

ONE SOLUTION: SMALL GROUP + DISCIPLESHIP=YDISCIPLE

The Y Disciple program is designed to be **relational**, focusing on key influential relationships in the lives of teenagers-**parents, peers and other caring adults**. The program is **relevant** and is deliberate about introducing content and thought provoking discussions into a small group.

The program is designed for Parents and Parishes to work together to meet the fundamental needs of the teens-the need for the teen **to be understood**, the need for the teen **to belong**, the need to be able **to be transparent**, the need **to engage in critical thinking around the beliefs and values of their catholic faith** and the need **for guidance**.

YDisciple believes there is only one way to adequately meet all five driving needs of teenagers, and that is through small group discipleship. Small Group: 5-6 teens, same gender, close in age, and ideally already friends, meets the need of being understood, the need to belong, and the need for transparency.

What we need to make this Discipleship model work: Two caring adult leaders/parents (YOU?), in collaboration and communication with all parents, facilitating the presentation and discussion of topics about faith and life. This meets the needs of critical thinking and guidance. The teens establish trust, faith sharing, and accountability, and we (the adults) provide guidance to the teens as they grow in their relationship with Jesus.

To be part of a YDISCIPLE Group is considered a privilege. It is very important for parents to note that the teens have to want to be in the YDISCIPLE program-no one is forced to be in. If this happens it brings the groups moral down. If your student is not willing/wanting to be in a group first we ask you to encourage them to try it through the "FOLLOW ME" Series. It will be quite a bit different than their formal religious education has been thus far. After the FOLLOW ME, if they still do not want to be part of a group we will encourage you to continue their religious education at home using the FORMED YDisciple Curriculum (see below) on your own as a family.

The YDisciple website was built to mobilize an army of parents and adult mentors to meet the driving needs of teenagers, in order to help them take ownership of their faith and launch them as lifelong disciples.

Take a look at the YDisciple Resources on the Formed Website and become actively involved in your teens Religious Education through co-leading their YDisciple Group. To access FORMED;

1. go to www.formed.org
2. Click on the "find out more"
3. "Does your parish already have FORMED?" in that box enter our parish code: RHCXWQ
4. Under Studies is the YDISCIPLE Information and Studies
5. Fill out the registration form and you are eligible to view all the programs on FORMED

This will be our second year of YDISCIPLE and I am excited to be able to offer this opportunity for faith growth to the families of St Michael Parish. If you have any questions about this program please feel free to contact me at 605.361.1600. Registration forms for YDISCIPLE are attached.

Together in Christ, Rhonda