

# MINISTRY TO YOUTH

January 19, 2020

Introduction: We welcome today Austin Peace and Abby Lauxman to Lakehoma as our youth ministers. Austin and Abby are seniors at Oklahoma Christian University. Austin will graduate with a degree in Youth Ministry and Abby with a degree in Early Childhood Education. Abby plans to teach and serve as our Part-time Female Youth Minister, while Austin will be full-time. They plan to be married in June and Austin will be part-time until his graduation and Abby will come on full time during the summer following their wedding. Please welcome them to Lakehoma!

Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:1

I. Is Youth Ministry Scriptural?

<sup>9</sup> *Rejoice, O **young man**, in **your youth**, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for **all these things God will bring you into judgment.*** <sup>10</sup> *Remove vexation from your heart, and put away pain from your body, for youth and the dawn of life are vanity.* <sup>1</sup> **Remember** also your Creator in the days of your youth, **before the evil days** come and the years draw near of which you will say, **“I have no pleasure in them”** (Ecclesiastes 11:9–12:1).

A. The purpose of Youth Ministry is to teach, equip and motivate young people to “remember” their Creator, before life is “wasted on the young” and becomes “troubled”.

**Remember** your Creator while you are young, **before the bad times come**—before the years come when you say, **“I have wasted my life.”** (Ecclesiastes 12:1 ERV).

B. Youth Ministry is a vital calling of the church to engage teenagers to become fully–devoted followers of Christ both now and for future service.

<sup>6</sup> *...Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.* <sup>7</sup> *And after a time his master’s wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, “Lie with me.”* <sup>8</sup> **But he refused** and said to his master’s wife, *“Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge.* <sup>9</sup> *He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. **How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?”*** (Genesis 39:6–9).

C. Jesus modeled the holistic growth objectives for a healthy Youth Ministry: developing intellectually, physically, relationally and spiritually.

<sup>42</sup> *And when he was twelve years old... ..they found him in the temple, **sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.*** <sup>47</sup> *And all who heard him were **amazed at his understanding and his answers.*** <sup>52</sup> *And **Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man*** (Luke 2:42, 46-47 & 52).

<sup>4</sup> *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup> You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup> And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.* (Deuteronomy 6:4–9).

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I. Is Youth Ministry Scriptural? (*Ecclesiastes 11:9–12:1*)

A. The purpose of Youth Ministry is to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ young people to “remember” their Creator. (*Ecclesiastes 12:1 ERV*)

B. Youth Ministry is a vital calling of the church to engage teenagers to become \_\_\_\_\_ followers of Christ both \_\_\_\_\_ and for \_\_\_\_\_ service. (*Genesis 39:6–9*)

C. Jesus modeled the holistic growth objectives for a healthy Youth Ministry: developing \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ . (*Luke 2:42, 46-47 & 52*)

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