

# Triple Threat Student Ministry

BRAD COOPER

Focus on our Destination: God has called us to Go and Make Disciples! Matthew 28

Three Main Points to get to where we're going:

MAP + FUEL + VEHICLE = DESTINATION

## Map is comparable to Vision

This is defined by the Senior Pastor and leadership you are under

Our job is to support our Senior Pastor and leaders

We are to hold up his arms

Worst thing we can do is cause division

Do you know the vision of your church?

This map, this vision is what guides and helps us make decisions

Keep in mind your end goal and that preaching the gospel has more value to it than making church kids happy but doing numerous activities such as lock-ins

Leaders lead with vision

If you do not currently have vision in place, graciously ask for one

## Fuel is comparable to Passion/Calling

Have you been called to students?

A lot of people work with students who weren't called to it, this can cause you to run out of gas

Or maybe you are called to it but have forgotten the vision and your call and are therefore running out of gas. If you are called God will consistently give you the fuel for it.

Students are looking for consistency and loyalty, it is unloving to be in this position of leadership if you are not called to the position.

You can have both of these things but not go anywhere if....

## Vehicle is comparable to Discipline

What are your priorities?

Are you consistently seeking and sharing vision?

Are you valuing daily time in Scripture with the Lord?

Are you disciplined about your Sabbath? Resting in the Lord?

You will see joy, creativity, and unity increase when this is in place

Do you have accountability?

We are trying to raise up real, authentic students

We weren't made to be alone

Who do you have in your life that can wound you?

You cannot lead to a place you are unwilling to go

What systems do you have in place for your life personally?

What systems do you need to put in place for your team?

Maintenance is a myth, you either going up or going down

## **What our Week Looks Like**

### **Sunday**

ALL day, every staff member is at the church. No student ministry service, want them involved on a Sunday

### **Monday**

Critique of Sunday first thing in the morning, consistently evaluating excellence level

Operational stuff - for example who do we need to follow up with

Afternoon - each staff member focuses on individual area

### **Tuesday**

Morning - Plan service 4.5 weeks out, anyone involved is in the meeting, make sure and give Creative Team a time margin to create!

Afternoon - OFF

### **Wednesday**

Morning - OFF

11:00 AM to 8:30 PM - Program Day - focusing on students and volunteers

### **Thursday**

Morning - critique Wednesday night service

Afternoon - OFF

Four questions asked in critiques:

What was excellent?

Who made it that way?

Celebrate it, and see it replicated!

What was not excellent?

Who was responsible for lack of excellence?

### **Friday**

Morning - OFF

Evening - FUSE - program day, 5:00 PM - Midnight

### **Saturday**

OFF

\*\*Mandatory to have two days off.

## **In Closing**

-Do you recognize your destination?

-Good is the enemy of Great

-If you are not called to it, are you bold enough to walk away?

- If you know you cannot submit to the vision of your leadership, move and become a church planter and follow the vision the Lord has placed on your heart.

-Have you defined the bar, and consistently guard the bar?

- Three things we Value EVERY Week:

1. Preaching

2. Worshiping

3. Small Groups

-We have a one time summer trip each year (Gauntlet).

- Our goal is to reach people, not make people happy, which means we have to be willing to hurt people
- Older generation should be okay with sacrifice, realize that often times hurt and change reach more people.

## **Q&A**

Walk us through the process of splitting High School and Middle School.  
Most of the time it has been the function of the building. In order to make the transition smooth we spoke to the leaders of groups, lead with vision, then has a special night where we spoke to the student leaders. Anytime there is a change in culture or DNA of church, celebrate it.

How do you keep up with people who miss several weeks?

That primarily falls onto the small group leaders. We also have Fellowship One that keeps up with attendance and are able to use TextSignal.com for contacting students.

Do you use text signal for first time visitors?

We use our leaders to have conversations with students; we want it to be relational. Every first timer fills out a slip and is entered into the computer upon arrival. Usually they come with a friend, both the first timer and friend receive a green wristband and after the service they are invited to be VIP guests in the lounge. They meet the band, eat pizza, receive a coupon for the following week at the snack bar, and meet charismatic, relational leaders. Follow up happens at school lunches. If the first timer comes without a friend we pair them with an outgoing, charismatic volunteer who shows them around the building and stays with them throughout the service and Jump Off. Our hope is to gain relational equity, their chance of meeting Christ is higher as well as their chance of coming back is much higher.

What is your volunteer process?

Every volunteer must be a member. We first bring them to an observer night, then they begin an orientation process. Everyone goes under a background check, then they go through a written interview; following this they have a face to face interview. If they meet the requirements for volunteering they are sent to training and then placed with a team leader and the specific place they fit best.

What is the secret to keeping high school students?

Christ was okay with people walking away because they weren't ready for the next level, we have to also embrace that. Continually call students to a higher level. Give them the opportunity to volunteer with middle school.

What is your preparation for curriculum and sermon prep?

There is no magic formula. Make sure you ask yourself if you are getting a Sabbath. It is crucial to be in the discipline of being in Scripture. Consider what the season is for the students. When coming up with material, break from the normal, new place, new pace, new perspective. Also work with your team!

What happens when you are new to a team and don't yet have that family atmosphere?

Biggest thing is that each team member is in the right place. Consider what is more unloving you team functioning at 80% or 100%. Don't be discouraged; it takes time to build community.

Can you explain salvation follow up? And baptism?

Don't carry the weight of their soul, share truth leave the rest to the Lord. We give a traditional invitation, the students raise their hand and we have leaders identify them. They are asked to go with a volunteer out to the atrium to find out where they are. Guys with guys, girls with girls. This does two things it blows the leaders vision up, and allows us to walk students through their next steps. There is a second invitation for those that need prayer or conversation. This gives an opportunity for a student and leader to connect. The leader gets information from the student in both of these situations, if it is a salvation it is passed on to the Care Team to follow up for baptism.

How do you coordinate multisite?

Don't know yet. Greenville Youth Pastor is at the meeting on Tuesdays. Other sites get a four day delay for teaching, everything else is live. We aren't centralized yet, but are working on it.

How do you connect students to small group?

Challenge students to it, have a sign up table in the back. We partner younger leaders with veteran leaders for training. Andrew plans and gives curriculum for leaders weekly. The leader determines the small group's location and time.

How accessible are you to the students?

Accessible for certain things, and delegate the others. Whitney helps with the delegating. Try to be very intentional at school lunches. Don't want to hide, just spend time with certain students.

How do you set up school lunches?

Every school administration is different cater to their needs. See how we can serve, not disarm, show that they can trust us. When you visit, identify the students you know, let them know you are coming and get them to own it. Have no agenda, you are doing this to earn relational equity.

How do we get parents involved?

We are available online. Be intentional with them when we see them; for us that is Greeters, Parkers and Small Group Leaders. Small group leaders are particularly encouraged to build relationships with the parents.

How are you teaching and growing small group leaders that are students?

They are required to attend as well as lead. We are working on a feedback system. They participate in monthly gatherings.

Do you know how many Wednesday and Friday students come on Sundays?

We don't know, but like to push them to it or make references to it in messages. We don't want to become a church within in church. We also like to encourage them to serve on Sundays.

How do you keep an environment that is fresh for growth and excellence?

Consistently being in communion with the Lord. Value a culture of change and realize that healthy things grow.

How do you deal with jealousy among students?

Use it as an opportunity to preach and teach. We have to be able to release the fear of them not coming back, that's on the Holy Spirit, Jesus let people walk away.

How strict are you with age groups?

College age is always turned away, that is a slippery slope and we steer clear of it. If a younger student comes we show them grace and have them come back on the right day next time.

How often do we meet with small group leaders?

We have four team leaders, high school guys and girls, and middle school guys and girls. Underneath that there is a leader for each grade over the small group leaders.

What is the time frame for small groups?

We encourage groups to meet outside of Fuse, build relationships. Also encourage leaders to build relationships with students as well as parents.

Do we have transportation to pick up students?

Nothing beyond our leaders.

Do you have a team of teachers?

Not particularly, try to rotate. Many teachers/ordained pastors on staff that have spoken and will speak at Fuse.

Do you have something for college students?

No, and we don't apologize for it. We encourage them to jump in and serve. Community is met in co leading.

Do you have an inside student leadership team?

No, but we identify and encourage leadership in students.

If you have lethargic students and parents how do you spur them on?

Preach from the Word and don't be scared to have people walk away.

How do you protect from burn out?

Time off. Be intentional with Sabbath. Consider what we are here for, advancing the Kingdom!

What percentage of students are in a small group?

Used to be high, but bad for discipleship on program night. It has been changed, so the students sign up now who are hungry for discipleship. Currently 25% of students are in small groups. They have an opportunity every week in the back to sign up.

Do we have a cap on the number of students in each small group?

Depends on the leader. Try to have each leader co lead with someone else. Young leaders paired with veteran leaders. Like to multiply out at 10-12 or once it is unmanageable.

When does your preparation time happen?

A lot of it is at home during time off. Biggest thing is carving out white space with the Lord.

Tell us about Friday night.

Same service as the Wednesday night program, no matter what night you pick there will conflict. We took a risk on Friday night because the Lord led us. Start with chill time, then worship, preaching, and jump off.

What kinds of things are you allowed to do in the schools?  
Do you homework, but really all you can do is visit students and create relational equity.

For more information go to [www.fuseresources.tk](http://www.fuseresources.tk)