

MAKING WEDNESDAY NIGHTS COME ALIVE

CREATE BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

JOINING FRIENDSHIP GROUPS

A couple of weeks before your first group meeting, have teens fill out a card with the following information:

Four friends I don't want to be without:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 3. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 4. _____ |

Once you have an idea as to what friends young people choose to be with, combine one group of four with another group of four. This will do two things: it will allow young people to be in a group with friends, as well as challenge them to get closer to other teens in the youth group. This is an especially good technique when young people are from different schools.

LEADER DRAFT

Another technique is a leader draft. Provide each adult leader a youth directory and a draft sheet. Have them go around the room and select the teens they know best whom they feel they can work with most effectively.

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- 5:00 - youth meet at the church building for service and ministry
- 6:00 – youth eat together (Have groups of adult volunteers from the church sign up to bring a meal each week; collect \$1 from each teen to give back to the volunteer group. This list can be passed around in adult Bible classes over a period of two-three weeks)
- 7:00 – divide into small groups for Bible study

Ideas for 5:00 Service

I. Weekly Service Projects

Since there is only an hour to serve each week, service projects are limited by time. The following projects work well:

- Sing at nursing home.
- Take cookies to public servants (firemen, policemen, etc.).
- Host Bingo Food Hunt. (See below.)
- Visit shut-ins in groups.
- Clean up city park; then play football.
- Develop a list of friends to visit and bring to church.
- Clean up at church building. (Wash and vacuum vans, grounds, bulletin boards, etc.)

- Design a Valentine's box (shoe box) for nursing home residents, filling it with goodies.
- Make candy bag, and take to children in your church.
- Have teens bring cookie dough; bake cookies and take to shut-ins.
- Develop a grocery list of items needed for your pantry. Divide into teams, and send groups out to collect items. (The first group back wins a prize)
- Send care packages to college students or missionaries.
- Rake leaves for the elderly.
- If you have students who haven't attended in a while, make a "takeout meal" to keep them spiritually fed and connected to what's going on. Deliver these on Wednesday night. Put your group's logo on a brown paper lunch bag and add the following items:
 - Announcements about upcoming events
 - Handout from your most recent lesson
 - A candy bar
 - A personal note (or several notes) of encouragement from youth group members

2. Ministry University

Develop ministries for youth to work in for more than one week. For instance, if you do a 12-week series on Wednesday nights, develop four, three-session ministry opportunities for teens. After three weeks, have groups of teens rotate to a new ministry. This will expose youth to four different areas of ministry during the 12-week period.

Class 1: Operation Community Presence (3 weeks)

Have teens go into the neighborhood to meet neighbors. Train students to do the following:

- Knock on the door and introduce yourself.
- Tell who you are with.
- Ask if they know where your building is located, or what they know about your church.
- Tell them why you have come by — "to get to know your neighbors."
- Ask if they have any prayer requests you can pray for there at the door or can write down and have your church pray about.
- Give them some literature about your congregation.

Class 2: Elderly and Shut-In Visitation (3 weeks)

Each week, have a couple of adult ladies show up at 5:00 to drive a van to visit different shut-ins within the church or visit area nursing homes.

Class 3: Cooking Class (3 weeks)

Have this group help prepare the meal each week, set up tables, work with clean-up, etc.

Class 4: Pantry Blitzers (3 weeks)

Take the church directory and divide it into groups of names. Each week, have a group of teens go to their assigned list of homes to collect goods for the church pantry.

Other suggestions: Evangelism Training Class, Leadership Training Class

BINGO FOOD HUNT

Box of Jell-O	Jar of Peanut Butter	Can of Vegetables	Bottle of Shampoo
Jar of Jelly	Tube of Toothpaste	Spaghetti Sauce	Can of Fruit
Bar of Soap	Package of Spaghetti Noodles	Cake Mix	Roll of Toilet Paper
Box of Crackers	Can of Soup	Flour/Corn Meal	Box of Cereal

SAMPLE: Pass the following sheet around to adult classes to involve the whole congregation in Wednesday night youth activities.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP MEALS (6:00)

September 4 (Taco Pile On)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

October 16 (Pizza Hut Pizza)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

September 11 (Hamburgers and Hot Dogs)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

October 30 (Spaghetti)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

September 18 (Soup and Sandwiches)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

November 6 (Fried Chicken)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

September 25 (Potluck)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

November 13 (Soup and Chili)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

October 2 (Chili, Cheese and Corn Chips)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

November 20 (Sloppy Joes)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

October 9 (Sub Night)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

NOTE: \$1 will be taken up from each young person to help with the cost of meals. Money will be given to volunteers to use as adults choose in preparing the meal.

Other Mid-Week Ideas

Help for the Hurting

One youth group puts biblical truth into action with a hands-on ministry program. The theme of the group's rotational ministry is Matthew 9:35-38. On the first Wednesday of each month, students visit a home that houses mentally challenged residents; the next week they visit recent visitors to their youth group as well as shut-ins from the church congregation; the following week they go to another home for troubled girls; and on the fourth Wednesday, they meet for evangelism training. Each evening includes an icebreaker, prayer, singing, and food. One young person shares the gospel or a devotional.

Tutoring and Homework

Some groups meet at 3:00 on Wednesdays. They provide a period for getting homework done before doing service work together. Some groups meet from 3:00-4:30 at area elementary school to help children who need tutoring. Tutoring can also be done at the church building on a weekly basis.

Activities for Getting to Know Students

Dinner 4 10

Divide young people into groups of 10. Give adult leaders a list of ten young people to invite into their home as a "get to know you" activity. This can be done monthly, or to kick off the fall or spring.

Weeknight Bible Studies

Once a week during the school year, have students meet in homes for Bible study and fellowship. Rotate the Bible studies to a different home each week. It is a good way to involve parents and adults with the youth program who are not part of your leadership core. If you do a 5:00 program for Wednesday nights during the Fall, you might consider doing weeknight Bible studies in the Spring to mix things up.