

Introducing

*CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR*

*An Equipping Youth Ministry*

**Published by**

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR INTERNATIONAL  
1221 EAST BROAD STREET  
PO BOX 2106  
COLUMBUS OH 43216-2106  
(614)258-3947 FAX (614)258-4950

## Contents

What Youth Need: Basic Dynamics of Youth Ministry . . . . .	3
Youth Group Models . . . . .	4
Christian Endeavor: An Equipping Model of Youth Ministry . . . . .	5
Christian Endeavor's Ten Distinctives . . . . .	6
Key Elements in Effective Youth Ministry . . . . .	8
Finding (and Being) the Right Leader . . . . .	8
Priorities for Effective Leadership . . . . .	9
Identifying Youth . . . . .	10
Setting Goals . . . . .	12
Getting Everyone Involved . . . . .	13
Programming for Service . . . . .	14

## **What Youth Need: Basic Dynamics of Youth Ministry**

**Relationships** - A place to meet friends and build relationships is the main reason young people give for attending youth groups. Youth ministry provides a place for young people to meet and develop relationships.

**Acceptance** - An effective youth ministry fulfills the desire of young people for acceptance. Young people want to belong to a group of friends.

**Self-Image and Self-Confidence** - Development of a healthy self-image along with an attitude of self-confidence is a vital dynamic in youth ministry.

**Decision Making/Leadership Skills** - Youth ministry gives young people opportunities to learn how to make decisions and accept responsibility for them. It also provides for leadership development as youth participate in building their own ministry.

**Christian Influence** - Young people need to be surrounded with other young people who demonstrate and encourage positive spiritual and moral values.

**Teen Ministry** - Young people need activities in which they can help each other grow spiritually. Praying for, ministering to, and encouraging each other is a vital part of Christian growth.

**Evangelism and Outreach** - Young people need opportunities to share their faith with non-Christian young people. Included in a dynamic youth ministry should be witness, service, and ministry experiences.

**Service Opportunities** - Effective youth groups provide young people opportunities to put their faith into action. Young people become involved in situations where they can develop a servant-model of living.



## Youth Group Models

In order to meet the needs of Christian youth, the local church may establish a youth program. There are several types of youth groups, each having as their central purpose one of the following:

- Fun** In this model, emphasis is placed upon numbers while developing bigger and better programs to induce large crowds. Popularity and entertainment become central to the success of the program.
- Insulation** This model seeks to protect young people from the world. As it attempts to keep youth out of trouble, it tries to instill high moral values by keeping young people away from influences outside the church.
- Ministry** The spiritual growth and development of young people is stressed in this model. A commitment to ministry, discipleship in the Christian faith, and ministering to the needs of others are the basis emphases.
- Equipping** This model combines the strengths of the other three models but also involves the youth in the building and shaping of the total youth program at their individual levels of ability and interest.

**CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR follows the equipping model of youth ministry.**

## **CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR: An Equipping Model of Youth Ministry**

**CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR** is a model of youth ministry which endeavors to assist the local church by equipping youth as it incorporates the best of the various models of youth ministry. The goals of **CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR** are:

**Commit** young people to Jesus Christ - Romans 10:9-10

**Disciple** young people in the Christian faith - II Timothy 2:15

**Equip** young people for ministry - I Timothy 2:2

**Involve** young people in the life of the church and community  
I Timothy 4:12

### **Objectives of CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR**

**CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR INTERNATIONAL** exists to enable Christ-centered, youth oriented ministry in the local church.

The aim is to get young people involved in the building and shaping of the youth program of their church at their level of interest and ability. It should become a "learn by doing" experience in which, under the direction of adult leadership, the young people:

are told how to do it

are shown how to do it

do it in a controlled environment

do it in an actual (real life) situation

## **Christian Endeavor's Ten Distinctives**

**Christian Endeavor is based upon a "Covenant Relationship" with Jesus Christ.**

The Christian Endeavor Pledge is a personal covenant between a young person and the Lord Jesus Christ--the young person committing to a Christian life-style, Jesus Christ providing the strength. The Christian Endeavor Pledge provides the framework for a young person to develop a life-style that will encourage positive Christian growth.

**Christian Endeavor presents special emphases for Christian growth.** Commitments to daily prayer and Bible study, tithing, full-time Christian service, evangelism, and stewardship all are promoted by Christian Endeavor. Through specific steps, young people are regularly challenged to deepen their faith and commitment to Jesus Christ.

**Christian Endeavor is a person-centered, relational ministry.** Ministry happens when a person's needs are met. Christian Endeavor focuses its ministry on people. It assists young people discover and develop their talents and abilities as they become directly involved in youth ministry.

**Christian Endeavor is a youth-owned ministry.** Christian Endeavor was created to give young people the opportunity to become responsible for their own activities. An environment has been designed that will encourage youth to learn, serve, minister, and live out their Christian faith.

**Christian Endeavor is a youth-directed ministry.** "Youth directed" goes beyond the concept of youth leading weekly meetings. "Youth directed" involves young people in brainstorming potential activities and topics. "Youth directed" means youth involved in the total process of youth ministry, helping to envision, plan, and carry out programming.

**Christian Endeavor emphasizes a "learn by doing" method of operation.** Christian Endeavor is a youth ministry philosophy that encourages youth to "learn by doing." It creates an environment in which it is safe to try, and safe to fail. Jesus' model of discipleship is the pattern. Christ modeled what he wanted his disciples to do, let them do it, and then was present for support and encouragement.

**Christian Endeavor encourages flexibility in structure and programming.** To meet the needs of individual churches and individual youth groups, the youth program must be flexible. Christian Endeavor operates within the framework of the local church which allows each group to build programs that will incorporate the goals and objectives of the local church while also meeting the needs of that particular youth group.

**Christian Endeavor is an integral part of a local church.** The local church determines the theology, programs, activities, and relationships of a Christian Endeavor group. Christian Endeavor becomes an integrated part of the total ministry of the local church and encourages young people to be involved in all phases of the local church ministry.

**Christian Endeavor encourages individual expression of faith.** When people talk about their faith, it means they are excited about what's happening in their lives and growing in their Christian faith. A Christian Endeavor Consecration Service is designed to provide individuals with a regular opportunity to share their faith. It also provides youth leaders with a tool for monitoring the spiritual climate of their group as well as the spiritual temperature of each individual.

**Christian Endeavor is international, interdenominational, and interracial in scope.** Christian Endeavor spans denominational, cultural, and geographical boundaries. Through conventions and conferences, Christian youth from across the country and around the world are encouraged to share their common faith in Jesus Christ.

## Key Elements in Effective Youth Ministry

There are several key elements in building an effective youth group. They include finding the right leadership, identifying the youth, setting goals, getting everyone involved, and providing a program that equips youth for service through a commitment to Jesus Christ and His church.



### Finding (and Being) the Right Leader

Strong leadership is one key to effective youth ministry. The adult worker with youth serves in the following ways:



**Modeler** - Sets the example. Must have both the love and respect of the young people. Should be both their friend and their leader. His/her relationship to Christ is the greatest example.

**Discipler** - Assists the young people in their spiritual walk and growth. Should be interested in the development of the total person: physical, spiritual, mental, emotional, and social.

**Motivator** - Gets them moving. A person who is able to influence other people. Encourages the young people to develop their leadership abilities. Gets to know and understand in order to develop respect.

**Enabler** - Equips the young people for service. Helps them to do the difficult. Assists in planning and preparation. Learns how to facilitate young people in their leadership abilities.

**Encourager** - Supports their efforts and activities in a positive manner. Helps the young people to accept themselves and others.



## Priorities for Effective Leadership

- Excellence -** One who aspires to be a leader of youth and one who makes things happen must be committed to excellence and must be committed to personal, spiritual discipline and high demand commitment.
- Vision -** An effective youth leader must develop a sense of vision for youth ministry. He needs to know where he is going (target) and tries to establish an end result. It must be a ministry with aims and goals – quality balanced by a vision for quantity.
- Endurance -** Adolescents need leaders who will make a commitment to stick with them throughout their teenage years.
- Love -** Above all, those who work with and lead youth must love them unconditionally, with all their heart.

### With these priorities in place:

- . . . effectiveness will increase as young people learn to trust leaders
- . . . results will become more apparent
- . . . parents will develop trust toward the youth program and its leaders.
- . . . commitment to the youth will become evident
- . . . the program will develop stability and continuity

## Identifying Youth

A second key to effective youth ministry is to properly identify those youth in the group. For each young person to become actively involved in the youth program, it is important to discern the spiritual maturity of each one. This will enable leaders to minister more effectively to them. Young people can be divided into four basic categories:

### Classifications

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Prospects</b> | Not involved in the youth program<br>Attend social activities only<br>Seldom attend meetings – not regular<br>When they attend meetings seldom participate<br>Make no profession of faith in Christ   |
| <b>Active</b>    | Attend meetings and activities regularly<br>Little active participation in programs<br>Assume little or no responsibility for group<br>May have made profession of faith but exhibit little outward expression                                |
| <b>Committed</b> | Actively involved in youth program<br>Willing to assist in programs and activities<br>Have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ<br>Genuine interest and support for the program<br>Desire to become more involved in group responsibility |
| <b>Leaders</b>   | Willing to assume responsibility for the success of the youth program<br>Totally committed to Jesus Christ<br>Excited about living for Him and sharing their faith<br>Real desire to serve others<br>Core group of your youth ministry        |

## Objectives for Each Classification of Youth

<b>Prospects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Develop a personal relationship with them</li><li>Increase interest in the church youth ministry</li><li>Introduce them personally to Jesus Christ</li><li>Begin regular participation in the youth program</li></ul>
<b>Active</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Deepen their commitment to Jesus Christ</li><li>Develop a daily personal devotional time</li><li>Actively involve in the youth program</li><li>Support the objectives of the youth program</li></ul>
<b>Committed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Assume responsibilities for success of the youth program</li><li>Make a total commitment of lives to Jesus Christ</li><li>Develop a desire for serving others</li><li>Become a part of the core group</li></ul>
<b>Leaders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Assume responsibility for programs and activities</li><li>Involved in outreach program to bring other youth to Christ and into the youth program</li><li>Assume other responsibilities in the total church program</li><li>Shepherd younger Christians in the group as they grow and develop in their faith</li><li>Direct activities of the action teams</li></ul>



## Setting Goals and Objectives

The third key to effective youth ministry is the setting of goals and objectives for the group. It is important that the youth group have a purpose and that goals be set. Suggested here are some specific goals for the youth group.

### Primary Goals

- (1) Commitment of young people to Jesus Christ
- (2) Discipleship and growth of youth in the Christian faith
- (3) Equipping of youth for ministry and service
- (4) Involvement of every young person in the building and shaping of the youth program

### Suggested Secondary Goals (adapt to local group)

- (1) 10% increase in membership during the next 6 months
- (2) 75% committed to a daily devotional time within 3 months
- (3) 50% of parents more involved in program and lives of their young people
- (4) Increase in development of personal relationships -- decrease in cliques
- (5) Development of a sense of pride in the youth group and its program
- (6) 40% of youth involved in some phase of group leadership
- (7) 100% sense of belonging and feeling needed within 6 months
- (8) Well-rounded program of meetings and activities within 3 months
- (9) Youth adopting and owning the program as their program and ministry

Note: Planning and organization must be built on a spiritual foundation.

Program should be built to maximize spiritual growth among the young people.

Initiate programs but delegate responsibilities as much as possible.

## Getting Everyone Involved

The fourth key to effective youth ministry is organizing the young people for action and service. In order to build enthusiasm for and ownership of the youth group, get everyone actively participating in the program, involving them in an action team, which will plan activities and lead the group in areas such as worship, recreation, missions projects, and recruiting new members.

1. If the group is small, everyone can meet as a part of one team.
2. Divide into additional teams as the size of the group grows and more young people become involved.
3. Include on each team individuals from each of the four classifications of young people (leaders, committed, active, and prospects).
4. Select one of the adults who is assisting to be responsible for each team.
5. Schedule each team to meet on a regular basis -- at least once a month and have specific tasks for each to accomplish.

Meet prior to or after the youth meeting,  
Meet one evening each month in teams instead of the  
youth meeting, or  
Meet on a separate night decided on by the team

6. If the group is large enough to have several teams, rotate the responsibilities of the teams on a regular basis.
7. Encourage the teams to develop interpersonal relationships. However, be careful they don't become exclusive or develop a competitive attitude toward the other teams.
8. Encourage each team to reach out to other young people. Make them members of their team. If a team gets too large, divide it into two separate teams.
9. Vary this concept to meet the particular needs of the group.

## Programming for Service

The fifth key to effective youth ministry is providing a program that equips young people for service in the church. At the center of **CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR** is the pledge, which is a personal covenant between the Christian young person and Jesus Christ. Young people are asked to sign this pledge as a personal statement of their intention to do those things that Christians should be doing, those things that please their Lord. The pledge has been a part of **CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR** since its inception, and continues to be effective as a means of providing a committed leadership among the young people in each group. The pledge strengthens the resolve of those in the group to follow through in their efforts for Christ and His Church.

### The **CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR** Pledge

Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I promise Him that I will strive to do whatever He would like to have me do; that I will make it the rule of my life to pray and to read the Bible every day, and to support the work and worship of my own church in every way possible; and that just so far as I know how, throughout my whole life, I will endeavor to lead a Christian life.