

Envision_Life

Our Path For Emerging Young Adults

Some questions...

- What is the responsibility of the emerging young adults in our church family?
- What is the responsibility of parents with their emerging young adults?
- What is the responsibility of church leaders towards the emerging young adults in their church families?
- What is your responsibility towards the emerging young adults in our church family?

**Did the phrase “Envision_Life”
come up at your table?**

**The mindset of young adults
regarding faith today...**

National Study of Youth And Religion

Commonly held “spiritual” beliefs of today’s emerging adults...

- A God exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
- God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
- The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
- God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.
- Good people go to heaven when they die.

How did the church get here??

“The problem does not seem to be that churches are teaching young people badly, but that we are doing an exceedingly good job of teaching youth what we really believe, namely, that Christianity is not a big deal, that God requires little, and the church is a helpful social institution filled with nice people...”

– Kendra Creasy Dean

Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church

“Adolescents are looking for a soul-shaking, heart-waking, world-changing God to fall in love with; and if they do not find that God in the Christian church, they will most certainly settle for lesser gods elsewhere...”

– ***Kendra Creasy Dean and Ron Foster***

The Godbearing Life

Envision_Life

12–18: A Trial Run at Adulthood

Our path for young men and women (aged 12–18), that helps them develop a lifelong vision and plan for investing themselves in the building of Christ's Church.

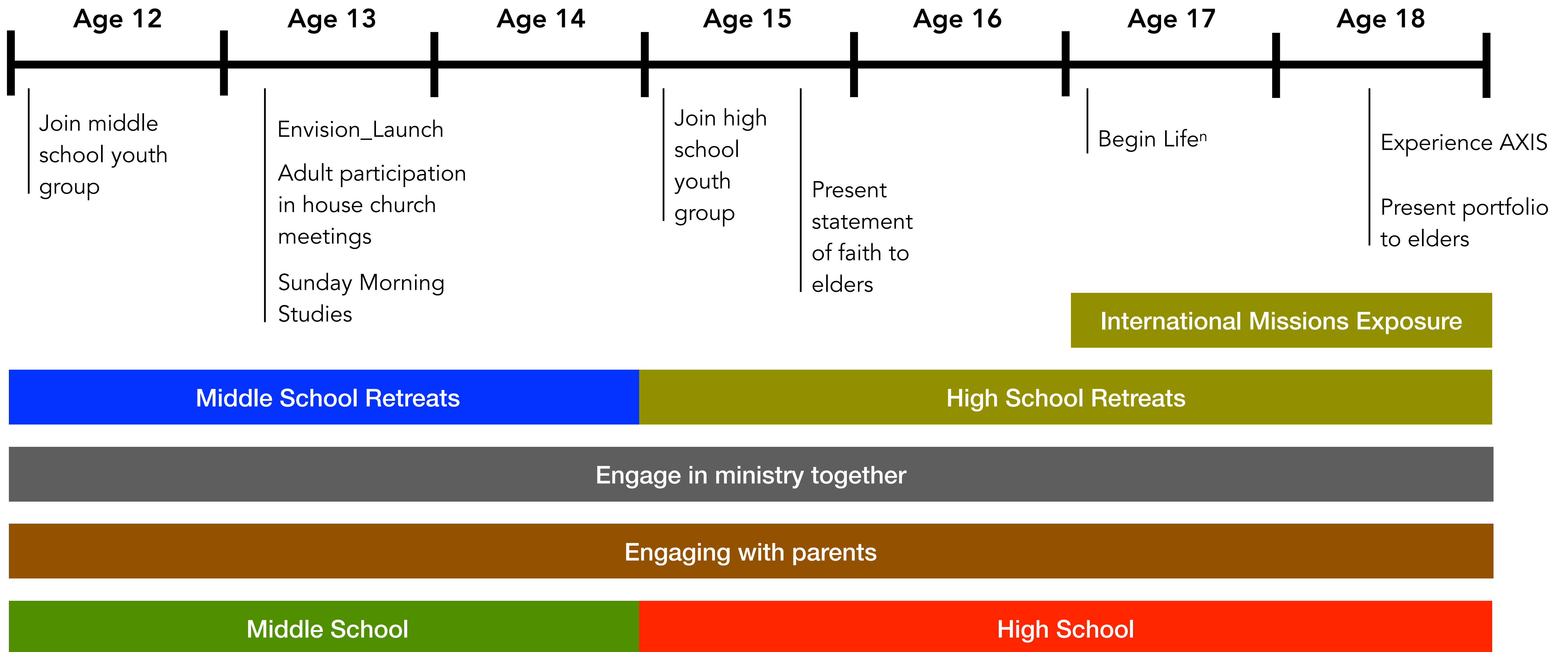
Envision_Life

12–18: A Trial Run at Adulthood

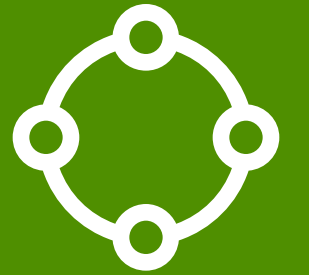
Components:

- Deeply Integrated in Church and Family Life
- Envision_Launch
- Ordered Learning: Sunday Morning Studies
- Participation in Sunday Evening Church Meetings
- Youth Group
- My Role - Youth/Family "Team"

Envision_Life Pathway



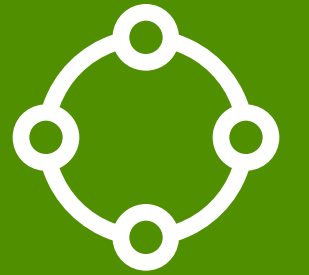
Deeply Integrated in Church and Family Life



Every family member plays a distinct and vital role in the development of our emerging young adults.

- Elders / Church Leaders
- Parents
- Older Men / Older Women

Deeply Integrated in Church and Family Life

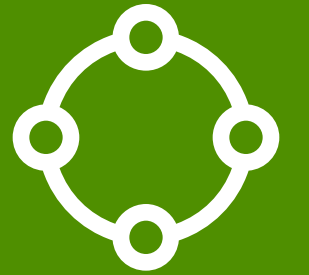


Elders / Church Leaders: Shepherd and develop the parents and emerging young adults that God has placed under your care.

28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. 29 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. (Acts 20:28–29)

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11–13)

Deeply Integrated in Church and Family Life

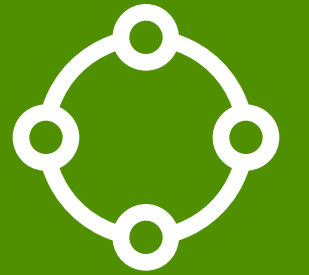


Parents: Take seriously your task of bringing up your children in the teaching of the Lord. Develop a 0–18 strategy for their development.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother”— which is the first commandment with a promise— 3 “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth. 4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:1–4)

*20 My son, keep your father’s command
and do not forsake your mother’s teaching. (Proverbs 6:20)*

Deeply Integrated in Church and Family Life

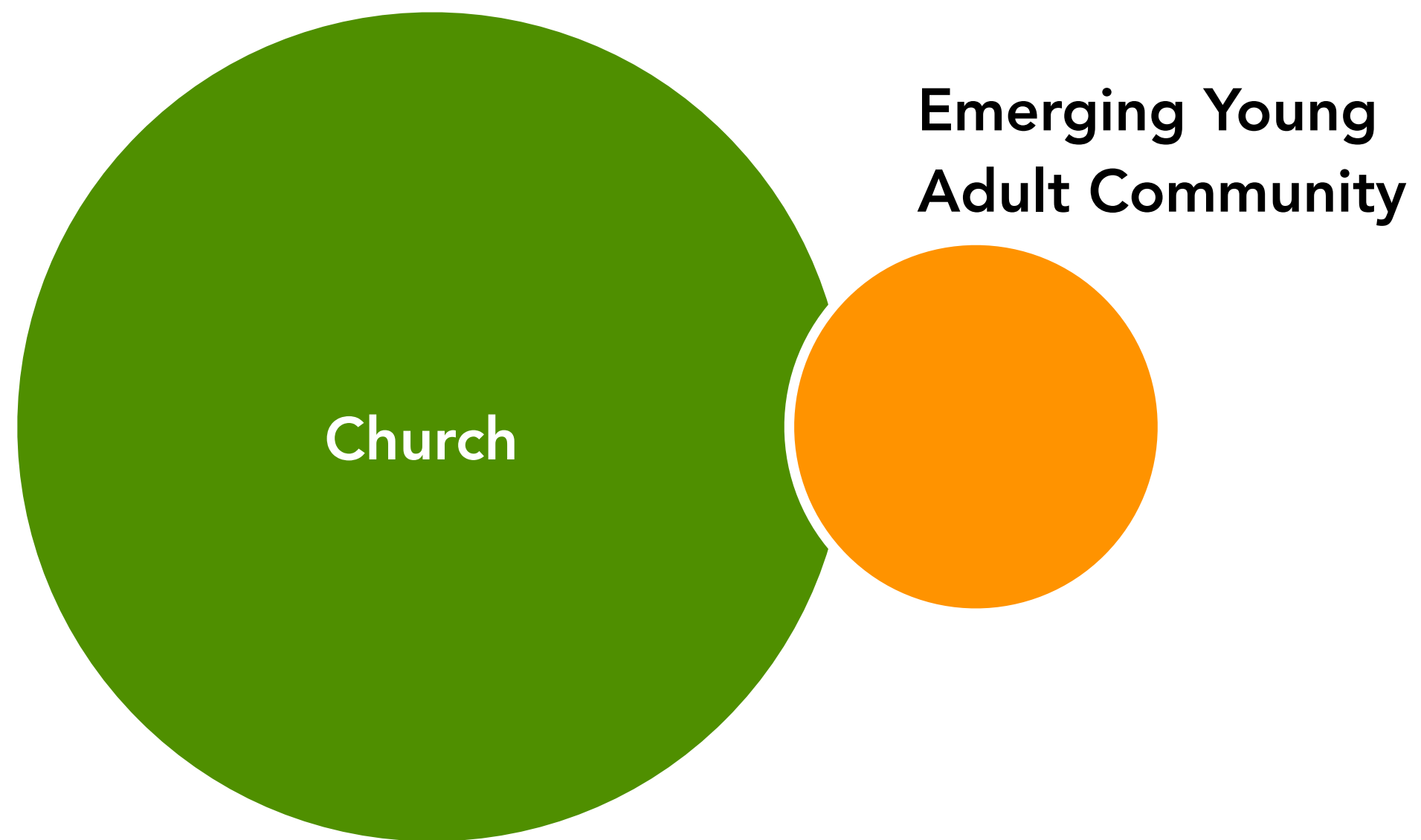


Older Men / Older Women: Fully invest yourself in the life and ministry development of the younger men and women in our church family.

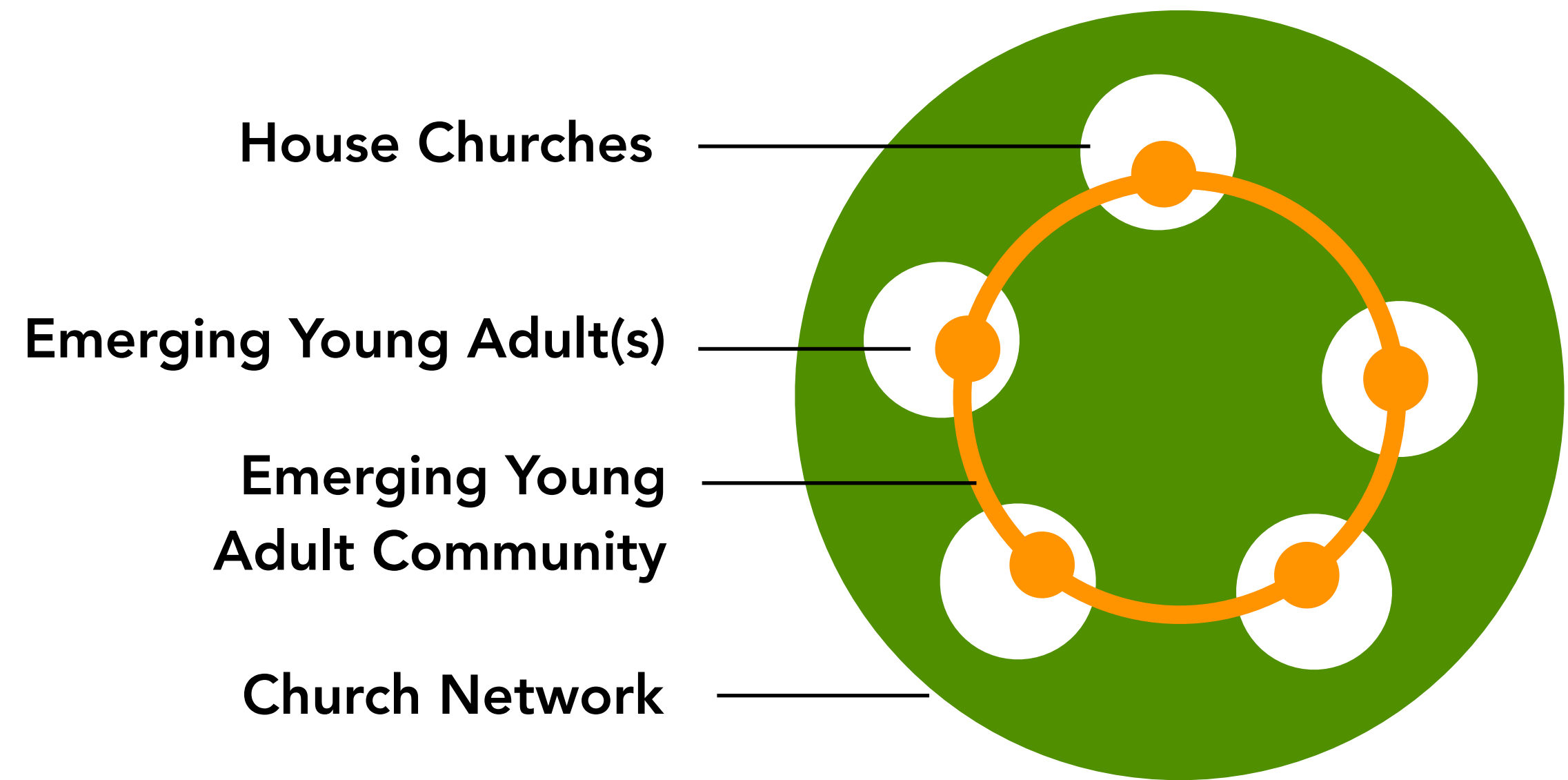
You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. 2 Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. 3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. 4 Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. (Titus 2:1-5)

Relationship of Young Adults to the Church Family

Traditional Youth Ministry



Church-Based "Youth Ministry"



If you confuse our efforts with the traditional model, you are going to miss out on 95% of the impact.

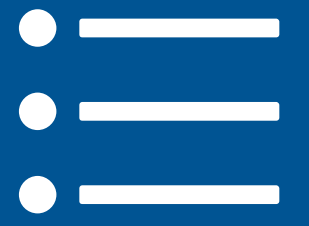
Envision_Launch



A church family celebration and recognition of the individuals in our church family that are taking their first steps as an emerging young adult.

- Conducted at the beginning of each school year (Fall)
- Challenge given to the individual, parents/family and church family
 - Recognition of the role that each plays in the developmental path.
 - Envision_Life Portfolio given to each young adult.

Ordered Learning (Sunday Morning Studies)



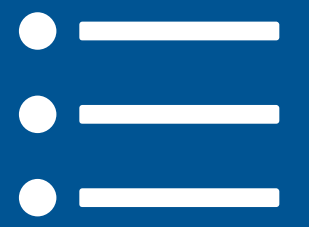
Personal establishment in the faith forms the core of everything that we are doing with our emerging young adults.

- Every Sunday, 9:15 am

6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. 8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces[a] of this world rather than on Christ. (Colossians 2:6–8)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:1–2)

Ordered Learning (Sunday Morning Studies)



Personal establishment in the faith forms the core of everything that we are doing with our emerging young adults.

Year	Content
7th Grade	The Story, Becoming a Disciple, CityChurch Ministry Plan
8th Grade	Proverbs 1–9, Song of Solomon
9th Grade	First Principles Series I
10th Grade	First Principles Series II
11th Grade	Life ⁿ
12th Grade	First Principles Series III

Body of Work
Artifacts and Assessment



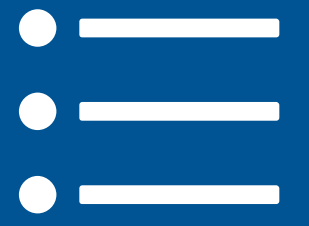
Ordered Learning (Sunday Morning Studies)



Point of Integration: Work done in Sunday Morning Studies forms “ready-made” insights and learning that can be shared on Sunday evenings.

Church Leaders (and others): Ask them what they are learning!

Ordered Learning (Sunday Morning Studies)



Point of Integration: Work done in Sunday Morning Studies forms a base of “ready-made” insights and learning that can be shared on Sunday evenings.

Good morning, Nate. Wanted to let you know it finally worked out for Acacia and Meg to share their projects on marriage last night with our church. They did a great job and we had a really good discussion around it. You requiring it to be shared is what they need. They might still groan and say they don't want to share the next project but it was apparent they were encouraged by how we appreciated their working through the issues, thinking about the concepts and how they plan to live by new convictions. Thanks for investing in our church by investing in them! ~ And thanks for requiring the work ;-)

Ordered Learning (Sunday Morning Studies)



Point of Integration:

Bringing insights and learning into Sunday evening



David L. Dear <david@setwise.com>

to me ▾

Mon, Jan 30, 2017, 10:39 AM



Hi Nate,

I just wanted to let you know that Ben Siegel shared his Proverbs conviction paper last night and it was great. Solid example for how much work us adults should be putting into ordered learning.

Thanks for working with him on that!

Participation in Sunday Evening Meetings



Full participation in Sunday evening church meetings is expected for our emerging young adults.

- Expect a “ramp” of participation quantity—but beginning to interact, share, and bring question, insight, etc.
- Table is set for participation via Ordered Learning on Sunday morning.
- God ordained context for mentoring from Older Men/ Women in the church family.

Youth Group



Provides opportunities for one-another ministry, reaching out to others, service, and exploring their gifts and abilities.

- Meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, retreats, and other events.
- Leadership Team - For those setting the pace in their faith development and leadership within the group.
- Network “glue”—connecting the youth community that is spread across the network.

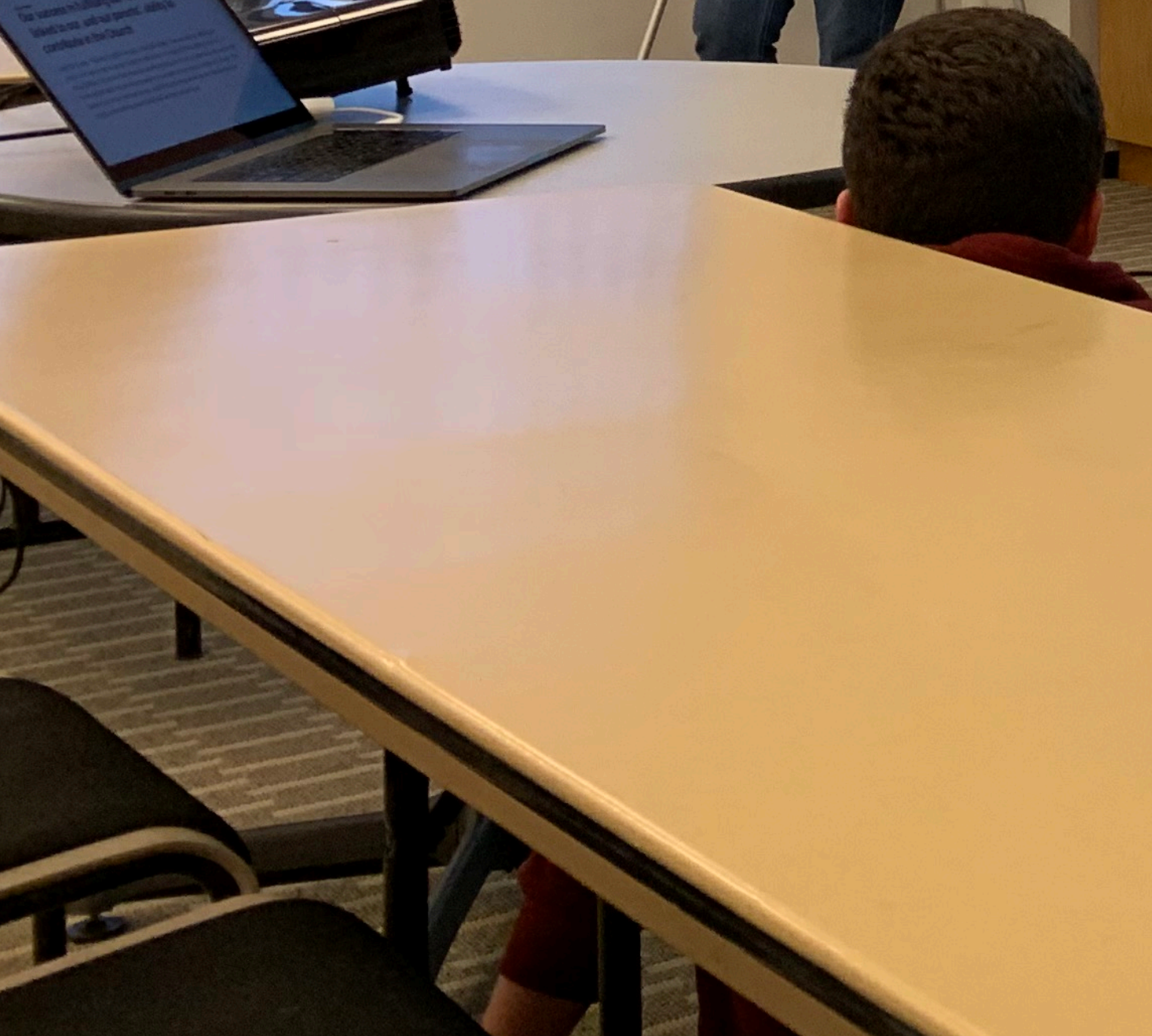
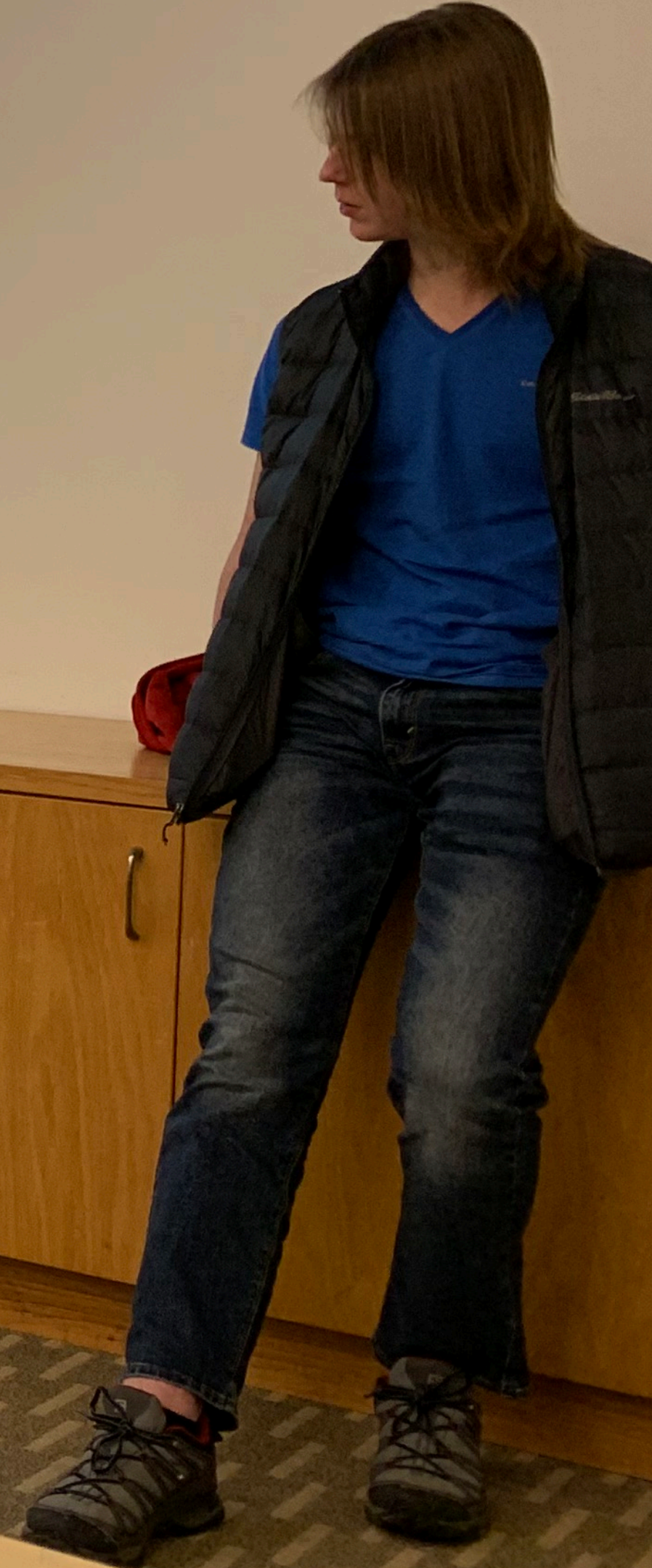
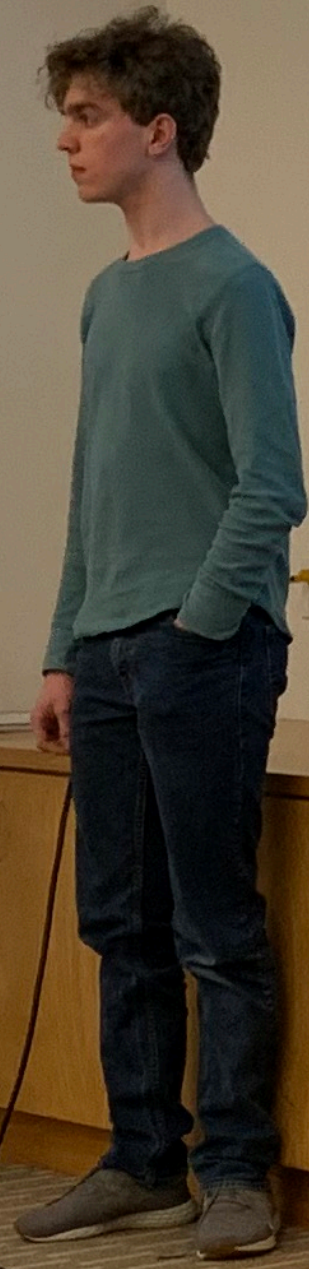
Our success in fulfilling our roles at home is linked to our, and our parents', ability to contribute in the Church

Luke 16:10 says, "He who is faithful in much, is faithful in little." If we succeed in fulfilling our roles in our own home we can be trusted to fulfill roles and responsibilities within the church. If we as children refuse to act on what our parents teach us, we create an internal conflict within the family which takes time and energy away from our parents participation within the church. The family is key to the churches success, and if dysfunctional families go unchecked within the church, eventually the church itself will become dysfunctional



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My Role & Youth/Family “Team”



1. Shepherding our Envision_Life Pathway for young adults.

- Drawing church family attention to our emerging young adults and the families they are growing up within. (Envision_Launch)
- Developing and implementing the pathway and toolsets for shepherding.

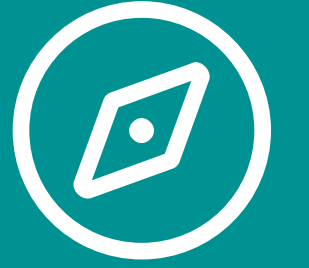
My Role & Youth/Family “Team”



2. Engaging With House Church Leaders

- Drawing church leaders' attention to the emerging young adults in their church families.
- Equipping church leaders with a clear outline of our development pathway and opportunities for shepherding.
- Raising awareness of points of growth and opportunities to integrate them in their church family life.

My Role & Youth/Family “Team”



3. Engaging With Parents

- Work with them to understand your development strategy for your emerging young adult(s).
- Check-in/dialog with them regarding what we're seeing: progress, strengths, weaknesses, emerging gifts, and more...

What are we doing well?

- Understanding the church as a “family of families.” - Strong dynamic.
 - Reflected in our youth group meetings as well.
- Building a model that is deeply embedded in church and family life.
- Some families and young adults are fully engaged in Ordered Learning & OL Outcomes—and it bears fruit!
- Good examples of young adults sharing insights on Sunday evenings.

Where Can We Improve?

- Make Envision_Launch a bigger deal. More celebratory!
 - Each church also have a "Mini Envision_Launch" celebration?
- Some families and young adults are not fully engaged with Ordered Learning & OL outcomes.
- More communication to House Church leaders about Ordered Learning and other activities—strengthen your shepherding.
- Pursue the young adults and families in your church.
- Better participation on Sunday evenings by young adults.

Back to the questions...

- What is the responsibility of the emerging young adults in our church family?
- What is the responsibility of parents with their emerging young adults?
- What is the responsibility of church leaders towards the emerging young adults in their church families?
- What is your responsibility towards the emerging young adults in our church family?

**What is your assessment of where you
fit on the Envision_Life Pathway?**

What is your role?