

# Gladstone First Baptist Youth Ministry Vision

The Youth Ministry at Gladstone is primarily focused on 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Our staff is made up of myself, my wife, Lynae, and other volunteers from within the church. It is my desire as the Youth Pastor to see life-changing growth in students and their families. I believe this happens through providing an environment where Christ is our primary example and where we learn and grow together. ***My primary focus is building Christ-centered relationships with youth and their families, accepting them where they are (and challenging them to move forward), serving them with love, and encouraging them to walk with Jesus!*** I believe youth ministry happens in a variety of different ways, but the most important is through genuine relationships in which we point each other to God's Word and lead by example. The vision and goals outlined below are not comprehensive and they are by no means perfect, but I do believe they give a clear representation of what we want to be about!

Michael Calquhoun and the Youth Staff Team (revised September 2016)

## God-Centered

1. Put God first in ALL that we do. *1 Corinthians 10:31; Romans 12:1*

Everything we do should be centered on our relationship with God. Whether we are playing games or eating food, we want to bring glory to God in everything!

2. Worship God acceptably with reverence and awe. *Hebrews 12:28-29*

We don't always have worship through music, but we are praying that God will raise up people to help lead in this part of the ministry. Occasionally we will have a special worship night that may include communion, art, prayer, journaling etc.

## Mission

1. Partner with God in the ministry of reconciliation (sharing our faith and seeing others saved) and teaching and challenging students to do the same. *2 Corinthians 5:14-20*

Schools are a huge mission field for students. We want them to see that they are a part of God's plan for reconciliation right where they are! Students will be encouraged to share their faith and invite their friends.

2. Equip students to be able to share their faith with the lost wherever they go. *Acts 1:8*

We want to teach students how to share their faith in any context. This would include equipping them to know how to share their faith or initiate a conversation about God.

## Bible

1. Partner with and help parents raise their children in the Lord. *Deuteronomy 6:4-9*

Parents have the primary responsibility for raising their children and we want to equip them through parent/leader meetings, prayer and study groups together, and events focused on the entire family. We will put our families first (not to the detriment of ministry) and model the importance of being a good leader, provider, husband/wife, and father/mother.

2. Teach God's Word accurately and help students apply it to their lives. *James 1:21-25*

Teach students from God's Word what it looks like to be Christ-like. Teaching will be

discussion and application focused. We will usually break up into small groups after the main teaching to go deeper.

3. Teach students how to make disciples (reproducing themselves) by taking someone younger under their wing. *Matthew 28:19-20*

Encourage students to look for those who they can disciple and have a mentoring relationship with. This will primarily happen through discipling certain students one-on-one and then encouraging them to invite someone to join or challenging them to meet with another student.

### Community

1. Provide opportunities for fellowship, discipleship, and service. *Hebrews 10:24-25*

Build relationships through common experiences together so that the relationship is the authority from which we speak into student's lives. This will also build group unity as we live out all these goals together in community. There will also be times of fellowship built into the beginning and end of youth group. The committed group of students will be encouraged to reach out to those who are new and make them feel loved and welcome.

2. Maintain fellowship with one another by dealing with issues of disunity and sin. *1 John 1:6-7*  
Stay away from gossip, cliques, and encourage students to build one another up!

### Life Change

1. Serve and love others through helping to meet their spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical needs. *Romans 12:9-13*

Teach and provide opportunities for students to serve within the body and to those in the world. It is our desire that students will have a heart to serve and to give of their time, talents, and treasures. Ministry will be done on a frequent basis at youth group through praying for those who are not there, sending post cards, or participating in special service projects as a whole group. There will be opportunities for community outreach and short-term missions.

2. Point others to Christ and bring glory to God. This should be the case both in the church and out of the church. *Colossians 1:28-29*

Lead by example, showing students how to take every opportunity in life to glorify God. Show students that it is God's strength working in them, not their own strength or abilities.

Students will be taught that God has gifted them for ministry and that they each play an important role in the Body of Christ!

3. Teach students to set an example in their speech, life, love, faith, and purity. *1 Timothy 4:12*

Develop a love for God which produces obedience to Him. Help students to see that this is a testimony of their faith in itself.

