



B.YTH. STUDENT MINISTRIES HANDBOOK
JESUS FOLLOWERS LEARNING TO HEAR AND DO THE WORD OF GOD

Student Ministries Handbook

Whether you're a student, parent or volunteer, this booklet contains all you need to know for getting connected in Bonavista Youth Ministries.

Our purpose is to make disciples of Jesus – students eager to grow in love for God, to grow in love for other people, and to echo God's story with their lives. Here's how.

Table of Contents

- For Students..... 3
- Jesus Shaped Lifestyle..... 4
 - KEY LEARNING OUTCOMES..... 4
 - UP IN OUT 4
 - Cycle of Growth..... 5
- Youth Sample Calendar Rhythm 6
- On Mission *with* Calgary 7
 - 403 Network: 7
 - Battle for Bonavista: 7
 - Mustard Seed:..... 7
- For Parents and Families..... 8
- For Volunteers 10
 - Event Support Volunteers..... 10
 - Disciple Makers (aka Small Group Leaders)..... 11

For Students

Who are we?

We're a group of grade 6-12 students who gather to grow in love for God, show God's love to other people, and to echo God's story with our lives.

So what do we do?

Living like Jesus means knowing what we believe and putting those beliefs into action.

We spend our weeks together alternating between intentionally connecting with God and intentionally serving others. Check out our Youth Calendar Rhythm for a sample two months.

Weekly Meetings: Hang out with other students, volunteer in our community, and learn deeply about Jesus.

Seasonal Events: Throughout the year we join youth rallies, Winter retreats, family potlucks, and parties.

Can I bring my friends?

Absolutely! We would love for you to bring your friends! Things to consider:

1. Have fun and meet the church! Invite them to the larger fun events, family dinners, or our service opportunities.
2. Learn what it means to follow Jesus! Invite them to everything. The biweekly bible studies nights are a chance to hear God truth and seek his presence, but everything we do is meant for living a Jesus shaped life.

Student Leadership:

Student Prayer Team, Worship Team, and Event Teams are always open to new students who want to commit, grow, and contribute to the life of B.YTH. Get in touch with your small group leader or youth director about how to get involved.

Jesus Shaped Lifestyle

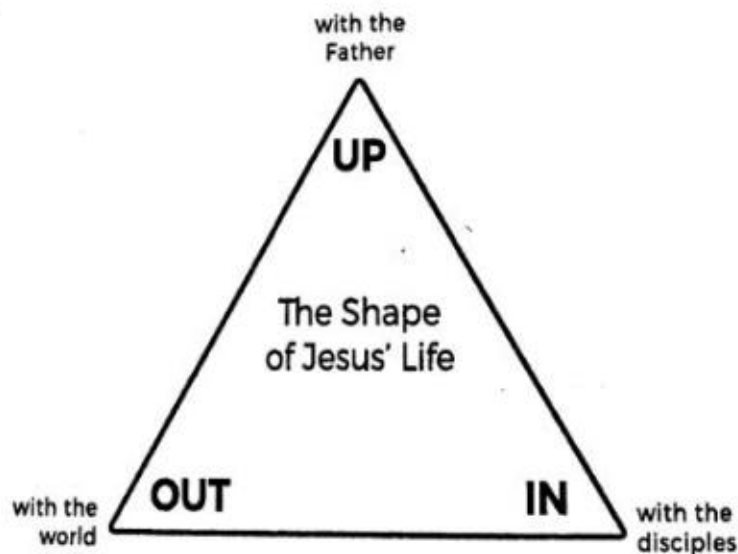
KEY LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students are growing in intimacy with Christ through Bible reading, worship, and prayer – individually and in community.
2. Students are growing as good friends, classmates, and community members, by noticing the risen Christ at work where ever they go. By noticing needs around them and taking practical, relational, and miraculous steps to meet those needs.
3. Students know God’s story and can share how they personally fit into it.

UP IN OUT

What is a Disciple? To keep it simple, think: follower, imitator, or apprentice. Disciples of Jesus try to make every part of their life look like Jesus’ life. He taught is followers to do the same.

Jesus spent his time in three key types of relationships: UP with the Father, IN with the Church, and OUT with the world (Snapshot in Luke 6:12-17).



[Diagram from 3DM Ministries]

UP with the Father: Students have opportunities to experience abiding in Christ through disciplines like reading scripture, singing praise, and both resting and wrestling in prayer.

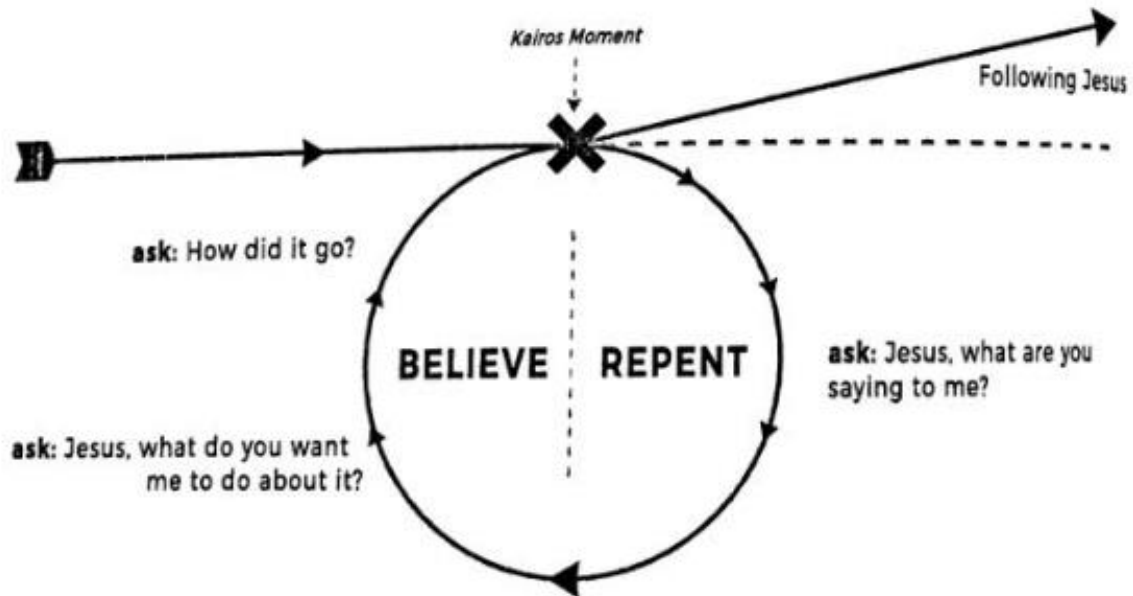
IN with the Disciples: Students, have opportunities to experience Church through things like authentic community, confidential confession, worship, and genuine belonging.

OUT with the World: Students have opportunities to experience things like local mission, selfless service, genuine friendship, and gospel storytelling.

Cycle of Growth

One of the ways we encourage student maturity is through a continuous cycle of repentance and belief.

“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”
Mark 1:15



[Diagram taken from 3DM Ministries]

In critical moments of time where God is opening an opportunity for us to follow him (also known as a Kairos Moment) we practice being intentional in our response to God’s leading.

This cycle lets us reflect on our current lifestyle, habits, and attitudes and make adjustments where needed through the prompting and support of the Holy Spirit.

Youth Sample Calendar Rhythm

We don't just teach disciple making lifestyle – we try to live this out together. Our monthly rhythm is designed for it. Below is a sample of our school year calendar. Summer months are less structured.

MONTH 1

	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
W01				1	2	Family Potluck! 3	4
W02	5	6	7	8	9	Bible Study 10	11
W03	12	13	14	15	16	Serve Project 17	18
W04	19	20	21	22	23	Bible Study 24	25
	26	27	28	29	30		

MONTH 2

	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
W05						Party! 1	2
W06	3	4	5	6	7	Bible Study 8	9
W07	10	11	12	13	14	Serve Project 15	16
W08	17	18	19	20	21	Bible Study 22	23
W01	24	25	26	27	28	Family Potluck! 29	30
	31						

All events
6:30 - 8:30 PM
@ Bonavista Church.

Party – IN and OUT – Fun times to invite your friends! Sometimes at the church and sometimes out and about!

Serve Project – IN and OUT – For students to be on local mission, notice needs, and bless others.

Bible Study – UP and IN – For students to connect over games, biblical teaching, discussion, worship, and prayer.

Family Potluck – UP, IN, OUT – For students and parents to meet other families, invite friends and neighbours to meet the church, and to learn about important student, family, and cultural topics. (Past events include: “How to be a friend to someone struggling with suicide,” “Career Planning,” and “Internet Safety and Pornography.”)

On Mission *with* Calgary

403 Network:

The 403 Network is a family of Youth Ministries from different denominations that partner together to see Calgary reached with the love of Jesus. Bonavista Youth is part of this network!

This collaboration seeks to create environments and experiences where young people

- Encounter the presence of Jesus;
- Invite and experience the Holy Spirit;
- Receive practical training and resources;
- Practice the ministry of prayer;
- Are sent to reach their city.

The strategy of the 403 Network is a three-year rhythm of focus. Each year all their rallies, conferences, and events reflect that year's focus. The rotation is Prayer, Service, and Sharing.

Battle for Bonavista:

Bonavista Youth also has a close relationship with Bonavista Baptist Youth! Being a short walk away, our youth groups regularly join for larger events.

We have a yearly event started in 2020 called the Battle for Bonavista. The events are competitions, but more importantly are missions. Every event we do something to bless our city or neighbourhood. For our first event in 2020 we donated 323 pairs of socks and 365 hygiene supplies to the Mustard Seed.

Mustard Seed:

As a group, Bonavista Youth has partnered with the Mustard Seed on multiple occasions. In addition to smaller events throughout the year, we participate in Seed Serve each summer, a week long local mission focused on God's response and our call to those experiencing poverty and homelessness.

For Parents and Families

We believe that Church Ministries exist largely to support and compliment family led discipleship. We hope that the suggestions below encourage and affirm parents in what they are already doing while keeping the commitments and costs attainable.

Partnering With B.YTH.

1. Pray for your students, their peers, and their leaders.
 - a. At Bonavista Church we believe that a parent's consistent prayer is a significant blessing. We suggest that parents spend a portion of every youth event asking that God would reveal himself to their children.
2. Make B.YTH. a priority on your family calendar.
 - a. Make it a priority to ensure your student is at the gatherings each week.
3. Make the disciple-maker's lifestyle a part of your family conversations.
 - a. Pray with and participate in or discuss your student's bible reading.
 - b. Ask your students what they think God has been saying lately (Kairos Circle).
4. Embrace and create connection opportunities.
 - a. Come to our seasonal family potlucks and invite family friends.
 - b. Get to know your student's peer's families.
 - c. Get to know your student's leaders.
 - d. Host your student's small group for movie or games.
5. Volunteer your time, talent, vehicle, home, or food for ministry events.
 - a. Our ministry runs on volunteer power and our calendar has a few key dates that require extra hands. This can include kitchen prep, baking, grocery shopping, driving, set up, and much more.
 - b. Carpool to service-oriented events.
 - c. Volunteer for an overnight retreat. For events that take place overnight, such as a camp retreat or church lock-in, we may need additional volunteers to help things run smoothly and to ensure student safety. Should we need volunteers for an event like this it will be mentioned in the monthly mailing list email.

Financial Cost

Almost all our events are free. Larger events may cost \$10-\$20 to cover part of the outing while camps and retreats can cost \$100-\$150. We do one Winter camp regularly and one additional Winter or Spring conference is common.

Student Safety

A combination of criminal record checks and annual training ensure our leaders are trustworthy and equipped. Plan to Protect protocols are in place to support our volunteers as they foster an environment which is safe for everybody.

Communication

Join our mailing list! (check junk folder) Email justin@bonavistachurch.ca

Follow us on Instagram [@bonavista_youth](#)

Check out our website: <https://bonavistachurch.ca/youth>

Registration Forms

We're so excited to welcome you into our Youth Ministry whether that's as a student, a parent, or a volunteer. Your next step is to fill out our student waiver. This online form is completed online and can be accessed via our website.

For Volunteers

What type of volunteers are you looking for?

Volunteer roles fall into two categories:

1. Disciple Makers – People invested in the ongoing maturing of students.
2. Event Support – People committed to bringing energy and help to events throughout the year.

Does volunteering cost anything?

All financial costs associated with volunteering for our ministry are covered, including any admission fees to events, training materials, and approved meetings with students.

Do I need to provide a criminal record check?

If you decide that you'd like to volunteer regularly we ask that you get a Police Information Check. This check will be free of charge with our organization number which will be provided upon request.

Event Support Volunteers

Commitments

This is all about seeing students experience vibrant gatherings. If you can't necessarily commit to being an ongoing disciple maker, Event Support may be a great way for you to give. For event support volunteers are passionate about helping with big and small ministry details for the sake of students' experiences.

Opportunities

Roles for these volunteers could be where ever you see a need. This could include being a driver, being part of a cooking or prep team, or being an extra set of eyes at a particularly large event.

Primary ongoing needs are:

- Snacks for small groups
- Kitchen help for our family dinners
- Transportation for our off-site serve days
- Event set up and tear down for our party events

Disciple Makers (aka Small Group Leaders)

Time Commitments

Event-Based: Weekly 3-hour gatherings

Mid-Week:

1. Pray for students by name regularly (weekly)
2. Text or call individuals regularly (weekly) and group chat regularly and meet in person on occasion

Seasonal: We ask that volunteers plan to be a part of at least 1 overnight event (camp retreats, missions trips, etc.)

Personal Commitments

Bonavista Youth is a community focused on sharing with others the surpassing love of Christ and equipping them to act like Jesus in everything they do. It is a place where youth leaders have the potential to make an enormous difference in the lives of kids growing up in these busy times.

To ensure that our volunteers and the church have the same end goal in mind, we ask that all youth leaders enter into a covenant with us, the youth ministry leadership team.

I want to volunteer, what's my next step?

Get in touch with our Youth Director (justin@bonavistachurch.ca) for a conversation about how we can partner for the sake of our students.