



— A 1-YEAR STRATEGY FOR YOUR —

# TEACHING

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## OVERVIEW

Our curriculum has been created, influenced, and written by hundreds (literally) of real youth pastors, in real youth ministries, from a diversity of church contexts, cultures, sizes, and denominations. **With this 1-Year Teaching Strategy, the goal is to help your students grow spiritually by learning and applying what you teach in a way that is developmentally appropriate.** Here's what our scope and sequence will cover . . .

### EVERY YEAR

Most topics in the Grow scope and sequence will be covered every year . . .

- **FRIENDSHIP:** A 4-week series on developing healthy friendships. Usually scheduled in August or September, when students are beginning a new school year and making new friends.
- **IDENTITY:** A 4-week series on discovering who God created us to be. Usually scheduled in the fall or winter, to support the winter discipleship focus on knowing and using your gifts.
- **WISDOM:** A 4-week series on making wise choices in general or in a specific area (dating, social media, peer pressure, etc.). The timing of this series each year depends on the subject.
- **OTHERS:** A 4-week series on loving or serving others. Usually scheduled in November to prepare students for holiday service projects and giving campaigns.
- **CHRISTMAS:** A 4-week series on the Christmas story. Scheduled every December.
- **SPIRITUAL HABITS:** Each year, we schedule one or two 4-week series on our four spiritual habits: spending time with God, spending time with others, using your gifts, and sharing your story. Each year, we alternate between one series that covers all four spiritual habits and two series that go deep into the spiritual habit of spending time with God. Usually scheduled in the spring to align with the spring discipleship focus of spending time with God.
- **EASTER:** A 2-week series on the Easter story.

Scheduled for the two weeks leading up to Easter, but this series can also be taught as a single message, depending on your calendar.

- **FAMILY:** A 4-week series on building healthy relationships and navigating conflict with our families. Usually scheduled for the spring in preparation for Mother's Day and Father's Day.
- **JUSTICE:** A 4-week series on biblical justice. The timing of this series may change each year, but it will usually be scheduled near our series on Jesus or our series on evangelism.
- **EVANGELISM:** A 4-week series to help students hear and share the good news of Jesus. Usually scheduled in the summer to align with the discipleship focus of sharing your story.
- **JESUS:** A 4-week series on the life and message of Jesus. The timing of this series may change each year, depending on its focus.

### EVERY OTHER YEAR

Other topics in the Grow scope and sequence will be covered every other year . . .

- **AUTHORITY:** A 4-week series on responding to authority figures and examining who (or what) we allow to have authority in our lives. Usually scheduled in the beginning of the school year.
- **HURT:** A 4-week series on trusting God during times of crisis. The series will float on the calendar.
- **DOUBT:** A 4-week series on approaching tough faith questions. Usually scheduled for the spring or summer, after you've had time to build trust with your students.

## SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

When we were determining which topics we would cover, and when we would cover them, we surveyed several hundred youth pastors about the topics they cover on an annual basis. When we combined the results of that survey with our team's experience, we came up with a list of key topics that we use as the basis of our teaching strategy. Some of these topics are recycled every year, while others may appear every other year. Some of our series are topical, while others are book studies or character studies.

## AUDIENCE

Grow Curriculum is designed with grades 6-12 in mind, since we know most youth workers are responsible for both middle school and high school students. But since we know middle schoolers and high schoolers learn in different ways and have

different needs, each series comes with a handful of "middle school hacks" and "high school hacks" to help you customize each series to whichever age group you're leading.

## FORMAT

Some churches teach teenagers with a sermon followed by a separate small group conversation. Other churches (especially those with fewer than fifteen students) teach in a discussion format where teaching and conversation happen at the same time. With that in mind, every Grow series comes in both formats: a sermon and small group format, or a discussion format.

**With this 1-Year Teaching Strategy, the goal is to help your students learn and apply what you teach in a way that is developmentally appropriate.**

## WHAT WE'VE PROVIDED

### TEACHING

With each of our 13 teaching series, we provide . . .

- A **series overview** detailing the Scripture and Big Ideas for the entire series.
- One **Sermon Guide** and **Small Group Guide** per week (recommended for groups with separate teaching and discussion environments).
- One **Hybrid Guide** per week (recommended for groups that combine teaching and discussion in one environment).
- At least three different **engaging teaching techniques** per week (props, activities, music, videos, times of reflection, etc.).
- Access to the **Grow Message Builder**, with all 50 Grow sermons pre-built and ready to edit. Preview the Message Builder [here](#).

### VOLUNTEERS & PARENTS

To help you communicate effectively, we provide . . .

- 13 editable **Parent Emails** in HTML format (one for each teaching series).
- 50 editable **Volunteer Emails** in HTML format (one for each week of the curriculum).

### GRAPHICS

For each series, we provide . . .

- An **editable PSD** of the series graphics.
- A 40-second **bumper video**.
- A **title image** and **background image** in horizontal, square, and vertical formats.
- Weekly **Big Idea images** in horizontal, square, and vertical formats.

PREVIEW



FRIENDSHIP



AUTHORITY



IDENTITY



OTHERS



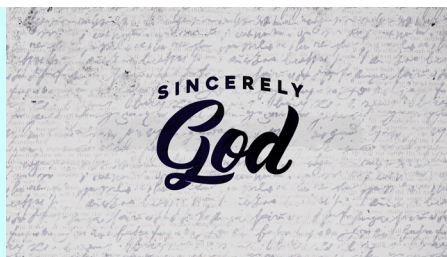
CHRISTMAS



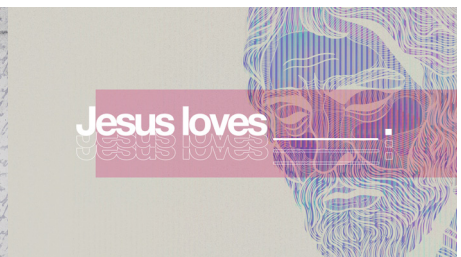
SPIRITUAL HABITS (PRAYER)



WISDOM



SPIRITUAL HABITS (THE BIBLE)



JESUS



EASTER



FAMILY



JUSTICE



EVANGELISM





# 4

— A 1-YEAR STRATEGY FOR YOUR —

# DISCIPLESHIP

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## OVERVIEW

The Grow 1-Year Discipleship Strategy is based on four spiritual habits: Spending Time with God, Spending Time with Others, Using Your Gifts, and Sharing Your Story. This strategy influences our curriculum and teaching strategy, but it's much bigger than just sermons because, as you've probably realized, **even the best sermons in the world aren't quite enough to ensure that teenagers are being disciplined.** Here's what this strategy looks like . . .

### FALL

In the fall, we'll focus on the spiritual habit of community when teenagers are beginning a new school year, making new friends, and getting plugged into new small groups.

### WINTER

In the winter, we'll focus on the spiritual habit of knowing and using your gifts to serve God and others, when there are lots of service opportunities available.

### SPRING

In the spring, we'll go deep into the spiritual habit of spending time with God individually through personal spiritual disciplines, when Easter is on the way and the unpredictability of school and the holidays will have leveled off into some stability for your students and your ministry.

### SUMMER

In the summer, we'll focus on the spiritual habit of sharing your story while your students prepare for summer mission experiences and a new school year.

## WHAT WE'VE PROVIDED

### SPEND TIME WITH OTHERS

To begin the school year, you'll challenge students to build community by initiating and leading some key conversations at their schools with a **lunch table challenge**.

### USE YOUR GIFTS

Starting in November, you'll launch a **volunteer recruitment campaign** that's designed just for students. Throughout the campaign, you'll give students an assessment to help them think about their gifts and passions, then find a volunteer role in your church that uses those gifts and passions.

### SPEND TIME WITH GOD

For the spring season, we've created a **Bible-Reading Texting Plan** that lasts for the entire quarter. When students subscribe, they'll receive daily texts with a verse to read that complements what you're teaching.

### SHARE YOUR STORY

Throughout the summer, you'll empower students to share their stories of faith publicly with a **summer storytelling challenge**. All summer (or as often as you'd like) select students will share with the whole group what God is doing in their lives.



A 1-YEAR STRATEGY FOR YOUR  
**GAMES**

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## OVERVIEW

Okay, okay, we know. Games don't really sound like something that can help your students grow spiritually. But do you know what games can do? The right games can help make your weekly program a place where students want to be – and where they'd like to invite their friends. **With this 1-Year Games Strategy, you'll get a head start on planning a fun and engaging game for every week of the year** so you can spend more time thinking about everything else you still need to do.

## WHAT WE'VE PROVIDED

### EACH YEAR

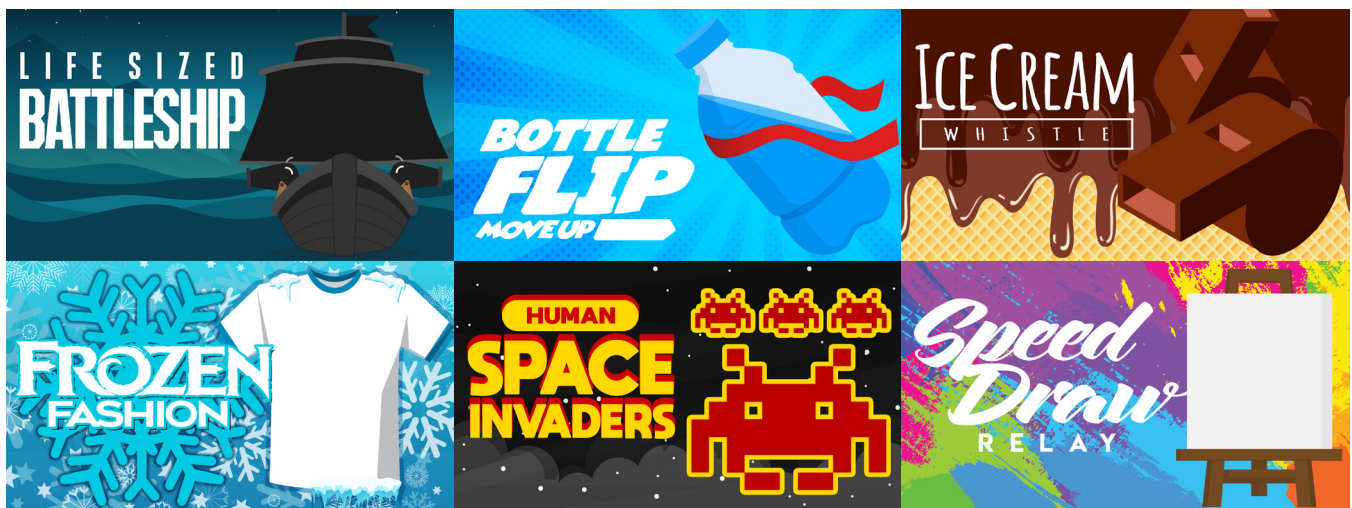
Every year, we'll provide 50 games for you to play throughout the year. You can play any of these games at any time, but to save you some brain space, we'll even tell you which weeks we recommend you play each of them.

### EACH GAME

With each game, we provide . . .

- Graphics for your screen.
- A shopping list with links to specific (and affordable) products we love.
- Instructions with detailed instructions on how to prep for the game and play it.

## PREVIEW







A 1-YEAR STRATEGY FOR YOUR  
**EVENTS**

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## OVERVIEW

The Grow Annual Event Strategy is based on the philosophy that less is more when your events are strategic. Each year, we recommend you do a total of six events: **one event each quarter, plus a summer camp and a missions experience.** Here's what that looks like . . .

### FALL

Every fall, we recommend doing an event that aligns with the fall discipleship focus (Spend Time with Others) by helping students connect with each other and with their small group leaders. This might be **a retreat, an event in host homes, or an all-nighter.**

### WINTER

Every winter, we recommend doing a **just-for-fun event** that gets students together before the busyness of the holidays really kicks in.

### SPRING

Every spring, we recommend doing an event that aligns with the spring discipleship focus (Spend Time with God) by creating a **weekend retreat, a weekend in host homes, or a weekend experience** that challenges students to grow closer to God.

### SUMMER

Every summer, we recommend putting a **mission trip** and **summer camp** on the calendar, but we also recommend doing another **just-for-fun event** that gets students together before the busyness of the summer begins.

## WHAT WE'VE PROVIDED

For each event, we provide plenty of resources to help you plan, design, and market your event.

### GRAPHICS

- Editable event graphics.
- A title slide and background slide in horizontal, square, and vertical formats.
- An editable t-shirt design.

### MARKETING

- Editable flyers in PSD and DOC formats.
- Ready-to-print blank flyers in PDF format.

### PLANNING

- Detailed instructions for planning and executing the event.
- A shopping list for everything you'll need, plus relevant links to help you find affordable supplies.
- Suggested event schedule.
- Planning timeline.
- Suggested volunteer roles.
- Plus additional planning resources unique to each event, like parent emails, game instructions, volunteer meeting guides, and how-to's.

PREVIEW



FALL

WINTER



SPRING



SUMMER



SUMMER



SUMMER





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# VOLUNTEERS

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## OVERVIEW

The Grow 1-Year Volunteer Strategy was originally crafted in our (Kenny and Elle's) church context. Since then, it has been tested and refined by over one thousand churches of all shapes, sizes, and contexts. It's a year-long strategy to help you not just train your volunteers, but to invest in them and, ultimately, retain them. **With this 1-Year Volunteer Strategy, you'll learn a system for investing in your volunteers in seven different ways throughout the year.** Here they are . . .



### **EVENT**

An event is a major vision-casting opportunity — an environment you'd want every volunteer to attend. You'll see this icon on your **Annual Calendar** once a year.



### **MEETING**

A meeting is an opportunity to teach your volunteers about a very specific topic. You'll see this icon on your **Annual Calendar** three times a year.



### **DISCUSSION GROUP**

A discussion group is a gathering with a small group of volunteers who all serve in a similar role. You'll put this on your **Annual Calendar** anywhere from one to six times each year.



### **CONVERSATION**

A conversation is a one-on-one meeting with a volunteer for building relationships and giving and receiving feedback. You'll see this icon on your **Annual Calendar** every month.



### **CELEBRATION**

A celebration is anything that celebrates your volunteers for what they've accomplished or who they are. You'll see this icon on your **Annual Calendar** every month.



### **COMMUNICATION**

Communication is anything you do to connect or share information with your volunteers outside of your weekly program. You'll see this icon on your **Annual Calendar** every week.



### **TOOLS**

A tool is any resource you provide to help your volunteers make their jobs happen. You'll see this icon on your **Annual Calendar** at several points during the year.

WHAT WE'VE PROVIDED

## EVENTS

This year, we've provided one volunteer kick-off event to help you get the year off to a great start with your team. That event includes . . .

- A guide to help you plan all the details.
- Editable graphics for your screen and social media channels.
- Marketing materials.

## MEETINGS

In case you have more than one type of volunteer role on your team, we've provided a number of volunteer meeting tracks. That includes . . .

- 3 meetings for rookie volunteers.
- 3 meetings for small group leaders.
- 3 meetings for teachers or communicators.
- 3 meetings for worship teams.
- 3 meetings for student leaders.
- 3 meetings for crisis situations.
- Editable graphics for your screen and social media channels.
- Marketing materials.

## DISCUSSION GROUPS

Depending on how many volunteers you have, we suggest planning anywhere from one to six discussion groups each year where volunteers can learn from each other. We've provided . . .

- A discussion guide for small group leaders.
- A discussion guide for communicators.
- A discussion guide for worship teams.
- A discussion guide for support teams.

## CONVERSATIONS

Depending on how many volunteers you have, we suggest meeting one-on-one with at least one volunteer each week. We've provided . . .

- A conversation guide for small group leaders.
- A conversation guide for communicators.
- A conversation guide for worship teams.
- A conversation guide for support teams.

## CELEBRATIONS

Each month, we give you one unique celebration idea to help you honor and appreciate your volunteers. That includes . . .

- A specific (and sometimes weird) holiday you can leverage for appreciation.
- Shopping lists and instructions for each month.

## COMMUNICATION

To help you communicate effectively with your volunteers this year, we've provided . . .

- 50 pre-written editable emails in HTML format.
- 12 volunteer tip videos.

## TOOLS

We've provided a series of tools to give your volunteers that will make their jobs easier, like . . .

- An Annual Volunteer Survey.
- An editable Volunteer Handbook.
- Editable Volunteer Goals.
- Editable Volunteer Business Cards.

PREVIEW




**NAME**  
LAST NAME

**9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**  
SMALL GROUP LEADER

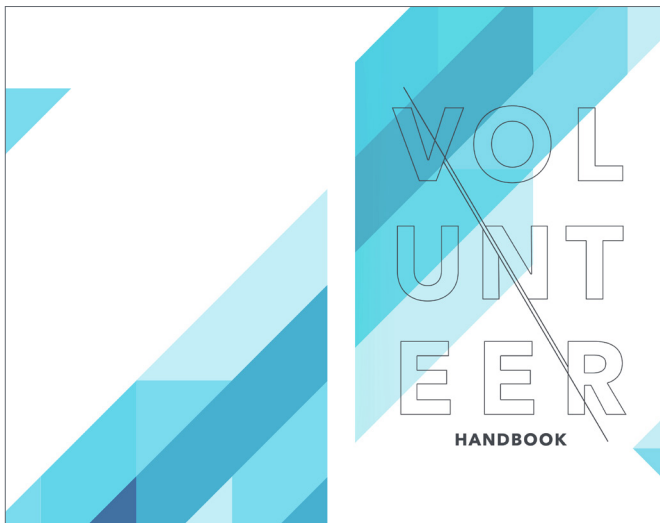
☎ (123) 456-7890  
✉ email@email.com  
📷 @username



**NAME**  
LAST NAME

**6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**  
SMALL GROUP LEADER

☎ (123) 456-7890  
✉ email@email.com  
📷 @username



**YOUR GOALS**

Complete every goal by [ ]? Nice. Let us know. We've got a gift for you.

- SEND POSTCARDS TO 10 STUDENTS**  
Remember when people used to send each other letters? Good times. Introduce some students to this ancient form of communication by mailing them each a quick postcard. It's an easy way to let a teenager know you're thinking about them. And that means a lot.
- MEET 10 PARENTS**  
Connecting with the parents of teenagers can be intimidating, but making that connection could make or break your influence with their kid. So go say hi to ten parents and make sure they've got your contact information.
- THROW A PARTY**  
Do something fun with the students you're investing in. Watch a movie! Take a hike. Celebrate a weird holiday. Show up together at one of their basketball games and be their biggest cheerleaders. Whatever you do, have some fun and make a few new memories together.
- SERVE TOGETHER**  
If we want teenagers to really believe they can be used by God, we've got to give them opportunities to be used by God. So set up a time to serve others alongside the students you're leading.
- SET A GOAL**  
This school year, what do you want to accomplish as a member of our ministry team? What's one thing you want to do or learn? (Be specific!) And what are you going to do to make sure you reach that goal?

**TELL US ABOUT YOU**

NAME .....

BIRTHDAY .....

FAVORITE FOOD .....

FAVORITE DRINK .....

FAVORITE COFFEE .....

FAVORITE CANDY .....

FAVORITE SNACK .....

FAVORITE ANIMAL .....

FAVORITE WAY TO SPEND \$5 .....

FAVORITE WAY TO SPEND \$20 .....

**FAVORITE WAYS TO HEAR FROM US:**

Carrier Pigeon	Instagram
Email	Pager
Fax	Surprise Visits to Your Front Door
Facebook	Text



— A 1-YEAR STRATEGY FOR YOUR —  
**PARENTS**

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## OVERVIEW

The Grow 1-Year Parent Strategy was originally crafted in our (Kenny and Elle's) church context. Since then, it has been tested and refined by over one thousand churches of all shapes, sizes, and contexts. It's a year-long strategy to help you engage and serve parents more effectively. **With this 1-Year Parent Strategy, you'll learn a system for investing in parents in four different ways throughout the year.** Here they are . . .



### EVENT

An event for your parents is an environment that provides value to parents and connects them with their child, your church, or both. You'll see this icon on your **Annual Calendar** four times a year.



### DISCUSSION GROUP

A discussion group is a gathering with a small but diverse group of parents or guardians of teenagers. You'll put this on your **Annual Calendar** anywhere from one to six times each year.



### COMMUNICATION

Communication is anything you do to connect or share information with parents. You'll see this icon on your **Annual Calendar** every month.



### TOOLS

A tool is any resource you provide to help parents connect with your ministry or with their kid. You'll see this icon on your **Annual Calendar** at several points during the year.

## WHAT WE'VE PROVIDED

### EVENTS

Each year, we recommend scheduling four key events for parents: an **Open House**, a **Parent and Small Group Leader Breakfast**, an **event for Moms** and their teenagers, and an **event for Dads** and their teenagers. Each event includes . . .

- A guide to help you plan all the details.
- Editable graphics for your screen and social media channels.
- Marketing materials.

### DISCUSSION GROUPS

Each year, we recommend you plan two discussion groups, where you can learn from some of the parents in your ministry. To help you do this well, we've provided . . .

- A discussion guide.
- Instructions on how to coordinate an effective discussion group with parents.

## COMMUNICATION

To help you communicate effectively with parents this year, we've provided . . .

- 13 pre-written editable emails in HTML format (one for each teaching series).
- 12 parent tip videos (one for each month).

## TOOLS

We've provided a series of tools to give parents that will help them be more effective at parenting their kid and help you be more effective at resourcing them, like . . .

- An Annual Parent Survey.
- An editable Parent Handbook.
- Editable Volunteer Business Cards to give to parents.

### PREVIEW

