

# YOUTH MINISTRY GENERAL PROGRAMMING BREAKDOWN BY AREAS<sup>1</sup>

**KEY VERSE: LUKE 2:52** – “*And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.*”

This verse of course is referring to Jesus Christ during his childhood, and only in regard to when He came to earth and took on a human form.<sup>2</sup> In writing the above description Luke has given us a very nice summary of the four main areas of growth and development experienced by all young people. And in doing so he has supplied us with four excellent goals or targets for youth pastors & leaders to aim at, in endeavoring to develop a biblical, well-balanced youth ministry. Those goals are:

“*Wisdom*” = Mental growth  
“*Stature*” = Physical development  
“*Favour with God*” = Spiritual life & growth  
“*Favour with Man*” = Social development

What follows below is merely a “real-life” example of how one church youth department attempted to “flesh out” a youth ministry based on trying to achieve the above goals. It is how they planned to meet those four-fold needs of their young people, as described in Luke 2:52. This is merely an example (*and an old one at that!*), so it will have limited relevance. Furthermore, it is from another country. In your own country and youth ministry this will undoubtedly look quite different. It is simply included here in order to demonstrate for you how to take the above four goals and then sit down and determine how you are going to try to achieve those goals in your own church youth ministry. Obviously many things mentioned here may have no relevance to your situation, due to what is or isn’t available in the country where you live and serve. But at least you will have a general pattern or model to follow as you begin to think through the big “*Who, What, When, Where, Why & How*” questions. You see, at the very outset of your youth ministry you should sit down and determine “*What*” you want to do, “*Why*” you’re going to do it, “*How*” you’re going to do it, etc. You also need to figure out “*Where*” & “*When*” you will achieve the above-mentioned four goals as you minister to the needs of the “*Who*” i.e. the young people under your care.

## GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAMMING BREAKDOWN – BY AREAS

### I. SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES:

#### A. In large group settings via...

- 1) Morning Worship services
- 2) Evening Worship services
- 3) Baptist Bible Institute (B.B.I.) (Baptist Bible Institute was an evening Bible school operated by independent Baptists in the Cleveland, Ohio area at that time)
- 4) Christian roller skate nights (during the devotional time)
- 5) Camp

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<sup>1</sup> These notes were originally compiled and written by me around 1978 or 1979. At the time I was serving as youth pastor at Bible Baptist Church, N. Madison, Ohio, USA. The entire idea and pattern for this was taken nearly verbatim from similar planning and youth philosophy notes and information on Christian camping that I received at *The WILDS Christian Camp & Conference Center* during leadership seminars in the summer of 1978 or 1979. Notes retyped & reformatted into a Word document February, 2011. –Mike Edwards, St. Vincent, West Indies, [mike.edwards876@gmail.com](mailto:mike.edwards876@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup> Since Jesus was also fully God, in another sense He never increased in wisdom since He already knew everything about everything, and He did so from all eternity. Likewise He obviously never needed to grow spiritually, since He enjoyed perfect spiritual union with the Father from eternity past, way before the creation of the universe. But Luke is here describing when Jesus came to this earth (i.e. during His incarnation) and took upon Himself a physical body and the form of a man (Phil. 2:5-8). It is in reference to His time here on earth that Luke wrote the above description (specifically in regard to his childhood), and it is in that sense—and *only that one!*—that it could be said that Jesus “grew” and “developed” like any other human being.

**B. In small group settings via...**

- 1) Sunday night youth hour
- 2) After Church Fellowship (“ACF”) (during the devotional time)
- 3) Evangelism (visitation) Programme
- 4) Prayer Meeting
- 5) Sunday school class
- 6) “Gym Days” (during the devotional time)
- 7) B.B.I.
- 8) AWANA youth ministry (for Jr Highers & also any Sr. Highers involved in the youth programme itself)
- 9) Choir
- 10) Rest Home Services
- 11) The annual Christian College Tour
- 12) Camp

**C. On the individual (1 to 1) level.**

- 1) via personal counseling with the youth pastor
- 2) via one to one contact during “Gym Days”
- 3) via one to one contact during “ACF’s”
- 4) via one to one contact during Prayer Meetings
- 5) via one to one contact while printing & publishing the Church Newsletter
- 6) via one to one contact during Roller Skate nights
- 7) via one to one contact on the Christian College Tour
- 8) via one to one contact at Camp

**II. PHYSICAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES:**

**A. via Competitive activities e.g.**

- 1) Games at ACF’s
- 2) During the regular monthly youth activities
- 3) At Gym Days
- 4) At Camp

**B. via Non-competitive activities e.g.**

- 1) Via games at ACF’s
- 2) During regular monthly youth activities
- 3) At Gym Days
- 4) At Roller Skate nights
- 5) At Camp

**III. SOCIAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES:**

**A. via Co-Educational (i.e. combined male & female) *youth meetings and activities* e.g.**

- 1) At Sunday evening youth hour
- 2) At ACF’s
- 3) During Evangelism/Outreach ministry
- 4) At the regular monthly youth activities
- 5) At Prayer Meetings
- 6) During Gym Days
- 7) While printing & publishing the Church Newsletter
- 8) At B.B.I.
- 9) During AWANA (at certain times)
- 10) At Choir
- 11) At “5<sup>th</sup> Quarters” (i.e. fellowships held after high school football & basketball games, etc)
- 12) During Rest Home Services

- 13) At Roller-skating nights
- 14) While on the Christian College Tour
- 15) At Camp

**B. via Separate (guys and girls in divided groups) activities e.g.**

- 1) At Prayer Meetings (occasionally, when break into divided prayer groups)
- 2) via separate girls & boys Sunday school classes (on Jr. High level)
- 3) During AWANA
- 4) On the Christian College Tour (at certain times)
- 5) At Camp
- 6) During Retreats (at certain times)

**IV. MENTAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES:**

**A. via Small group activities e.g.**

- 1) During the Sr. High Youth Hour
- 2) At ACF's (during occasional mental-type games & activities)
- 3) via printing & publishing of the Church Newsletter
- 4) If a student at B.B.I.
- 5) During Choir
- 6) On Christian College Tours (while attending college classes, etc)
- 7) At Camp

**B. via Large group activities e.g. during all church Bible quizzes**

**C. via Individual (1 on 1) activities e.g.**

- 1) During ACF's (via occasional individual type games)
- 2) At B.B.I.
- 3) During Sunday Night Youth Hour
- 4) At Camp