of
prayer

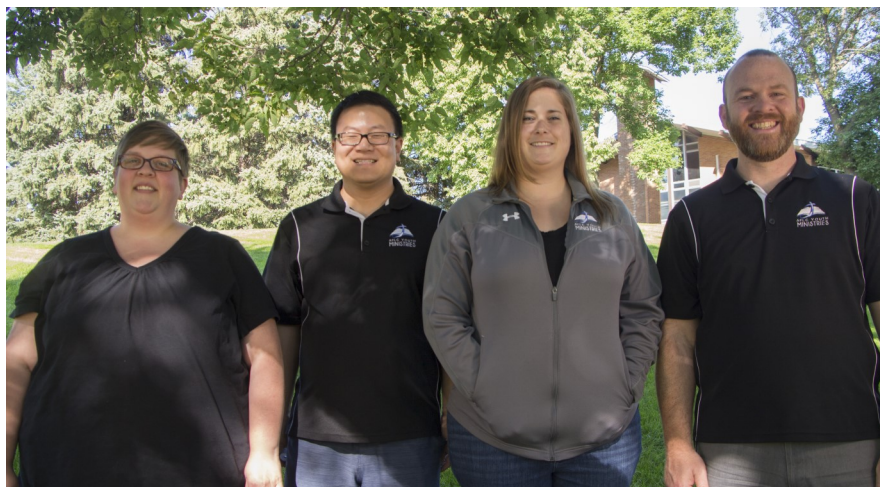
AFLC Youth Ministries

Here to serve you!

www.aflc.org/youth



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FOR YOUTH WORKERS

The Contact is issued twice a year to encourage and engage youth workers of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC).

FOR CONGREGATIONS

The AFLC is a growing fellowship of 275 congregations whose members believe that the Bible is true and that everyone needs Jesus.

FOR TEENAGERS

AFLC Youth Ministries exists to win teens to Christ, to build them in God's Word and God's love, to equip them to live and share their faith, and to multiply maturing teen disciples of Jesus.

