

Twelve Lessons

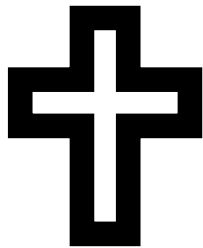
on

Helping Youth in Ministry & Crisis

Written & Compiled

by

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THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY – LESSON 1

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. - Proverbs 9:10

Introduction: To know God is to understand everything else about life. Our highest pursuit is Jesus Christ. As we come to know Him more fully, we better understand what He would have us do in our lives and ministries. Youth work is to be directed and operated in accordance with the person and nature of God. The youth minister ought to study the person of God that he might know what God would have done in the youth ministry.

A person might ask, “How can I teach young people,” or, “What should I do with youth?” One of the greatest lessons of all is to show young people the person of the Lord and make application unto their lives. If you have people who know God, they will make a real difference in the lives of young people.

Books, seminars, courses, and lessons can all be helpful for youth ministry. We should always strive to sharpen our axes. Yet, no person or book can tell you more about working with young people than the Lord Jesus. He already knows what every child/teenager needs. Study the Lord Jesus. Spend time with Him in prayer, and He will open the eyes of the youth worker to understanding.

But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man. - John 2:24-25

Lesson Goals:

1. To settle a conviction that our philosophy must grow out of our theology
2. To see the person and nature of God and the application to life and ministry

Definitions of Important Terms and/or Phrases:

1. Theology – “The study of God” – Theology is what we know to be true about God. The person and nature of God should direct us in making decisions for life and ministry. Theology must determine the work of the youth minister and the way that young people are directed.
2. Philosophy – “What we believe about life” – Our philosophy of ministry and life should be in direct correlation to our theology. Our theology should determine our philosophy. What we know to be true about God should settle what we believe about life and ministry. For example, if one knows that God is holy, then he must also believe that the youth ministry should be holy unto the Lord.

I. BIBLICAL GUIDELINES FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

A. Two Declarations

1. Our philosophy must grow out of our theology
 - i. What we know to be true about God, from the Scriptures, should determine what we know to be true about life and ministry.
 - ii. What kind of youth ministry do you want? You want a youth ministry in accordance with the person and nature of God
2. Our practice must be guided by our theology
 - i. If we allow the character and nature of the Lord to direct our practices, we will have settled many, many questions regarding youth ministry

B. Two Determinations

1. The theology of youth work must determine the work of the youth minister

- i. Theology reveals that the church is the body of Christ and is to be full of the Spirit of God. Therefore, we believe every person in the church ought to be a youth minister and full of the Spirit of God
2. The Theology of youth work must determine the way young people are directed
 - i. Young people need the whole counsel of God
 - ii. If one is not careful, he will become solely an “issues” preacher, rather than a Bible preacher or teacher.
 - iii. Certainly, issues must be addressed. Yet, young people need biblical foundations on which to grow and make decisions. That foundation is the person of Jesus Christ.

II. STUDYING THE PERSON OF CHRIST AND MAKING APPLICATION – Proverbs 9:10

A. The Study of the Scriptures

- We do not study the Bible for outlines and messages. We study the Bible to know God
 1. Look for the Lord in a passage. (Theology)
 2. Make application to the youth worker (Philosophy)
 3. Make application to the young person (Philosophy)

B. Examples of the Knowledge of the Holy

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. - 1 John 4:8

<u>Attribute of God:</u>	God is Love
<u>Application for Youth Worker:</u>	You need God’s heart for young people
<u>Application for Young Person:</u>	God loves you with a perfect love

*And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.
- Isaiah 6:3*

<u>Attribute of God:</u>	God is Holy
<u>Application for Youth Worker:</u>	Be holy. Do not expect young people to be what you will not be
<u>Application for Young Person:</u>	Our holiness grows out of God’s holiness. Draw close to Him; He will work.

But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end. - Psalms 102:27

<u>Attribute of God:</u>	God is immutable (never changing)
<u>Application for Youth Worker:</u>	Be consistent. Test everything by the eternal word of God
<u>Application for Young Person:</u>	God never changes His mind about you. You can trust His eternal principles.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. - Psalms 90:2

<u>Attribute of God:</u>	God is eternal
<u>Application for Youth Worker:</u>	Invest your life in what lasts. Strive for the eternal, not temporal.
<u>Application for Young Person:</u>	This life is not all there is. There is an eternal God and an eternal place for you

But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man. - John 2:24-25

Attribute of God: God is omniscient
Application for Youth Worker: God knows every situation of young people and how to deal with them
Application for Young Person: Young people can trust God with their future

Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. - Psalms 139:7-10

Attribute of God: God is omnipresent
Application for Youth Worker: When you cannot be there for a young person, God is always there
Application for Young Person: Young people should know that God is going to be with them

Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

- 1 Chronicles 29:11

Attribute of God: God is omnipotent
Application for Youth Worker: God has power to touch and change any young person
Application for Young Person: God can help the youth resist any temptation and change any situation

The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation. - Numbers 14:18

Attribute of God: God is merciful
Application for Youth Worker: Be merciful to young people and deal patiently with them
Application for Young Person: Let the mercy of God be the great motivator of the Christian life

But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

- Psalms 86:15

Attribute of God: God is gracious
Application for Youth Worker: Be giving and compassionate toward the youth. Give your life away
Application for Young Person: All we have comes from God's kind hand. Be thankful

God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. - 1 Corinthians 1:9

Attribute of God: God is faithful
Application for Youth Worker: Be consistent and true to what God has given you. STAY with those children!
Application for Young Person: Be faithful to the Lord. Have faithfulness in Bible reading, prayer, purity, etc.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. - Romans 8:28

Attribute of God: God is sovereign
Application for Youth Worker: Do not be blown away but what occurs in youth work
Application for Young Person: Trust the Lord. He is trustworthy, no matter what happens

Conclusion: We do not need to discover something new for youth work. We only need to discover the Lord!