

6 Essentials of Leading a JH Cell

1. Quality Meetings		2. Evangelism		3. Follow-Up		4. Mentoring		5. Planning/Prayer		6. Teamwork
Foundation #2: Having the Right Leaders: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Love God (e.g. prayer, Bible, growing, victory over disqualifying sin) 2) Love People (e.g. sharing Christ, committed servant in peer ministry) 										

Foundation #1: The Word of God

1. Quality Meetings

- a. Strong teachings
 - i. Clear content
 - ii. Engaging delivery
 - iii. Appropriate length
- b. Fun activities
 - i. Must have *energy* and *variety*
- c. Relating
 - i. Hang out and have conversations with the students
 - ii. Join in fun activities with them
- d. Discipline
 1. Make sure students are safe—NOTHING dangerous or illegal.
 2. Set a strong, spiritual tone: *"We have fun here, and we're really into following God."*
 3. Most effective: positive reinforcement (catch them being good) and positive relationships
 4. Also necessary: address negative behaviors and attitudes
 1. Address negatives primarily on a spiritual level- have the conversation
 2. Use range of consequences- move seats (light), call parents (medium), suspension (extreme- seek counsel)

Take "Teaching JH Students" class, and see xenos.org/jrhigh/leader-resources for materials on teaching and planning activities

For tips on relating with JH students see attached chapter: "The Relaxed Conversation"

See attached: "Dealing with Discipline"

2. Evangelism

- a. Encourage students to BOTH invite friends AND share the Gospel
- b. Gospel in teachings
 - i. Necessary every time! Might be a new student's only time they'll hear it.
 - ii. Just old members at cell tonight? Give the gospel in a way that makes them wish they brought their non-Christian friends.
 - iii. Use discussion questions/small groups to explore students' conversion stories, and then follow up afterward.
- c. Gospel in conversations: most effective! Includes impromptu and planned opportunities (e.g. car rides).

See 2014 XSI teaching: "Reaching JH Students"

3. Follow Up

- a. Interacting with students
 - i. Get to know the students right away when group starts
 - ii. Warmly welcome new students
- b. Interacting with parents** [2nd Most Commonly Neglected Essential!]
 - i. Get a new students' parent's contact info at their *first* meeting
 - ii. Call parents
 - 1. "We love having _____. Thanks for letting _____ be involved..."
 - 2. Tell them something specific you enjoy about their kid
 - 3. "Do you have any questions about what we do..."
 - 4. "Can we send you our next flyer with upcoming events..."
- c. Mobilize relatively mature students to help welcome new folks: coach, oversee, and give feedback

4. Mentoring

- a. Pre-mentoring Engagement
 - i. Invest in students at cell and prayerfully observe spiritual interest—discern which students show desire to GROW and SERVE (not just comply)
- b. Initiate time spent outside cell meeting** [Most Commonly Neglected Essential!]
 - i. Preferably in a small group
 - ii. Include fun and study
 - iii. Contact parents
- c. Established mentoring
 - i. Weekly or bi-weekly, with prayer, study, counsel, and fun

See attached notes from mentoring workshop and comprehensive paper: "Mentoring in JH Ministry"

5. Planning/Prayer

- a. Pray for all students by name regularly
- b. Regular parent contact: quarterly flyers (email Jenna LaBorde), weekly emails, calling/texting as needed
- c. Plan small events semi-regularly
 - i. As a cell-night activity or another time (great for outreach)
 - ii. Service projects
 - iii. Plan an annual retreat
 - iv. Parent night
- d. Getting students plugged into larger JH opportunities: central teaching, camp, classes, missions trip
- e. Adjust plans as needed

See resources at xenos.org/jrhigh/leader-resources

6. Teamwork

- a. Your leadership team
 - i. Meet regularly: try to cover important but not urgent (mentoring, ethos, etc.)
 - ii. Do as much planning/scheduling as possible over email
 - iii. Senior leaders learn to *delegate* (e.g. stats); co-leaders learn to *initiate*
- b. Your sphere team
 - i. Seek counsel—no question too big or small!
 - ii. Disclosures: ****mandatory**** contact disclosures@xenos.org and copy your senior cell leader and sphere coach within 48 hours if a student discloses anything related to suicidal thoughts, abuse, self-harm, or anything dangerous/illegal, including sexual encounters. Call police/suicide hotline right away for emergencies (e.g. if they have a plan in mind for suicide).