

9 EVANGELISM INSIGHTS THAT WILL TRANSFORM YOUR MINISTRY



A Youth Leader eBook from
Greg Stier of Dare 2 Share



DARE 2 SHARE

Greg Stier

Greg Stier has been used by God to impact the lives of hundreds of thousands of teenagers across America. He combines amazing true-life stories with his own unique brand of humor to communicate Biblical truth in a way that not only inspires, but equips teenagers for action. As founder and president of Dare 2 Share, Greg leads his team toward the single goal of mobilizing teenagers to reach their world with the good news of Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8). He is the author of twelve books and numerous resources, including *Dare 2 Share: A Field Guide for Sharing Your Faith* and *Firing Jesus*.

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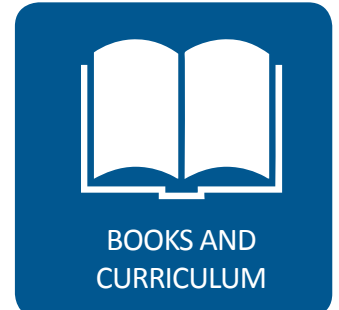


D A R E 2 S H A R E

Giving you the tools, training and resources to create a missional youth ministry.

- **Spiritual Maturity:** Nurture teens who are passionate about pursuing Christ.
- **Faith Ownership:** Build confidence as teens see the power of the gospel.
- **Missional Lifestyle:** Unleash disciples who take their faith out to their world.
- **New Believers:** Advance Christ's Kingdom through your ministry.

Click the boxes below to explore:



We know the gospel changes everything – for believers, and for youth groups!

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Evangelism as a catalyst for youth ministry

Deeper discipleship, more new believers, excitement among your teens, ownership of their faith, actions following beliefs....

Too good to be true?

Not from what we've seen.

This is standard fare for youth groups that have grabbed ahold of THE Cause of Christ – to make disciples who make disciples. In fact, youth groups who are intentional about training their students to share their faith with their friends see on average an 18% increase in new conversion growth and their teens are leading the way for the church in being missional.

This ebook will delve into how your youth group can begin to incorporate evangelism as a central driving component of your ministry so you can see the type of results we all want: an increase in new believers and a deeper level of discipleship taking place among your students.

The question isn't if evangelism can produce results, but how best to take advantage of the call of Christ to transform your youth ministry into an exciting and dynamic place where "Acts-like" scenarios aren't just read about, but where they're experienced weekly.

"...youth groups who are intentional about training their students to share their faith with their friends see on average an 18% increase in new believer growth and their teens are leading the way for the church in being missional."



But...

what does this really look like in a youth group?

Julie Rietema, a youth leader at Grace Church in metro Denver, gives a glimpse into what happened in her group as they intentionally focused on teens reaching teens with the gospel:

Youth group last night was one of the most powerful and impactful nights I have ever been a part of...I asked students to come up and share what God was doing...Dane described how he had shared with a friend and she trusted in Christ. Then she shared with Dane how her dad might be dying of cancer and Dane told her to share with her dad about Jesus. She did and he trusted in Christ too. Then on Monday, Dane went to school and gave the *Life in 6 Words* outreach book to his friend to read during lunch. The boy only got through 5 pages, put the book down and said, "Tell me what this means." Dane explained and he trusted in Christ right there in the lunchroom at school...

Another student, Jackson, shared how his friend came to know Christ. Maxine shared about how her friend trusted in Christ, and that friend told her mom and she trusted in Christ. Tianah shared about how she was explaining the gospel to Blake and as he was trusting in Christ, a friend who was listening to the conversation behind her, tapped her on the shoulder and said, "Hey, I heard about that free gift, I want it too." So she put her faith and trust in Christ...

At the end of the night I asked if anyone wanted to share the gospel right now. Bailee jumped up and headed to the front and told all the youth and watched as seven kids trusted in Christ.

Wouldn't it be great to experience the same level of spiritual and numeric growth that Julie's group did? It can happen in your youth ministry as well. It's not through the latest curriculum or gimmick. It's by unleashing our teens with a mission and the tools to carry it out.

How do you move your youth group toward this new place?

It starts with a missional mindset that we are all called to be sharing the good news of Christ with those around us, our friends, our family, our neighbors...even the person we meet standing in the check-out line. People need to hear about Jesus and He has given us the charge to go and do this.

For a youth group, this means cultivating the core belief that sharing our faith is a central, missional part of what the group is about. And as a missional youth leader (a youth leader on mission with Jesus to reach the lost and make disciples; Luke 19:10), your job is to equip your students to understand the gospel and encourage and provide opportunities for them to step out and make Christ known in their world (school, work, teams, etc.).

This e-book is designed to help you begin this process with your youth group so that you can see a dramatic increase in energy, excitement and commitment as your teens engage in sharing their faith. Within this resource you will find concrete, practical steps that will help you begin moving down this path toward a missional youth ministry.

We all want to see students on fire for the Lord. We want to see them grappling with what it means to be a disciple who creates disciples who create disciples. This is the stuff of Acts, and we are seeing it happen among groups of all sizes and across many denominations. Christ wants to use your teens to impact their world, and it all starts with being intentional about sharing the good news.



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1

CHANGE YOUR JOB DESCRIPTION – MOVE FROM QUARTERBACK TO COACH



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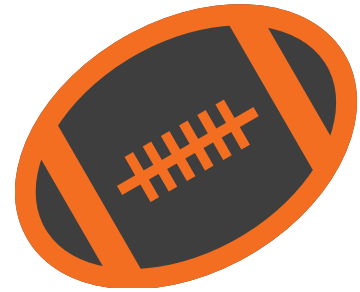
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Before you even begin to think about evangelism in your group, you need to revisit what you believe about your role as the youth leader. Think of it this way: at its core, a youth leader's job is either quarterback or coach.

What's the difference?

Quarterbacks

- Believe it's their job to run things
- Feel they are the star player who is central to the success of the group
- Make the instant, hard decisions of what to do, where to go and what "plays" they will run
- Believe they are responsible for growth and maturity happening within their teenagers



Coaches

- Believe their job is to give their team the tools to do things themselves
- Desire to see their students take more and more responsibility within the group
- Focus on the basics and help set their students up for success
- Create an environment where their kids can explore their own giftings and are free to struggle and explore their faith



"...at its core, a youth leader's job is either quarterback or coach."



STEP #1 REWORK YOUR JOB DESCRIPTION

As a youth leader, your primary charge is that of a coach, to train and equip your students to grow in Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13 describes the coach’s job this way:

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

This shift in perspective may seem small, but the implications are enormous...and freeing. Take a moment to consider how the ways you do ministry will change as you move from quarterback to coach.

Jot down a couple sentence job description that captures this new aspect of your role.

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STEP #2 PUT ON YOUR COACH'S HAT

As you put on your coach's hat, you're ready to take a look at the playbook and make some changes. While you may not be able to take yourself off the field immediately, the goal is for you to work yourself out of some of the jobs you've taken on. When it comes to giving the gospel, you no longer have to be the one who always has to deliver the touchdown pass. Nor do you have to go for the extra "conversion" points.



Your goal now becomes raising up a team of students who understand the game plan (making disciples who make disciples), preparing them for spiritual conversations through training and role playing, and motivating them to get off the bench and into the game.

STEP #3 PUT FAITH SHARING IN THE PLAYBOOK

Evangelism can't just be an occasional curriculum topic to brush up against once or twice a year, or even a quarterly outreach meeting you organize with all the bells and whistles. It has to be a mindset that's cultivated year round in your students as you coach them week in and week out.

"Wouldn't it be awesome if your teens were initiating spiritual conversations and sharing their faith one-on-one with their friends?"

When another teen comes to them stressed out about grades or hurting because someone backstabbed them, what a great opportunity for one of your teens to step into the distress and talk about the strength and comfort they've found from having a personal relationship with God. Imagine the impact if they'd bring Jesus into the conversation with their friends who are looking for direction or purpose in life.

As they begin to engage their friends day in and day out, they will become more comfortable and their skill at bringing Jesus up will begin to flow naturally.



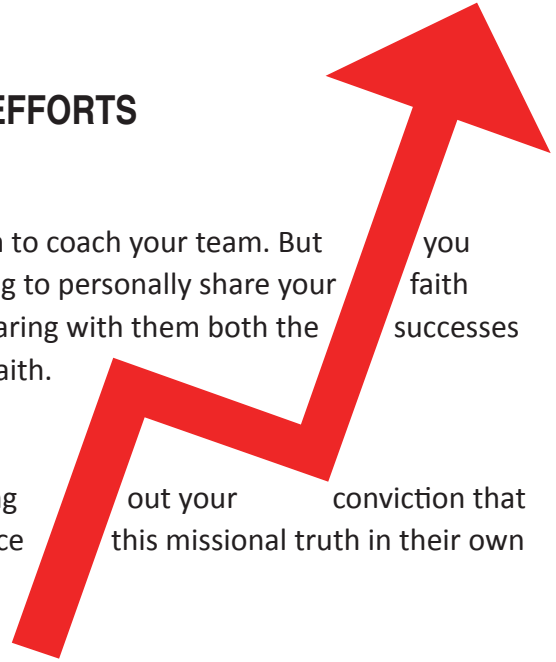
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STEP #4 AMP UP YOUR OWN EVANGELISM EFFORTS

You don't have to be gifted or "an expert" in evangelism to coach your team. But you should be leading the way by your own example, seeking to personally share your faith with others and letting your teens in on your efforts, sharing with them both the successes and the failures you're experiencing as you share your faith.

Teens respect effort. When they see you personally living out your conviction that **everyone's** called to share the good news, it will reinforce this missional truth in their own minds and hearts.

Remember that, when it comes to evangelism, you don't have to necessarily be good at it. You just have to go for it. When you set the pace for your teens they will follow your example.



STEP #5 GET SOME COACHING TOOLS

To begin to get the evangelism training lay of the land, start by checking out a few of Dare 2 Share's (D2S) free youth leader resources that cover some of the basic gospel-sharing essentials. These tools and resources will help you as you move into the coach's role and help your students develop a heart for the lost and a lifelong ability to share their faith with their friends.

"You don't have to be good at it, you just have to go for it!"



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Dare 2 Share Mobile App

The free D2S app motivates and equips you and your students to share Jesus' message of grace in your own unique, compelling way. It features training videos from Greg Stier, Zane Black and Derwin Gray ("The Evangelism Linebacker"), and includes Jason Petty's ("Propaganda's") virally popular YouTube video [Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL](#).

energize

energize is a bi-weekly youth leader email that will give you ongoing practical tips and encouragement as you seek to make evangelism a driving force in your youth ministry. [Sign up to receive energize in your inbox.](#)

Live THE Cause

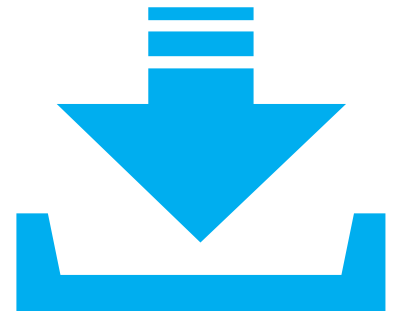
Packed with helpful insights and useful online faith sharing tools for both you and your students, THE Cause webpages can help you and your group get motivated and mobilized to make faith sharing a priority.

Mobilize

Mobilize is a hands-on, weekly resource for youth leaders building a Gospel Advancing Ministry. Get inspired and equipped to personally embrace a gospel advancing lifestyle, learn how to pass that passion on to others and get the practical tools and tactics you need to fold the seven values of a Gospel Advancing Youth Ministry into your youth group. Sign up to receive Mobilize weekly in your inbox or access it [online](#).

Moving from quarterback to coach is a process that needs to be bathed in prayer. So pray, pray, pray (more about that later) and start moving down the road toward making disciples who make disciples.

Have fun downloading!



2

DISCOVER THE MISSING TRIGGER IN DISCIPLESHIP



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Many youth leaders look at evangelism as an outcome.

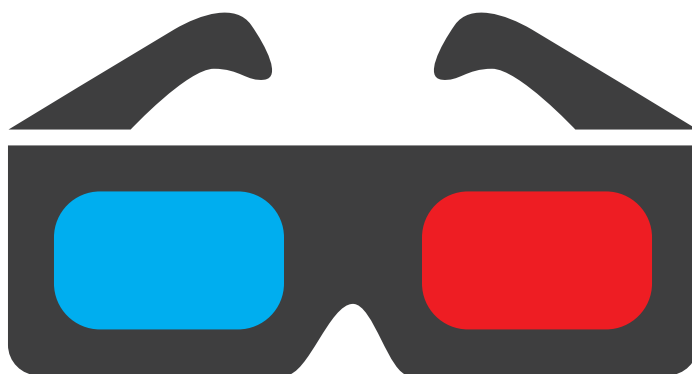
“When my teenagers grow enough in their faith, when they’re in the Word enough, when they pray enough, then they’ll be ready to share their faith.”

But this discipleship mindset doesn’t seem to be working.

Students who grow up in the church frequently seem to miss the entire point of Christ’s call to follow Him. They may absorb the theology and character content of your lessons, but remain unfocused and unengaged in a real, passionate commitment to Christ. They become like sponges that soak in the milk of God’s Word, but never learn to be wrung out for others. As a result, their milk turns sour and they run the risk of ending up like little Pharisees who know the truth, but lack the heart and passion to live for Christ and share His truth with others.

Without your coaching and prodding, your teens will tend to become passive and insulated rather than passionate and missional.

Maybe we need to look at
discipleship in a
NEW WAY...



STEP #1 ENGAGE THE TRIGGER THAT IGNITES PASSION

So you must look for the missing trigger that will ignite a passion for Christ in your students. At Dare 2 Share, we believe the catalytic element missing in most discipleship strategies today is the process of helping teens adopt Christ's cause.

What is His cause?

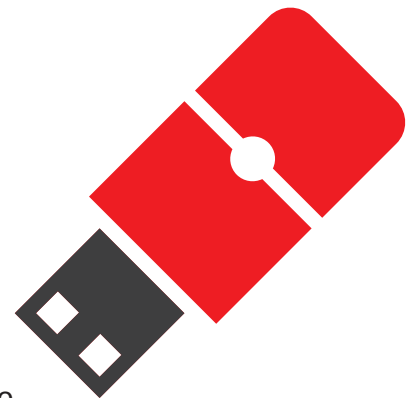
It's laid out for us in Luke 19:10: "... For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost," and again in Matthew 28:19 when Jesus declares, "Therefore go and make disciples ..." Jesus tells us in no uncertain terms what [THE Cause of Christ](#) is—making disciples who make disciples.

The first thing Jesus told His followers as He was calling them out to become His disciples was, "Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). Clearly, a core goal behind His recruiting disciples was evangelism.

Then soon after He appointed His disciples He sent them out, long before they were well-trained or highly polished—likely giving them a traumatic experience that served to motivate them to listen up and learn from Him about how to do this evangelism thing better the next time.

And His parting words before ascending into heaven were, "You will be my witnesses..." You get the clear picture from Jesus' discipleship model that from beginning to end, His intention was not just to provide His followers with a theological download of truth; He was all about making disciples who make disciples.

You should be, too.



Don't settle for thumbdrive
discipleship that's just an
information download...



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STEP #2 EMBRACE DANGEROUS DISCIPLESHIP

Our teenagers are getting challenged everywhere. They get challenged in sports, at school, by their friends. About the only place teenagers don't get challenged is in church.

"I've noticed something about unchurched teens. Many of them pursue an extreme lifestyle with religious fervor. Meanwhile our youth group kids stay locked in the safety zone. Today's young people need to be called to a life of danger for the sake of following Christ many of them are waiting for the church to give them something big, something significant, something risky to do!"

—Paul Borthwick, *Group Magazine*

Jesus called his disciples to danger...to cause...to go on a [search and rescue mission](#) for lost souls. In Matthew 10, He warned them of the dangers they were about to face and then He unleashed them to face those dangers by sending them on a community-wide mission trip.

RISK!

Much of what passes as disciple-making today is a faint echo of Jesus' model. We have discipleship without danger.

But discipleship without danger is no discipleship at all.

If I'm a teenager, I have nothing to lose in a typical youth group except an hour of time. The closest I'll get to danger is a paper cut from turning the pages of Scripture during a lesson that's being taught.

But when we give teens a rallying call to action, [equip them](#) to share their faith and build in real life opportunities that challenge them to utilize the evangelism skills and training we give them, their faith comes into focus in a whole new way.

"The gospel is like a grenade, it doesn't matter who pulls the pin, it's going to explode."



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STEP #3 DRIVE TEENS DEEPER

When teenagers are put in a position of sharing their faith with their friends, everything changes.

- Now they have [purpose](#).
- Now they have a vested interest in understanding their faith so they can explain it to others in a clear and compelling way.
- Now they are hungry for spiritual truth that can reach into the lives of their lost and hurting friends.
- Now they are motivated to pray with passion as they see that heaven and hell stand in the balance when it comes to their friends' souls.

Jesus made spreading His message a centerpiece of His discipleship strategy. You can too, by using evangelism as the missing trigger for a vibrant, life-changing discipleship strategy.



3

MAKE PRAYER THE NUMBER ONE
THING



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We've connected with thousands of youth leaders across the country at [Dare 2 Share training events](#) and found many who are committed to making evangelism a higher priority in both their personal lives and in their youth ministries. These leaders have hearts that seek to follow Jesus and a renewed passion has been kindled for Christ and His Cause of making disciples who make disciples.

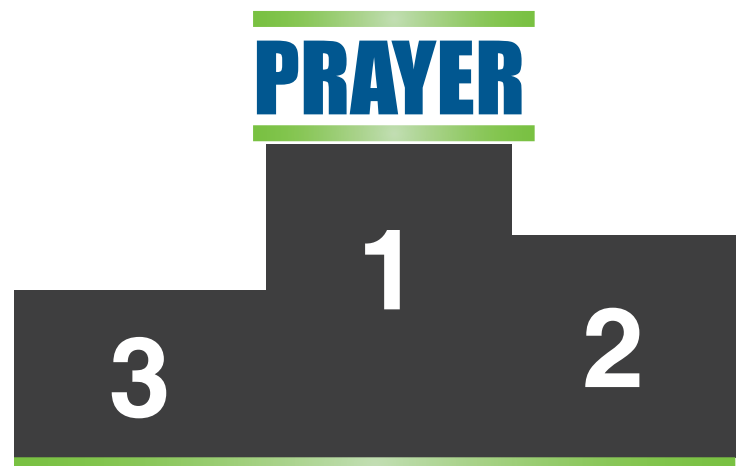
Still, it's typically a struggle to recalibrate a "youth ministry ship" that's already headed full-steam ahead on a predetermined course—a course that is often characterized by an entertainment-driven, just show up, youth ministry model handed down to us by our ministry forefathers. Moving from the status quo to a more missional, evangelism-focused approach to life and ministry can be a challenge.

So we're often asked this question:

"What's the number one thing I should do if I want to make evangelism a higher priority in my youth group?"

For many of you, the answer to this question may seem simplistic. But we're more convinced than ever that it is all contingent on one very foundational element: **PRAYER**

The only way you'll see evangelism come alive in your ministry and yield fruit is if you PRAY! Any lasting impact from your ministry must be grounded in prayer. We know you know that, but you might be surprised by how little priority prayer gets in much of youth ministry today.



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STEP #1 GET REAL

This is not designed to be a guilt trip. It’s our genuine conviction that prayer should be at the top of any youth ministry “Best Practices” list. Unfortunately, there’s just no getting away from the fact that we often shuffle prayer off to the side, into an “if I have time” category.

Answer this question truthfully: How much time do you spend in prayer for your youth ministry, students and adult leaders?

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Be honest with yourself. Are you satisfied with how much time is spent in prayer? Maybe you’ve heard this creed to live by: “Work as if it all depends on us, and pray as if it all depends on God.”

Many youth leaders work hard and love what they do, but often times they leave the prayer part out.

Prayer needs to be the number one priority in your ministries. And as a youth leader, you need to model this for your students and your volunteers.

How often are you plugging into the power of prayer?



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STEP #2 DECIDE WHETHER YOU REALLY BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF PRAYER

Most Christians spend little to no time praying each week. Why is this? Perhaps because we don't see the power that prayer has to change things. But take a serious look at Paul's words from 2 Corinthians 10:4-5, and your prayer life should come into focus:

*The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, **they have divine power** to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

Or consider this passage in 1 John 5:14-15:

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

Reflect on these passages and ask yourself:

- Do I truly believe in the power of prayer and is it evident in how I pray?
- If I knew that whatever I asked for concerning my youth ministry, according to His will, would be given, what would I ask for? Why don't I ask for it?
- What can my adult volunteers, student leaders and I do to make prayer a higher priority in our ministry?

STEP #3 AMP UP YOUR PRAYER LIFE

So here are some concrete steps you can take to begin to make prayer a bigger priority in your ministry:

- **Take an inventory of your own prayer life.** How are you doing? Are you modeling the commitment to prayer that you desire to see in your “disciples”—your students and adult volunteers?
- **Pray with your students and volunteers.** We’re not just talking about those brief introductory or closing prayers that most of us fold into our meeting outline. We’re talking here about praying with them like Jesus prayed. Model with them what prayer should look like. Show them how to make praying for their unreached friends a consistent and [urgent plea](#) before the throne of God.
- **[Ask them to commit with you to pray every day.](#)** If you need more structure to stay accountable, consider starting a prayer journal and invite your leaders and students to do the same. It can help you develop a more consistent prayer life as well as give you a way to see God’s answers to your prayers – and that’s always exciting.

Begin to put prayer as the top priority in your life and in your ministry. It is absolutely foundational for an evangelism-focused youth ministry! Like Phillip Yancey says in his book *Prayer*, “Keep it honest. Keep it simple. Keep it up.”



4

MAKE THEIR LIVES (AND YOUR
YOUTH GROUP) ABOUT A “CAUSE”



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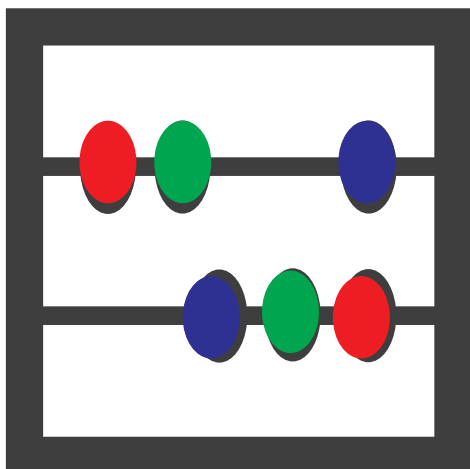
The term “The Great Commission” is often associated with the idea of evangelism, but did you know that this phrase is not found in any verse of the Bible? The phrase began appearing in the 1600s, but it didn’t become widely used until the late 18th and early 19th centuries. It first appeared as a section heading in *The Scofield Bible* in 1907. It probably sounded very hip back then but, hey, so did the King James Version.

Thou knowest tis true.

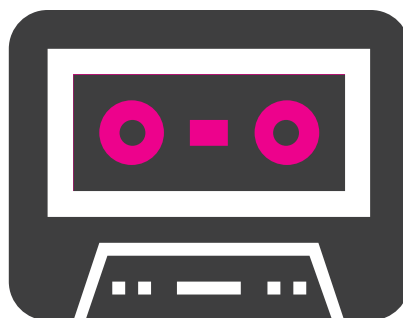
The phrase “The Great Commission” was first popularized by missionaries who used it to infuse interest in evangelism in the hearts of their audiences. They wanted a moniker that would attract people to join Jesus in the greatest mission of all time, to tell the greatest story ever told. They hoped that the term would recruit more givers and goers when it came to missions’ work, especially when it came to young people. And you know what? They succeeded. The term was used to recruit thousands upon thousands into foreign missions.

But most teenagers today only associate the word “commission” with sales people. If you refer to “The Great Commission,” the typical teenager either scratches his/her head in confusion or tunes you out. Instead of these words being a ringing call to a grand mission, it’s just as likely to stir thoughts of the 20% commission the sales guy at T-Mobile might have just raked in on the phone they just bought. The term has lost its punch with today’s culture. It just doesn’t resonate.

For teenagers, the “Great Commission” might be as out of date as one of these...



...OR one of these!



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STEP #1 RECAST EVANGELISM IN A CAUSE-CENTRIC WORLD

Our teens today inhabit a cause-centric world: protect the environment, work for social justice, go green, end sex trafficking, send mosquito nets to end malaria, to name a few.

Many of these causes are good and worthy, but there’s one cause that should rise to the top of the list for every believer. It’s THE Cause that Jesus left us with before He ascended into heaven—His timeless command in Matthew 28:19 to *“Go and make disciples of all nations....”*



Jesus is calling His followers to invade and persuade, to make disciples who make disciples, until every nation has heard the good news.

STEP #2 WRITE A YOUTH MINISTRY MISSION STATEMENT

So instead of using an ad campaign for Christ’s last and lasting mandate that was developed by Europeans centuries ago who wouldn’t know an iPhone from a Tweet, let’s leverage teenagers’ interest in causes and unleash them for THE Cause of all causes—THE Cause of Christ—making disciples who make disciples.

This is what every believer is called to and should be what we are all about doing. So take some time to look at all your programs and activities to see how they align with this Cause that Jesus gave us before He left.



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Write up a mission statement for your youth ministry based on THE Cause—or see if the one you have needs to be revised. After all, Matthew 28:18-20 is the mission statement Jesus gave to his disciples and has been passed down from generation to generation to us.

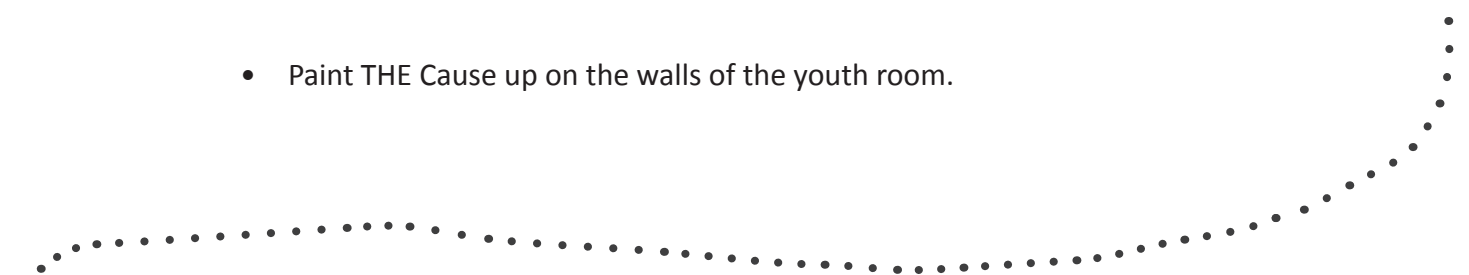
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STEP #3 LAUNCH THE CAUSE IN YOUR YOUTH GROUP

You’ve shifted your mindset from quarterback to coach, you’ve identified the missing trigger in discipleship and you’ve laid the groundwork with a renewed focus on prayer. Now it’s time to take some concrete steps and launch THE Cause in your group.

Here are some practical ideas to consider:

- Get your [adult volunteers](#) and [student leaders](#) on board by sharing your vision for an evangelism-focused approach to discipleship.
- Teach a lesson or lessons on THE Cause in your youth group and lay out THE Cause as the driving component of every Christian’s life and how this is now the central mission of the youth group.
- Paint THE Cause up on the walls of the youth room.



- Put it on your Facebook page and on your youth group webpage. Add it as the tagline on all your emails or communications to your students.
- Go to the [“Launch THE Cause with Your Teens” webpage](#) for more specific free help on how to mobilize and equip your students to live THE Cause.
- Plan a multi-week youth group series on evangelism to launch THE Cause using a curriculum like:
 - o [Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL Explored](#) (Winner of the 2013 Outreach Resource of the Year for Youth)
 - o [Evangelophobia](#) and/or [Reach Out...Don't Freak Out](#)

Check out the previews for these curricula to see if they look like a fit for your group.

STEP #4 RELY ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

Moving from the status quo “autopilot” toward a more missional, evangelism-focused approach to ministry can feel like you’re trying to turn a massive, ocean-going vessel. It doesn’t turn on a dime. It takes time. It takes effort. And it takes a powerful engine.

You may be wondering about now, how am I ever going to pull this off?

Here’s the deal. You won’t.



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It is the Holy Spirit, the One who dwells inside every believer, who will enable you to lead this journey toward evangelism-focused youth ministry.

He is the powerful engine who must drive any course change.

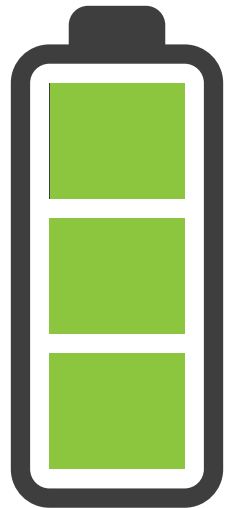
If you feel overwhelmed, take courage from Acts 1:8:

*“But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

The Holy Spirit will guide you as you lead your teens into all truth. He will provide you with the wisdom and strength you need to navigate the challenging journey toward making disciples who make disciples.

The Holy Spirit dwells inside every one of your believing teenagers. He will be the ultimate teacher, counselor and coach of your teens as you seek to take them [deeper in their walk with Christ and wider into the world](#) with the message of the gospel. And while you are only with your teenagers a few hours a week, He is with them 24-7.

He is much more serious about taking them to a place of deeper discipleship than you could ever be! You are not alone in this quest for the spiritual transformation of your youth group.



“... while you are only with your teenagers a few hours a week, the Holy Spirit is with them 24-7”



5

TEACH “AS YOU ARE GOING” EVANGELISM



D A R E 2 S H A R E



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Today's teens' schedules are packed to overflowing with sports, school, clubs and/or work. Most teenagers live hectic lives that pull them in a gazillion directions.

So who has time for one more thing...like evangelism?

It's hard enough to get them to consistently show up for youth group, much less participate in a service project or weekend retreat. So how can these over-committed teens possibly carve out time in their lives to "go do evangelism?"

STEP #1 SHIFT YOUR MINDSET

Well, there's a secret to finding time for evangelism. It's found in Matthew 28:19: *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..."*

While Hudson Taylor, William Carey and the missionary giants of yore put the emphasis on the word "GO" to recruit for foreign missions, the actual, literal meaning in the original Greek, is not "GO." It's *"as you are going,"* make disciples. It doesn't carry the mission field connotation of drop-everything-and-go-to-a-far-away-land-and-make-disciples.

Instead, the Greek "GO" carries the connotation of starting where you're at, in the midst of your day-to-day life and making disciples: in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and then to the ends of the earth.

The modern equivalent for your teens might look something like this: make disciples within your circle of friends, on your sports team, at your school, on your Facebook page, at your workplace, and then to the ends of the earth when you go on that summer mission trip.



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STEP #2 MOTIVATE & EQUIP FOR “AS YOU ARE GOING” EVANGELISM

Finding time for evangelism is not about “stopping what you’re doing” or even “interrupting what you’re doing” to take part in a big outreach campaign or specially planned activity.

It’s about training your teens to look for day-to-day opportunities as they are going about their everyday lives.

It’s about training them to turn their conversations with their friends who need Jesus toward spiritual things, so that as they are going through their daily life - to drama practice or track practice, over lunch or on their phone - they are bringing God up.

Your job is to motivate and equip them to talk about spiritual things and to explain the gospel so that it becomes a part of who they are, day in and day out.

Making disciples isn’t just some occasional special assignment for students; it’s [THE ongoing assignment— THE Cause](#)—God has given to every single one of His followers. The whole book of Acts is a recounting of how the early church lived out this process of making disciples in the context of its culture.

“Your job is to motivate and equip them to talk about spiritual things and to explain the gospel so that it becomes a part of who they are, day in and day out.”



STEP #3 EVALUATE YOUR EFFECTIVENESS

Jesus' words in Matthew 28:19 are clear, *"Therefore go and make disciples..."* In your youth ministry, are you focused on training your teens to obey this command?

Let me give you a real-life illustration that might help the importance of this assignment sink in. Say you tell your son, "Make your bed. And remember, I'll be coming back to see if you did what I told you to." Later, when you come back, you're going to ask him, "Did you make your bed?" He might say, "Well, no, Daddy (or Mommy), but I painted you a picture." A picture is nice, but you'd still be asking him, "But did you make your bed?" "Well, no, but I cleaned up my toys." And again, you'd say, "That's great, but did you make your bed?"

Jesus' last words were *"Make disciples..."* And He told us He'd be coming back. Do you think He'll be asking you AND the teens under your spiritual care, "Did you make disciples?"

Intentionally prepare your students for "as you are going" evangelism, so they can answer that question with a resounding, "YES!" Build [training](#), practicing and doing into your youth ministry cycle.

And not just once or twice a year.

But, did you make disciples...?



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6

UNLEASH YOUR TEENS FOR CHRIST'S CAUSE



D A R E 2 S H A R E



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THE Cause Jesus has set before every one of His followers is to GO and make disciples who make disciples.

Whether they know it or not, or want to actually do it or not, your teens who are believers *have been called* to go on a search and rescue mission for lost souls. As a youth leader, you can help unleash them for this grand cause by incorporating these simple evangelism training components into your youth ministry.

STEP #1 TRAIN A CLEAR, COMPELLING GOSPEL MESSAGE

How many of your teens could clearly explain the good news of salvation to someone who's never set foot in a church? Even if the opportunity dropped right into their lap, many teens have no idea how to explain the message of the cross.

Yet it's the most important message on the planet!

So find a clear, simple way for your teens to learn how to share the core essentials of the gospel message.

At Dare 2 Share, we use the Life in 6 Words [GOSPEL acrostic](#). The Billy Graham Association uses [4 Steps to Peace](#). Everystudent.com uses [Knowing God Personally](#).

You can choose whatever works best for you. But whatever you use, make sure it presents the full message of the gospel. Then train and equip your students—don't assume that your teens automatically know how to share the gospel with others.



Here are some ways to do that:

- Familiarize your students with the seeker friendly outreach website Lifein6words.com.
- Encourage your students with smart phones to download the free [Dare 2 Share app](#).
- Use the [Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL Explored Curriculum](#) (Winner of the 2013 Outreach Resource of the Year for Youth).
- [Make a GOSPEL Wall](#).

STEP #2 PROVIDE A RELATIONAL AND RELENTLESS EVANGELISM STRATEGY

Once your teens know how to explain the message of the gospel, give them an intentional strategy for reaching their friends. How do they begin this evangelism journey with their friends?

Pray-Pursue-Persuade

Challenge your teens to pray for their friends daily, to pursue them spiritually—serve them, love them, and bring God up in conversations, and to persuade them to consider Christ and His message. Persuade means to convince someone in a loving way. At Dare 2 Share, we use [THE Cause Circle](#) to coach teens to Pray-Pursue-Persuade.



Ask-Admire-Admit

Watch the *Ask Admire Admit* [video](#) and then train your students to use these three simple steps as they engage in spiritual conversations with their friends:

1. **Ask** questions about what others believe, not to trap them, but to understand them and break down any relational barriers that are keeping them from considering Jesus.
2. **Admire** everything you can about what others believe in order to help people open up. Don't affirm their heresy, but their honesty. Find areas of common ground you can complement them on.
3. **Admit** that the reason you are a Christian is that you know you've fallen short and need someone to rescue you. That someone is Jesus.

Encourage them to use the free D2S [worldview resources](#) that will help them engage in deeper spiritual conversations with those from other perspectives. They'll find loads of questions they can ask and areas they can admire.

Start Spiritual Conversations

Get the visually engaging outreach book *Life in 6 Words* into the hands of your students so they can use it as a conversation starter with their friends who need Jesus. Youth leaders can get 100 free copies of the book from Dare 2 Share through the [Share 6 Campaign](#) website. [Get your free copies today!](#)



STEP #3 CREATE AN EVANGELISM STORYTELLING CULTURE

Take a few minutes weekly in your youth group to make evangelism an ongoing priority. Invite 1-2 teens to share a story about a friend they are praying for, pursuing or persuading (and not just the “happy” stories, but the good, the bad and the ugly). Then challenge other teens to do the same.

This will help to make evangelism a priority every week so it becomes part of the DNA of your youth group.

Put on your coach hat and tell you teens you’re putting them in the game! Then encourage them to come back and tell about it. The Book of Acts is an evangelistic storytelling book and we should be continuing that story on and on!

Finally, take a minute or two out of each meeting to tell the greatest story ever—the gospel.

When you, or better yet one of your students, [present the gospel regularly](#), it helps your students see how to do it and how important it is.

By incorporating these 3 steps into your youth ministry you’re laying the groundwork for unleashing your teens to rock their world with the most powerful and important message on the planet. And you’re engaging the missing trigger of evangelism—the catalytic element missing in most discipleship strategies today.

*At Dare 2 Share, we call this time of storytelling,
“Take 5 for THE Cause”*



7

DELIVER THE BEST OUTREACH MEETING EVER



D A R E 2 S H A R E



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It takes a lot of effort to deliver a stellar outreach meeting.

What do you see as the critical component that will draw teens in and transform lives?

- A worthy, engaging service project?
- Great pizza?
- Crazy, fun games?
- Your skill at juggling poodles?

While the argument could be made that any and all of these have played a role in bringing teens to Christ (maybe not the poodles...), we believe the very best outreach meeting looks entirely different.

Because we believe that your teens themselves are the very best outreach meeting ever.

STEP #1 THINK OF YOUR TEENS AS THE WALKING, TALKING OUTREACH MEETING

Check out the Apostle Paul's perspective on reaching out beyond his own sphere of influence:

You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts (2 Corinthians 3:2-3).

Your teens are a letter from Christ, known and read by everybody. And when you [train and equip your teens](#) to share the gospel with their friends, they become the outreach meeting everywhere they go.



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Friends who would never set foot in a church or a youth group meeting will have the chance to hear the good news when your teens take it with them everywhere they go.

We're not saying you never do well-planned and executed outreach events. It's good to focus concerted upfront attention on outreach sometimes. It's also critically important that you take the opportunity to give the gospel every week.

But wouldn't it be great if your teens were sharing the gospel with their friends before they ever showed up at youth group?

Talking about the gospel in the car on the way home?

Asking their visiting friends questions like, "Did what my youth leader say make sense?"

We believe that teens are the key to impacting this nation for Jesus!



STEP #2 MAKE SURE YOUR COACH'S HAT STAYS ON

Your teens are the key to impacting their friends for Jesus.

The average teen has 100+ online friends. And friends have 100 times more influence on their own friends than a stranger does. So leverage your teens' influence, and keep coaching them to be that outreach meeting every day.

Your primary job is to train and equip them to reach those in their sphere of influence. Then you'll move from addition to exponential growth.



If you consistently challenge and engage your teens in evangelism, they themselves become the “registration card” for follow-up and discipling. Check out this easy [discipling tool](#) that’s designed for teens to use with their friends who are new believers—it will help to train and equip the newbies to begin making disciples who make disciples, so that the “disciple cycles” continue on and on.

We’re convinced that one of the reasons we have so much attrition in youth ministry is because we’ve not put the responsibility on our teens to follow up and disciple their friends.

So make sure your helmet and pads stay off and you’re teens are in the game instead. Because everywhere they go, your teens themselves should be the best outreach meeting you’ve ever delivered.

*“Make disciples who make
disciples, disciple cycles.”
LeCrae*



8

HARNESS THE PASSION OF NEW BELIEVERS



D A R E 2 S H A R E



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The greatest thing about your getting your students actively sharing their faith is that people will come to faith in Christ!

This means you'll have new believers coming into your youth group. And the excitement of these new teens who've just discovered the hope found in Jesus can be contagious!

If you've ever been around a teen who has passed out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of light, you've seen what happens when their eyes have been opened. They are thrilled about the new relationship with Jesus they've just discovered! The genuine joy and freedom that come from Jesus' grace and forgiveness spontaneously bubble up out of their souls.

What's the typical response of the church to this unbridled new believer excitement? Why of course, we douse it out. "Isn't that cute," we say to each other, with a knowing smile, "I remember back when I was idealistic and naïve too..." And then we quickly shove them into a 12 week discipleship course and exegete all the excitement right out of them.

We justify it by assuring the new Christian who's on fire for Christ that there's so much they need to know before they try to tell others about Jesus. "You'll get eaten alive," we say protectively. "Someone might make fun of you and that might make you want to turn tail and abandon your new faith. So it's best to wait until you're older and know more before you try to tell others about the gospel."



“What’s the typical response of the church to this unbridled new believer excitement? Why of course, we douse it out.”



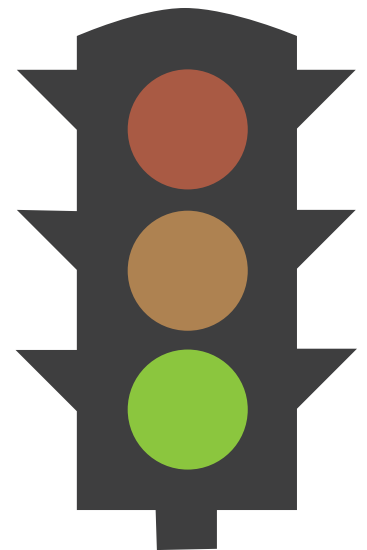
STEP #1 EMBRACE THE JESUS MODEL—EARLY AND OFTEN

But tell me, do you see any of this attitude in Jesus' approach to training his disciples?

The first thing He told His followers as He was calling them out was, *"Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men"* (Matthew 4:19). Then soon after He appointed His disciples He sent them out. You get the distinct impression that Jesus pushed His followers to share the good news with others early and often.

Or do you see the new believers in the book of Acts being sheltered and coddled and enrolled in a 12 week course? No. At a time when the costs for sharing your faith included persecution, stoning and even death, Acts tells us the story of new believers boldly spreading the message of the gospel as their faith is being tempered and fired in the furnace of suffering.

The result: the gospel spread like wildfire across a whole region of the world.

**STEP #2 TAP INTO THE PASSION**

Instead of dousing the passion of new believers who are excited and alive because of what God's done in their life, harness that passion for the gospel and get them excited about [THE Cause of Christ!](#)

After all, the point of conversion is when they have the most and the strongest connections with others who are unreached. It's also the point at which the dramatic transformation that's taken place in their hearts is most evident to the world around them.



STEP #3 EQUIP THEM TO SHARE THEIR FAITH

Take their unbridled excitement about what God's just done in their lives, give them some quick, simple training and immediately unleash them to share their new faith with their circle of unreached friends and family.

**Here are some core faith sharing basics:**

- Teach them the [GOSPEL acrostic](#) so they explain Jesus' message of hope clearly.
- Have them tell you their story of how they came to know Jesus personally.
- [Role play a few conversations](#) to give them a little practice.
- Encourage them to download and use the [D2S app](#).

When you harness the passion of new believers, you'll see Jesus transforming lives, youth groups, churches and entire communities. It will bring the book of Acts to life!



9

DO YOUR YOUTH MINISTRY MATH



D A R E 2 S H A R E



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Most every youth leader wants to see growth in their youth group—both qualitative and quantitative growth. You’ve been learning how evangelism can be the trigger for both!

Being presented with Jesus’ call to: *“follow me and I will make you fishers of men”* forces your students to count the costs of following Him.

They will be forced to choose whether they’ll lay it on the line and risk their image and popularity for Christ.

Which is a good thing, because true discipleship is not learning about Jesus; it’s living like Jesus, which means engaging in His search and rescue mission to reach the lost.



The heartbeat of Christ is to reach the lost.

STEP #1 KEEP NUDGING YOUR STUDENTS BEYOND THE LUKEWARM CHRISTIAN LIFE

Your students are being challenged to excel in academics, in sports, in college app resume building. Their parents, their teachers, their bosses, their coaches all have expectations for them.

Yet stepping up to follow Jesus is the most important thing they can ever invest their lives in.

Don’t let church be the only place students aren’t challenged to step up and make a difference.



If you don't cast the vision and challenge them now, they'll be headed down the road toward a lukewarm, unengaged Christian life. The teen years, filled with curiosity, idealism, broad friendship circles and the awakening of their personhood apart from their family and friends, are mission-critical years for cultivating committed, engaged, wholly devoted followers of Jesus!

When you [equip your students](#) to become "fishers of men," and unleash them to do so, you're laying groundwork that will deepen their walk with God across a lifetime and shape them into movement making church leaders.

STEP #2 DRIVE TOWARD EXPONENTIAL KINGDOM GROWTH

This kind of mission and vision not only brings qualitative growth that transforms your students on a personal level, it also brings quantitative growth that transforms on a kingdom level.

You may be used to the growth by addition that comes through youth group-centered invitational evangelism, but when you train your teens to reach their friends, you're catapulting beyond linear growth to exponential growth.

When your teens are out there on the front lines sharing their faith and making disciples who make disciples, you're unleashing the power of multiplication, because they can touch many more lives for Jesus than you possibly could yourself. And their friends who trust Christ can touch the lives of their friends, and so on and so on, until whole schools and communities are rocked by the message of the gospel.

Which is better **+** or **X**?



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You see this kind of exponential growth in the book of Acts and the early church. Check out Acts 19:8-10:

Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God...He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

Did you catch that? Paul teaches those who are “all in” for Jesus for two years in the School of Tyrannus, with the end result that “*all the Jews and Greeks*” in the province of Asia heard the gospel!

Paul could never reach all those people by himself. But by training a team of dedicated Jesus followers, the gospel went out to the whole province.

Your youth group should be a School of Tyrannus—the place where you’re training and equipping your students to reach their friends.



Evangelism can ramp up your discipleship efforts as it multiples your youth ministry, providing exponential results in both qualitative and quantitative growth.

Do the math!





D A R E 2 S H A R E

TRANSFORM YOUR YOUTH MINISTRY

Find out how you can incorporate evangelism into your day-to-day youth ministry to impact your community for Christ.

Sign up for [energize](#)

Greg's newsletter for encouragement, tips and practical advice for becoming a missional youth group. [Click here](#) to sign up.

Get some personal youth ministry guidance

Talk to a Dare 2 Share Ministry Advocate at **800.462.8355 x532** about Dare 2 Share resources and events, and all things evangelism and youth ministry.