



HOW TO GROW A YOUTH CHURCH

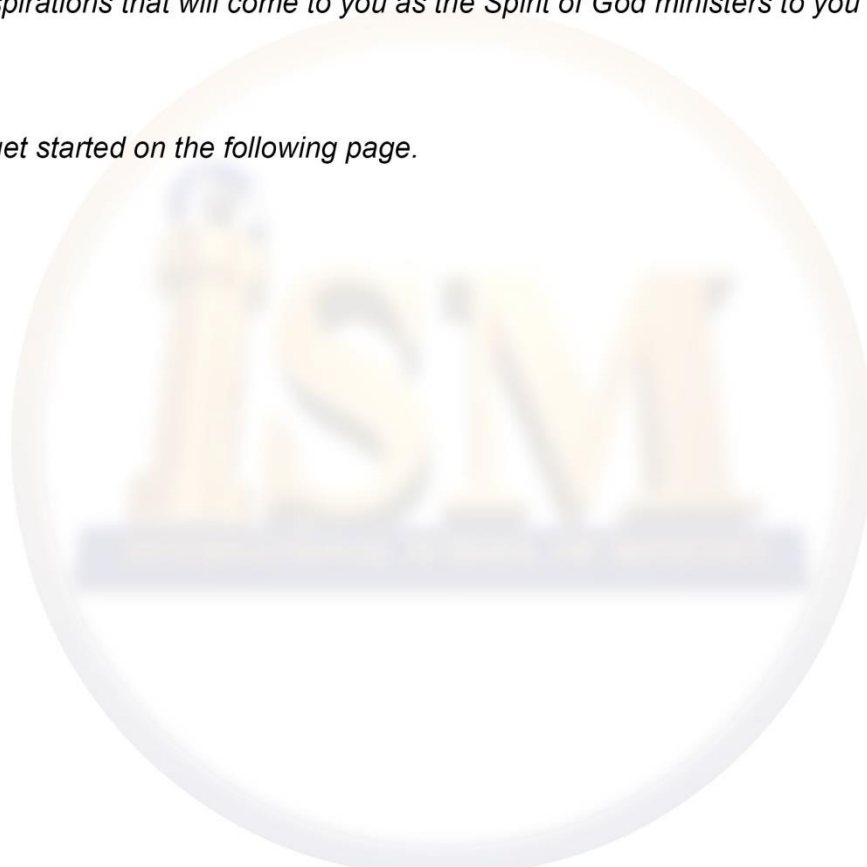


HOW TO GROW A YOUTH CHURCH

Welcome to this reading course titled: How to Grow a Youth Church

We are confident that an insightful learning experience awaits you. We encourage you to be armed with adequate materials to make your own notes and chronicle the inspirations that will come to you as the Spirit of God ministers to you uniquely.

We'll get started on the following page.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you should have the understanding of the following and take corresponding actions:

1. The unique demography of young people and how to capture them
2. The Step by Step process of growing your Youth Church.

INTRODUCTION

Young people are very unique with different mindsets, interests, vigor and style, and world view (the way they perceive and comprehend the world around them). This is one of the factors that necessitate having a platform for young people to congregate together in Youth Churches or fellowships. They are bound to achieve better results in soul-winning and personal development and can better coordinate their efforts toward winning and influencing other youth like themselves. Off course, the vision of having a youth church should include its growth and impact in the lives of its members and the locality. It's not enough to have a Youth Church; there must be a spiritual strategy to grow it.



Let's take a step further now and look in detail at several factors that facilitate growth in your youth church or fellowship.

STEPS IN GROWING A YOUTH CHURCH

1.



A desire to Grow

The first step in growing your Youth Church is to have a desire for growth in the first place. The very fact that you're taking this course is indicative that such a desire is already in you. One thing you should do for yourself is to have the right attitude to growth and zero tolerance for loss. The Bible records for us the testimony of the early church in the book of Acts 5:14: *"And believers were the more added to the*

Lord, multitudes both of men and women". In Matthew 16:15, we have already been divinely commissioned of the Lord to make disciples of all nations. This should be your focus and motivation in desiring to grow without limits.

2.



Prevailing Prayer

The desire for growth should push you first of all to a place of prevailing prayer. Ezekiel 36:37 says *"Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them; I will increase them with men like a flock."* From the foregoing scripture, it is clear that to have your desire for growth come to pass, though it is of the Lord, He wants you to pray. Stay in the place of prayer until you begin to see (visualize) the growth that you desire. You must see the increase.

That power lies in your mind. That is where you begin to determine and construct with pictures in your mind the kind of growth you want and how far you want to grow. Jeremiah 1:11 says *"Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree. Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it"*. The place of speaking in tongues lavishly cannot be over emphasized. As a minister of God, you are ordained to birth spiritual children and not just converts who could come and go. You must therefore travail to bring them forth^b.

3.



Set Specific Goals

Your next step is to be specific as to how many members you want to have and within what duration of time you want to have them. In other words, set time-bound goals for the growth you want to see. For example, you can decide to grow your Youth Church from 20 to 500 within a 3-month period. This goal should be specifically written down so that you do not lose focus and time.

^a1 Corinthians 14:18, ^bIsaiah 66:8,

Additionally, it is important for you to be specific as to the calibre of members you want. For continuous growth, you need laborers and the Lord will guide them to you when you are specific in requesting for them. You'll find that as young people begin to troop into your Youth Church, they will come in as soul winners and laborers. Vagueness in setting goals will only produce a dream that may never come to pass.

4.



Establish Your Members

Once you have become specific with your goals, the next thing you should do is to plan to further establish your existing members. The Bible declares that the plans of the diligent lead to profit ^c. Start by giving attention to engaging your current members with your ministry activities. Also don't lose sight of discipling and perfecting them with God's Word for the work of the ministry. Remember that growth is reflected in addition or multiplication not by substitution. In other words, you ought not to keep having new members that replace the older ones. There should be a regular and steady influx of first-timers to your church or fellowship, with the older ones still being retained. One sure way to ensure this is for current members to undergo and complete whatever mentorship program your ministry has to offer. This will help to ensure that they are in the light of the new creation realities while being absorbed into active service in the church. One of the very important things they should be taught at this point is how to be active in winning other people to Christ just as they were won.

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5.



Strategic Evangelism

There have to be plans to reach out to the youth in your locality through strategic evangelism – preaching the message of salvation to them with the intention of actually leading them to Christ and winning them to your congregation. The Bible tells us: *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?”* (Romans 10:13-14).

In evangelizing, you need to be very strategic so that your efforts are directed to the right people. You can start by strategically mapping out institutions of learning or youth development organizations within your catchment and have a plan for reaching and penetrating them. Young people are often more inspired by other young people like themselves. Use the youths that you have trained in reaching and engaging the youths you want to evangelize. In whatever outreach you organize for young people, be sure to feature young people like themselves; either in sharing their own salvation stories, talking about the new life in Christ or in other types of ministrations you have planned. Having understood this, organize your team and launch out to win them.

6.



Discipleship and Engagement

Once the young people have been won and have started attending your Youth Church, begin to disciple them. Ensure first and foremost that they receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit. The next step is to get them water baptized^d; which is one of the important sacraments of the Church showing the world that they have believed and identified with the Lord's death, burial, and resurrection. From then on; encourage them to attend whatever mentorship program you run in your ministry.

^dRomans 6:3-5; 1 Peter 3:21

Press for them to present in all services and smaller group meetings so they can keep learning the word. Also, strive to settle them into activity groups within your church or fellowship. The key is engaging them from the get-go.

One other vital way to build your members is to get them to pray in tongues very often. Organize frequent prayer meetings both online and onsite. The scriptures admonish us thus: ***“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.”*** (Jude1:20)

***100% retention
is possible but
you have to be
ready to
Labour***



After building your members to become a useable workforce, and they have developed enough understanding for the work, organize them to reach out to others just like themselves. You might send them out in pairs within the locality to reach other youth or encourage them to spread the message of the gospel within their institutions of learning or places of employment. This is actually when your soul ‘winning’ is complete because you have finally built them to the point that they are now doing the same things you did in winning them. They have now come to the place of active ministry on the field. Of course, at this level, you would need to keep instructing and building them for higher capacity. Have soul-winners classes or meetings regularly to keep expanding their knowledge and ability for the ministry of reconciliation to which we have all been called.^e

^e2 Corinthians 5:18

ACTION PLAN





CONCLUSION

We encourage you to diligently apply the steps we just discussed. As you do this, the growth of your youth church would not be by chance but rather be built on principles that have been proven to work with sustainable results. We look forward to hearing your amazing testimonies of the numerical and spiritual growth of your youth ministry.

We trust you have been immensely blessed by this Reading Course and invite you to avail yourself of other insightful courses on our school website, all tailor-made to enhance your spiritual growth and equip you with the requisite knowledge, such that your results in ministry are pleasing to the Lord and evident for all to see.

Visit our website with details below for More Information.

www.school.christembassy-ism.org

Thank You