

TIMOTHY PROJECT: FOUNDATIONS FOR EFFECTIVE YOUTH MINISTRY INFORMATION PACKET

THE TIMOTHY PROJECT

An Introduction

Adults ministering among youth are one of our greatest treasures in the church. Youth need faithful, caring adults to walk alongside them in life and ministry. Yet, so often adults feel under-equipped even to talk with teenagers, let alone seek to apprentice youth in the faith.

That is why we as a synod are lifting up a new training ministry called “**The Timothy Project: Foundations for Effective Youth Ministry.**” The Timothy Project is based on 1 Thessalonians 3:2, “*We sent Timothy, our brother and co-worker for God in proclaiming the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you for the sake of your faith.*”

The Timothy Project brings a pair of experienced, wise, trained youth ministers to your congregation to present a one-day course called, “Foundations of Effective Youth Ministry.” This course is meant to train adult volunteers and professionals in theological and practical aspects of ministering alongside youth.

This training is for:

- Youth ministry staff (youth ministers, pastors, etc.)
- Volunteers who lead youth ministry programming in their congregation
- Volunteers who minister under the direction of a youth ministry staff person
- Parents
- Youth board members
- Small group leaders
- Confirmation mentors
- Sunday school teachers and education board members
- Church Council Members
- Anyone who cares about nurturing faith in young people

It is for small congregations and large ones. The foundations of why we minister and how we carry out basic relational skills are the same across the board.

Adults know how to plan hayrides and serve breakfasts, but we sometimes need help in shepherding youth as they encounter Christ. It is our hope that the Timothy Project will lead many people to a new understanding of their callings as youth ministers.

Adults do make a difference in the faith lives of youth, and the Timothy Project helps adults called to minister among youth gain confidence, skills and tools for effective youth ministry.

TRAINING COSTS, OPTIONS AND EXPECTATIONS:

TIMOTHY PROJECT TRAINING:

To thank the trainers for their time and expertise, the cost for each training is \$150 plus mileage, meals and housing (if needed) for the trainers.

Congregations are also responsible for purchasing one Timothy Project notebook per participant at \$10 each. You may want to ask participants to pay for all or part of the notebook cost.

Congregations are welcome to work together to hold a training in order to share expenses.

WHAT YOU RECEIVE:

- The one-day “Foundations of Effective Youth Ministry” course
- Two Timothy Project trainers to present the course
- A Youth Ministry Resource List which includes events, service opportunities, camps, websites and a bibliography
- At least one follow-up call from a trainer

WHAT YOU PROVIDE:

- Training location
- Participants
- Snacks in the morning and afternoon, and lunch at noon
- Projection screen
- Table or AV cart (trainers will bring a projector)
- Power strip and extension cord
- Tables set up in a U shape with chairs around the outside
- A podium, table or sturdy music stand from which the trainers can work
- Flip chart and easel (the post-it kind work great)
- Name tags or name table tents (optional)

A SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT PASTORS:

The Exemplary Youth Ministry study found that congregations with pastors who understand and fully support youth and family ministry are significantly more effective in passing on faith to young people than congregations without such pastors. We have found the same to be true with the Timothy Project. We encourage pastors to support this training with their words and to attend the training alongside congregation members. Doing so may improve the overall attendance and effectiveness of the training.

SAMPLE TRAINING SCHEDULE

8:30	Gathering Time	
9:00	Session I	Ministry Begins with Focus
10:15	Break	
10:30	Session II	Know Your Audience
11:45	Lunch	
12:45	Session III	Be Committed to Relationships
1:45	Break	
2:00	Session IV	Program Management
2:30	Mini-Sessions*	
3:15	Closing	
3:30	Go in peace, serve the Lord!	

***MINI-SESSIONS**

Up to two half-hour mini-sessions can be presented simultaneously. You may choose two and have participants choose which one they want to attend, or if you choose one, all participants will attend the same mini-session.

Mini-Session Choices:

- Bible Study and Discussions
 - Learn basic skills in leading a Bible study or discussion.
- Activities and Games
 - Learn by doing some activities and games as well as discuss the different categories of activities in relation to their purposes.
Receive a list of games and activities to try.
- Mission/Service Opportunities
 - Learn how to prepare for, carry out, and debrief a service experience. Discuss ideas for service in your own community.
- Youth as Leaders
 - Learn some key strategies in raising up youth as leaders in your church and youth ministry.
- Caring Conversations with Youth
 - Learn basic conversation skills to use when talking with youth.
Explore open ended questions and other skills.

TIMOTHY PROJECT TRAINERS:

Deb Ahlrich, Rejoice Lutheran Church, Clearwater

Pam Dobson, Grace Lutheran Church, Luverne

Christina Kadelbach, Zion Lutheran Church, Litchfield

Matt McWaters, Celebration Lutheran Church, Sartell

Steve Olcott, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Hutchinson

Carrie Peterson, Bethel Lutheran Church, Willmar

Tonya Tomasek, First Lutheran Church, Marshall

Dave Wollan, Faith Lutheran Church, Hutchinson

HOW TO SET UP A TIMOTHY PROJECT TRAINING IN YOUR CONTEXT:

1. Prayerfully consult with the youth ministry team, board or interested persons in your congregation and decide to hold a Timothy Project training.
2. Contact Sarah Hausken and ask any questions you may have.
3. Fill out the Training Request Form and send it to Sarah Hausken along with your deposit of \$50.
4. Wait for Sarah to confirm a date and assign trainers.
5. Receive a phone call from one of the trainers visiting your congregation to work out details of exact times, place, directions, etc.
6. Confirm the number of participants at your location with your trainer so they know how many Timothy Project notebooks to bring.
7. Hold the training, providing the requested logistical arrangements.
8. Receive a final invoice with remaining honorarium balance and mileage from Sarah and send payment to the synod office.

Office Use Only:

Dep.:

Not. Cong.:

Send Tr.:

Inv.:

Pd.:

TIMOTHY PROJECT TRAINING REQUEST FORM

Today's Date: _____

Congregation Name and Town: _____

Contact Person Name: _____

Phone #: _____ Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Please list possible training dates in preferred order. If some dates are equally preferred, please note that. Most trainings take place on Saturdays.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

How many people do you estimate training? _____

In what capacities do participants currently serve among youth in your congregation?
(please check all that apply)

- Professionals (ex. youth minister, pastor)
- Volunteers leading congregational youth ministries
- Volunteers ministering with the direction of youth ministry staff
- Youth Board members
- Parents
- Small group leaders
- Confirmation mentors
- Sunday School teachers or Education Board members
- Other _____
- Other _____

(over, please)

Mini-session choices (please check up to two you would like offered – participants choose one to attend):

- Bible Study and Discussions
- Activities and Games
- Mission/Service Opportunities
- Youth as Leaders
- Caring Conversations with Youth

Are there any dynamics or special circumstances our trainers should be aware of? If yes, please explain here or communicate with Sarah verbally.

Please mail to Sarah Hausken along with your **\$50 deposit**.
Sarah Hausken, 1101 W. Chestnut Ave., Olivia, MN 56277
Sarah will contact you shortly to confirm date and inform you who your trainers will be.