

# Discipleship **DISCUSSION GUIDE**

Youth Ministry Starter Pack



# Using This Guide & Partnering with BYM

## How to use this document

How to use this document: This resource is designed for you to use in three ways – together as a team, on your own, and as a launchpad into further learning. Page 1 gives you a team discussion guide you can use in a leaders' meeting, at a retreat, or across a couple of shorter check-ins. Page 2 is for personal reflection, helping each leader sit with God and pay attention to their own life and leadership. Page 3 offers articles, books, and tools you can explore over time. Don't feel pressure to use everything at once pick one or two sections that fit your current season and start there.

## How BYM can support and train you

Baptist Youth Ministries exists to help churches across NSW & ACT build healthy youth and young adult ministry, not just run events. If you'd like help working through this module with your team, a BYM team member can come and facilitate a training session, leaders' retreat segment, or tailored workshop in your context, or join you online. We can also walk with you through a Healthy Youth Ministry Assessment and follow up coaching to identify strengths, gaps, and next steps. To explore training or support, get in touch with the BYM team or visit the Website to connect with our team, check out events and explore more resources

# Discipleship

## Team Reflection

This session is about moving from “running a program” to cultivating a culture where discipleship is normal, expected, and shared by every leader. It highlights three big shifts: making discipleship organic in the life of the group, enabling young people to discover truth rather than just be told, and developing contributors rather than consumers.

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### Warm up question

When you hear the phrase “culture of discipleship,” what comes to mind in your own youth ministry right now?

### Big idea discussion

- In what ways is discipleship currently “normal and expected” in your team and youth group, and in what ways does it still feel like an add on or a program?
- The video says that only God can transform hearts, but that building culture still “requires intentionality.” Where are you currently being intentional, and where are you mostly just hoping it will happen?
- What would it look like, practically, for every leader in your team to see “loving and guiding young people” as part of their everyday life, not just their role on a roster?

### Enable discovery (not just lectures)

- How much of our current program is “leaders talking” versus “young people discovering, discussing, and asking questions”?
- What might it look like in our context to create spaces where it’s okay to ask awkward or “off-limits” questions?
- How confident are our young people in reading the Bible for themselves? What could you change in how we run small groups, talks, or studies to grow that confidence?

### Develop contributors, not consumers

- Where might our youth ministry unintentionally encourage young people to “consume” (content, events, fun) rather than contribute?
- The video says this generation has an entrepreneurial, change the world spirit. Where do you see that in your group already?
- List some concrete ways young people could contribute: in the program (hosting, music, tech, welcoming, prayer), in service (justice projects, caring for younger kids), and in mission (sharing faith with peers). Which 1-2 next steps are realistic this term?

### Team action step

- As a team, choose one of the following to act on in the next 4-6 weeks: Introduce one new “discoverybased” element each week (e.g. Bible discovery questions, pair discussions, Q&A box).
- Give every regular young person a role or responsibility, however small, at least once this term.
- Create one new space for awkward questions (e.g. “ask anything” segment, anonymous question box, dedicated Q&A night).
- Decide who will own this, what support they need, and when you’ll revisit it as a team.

# Discipleship

## Personal Reflection

Use this to slow down and notice what God is already doing in you as a disciple and as a leader in youth and young adults ministry. The questions are designed to help you reflect on how you are following Jesus, how that shapes the way you invest in young people, and where he might be inviting you to grow, so that your ministry flows from a real, lived discipleship rather than just from running programs

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### Where am I now?

When I think about my role with young people, do I see myself more as:

- A program runner,
- A content deliverer, or
- A disciple making guide? Why?

In the last month, when have I intentionally “loved and guided” a young person outside of a formal program time?

### Enabling discovery

- Do I naturally talk at young people, or invite them to discover and wrestle with Scripture themselves?
- What gets in the way of me creating space for questions (e.g. fear of not knowing answers, time pressure, discomfort with doubt)?
- One change I could make in how I lead (a group, a conversation, a study) to better enable discovery is:

### Developing contributors, not consumers

- Where might I be treating young people more as “attenders” than as contributors or co-workers in the gospel?
- Which young person comes to mind who could be invited into more responsibility or leadership this term?

Name:

Possible next step:

### My next step with God

Take a moment to pray quietly. Then write:

One area where I’m asking God to grow my heart for discipleship:

One concrete action I will take in the next two weeks (with a name, place, or time attached):

### Optional

If comfortable, share your “one concrete action” with another leader and ask them to check in with you about it.

# Discipleship

## Resources

These resources are here to help you keep growing a culture of everyday discipleship with your young people and leaders. Use them to deepen your own understanding, spark team conversations, and find practical tools you can adapt for your local context.

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### Articles

1. Creating a Discipleship Culture in Youth Ministry – a short overview of key ingredients (relationships, Scripture, practice) with simple diagnostic questions.
2. Helping Young People Read the Bible for Themselves – practical tips and sample questions for discovery-based Bible reading in small groups.
3. From Consumers to Contributors – ideas for giving young people meaningful roles in gathered worship, service, and mission.

### Books

1. Speaking to Teenagers” (Fields & Robbins) – on communicating in ways that invite engagement, questions, and heart change.
2. Talks That Don’t Suck” (Tom French) – practical help for shaping Bible talks that encourage discovery, not just passive listening.
3. Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Scepticism” (Tim Keller) – for leaders wanting to connect the gospel to the real questions young people are asking.

### Templates

1. Question Box / Q&A Night Template – a simple way to gather and respond to awkward or honest questions over a term.
2. Roles for Everyone” Checklist – a list of small and larger roles young people can take up in a youth night or Sunday service.
3. Discovery Bible Study Question Set – a repeatable question framework that helps young people read and apply Scripture together.

### Find more resources online

Scan this QR code to see the full, regularly updated list of articles, templates videos, and books on Disciple from the BYM Resource Page.

### Support from BYM

Baptist Youth Ministries exists to support and resource youth and young adult ministries in Baptist churches across NSW and ACT through training, practical resources, and connection with leaders across our movement. If your church would benefit from help strengthening its culture of discipleship, BYM can walk with you through a Healthy Youth Ministry Assessment, coaching conversations, or a tailored training session that helps your team reflect on strengths, gaps, and practical next steps in your local context. You can also explore the BYM Resources for more teaching tools, discussion guides, and ministry resources, or get in touch with the team to talk about what support would be most helpful for your church.



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