

Investing in the *Real* Future of Your Church

For more than a generation folks have been saying, "the youth are the future of our church." Not so. . . . Tune in today as Drs. Kris and Bill share what the real future of our churches is, and how you can wisely invest in it so generations to come will reap the benefits.

Why Youth Aren't the Future of Your Church

- The dropout rate – see Already Gone
- Those who do stay, are the future of someone else's church
- Youth ministry rarely grows churches – in general they are a welfare program that are necessary but are resource expensive (besides . . . what teenager wants to bring their parents to church?
 - notable exceptions include Son City (Willow Creek) and Bay Area Fellowship

Maximizing Your ROI (Return on Investment)

- The future of your church are committed, disciplined young adults
 - They are there for the long haul
 - They have the opportunity to raise their children in the church
 - They are the ones who will prepare the church for the next generation
- The Four Investment Pockets
 1. Convenient Indigenous Worship Opportunities
 2. Dynamic Integration and Small Group Ministries
 3. Exciting, Fun, and Meaningful Children's Ministries
 4. Significant Relationships with Models and Mentors

Leadership Discussion Questions

1. How is your congregation raising and supporting committed *and* disciplined young adults (i.e., what discipling opportunities do you provide)?
2. What mechanisms does your congregation have for moving people from the front door into a small group? Brainstorm ways you can more effectively facilitate this movement? Who needs to do what to make any of these possibilities a reality? Who will do what?
3. On a scale of "1" (non-existent) to "10" (AWESOME), have each person rate your children's ministries for: (a) excitement; (b) fun; (c) and meaningfulness. Average your responses for an overall score. What do you need to do to reach a score of "8" or above?
4. What mature adults in your congregation are, or could, mentor younger adults in your congregation? How might you organize that into a sustainable ministry? Who will work on this? Beginning when? What is a realistic start-up date? Who will monitor the process, progress, and inception of this ministry?