

Project 256: A Flexible Strategy

1 Timothy 2:5-6

⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all men — the testimony given in its proper time.

Steps to gain and increase influence with 256 students . . .

1. Announce and promote Project 256 as a church-wide effort to pass the faith to the next generation.
2. Create a Prayer list of 256 students in the Youth Ministry age group.
3. Initiate a Church-wide Prayer Effort for the 256 students for a focused time period of 2-4 weeks.
4. Assemble another team that will track down addresses for all students on the list.
5. After 2-4 weeks of prayer, send a letter to every student on the list informing them that the church has been praying for them for the last month and that the church is here for 2 reasons.
 - **First, your church is here to pray for them**, and ask if there are any specific items the church could lift in prayer on their behalf. (Offer an email address for them to send requests to), also, let them know of a date for a special prayer service in which all the requests will be the focus.
 - **Second, your church is here for relationship**, and invite them to a service. Further, if you are very brave, offer to baptize anyone who needs to be baptized, (any people responding would need to show up for a, "What you need to know before you are baptized fellowship." If you invite the whole church to that fellowship, you might be surprised by the results.
6. Respond to every exchange you receive and continue to pray for the families of the students on your list. Continue that prayer approach all the way through January.
7. When someone responds, send a team to try to enlist them in a Bible Study at church or in homes.
8. Everyone who is enlisted for a Bible Study, send a team to share Christ with them and offer to baptize those who accept Christ. (Have another, "What you need to know before you are baptized fellowship.")
9. Disciple everyone who follows Christ in a personal process.

STRATEGIC THINKING

As you work through this series of steps, you will need to think intentionally and strategically. For example . . . (If you are coming to YEC or another event like it)

- In late October a strategic initiative would be to send a postcard to your **256 KIDS** inviting them plus 1 friend to attend YEC with your group.
- That means you will want to create a way to fund scholarships for this purpose. You could budget for them. You could encourage the finance team of your church to invest in this process from the evangelism budget. You could ask adults in your church to consider giving a scholarship to one student, or a one-time gift of any size to the effort if that is acceptable in your church.
- You can even get creative and present a scholarship to some students publicly and then let them know that they could use it for themselves, or to bring a friend from the Project 256 prayer list.
- Every time your church has a high attendance day or a church wide effort to reach people, use the Project 256 list as your primary focal point for outreach.

Churches have some incredible **Evangelism** and **Discipleship** approaches, yet we seem to be losing some of our influence in those areas. The reason many of those efforts are not as effective as they once were is that we need to emphasize the importance of **RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING** for **PRE-EVANGELISM** through **FRIENDSHIP**. **PROJECT 256** is a **PRE-EVANGELISM BRIDGE** to your evangelistic efforts, which should fuel your church's **DISCIPLESHIP** approach. **Multiplication is our long-term goal.**