

# PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY OF THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH YOUTH DEPARTMENT<sup>1</sup>

**I. GENERAL OBJECTIVE:** To seek the SPIRITUAL development of the young people (i.e. “by encouraging a definite spiritual decision at the level of the young person’s readiness”)

**A. Specific Objective #1: Salvation** (i.e. *To see each young person accept Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour*) –II Pet. 3:9

**1) Method: Preaching and teaching in the large group setting.**

- a) During the *Morning Worship* services (generally).
- b) During the *Evening Worship* services.
- c) At *Camp* (once/year)

**2) Method: In the small group setting.**

- a) Via the series on “*Personal Evangelism*” during the youth hour.
- b) Via devotionals at *Gym Days*.
- c) At AWANA (for Jr. Highers & Sr. High workers).
- d) Through devotionals at monthly *Activities*.
- e) Through devotionals at *After Church Fellowships* (ACF’s).
- f) During the annual *Youth Retreat*.
- g) Through the Bible study series on “*Assurance of Salvation*” during the youth hour.
- h) Through Bible studies on the books of “*James*” “*Romans*” & “*Acts*” during the youth hour.

**3) Method: Through one-to-one (individual) interaction and contact.**

- a) Through regularly scheduled personal counseling with the youth pastor.
- b) Through informal personal counseling with youth sponsors before, during or after any youth activity.

**B. Specific Objective #2: Consecration** (i.e. *To see each young person consecrate his/her life to Christ*) –Rom 12:1

**1) Method: At large group activities.**

- a) During the *Morning Worship* services.
- b) During the *Evening Worship* services.
- c) During *Camp* (at *The WILDS*, etc) once/year.

**2) Method: In small group settings.**

- a) Through the youth hour programming
- b) Through devotionals at ACF’s
- c) Via Gym Day devotionals
- d) Through AWANA devotionals (for the Jr. Highers)
- e) Through the devotionals at the monthly fun activities
- f) Via the messages at the annual youth retreat

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<sup>1</sup> Explanatory Note: The entire concept and format for this whole paper delineating our youth ministry purpose and philosophy at Bible Baptist Church, N. Madison, Ohio, was taken and adapted directly from notes distributed to a number of youth pastors and youth leaders (including myself), by the leadership of *The WILDS Christian Camp & Conference Center*, Rosman, North Carolina, ca. 1978. Their staff graciously shared their wisdom, expertise and ministry philosophy with those of us who had brought our young people to camp that summer. Their staff encouraged us to develop a thoroughly biblical philosophy for our respective church youth ministries. I am deeply indebted to them for opening my eyes to the need for doing so, and for challenging me to critically examine *what* I was doing, *why* I was doing it, and showing me a *way* to develop & implement a coherent programme & philosophy of youth ministry. –Mike Edwards. These notes were originally written and compiled ca. 1978-79 while I was serving as youth pastor at Bible Baptist Church, N. Madison, Ohio. Typing & reproduction at that time was done by our faithful church secretary, the late Mrs. Carolyn Winne. Retyped & reformatted into a Word document by me, February, 2011, St. Vincent, West Indies. (revised Sept 2012). Note: British spelling used throughout.

**3) Method: Via one-to-one (individual) contact.**

- a) Through personal counseling with the youth pastor
- b) Through personal counseling with the youth sponsors before, during or after any youth department activity

**4) Method: Through exposure to other consecrated lives.**

- a) Expose them to the youth pastor
- b) Expose them to the youth sponsors
- c) Expose them to special speakers
- d) Expose them to the family of the youth pastor and sponsors (this brings home the need for solid Christian families if we are going to be an example!)

**C. Specific Objective #3: Separation (i.e. *To see each young person separate himself from the world*)  
–Rom. 12:2; I Jn. 2:15.**

**1) Method: Through preaching at the large group level.**

- a) Through the Morning Worship service
- b) Through the Evening Worship service
- c) During Camp (once/year)

**2) Method: Through the small group youth activities:**

- a) Through the “*Man-to-Man*” & “*Woman-to-Woman*” seminars during youth hour
- b) Through the series on “*Moral Standards*” (drinking, smoking, immorality, drugs, etc)
- c) Through the seminar on “*Music Standards*” during the youth hour
- d) Through the teaching of proper attitudes towards rules

**3) Method: Through the one-to-one (individual) contacts.** Opportunities can and will occur before, during and after any youth department function or activity. Be ready.

**4) Method: Through exposure to separated lives** (e.g. the youth pastor & his wife, the youth sponsors, etc.)

**D. Specific Objective #4: Burdened (i.e. *to see each young person burdened for the lost i.e. the souls of others*) –Lk. 13:3**

**1) Method: Through large group teaching:**

- a) At the Morning Worship Service
- b) At the Evening Worship service
- c) Through the annual Missions Conference and via missionary speakers

**2) Method: Through small group teaching:**

- a) Through the “*Personal Evangelism*” series conducted approximately once/year during the youth hour
- b) Through the “*Studies of Great Christians*” series (which emphasizes missionary lives) during youth hour

**3) Method: Through practical experiences:**

- a) Through the weekly practical evangelistic/discipleship ministry opportunities (e.g. Rest Home Services once/month; weekly youth visitation; etc.)
- b) Through prayer for the lost at all youth activities (if we can’t think of someone to pray for, then we’re not burdened!) Special emphasis should be at Prayer Meeting.
- c) Via passing out of tracts during youth trips (at gas stations, restaurants/fast food outlets, rest areas, etc)

**E. Specific Objective #5: A hunger for the Word (i.e. *To see every young person become hungry for the Word of God*) –Jer. 15:16**

**1) Method: By hearing it taught:**

- a) At the Morning Worship service
- b) At the Evening Worship service
- c) Via Sunday school class
- d) Through the Youth Hour
- e) Via the ACF devotional time
- f) From attending *Baptist Bible Institute* (B.B.I.)
- g) Via the monthly youth “fun” activity devotional time
- h) Through Camp
- i) Via Prayer Meeting devotional studies
- j) Via Gym Day devotional times
- k) Through the AWANA devotional times (for Jr. Highers i.e. Forms 1-2)
- l) Through the Rest Home ministry devotional times

**2) Method: By seeing it enacted in lives.**

- a) Through the Youth Pastor/Youth Leader’s life (& that of their wife)
- b) Through the Youth Sponsors’ lives
- c) Through the Special Speakers’ lives

**3) Method: By studying it personally:**

- a) Through the series on “*Personal Daily Devotions*” in the youth hour
- b) By scheduling time for personal devotions at youth retreats and any youth activity that is overnight or for any youth activity of an extended period
- c) Through the series on “*Scripture Memorization & Meditation*”
- d) Through the regular “*Bible Quiz*” times
- e) Through the youth group memory verses that are quoted at each activity

**F. Specific Objective #6: A thorough knowledge of the Bible and its teachings (through the studies conducted during the youth hour) – Ps. 119:9-11, 97-99, 105, 130.**

**1) Method: Through primarily doctrinal studies:**

- a) The “*OT Walkthrough*”
- b) The “*NT Walkthrough*”
- c) The Bible study on “*Psalms*”
- d) The Bible study on “*Acts*”
- e) The Bible study on “*James*”
- f) The Bible study on “*Romans*”
- g) The Bible study on “*God & Election*”
- h) The Bible study on the “*Trinity*” (i.e. the Deity of Christ and also the Holy Spirit)
- i) The study of “*Baptist History & Distinctives*”

**2) Method: Through primarily topical studies:**

- a) The study on “*Prayer*”
- b) The series on “*Personal Devotions*”
- c) The series on “*Personal Evangelism*”
- d) The study on “*Assurance of Salvation*”
- e) The study on “*Bible Translations*”
- f) Presentations in the series on “*Great Christians*” (missions emphasis)
- g) The study of “*Character Qualities*” (taken from Bill Gothard’s *Character Sketches* books)
- h) The series on “*Apologetics*”

### 3) Method: Special relevant subjects:

- a) “*Man-to-Man*” & “*Woman-to-Woman*” seminars (dealing with moral standards, dress, etc.)
- b) The study on “*Government and the Christian*”
- c) The seminar series on “*Evolution vs. Creation*” (i.e. Bible Science)
- d) The study on “*Drugs in the Bible*”
- e) The study of “*Moral Standards*” in the Bible
- f) The series on “*False Cults & Religions*”
- g) The study of “*New Evangelicalism*”
- h) The series on “*Public Speaking*” (practical teaching on giving devotionals, speech, etc)
- i) The series on “*Friends, Dating, Engagement & Marriage*”
- j) The series on “*Principles of Good Music*”
- k) The study of the “*Charismatic Movement*” (e.g. speaking in tongues, healing, etc)
- l) The study on the “*New Age Movement/Far East Religions*”
- m) The series on “*Acceptance of Self*”, “*Gaining a Clear Conscience*” etc (from IBYC material)

## II. GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To provide for the PHYSICAL needs of the young people. –I Tim. 4:8a

### A. Physical Exercise.

#### 1) Competitive Activities:

- A0 At the monthly “fun” activities
- b) During the ACF games
- c) At Gym Days
- e) At Camp

#### 2) Non-Competitive Activities:

- a) Via ACF games
- b) At the monthly “fun” activities
- c) At Gym Days
- d) Via Roller skating (once/month)
- e) At Camp

### B. Food. i.e. see that the food is adequate for the young people.

1) **When supplying food for an activity**, select high quality food (there will be some “junk food” but try to keep it to a minimum)

2) **Awards** for games, activities, etc, should avoid as much as possible, food as the award—especially junk food!

### C. Health.

1) **Safety.** Conduct a series on First Aid, survival skills, knot tying, etc. (somewhat similar to Boy Scout training, EMT/Rescue Squad training, etc)

2) **Physical Fitness.** Conduct a series on physical fitness, emphasizing the importance of exercising, discipline and proper care for our bodies which are the temple of the Holy Spirit (via exercise & fitness techniques, diet, etc)

3) **Care & protection of the youth under your care.** (i.e. take every precaution to insure the physical safety of your church young people at all times including at activities, during travel, etc) – Gen. 43:9.

**III. GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To encourage *MENTAL* development by encouraging participation in mental activities during youth group. – I Pet. 3:15.**

**A. Developing “leadership” qualities.**

- 1) Through personal evangelism experiences
- 2) Through a study on “Leadership” from the book of *Nehemiah* in youth hour
- 2) Through Bible Quizzes (e.g. being the team captain, etc)
- 3) By participating in team games and being forced to work together during such activities

**B. Being challenged mentally and gaining knowledge via studies of special subjects, etc.**

- 1) Via Sign Language classes
- 2) Via First Aid & Survival Skills classes
- 3) Via a study of various Christian colleges, what they have to offer, etc.
- 4) Via Bible quizzes

**C. Emphasize and encourage using their “abilities” for God’s glory** (e.g. musical talents, athletic abilities, sign language, photography, sewing, etc)

**IV. GENERAL OBJECTIVE: Teach character qualities and the acceptance of personal responsibility for actions & behaviour. – I Tim. 4:12; Prov. 22:29.**

**A. Specific Objective: Teach how to sacrifice for a common cause.**

- 1) Through team competition
- 2) Via cleaning up after youth activities
- 3) Via cleaning up after eating
- 4) By sacrificing “quality” time for functions of the youth department

**B. Specific Objective: Teach obedience.**

- 1) Through a “*Chain of Command*” clearly explained and followed
- 2) Through consistent enforcement of rules, policies, etc, *without partiality* –Prov. 24:23; 28:21; Acts 10:24; Rom. 2:11
- 3) Through discipline when necessary, and in a way that is appropriate (e.g. situations such as inappropriate physical contact between boys & girls; rebellion or rudeness during the youth hour, activities or games; etc)

**C. Specific Objective: Teach the young people to be industrious i.e. work hard & carry a fair share of the work load** –Prov. 12:24; 22:29; 26:14; etc.

- 1) By involvement in “*Servant Days*”

2) By involving the young people in setting up and taking down chairs, tables, etc, for occasional activities

**D. Specific Objective: Teach them how to develop friendships.**

1) By dividing up “*best friends*” and putting them on separate teams during activities, games, etc.

2) By allowing enough free time for the young people to mix and mingle

3) Through a teaching series during the youth hour on “*Friends, Dating & Engagement.*”

4) By keeping the size of teams and groups for quizzes, activities & games small, so that all will feel a part of the activity and will have to participate

5) By deliberately designing activities and games so that one or two athletic individuals can’t dominate (this can be accomplished via combined team scoring, combined total distances for games or events, by limiting the number of events any single team member can enter, etc)

**E. Specific Objective: Teach them courtesy, manners, love of country/patriotism and good citizenship.**

1) By rotating seating in over-crowded buses and vehicles (e.g. do not let one person sit up front all the time)

2) By having girls go first for food, letting them walk through doors first, etc.

3) By having a “*patriotic*” time during the youth hour once a month during which teaching on the history of the country is given.

4) Through a series of studies during youth hour on “*The Christian and Government*”

5) By regularly praying for the country and its leaders – I Tim. 2:1-2

**V. GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To assist the young people in their SOCIAL development. – Prov. 14:2; 16:13; 18:24.**

**A. Teach proper respect and courtesy towards others.**

1) Through relevant memory verses (e.g. I Peter 2:17, etc)

2) Through requiring courtesy be shown to the girls (girls going first during meal times, opening doors for them, etc)

3) By not allowing jokes about races, nationalities, etc. – Acts 10:28, 34; Rom. 2:11; Dt. 10:17; 2 Chron. 19:7; etc.

**B. Teach the proper attitude toward the opposite sex.**

1) Through the “*Man to Man*” & “*Woman to Woman*” seminars during the youth hour

2) Through the series on “*Friends, Dating & Engagement*” during the youth hour

**C. Encourage social interaction.**

1) By designing games, quizzes and activities in such a way as to force interaction between the young people

2) By teaching against partiality e.g. via Bible study series on *James* during the youth hour