



Children and Youth:
Youth Group Leader

Vision

OEC Youth seeks to make disciples of Jesus by bringing in teenagers to hear the gospel, build them up to Christian maturity and train them to serve Jesus.

Purpose of the Role

To serve as a member of a team that seeks to partner with parents in spiritually growing teenagers entrusted to your care.

Character Expectations

- Profess faith in Christ, an active member of their own congregation and Growth Group. They will seek to grow their own relationship with Christ through regular prayer and Bible reading.
- Model godliness for those they lead, setting an example in their speech, conduct, love, faith and purity (1 Tim 4:12).
- Youth Group Leaders will have a humble and teachable spirit, willing to listen to and learn from others in particular other team members, the Team Leader, Youth Ministry, and parents.
- Abide by the OEC Code of Conduct for Volunteers, Overseers and Ministry Workers.
- Support and respect the Youth Minister, Parents and the leadership (Overseers and Ministry Staff) of OEC.

Competency Expectations

- Genuine love for people and teenagers with demonstrated relational skills.
- The ability to appreciate and understand the text of the Bible to communicate it with teenagers clearly, truthfully and relevantly.
- The ability to both challenge and encourage teenagers in their walk in the Lord.
- The ability to communicate with the rest of the team in a clear way with warmth and graciousness.
- The ability to share responsibilities with others.



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The Youth Group Leader

Adolescence in church is marked by a series of transitions; what do I believe, where do I belong and how can I serve? OEC employs a complex framework to grow young adolescent disciples of Jesus. All teenagers are part of a family and many OEC Youth have Christian parents who are the primary disciple makers for their children. In addition, most teenagers at OEC are members of two congregations, attend OEC Youth, and are seeking opportunities to serve.

Within this framework, the Youth Group Leader is a significant disciple maker of teenagers at Youth Group. They encourage teenagers to be active in both congregations, to serve across the church and are not responsible for teenagers' leadership within the congregations.

Being a Youth Group Leader is more than running a few games or facilitating a gospel discussion when the group gets together. As they partner with parents, they are under shepherds of teenagers in the church, at Youth Group and in their small group. They are under the oversight of their Team Leader, Youth Minister and the spiritual authority of the Overseers.

Youth Group Leaders prayerfully lead all the teenagers under their care, through the powerful and effective word of God. Youth Group is a team ministry that requires its members to actively volunteer for roles, support one another, speak the truth in love, and model faithful Christian living. An essential component of youth leading is small groups that seek to disciple, encourage and care for young people at Youth Group. Small Group Co-leaders must work together to pastor, care for and grow each member of the group. How this will work will be different depending on the personalities and different giftedness of the leaders.

Youth Group Leaders – the role in practice.

Youth Leading is discipling young people. So a Youth Group Leader will:

- Weekly prepare and prayer for Small Group
- Weekly lead, teach and lead in the prayer life of the regular Friday night Youth Group gathering.
- Attend quarterly training and planning meetings to train, plan and pray for the term ahead.



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- Together with the team, partnering with parents, praying for teenagers to come to faith, welcoming new teenagers, following up absent teenagers and training teenagers to serve.
- Together with their Co-Leader teach, pastorally care and disciple the members of the group.

Appointment and Commitment

- Appointment: Youth Group Leaders are appointed by the Youth Minister. This is usually after a recommendation from the Youth Group Team Leaders. Small Groups and Co Leaders are determined by the Youth Group Team Leaders
- Commitment: Youth Group Leaders commit to leading their small group through to Youth Group graduation. This means leading for no less than 1 year, ideally for three years with the option for an addition 3 years.
- Training: All Leaders must complete Safe ministry Training. New Youth Group Leaders will attend the New Leaders leadership training by the Youth Minister. Existing Leaders participate in quarterly ongoing training.
- Code of Conduct: Youth Group Leaders are to abide by the Safe Ministry practices and code of conduct for people volunteering in ministry at OEC.

Leader Support

Youth Group Leaders are cared for by the Youth Minister, their Growth Group Leader and Congregational Minister. If difficulties arise between teenagers such as bullying, unhelpful dynamics, or unchristian behaviour the Youth Group Leader should look for support from the Team Leader and Youth Minister.

From time to time, teenagers may disclose abuse or Youth Group Leaders may have particular concerns about the welfare of certain children. These concerns should be raised immediately with a Safe Ministry Supervisor, who will support the leader as they care for any children in that situation, including assisting them to follow any official reporting obligations.

There will be times when the pastoral needs to teenagers require outside support. In these situations, the Youth Group Leader together with the Team Leader and Youth Minister will communicate the challenges of the teenager to their parents and engage outside services if necessary.



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What Will Happen Next?

You will be contacted by the Youth Group Team Leader or Youth Minister with your next step.