



tips for youth workers

DECEMBER 2009

EMPHAZING YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP

Did you know that the month of January has traditionally been the time to recognize your junior soldiers and junior action program? Did you know that the months of March and October have been times to recognize the young people participating in CROSSzone, CROSStraining and junior and senior high Bible Studies? Why not plan to recognize these young people in the months ahead? Here are some ways to do that...

1. **Host a Youth Discipleship Sunday.** Encourage your young people to organize and lead the morning worship service from start to finish. The sermon or lesson time can be based on what they have learned over the last few weeks in their Bible study time. Order church bulletins for the occasion from the online catalogue at www.saministrycatalogue.ca.
2. **Host a Day of Renewal and Commitment** for junior soldier and junior action students. Again, encourage the young people to assist you in planning and leading the morning worship. Gear your sermon to the young people in your congregation. Posters, bulletins and renewal cards are available through the online catalogue at www.saministrycatalogue.ca.
3. **Host a Banquet for your young people.** Invite your parents to prepare a banquet and serve the meal to your discipleship students and their leaders. Recognize young people who have invited friends, memorized the most scripture, been involved in service projects, etc.
4. **Recognize mentors,** if you are using a mentorship program. Take time during the morning worship service to recognize their dedication to the young people in your congregation. This is also a great time to recognize the commitment of the mentees and to encourage them to read through the Bible during the year and to develop spiritual disciplines.
5. **Prayer and Thanksgiving for your workers.** Provide them with reserved parking, seats for the day. Invite all of your junior action, youth discipleship leaders and mentors to the front of the congregation and have a time of recognition for their efforts and have a prayer of thanksgiving and dedication over them.
6. **Recognize the Students Efforts and Recruit Others.** Whether you have one junior soldier/discipleship student or many, be sure to involve them in a special recognition service. Consider this a time to recruit others to the program by highlighting the work of your current participant/s.
7. **Plan a Retreat Weekend.** Consider planning a retreat weekend for your young people. Use it as a time to cover the next few lessons/studies from your curriculum or invite a guest to come and lead the young people in studies on a topic of their choice. Be sure to include team building and get-to-know-you activities into the schedule.

Our young people live in a world where there are many distractions trying to pull them away from God and from church. It's important that we recognize their efforts and encourage them to keep learning and developing their relationship with God, by studying, praying and spending time with Christian friends and mentors. Including a discipleship Sunday or events into your church calendar will help do this.