

Healthy Transitions from Kids to Youth

Carrie Brooks & Scott Nagle

Summary

The video discusses facilitating students' transition from kids ministry to youth ministry. It highlights common problems like lack of trust, communication, strategy, and teamwork between the two ministries. The speakers, Scott and Carrie, share practical solutions implemented at their churches, focusing on effective communication with parents and creating connection opportunities. They emphasize the importance of introducing youth leaders, hosting preview events, and following up to ensure successful integration. The video stresses the significance of investing time and effort into this transition to prevent losing students during this crucial phase.

Main Points

Introduction

The video introduces the topic of healthy community in youth ministry, addressing the transition from kids ministry to youth ministry. Scott and Carrie, both youth pastors, share their passion for this subject and acknowledge the common issue of losing students during this transition.

Four Problems Inhibiting Successful Transition

Scott outlines four underlying problems that hinder a successful transition:

- 1) Lack of trust between youth ministry, kids ministry, and parents.
- 2) Lack of communication, as kids ministry and youth ministry communicate differently.
- 3) Lack of clear strategy, assuming students will naturally transition.
- 4) Lack of teamwork between kids ministry and youth ministry staff.

Communication Solutions

Scott shares communication strategies implemented at his church, including sending early emails to parents introducing the youth team, creating a dedicated youth ministry email address, and aligning move-up dates across ministries after discussions with kids ministry leaders.

Connection Solutions

Carrie discusses connection strategies, such as the monthly youth pastor speaking at pre-teen services, involving youth staff in pre-teen events, hosting an annual retreat for incoming students, and organizing preview Sundays and student takeover days to familiarize new students with the youth ministry.

Follow-up and Importance of Time Investment

The speakers emphasize the importance of following up with students who have yet to transition successfully and investing significant time in communication and connection efforts to ensure a smooth transition and ensure losing students appropriately.

Action Items

- Send early communication to parents of incoming students, introduce the youth team, and lay out the transition plan.
- Create a dedicated email address for the youth ministry to streamline communication with parents.
- Align move-up dates across kids and youth ministries after discussions with respective leaders.
- Involve youth staff in pre-teen services and events to build familiarity with incoming students.
- Host an annual retreat for incoming students to introduce them to the youth ministry environment.
- Organize preview Sundays and student takeover days to familiarize new students with the youth ministry.
- Follow up with students who haven't successfully transitioned to understand and address any issues.