

LBCYouth Overview

Vision + Mission

Vision: *“That every kid at DSS will have the opportunity to hear and experience the gospel”*

This is our overarching dream—the goal we strive for, knowing that we will only achieve it with God’s Spirit moving! We say “hear” and “experience” because we want people to see Jesus in action through the church alongside the message of the good news.

We believe that our actions soften hearts and that we seek to earn the right to be heard! We know that often our message will fall on deaf ears until the gospel lived out opens the ears for the gospel spoken to penetrate hearts.

Mission: *“Knowing, Showing, Sharing the good news of Jesus”*

We really treat this like the wheels of our ministry’s vehicle. It is the driving force that will enable us to reach the destination, which is the vision mentioned above (the “how to” perse).

Our “youth leader package” details the KNOW, SHOW, SHARE in much more detail

Theme verse: “I have come that they may have life and life to the full!” -John 10:10

This past year focused on this theme: Life to the full. Each year, we try to pick an overarching theme rather than a detailed sermon schedule. Within this theme, we can feel the need to adjust based on cultural issues that can be addressed in a relevant way or based on how God is currently speaking in our lives.

Weekly Youth Nights:

Our weekly youth nights are typically Wednesday nights 7-9 p.m. We have recently played around with hosting an open gym from 5-7 p.m. for kids from the community as a way to just provide a place for them to come and hang out and build connections. We provide them with some sort of food like pizza pops if they decide to also stay for youth afterwards (which many do!) This has been huge for the skateboarding community, but we’ve also seen some traction due to the school also promoting our programs (more on that in “partnerships”).

We have a long history in the community, and due to that, many kids come to our youth group from unchurched homes—many not even knowing the basics of the Easter or Christmas stories. On the average youth night, we have about a 60-40 split of unchurched-churched kids coming (~30 kids/week).

A typical night will consist of the bulk of kids arriving around 7 p.m., where they will have free time for activities (guitar hero, ping-pong, basketball, skateboarding, puzzles, art, etc.) while we meet briefly and pray as leaders from 7:15-7:30 p.m. When we meet, we usually go briefly over the discussion guide, possible directions for questions, and the game/snack for the night, and then pray as a team.

At 7:30 p.m., we usually do a group game of some kind until 8/8:15 p.m., during which time each life group can earn points, come together for announcements, and then go off to life groups (or do a talk, depending on the week).

Life Groups

The way our youth group has operated in the past few years is as a small group model. We have played around with long talks, short talks, videos, small groups, etc. Based on where our group is currently at (and we don't think it always needs to be like this), we only do group talks once a month or so. We typically set up a Sunday school style sheet where the leaders can teach a passage or topic to their small groups with the hope of promoting discussion and dialogue rather than the monologue that can often be youth messages. We believe there is a place for messages, but our group has seemed to grow and respond best to this small group format!

In the past, we have had girls' and boys' groups for every grade 8-12. However, currently, our groups consist of Junior high guys, Senior high guys, Skaters/grades 8-9 guys, and one girls' group. The heart behind these groups is an intimate place where kids can ask their questions, grow, and develop.

We call them "life" groups because we are committing to life-long relationships. Even if a leader leaves or moves away, we remember these are relationships that have started. We care more about being a consistent presence and life-long connections, more than a shot-gun, all-out type approach that has burnt out many leaders leaving kids feeling hurt and abandoned.

In addition, we give points for games, and at the end of each semester, the group with the most points gets a \$100 gift card for a life-group night out to a fast food restaurant or an experience (movie theater, driving range, etc.) as a bonding experience!

Discussion Guides:

Our discussion guides are designed to have one main thought that sparks discussion and relates to our main theme. We've seen a ton of fruit from these, and both our leaders and kids have liked this format the most out of all that we've tried! Again, this does not mean forever, but it is just what has worked for these kids and leaders at this time.



BIG IDEA: Life to the full - TRUE PURPOSE in Christ



Q: We all long for purpose. Take a look at the 4 descriptors. Which one do you think is most accurate and why?

Q: What do you believe about life after death? How do you think your answer to that changes the way you live?

JESUS' RESPONSE

JOHN 13:34-35

34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

- 1. THE EMPTY TOMB
- 2. THE CLAIMS OF APPEARANCES

HOW CAN WE TRUST THAT JESUS ACTUALLY ROSE FROM THE DEAD?

These 2 facts are nearly unanimously agreed upon by historical scholars regardless of whether they are skeptics or believers.

1. We know the tomb was empty because they could've squashed the claims of the disciples by producing the body and the disciples were actually blamed for stealing the body as a reason for why the tomb was empty ...
2. It is well documented that most of the disciples were killed for their claim that they saw him (not like today's martyrs where they are dying for a belief. The disciples died for the claim of something they SAW). Skeptics even validate this by saying they must've hallucinated. However that doesn't explain the empty tomb

Either the disciples stole the body & hallucinated or purposefully died for a lie, or Jesus truly did conquer death for you and me and has invited us into life to the full here and now

PRAY: 1 THANKFUL, 1 REQUEST, 1 SENTENCE

Volunteer Team

Our current volunteer team consists of 3 girls and 6 guys. Our number fluctuates each year depending on schooling, student leaders graduating, young adults moving, etc. In recent years, we've had up to 15 at one time.

Our leaders are amazing, and many are very willing and available to help out wherever needed (discord, tear down, games, talks, etc.)

Discipleship opportunities:

We've also been exploring ways to help kids grow in their faith through discipleship opportunities. Some opportunities we've had are game planning, junior leading, student talks/testimonies, worship nights, volunteering in the community or church events, Qwanoes retreats and summer leadership programs, our regular life group times, and content through our youth discord.

Youth Discord:

We recently launched our youth discord as a way to communicate with our youth, share faith resources (podcasts, music, content creators, etc.), share a verse of the week or favorite verses, make important announcements, and create some cohesion among the groups. Discord is a great communication platform that allows some organization while inviting collaboration and community!

It's in its infancy stages, but we've already used it for a few events, had some youth post some of their faith-based resources/verses and have about 30 members total. Ideally we would love for this to eventually be the main platform for communicating!

Partnerships:

We have some pretty cool partnerships across the school, church, youth groups, Young Life and the community at large.

We have a local community Facebook page called "Ladner's Landing," which is a great place to promote events to the community. We've seen some pretty amazing responses here, and most are from non-churched homes.

Our local high school (Delta Secondary School) has partnered with us to promote our open gym and weekly youth nights through rotating slides in their foyer and morning announcements. They are also willing to promote our major events!

Young Life has graciously allowed us to use their attendance platform, Engage Spaces. This platform has been a great tool for reminding us when kids haven't come for a while, forcing us to remember names, and encouraging us as it shows trends in attendance/consistency among kids.

Our local church is extremely supportive of youth—seeing them reached and disciplined to know the good news of Jesus in a way that transforms their lives. We

often try to find ways for kids to be involved beyond youth and engage in the greater church body through volunteering at kids ministry events, Sunday school, missions trips, attending Sunday services with their leaders, etc.

Finally, there are a few other youth groups in the area (2 in Ladner and 2 in Tsawwassen). We try to meet as Ministry leaders quarterly (directors and youth pastors) while also brainstorming ways we can partner on the work and collaborate on events to get a better bang for our buck and time. This past year we collaborated at least once with every church youth group on an event or trip, and it was amazing as we shared the workload while increasing our collaboration and opportunities for kids to engage with other groups/believers.

Example Calendar Year

Finally, here is a quick example of a calendar year for us 📌

Wednesday nights (running 2nd Wednesday after Labor Day until first or second week of December, restarting 2nd Wednesday after Christmas break through Spring break, then 2nd week after Spring break until first week of June).

Leader meetings Typically, we meet as leaders on the first Wednesday after each break. This can totally shift to a different day to keep the youth in line with the school calendars, but this seems to have worked best for our team at this time!

During this time, we usually spend time in prayer, solitude, or worship, sharing what God has been speaking to us, sharing encouraging and difficult things relating to youth, assessing what has been working/not working in the past quarter, and looking at upcoming events/direction.

MAJOR EVENTS:

Afterhours (September - November)

Afterhours is our annual all-nighter and historically largest event, which is held sometime in the fall before the Christmas season. We typically charge \$20, have contests for gift cards throughout the night, crash the local pool, setup video games, sports, laser tag, scavenger hunts etc.

Qwanoes Retreats (November)

Qwanoes is our local Bible camp and hosts youth group retreats which are a very easy event for us. They do the registration, food, transportation, etc. We just promote and get parents to drop their kids off at the ferries. It's an amazing retreat where kids get a glimpse at a week of camp, and for some, also some extra time getting to know this Jesus guy!

Christmas boxes/party (Christmas)

Each year, we try to collectively (each life group) commit to filling shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. We campaign for this throughout November and celebrate the final day of youth with a party for the kids and everyone bringing their boxes to be delivered.

Scavenger hunts (Fall, Spring, Summer)

To throw in some extra fun events every once in a while, we do a Ladner-wide scavenger hunt with clues sending them to various locations. Typically we charge \$10/kid, and the winning group gets all the cash! The idea is that the more friends invited, the bigger the prize pool. The most we've had is about \$300, but the potential is there. We've also done these as special youth nights where there is no cost, but the life groups compete against each other for points.

Winter Trip (Hope-Manning)

Our Winter Trip is usually in February, and we stay at Grace Baptist Church in Hope, BC, hit the local ski mountain at Manning Park on Saturday, and then head home on Sunday. We often share a couple of devotionals on this trip and it has been monumental for some kids in their faith journey, and in my experience, it has built relationships in a weekend that often take a full year of weekly youth nights to build. We often do this event in partnership with the other youth groups as well.

Cultus Lake

Our Cultus Lake trip is the summer version of our winter trip. Summers typically slow down a bit, so this is the big thing we promote aside from one-off hangouts and scavenger hunts, Qwanoes camps etc. It is a 2-day trip with travel and Castle Fun Park on Friday, stay at Sardis Baptist in Chilliwack and enjoy the water slides during the day on Saturday. Again this is a great trip to utilize as a way to collaborate with other groups and build those deeper connections.

Salt Spring Missions Trip

Salt Spring is an island not far from the mainland but has the highest homeless rate per capita in BC. This year is our first trip there as a group to help with various work projects, a small kids day camp, and a church service in the park. The vision is that this would grow into something annual that brings the whole church together and provides an easy option for youth to get involved in a practical way of serving.

Qwanoes summer camps and Leadership programs

Our summers can often be slow because many of our kids are away at summer camp, serving there for the entire summer through their leadership programs or attending at various points throughout the summer as campers. Qwanoes has been instrumental in developing many of our students into leaders through its programs. We try to promote camp as much as possible as we look to the summer!