



tips for youth workers

MARCH 2017

HOW CAN YOU INFLUENCE A LIFE?

You can be an influence in the life of a young person whether you teach Sunday school, a discipleship class, kids club, singing company, YP band, lead a youth group, or are a youth pastor or corps officer. The following are ten things that you can do to make a difference in a life:

1. **Know God.** Spend time with God. Read the Bible; talk with Him in prayer; listen to Him. Read books that will help you know Him and His will for you.
2. **Study to improve yourself.** If God has called you to teach a subject, truth or skill, learn all you can about that topic. Get trained to be the best teacher or leader that you can be.
3. **Recognize that God's love needs to be shared** with anyone and everyone, including children and youth!
4. **Build relationships.** Ask your students questions about themselves. Speak to them whenever you meet them. Show them that you are interested in them.
5. **Encourage young people.** Send them little notes of encouragement. Give them Scripture verses that they can claim as their own.
6. **Minister to the whole family.** Speak with parents of your students. Show them that you are interested in their child. Send home resources you think that would be helpful.
7. **Identify a young person's potential** and help them to develop it. What skill or personality trait is a strength? How can you put that strength to work in your setting?
8. **Broaden your students' horizons.** Expose them to new and different things. Think outside of the box or classroom!
9. **Pray for them.** Pray for them often. Pray for them by name. Recruit others to pray for your students.
10. **Ask the most important question of all.** Ask them "Would you like to become a child of God?" The number one reason many don't invite Christ into their lives is because they were never asked. Ask often. Perhaps a young person is not ready this week, but they might be next week.

Perhaps you are familiar with the song below from Bill and Gloria Gaither. Ask yourself today: Am I doing everything I can to make a difference in the lives of the young people under my ministry? Am I helping them reach their potential? Can my young people sing these words, because of me?

I am a promise, I am a possibility.
I am a promise with a capital "P".
I am a great big bundle of potentiality.
I am a learnin' to hear God's voice,
and I am tryin' to make the right choice.
I am a promise to be anything God wants me to be.