



NEXT GEN

quick start guide

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT IF ONE WANTS TO FINISH WELL, THEY MUST START WELL.

This is also true with churches and the vital ministry of reaching the next generation. It is our hope, at Louisiana Baptists, that all of our churches will have a thriving and prosperous ministry to children and youth.

The importance of reaching the next generation with the life-giving power of the Gospel can never be overestimated. Whether you are planting a new church or revitalizing an existing one, creating a plan for ministry to children and youth from the very beginning will pay eternal dividends for years to come.

We hope that this booklet and the resources mentioned herein will be of great assistance for anyone starting a next gen ministry from scratch. At Louisiana Baptists, we stand ready to partner with anyone reaching the next generation.

starting a CHILDREN'S ministry

GREAT CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DO NOT HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT.

All parents want the absolute best for their children and when they attend church, they do not make exceptions. With this in mind, churches need to think through and be intentional in their ministry to children and their families.

Providing high quality teaching and intentional activities will be a benchmark in a community for a church desiring to start a children's ministry from scratch or revitalize a dormant ministry.

May this guide help lay out a path for each church to be an anchor in their community, leading children and their families to our Savior.

Decide what you want to achieve through this ministry. What do you want each child to know, to do, and to be when you send them to student ministry? Think of the end result.

[illegible]

Use your philosophy to form a vision for your ministry based on your church, your community, and your families. Then promote that vision!

- implement it.

To lead children and their families to know Jesus, Grow in Jesus, and Show Jesus to those around us.

DEVELOP YOUR STRATEGY:

[illegible]

If safety procedures are not already in place, work with your church leaders to develop your policies. **Make them clear.** Write them down and make sure that your volunteers know them well. Work to establish a safe and welcoming environment.

- What areas of the church/rooms are available to use?
- How do these rooms need to be set up?
- Do you have access to age-appropriate furniture and supplies?

- Consider looking into MinistrySafe guidelines.
- Discuss and implement policies such as the 2-person rule and background checks.
- Do you need a check in check out system or name tags?
- Establish policies so that there are no questions.
- Make the policies clear but not detailed.
- Let the policies serve as guidelines for what is best for the children.

[illegible]

Coordinate with the other ministries and leaders in your church. Think about school calendars and busy times of the year.

- developing between ministry components.

- Set out a plan for the year so your families can plan ahead.
- Think in terms of “ones”.
- One focus each week (service time or during the week).
- One simple family event per month (as simple as a picnic or fellowship party).
- One outreach event per quarter (think VBS, Backyard Clubs, Fall Festival, Easter event, etc.).

[illegible]

- Look for people that share your ministry's vision.
- Recruit to the ministry, not the task.
- Speak to people one on one and not in passing.
- Set clear expectations.
- Empower team members to lead and share the vision with others.

[illegible]

Is it Biblical? Is it about Jesus?
Is it age-appropriate? Does it
consider the way that kids learn?
Is it flexible?

- Consult with others who have used the sought after curriculum.
- Research and look for samples.
- Evaluate the curriculum yearly with leader input.

[illegible]

Work with the finance team. Look at past years. Remember your philosophy/vision to help you prioritize. Keep track of spending for upcoming budgets.

- ## DEVELOP YOUR STRATEGY:

[illegible]

Don't let the tasks of your ministry distract you from building relationships and discipling leaders, kids, and parents.

- ## DEVELOP YOUR STRATEGY:

[illegible]

You are partnering with parents to disciple and teach their children. Build a ministry that works together with parents and gives them the tools to lead at home.

- Always remember that parents are the primary spiritual leaders of their children.
- Equip parents with resources and support.
- Remember that parents want to lead their children. They just don't know how in most cases.
- View parents as partners in reaching and teaching children and not as adversaries you are working to correct.

[illegible]

starting a STUDENT ministry

**STARTING THE JOURNEY TO CREATE A
NEXT GEN MINISTRY FOR STUDENTS IS A
CHALLENGING UNDERTAKING. HOWEVER,
THE REWARDS ARE GREAT!**

There is nothing more exciting than ministering and investing in the spiritual development of teenagers. This section of the booklet acts as a guide, offering insights and questions to assist in starting a youth ministry.

It is designed to help you think through the process of developing a strategy as you create a vibrant and welcoming place for students and parents to grow spiritually, build lasting friendships, and become active participants in the local church.

- What role will student ministry play as part of the body?

[illegible]

Pray for guidance, wisdom,
and support.

DEVELOP YOUR STRATEGY:

[illegible]

- What does your strategy look like?
- What are some realistic goals?
- What are some markers you can put in place to see if you have met your goals?
- How will you evaluate your ministry?
- Spend some time thinking through this process. It will define your identity as you move forward.
- How will you promote your strategy?

[illegible]

- Ask what is in place and what isn't.
- Find ways to ensure that your environment is a safe place for students.
- Make sure your leadership approves.
- Put your policies and procedures in writing and make sure your volunteers and leaders know them and have access to them as well.

[illegible]

- Will you use a strategy of small

- Consider decorating the room with art, lighting, and other elements that create a positive atmosphere.

[illegible]

Decide how you will use these resources as you recruit volunteers.

[illegible]

- Find passionate and committed

- Make sure they know your strategy, vision, expectations, etc.

- Look for opportunities to train leaders. Invest in them.
- Require background checks for all volunteers. (MinistrySafe is a great resource for this.)

[illegible]

- Coordinate with other church leaders.
- Consider the school calendar and make note of athletic events, music programs, and other events sponsored by the schools as you plan.
- Promote what you are doing in as many ways as possible.

[illegible]

- Work with the finance team to think about ways to get what you need.
- Make sure parents and the community know when you have a need.
- Create lists on Amazon or Walmart for others to help make donations such as snacks and supplies.
- Don't be afraid to ask. Remember, you have not because you ask not.

[illegible]

- Reach out to other ministries in your area for ideas, support, and resources.

[illegible]

RESOURCE LINKS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

LOUISIANA BAPTISTS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

louisianabaptists.org/about/teams/evangelism-church-growth/kids/

LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN RESOURCES CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

kidsministry.lifeway.com/

SPECIAL NEEDS RESOURCES

lifeway.com/en/shop/ministries/special-needs sandrapeoples.com/

SEND NETWORK CHILDREN'S RESOURCES

newchurches.com/course/childrensministry/

WMU CHILDREN'S MISSIONS RESOURCES

wmu.com/missions-discipleship/children/

NC BAPTIST CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

<https://ncbaptist.org/ministries/children/>

YOUTH/STUDENT MINISTRY

LIFEWAY STUDENTS

studentministry.lifeway.com

YM360

youthministry360.com

CHURCHLEADERS.COM

churchleaders.com/youth/youth-leaders-how-tos/154252-how-to-start-your-youth-ministry.html

SMALLCHURCHMINISTRY.COM

smallchurchministry.com/starting-a-youth-ministry/

THELEADPASTOR.COM

theleadpastor.com/article/youth-ministry/

NC BAPTIST STUDENT MINISTRIES

<https://ncbaptist.org/ministries/student/>

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