

Useful Apps

For Youth Ministry



Useful Apps for Ministry

If you run a youth ministry, you know the job is really about ten jobs at once. You're teaching, planning events, checking in on kids who are having a hard week, and somehow also making the flyer for Friday night. An app won't do any of that ministry work for you, but the right one can save you a few hours a week so you have more of yourself left for the youth in front of you. Below are 20 apps our team actually recommends, with a note on how you might use each one.

Have a favorite app that isn't on this list? Email us and tell us what's working for your ministry, or forward this along to another leader who could use it.

Resource

1. Everand

Everand gives you unlimited access to ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, and sheet music for one monthly price. Use it to read leadership books, find curriculum ideas, or listen to an audiobook on your drive home. You can also grab sheet music for your band without searching all over the internet.

Price: Free trial; \$11.99/month after

Link: <https://www.everand.com>

2. Kahoot!

Kahoot! turns any lesson into a live quiz that youth play right from their phones. Use it to review last week's Bible study or as an icebreaker to get everyone laughing before you get into anything deeper.

Price: Free basic plan; Pro plans starting at \$3/month

Link: <https://kahoot.com>

3. Mentimeter

Mentimeter lets you build live polls, word clouds, and quizzes that show up on screen as youth answer from their phones. Use it to see how a talk landed, take an anonymous poll on a tough topic, or get quiet youth participating without raising a hand.

Price: Free basic plan; paid plans start at \$9.99/month

Link: <https://www.mentimeter.com>

4. YouVersion Bible App

YouVersion puts dozens of translations, reading plans, and devotionals in youth's pockets for free. It's an easy first Bible app to recommend to teens, and you can assign your group a reading plan to work through between meetings.

Price: Free

Link: <https://www.bible.com>

5. Bible Gateway

Bible Gateway lets you pull up any verse in any translation, along with commentaries, right in your browser. It's handy when you're prepping a lesson late at night and want to compare how a passage reads across versions.

Price: Free; some in app purchases for premium features

Link: <https://www.biblegateway.com>

6. Glo Bible

Glo Bible brings scripture to life with video, 360 degree tours of biblical sites, and interactive maps. Pull it up during a lesson to actually show youth what Jerusalem or the Sea of Galilee looks like instead of just describing it.

Price: Free; in app purchases for additional content

Link: Search your device's app store

7. Bible Project

Bible Project's short animated videos break down entire books of the Bible or big theological ideas in a way that actually clicks with teens. They're a good way to kick off a series or set up a passage before group discussion.

Price: Free

Link: <https://bibleproject.com>

8. RightNow Media

RightNow Media is a streaming library of Bible studies and devotionals for every age group. Once your church has a subscription, you can hand youth and parents a full video curriculum to work through on their own, not just during youth night.

Price: Free with church subscription

Link: <https://www.rightnowmedia.org>

9. PrayerMate

PrayerMate helps you organize prayer requests into lists and reminds you to actually pray through them instead of letting sticky notes pile up. Keep a list just for your youth so you're praying for each of them by name, not only when something comes up in group.

Price: Free; optional donations for premium features

Link: <https://www.prayermate.net>

10. GroupMe

GroupMe is a simple group chat app that works well for coordinating with your volunteer team or running a thread with parents about weekly logistics. It keeps ministry conversations out of your personal texts and in one place.

Price: Free

Link: <https://groupme.com>

11. Remind

Remind lets you send announcements and reminders to youth and parents without ever sharing your personal phone number. Use it for event reminders, permission slip deadlines, or a heads up when plans change.

Price: Free

Link: <https://www.remind.com>

12. Remind101

Remind101 is an earlier version of the same Remind messaging tool, built for quick texts to youth and parents. If your church already has it set up, it works just as well for sending reminders about upcoming events or schedule changes.

Price: Free

Link: <https://www.remind.com>

13. Google Forms

Google Forms is a free, simple way to build sign up sheets, permission forms, or feedback surveys. Send one out after a retreat to hear how it went, or use it to collect emergency contact info before a trip.

Price: Free

Link: <https://forms.google.com>

14. Doodle

Doodle makes it easy to find a meeting time that works for a group of busy people. Use it to schedule volunteer meetings or planning sessions without the back and forth of a dozen texts.

Price: Free; Premium plans available

Link: <https://doodle.com>

15. Planning Center

Planning Center is a full church management system for scheduling volunteers, planning services, and keeping track of your youth database. It's especially useful once your ministry outgrows a spreadsheet and you need a real system for who's serving when.

Price: Free basic plan; paid plans starting at \$14/month

Link: <https://www.planningcenter.com>

16. Trello

Trello uses boards and cards you can drag around to track tasks, so nothing about an upcoming event or series falls through the cracks. Set up a board for your next retreat with a card for every task, from booking the venue to buying snacks.

Price: Free; Premium plans available

Link: <https://trello.com>

17. Airtable

Airtable combines a spreadsheet with a database, and it's great for tracking things like volunteer applications, event registrations, or a running list of youth info. You can build custom views so different leaders only see what they need.

Price: Free basic plan; paid plans start at \$10/month

Link: <https://www.airtable.com>

18. Evernote

Evernote is a note taking app for keeping your lesson plans, sermon notes, and random late night ideas in one searchable place. It syncs across your phone and laptop, so an idea you jot down on your phone is there when you sit down to write later.

Price: Free basic plan; Premium starts at \$7.99/month

Link: <https://evernote.com>

19. Canva

Canva makes it simple to design flyers, social posts, and slides even if you have no design background, thanks to its ready made templates. Canva also has built in AI tools worth trying: type a prompt into Magic Design and it will generate a full flyer or social post for you to tweak, and Magic Write can draft your event caption or announcement text when you're stuck on wording. Between the templates and the AI features, you can go from a blank page to a finished event flyer in a few minutes instead of an evening.

Price: Free; Canva Pro starts at \$12.99/month

Link: <https://www.canva.com>

20. Spotify

Spotify is a great way to shape the music and audio your youth are hearing throughout the year. Craft a playlist of worship songs for retreats and youth nights, curate a podcast playlist with sermons and encouraging talks for youth to work through on their own time, or build a playlist for the whole term that sets the tone for wherever you are in your series. Spotify has also gotten more interactive, with features like Blend and collaborative playlists that let a group shape a playlist together, and it's a good place to point youth and leaders toward audiobook recommendations too, whether that's a devotional, a leadership book, or something encouraging to listen to during the week.

Price: Free with ads; Premium starts at \$9.99/month

Link: <https://www.spotify.com>

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Tip Sheet

