

Ministry Job Description: Volunteer Discipleship Journey Guide

Goal of Position

“So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.” 1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NRSV)

The primary purpose for Discipleship Journey is to provide a safe, warm, and welcoming community where youth get a sense of belonging, are nurtured in their faith, and encouraged to live a life of discipleship. As such, the goal of this position is for guides to be seen as role models in conduct, speech, and attitudes, who are intentional about building relationships with youth as they help facilitate spiritual conversation that will guide youth in their faith formation.

Responsible to

Youth Pastor - Rev. Henry Schenkel

Job Description

The main role for a Discipleship Journey Guide is to build loving and caring relationships with a group of teens and facilitate the effectiveness of group meetings on Sunday mornings after worship. This includes the following:

- Help facilitate and guide the young people through your Discipleship Journey lesson.
- Prepare for each meeting which includes some or all of the following: reading through the weekly email, review the lesson prior to Sunday, consulting with your fellow guides about who will do what each week.
- Cultivating a fun, safe, and welcoming environment in your group where youth can grow in relationship with others and with Jesus Christ.
- Help create an environment that enriches discussions and prayer times.
- Look for ways to develop meaningful relationships with the youth in your group, connecting with them in different settings i.e.: before and after Sunday worship, their extracurricular activities
- Involve group members in decisions about meetings, discussion materials, fun activities etc.
- Seek out the youth who are not participating group and help motivate them to become involved.
- Pray for those in your church and especially for those who are struggling.
- Connect with parents as needed.
- Maintain accurate records of the students in your group.

Time required

Discipleship Journey Guides are required to participate in as many of Discipleship Journey meetings as possible. We meet for Discipleship Journey from the end of September to the end of March with breaks for holidays and school breaks in between. Each guide should read through the weekly email that is sent out on the weeks that we meet to prepare for each meeting. Additionally, we request that leaders take time during the year to connect with members of their small group on a more personal basis, getting to know each student and spending time with them in a meaningful way. On average guides will commit to about 1-2 hrs. per week.

Length of commitment

We typically ask for a multi-year commitment from our Discipleship Journey Guides since effective youth ministry is based upon building quality relationships with our church's young people. This happens with time.

Training Provided

To develop people in their ministry roles, it is important that Discipleship Journey Guides are provided with training so they can lead effectively and feel the support of being part of a team. At the beginning of each season, we will have an orientation meeting. This meeting will especially orient those who are new to this role and refresh those who have been part of a team for a longer period. Additional meetings and/or workshops throughout the season, as well as the weekly

emails, will provide a context for encouragement and additional training. Finally, Pastor Henry is available for one on one meetings, coaching, and support whenever you need it.

Qualifications or special skills

A Discipleship Journey Guide is passionate about relating to students / young people and

- Gives evidence of a sincere commitment to Christ and the Reformed faith
- Is a confessing member of our Church and committed to its values and ministry goals.
- Is a regular attender at Sunday worship at our church.
- Has a good relationship with family and others.
- Has a servant heart and shows spiritual maturity.
- Is a good communicator and listener and has a heart for young people.
- Has a positive attitude and knows how to have fun, laugh, and enjoy life.
- Is flexible and open to what can sometimes be the messiness of youth ministry.
- Has a desire to see spiritual growth and transformation in the youth of your church.
- Is committed to work as a team member with other volunteer Discipleship Journey Guides.
- Commits to participate in training events in order to build capacity for the role.

Lastly, the church is not just a place of worship and where ministry programs happen, but also a place of safety and trust. Parents will want to know that not only are their youth being cared for spiritually, but also that they are in a safe environment. As such, those serving in the Youth Ministry program will be required to provide information for a current background check and be required to go through our Safe Church application process. We will provide you the required forms that you will need to fill out.

Benefits to this position

In your role as a Discipleship Journey Guide, you will likely be challenged in some ways, but you'll also be blessed in abundance. Here are some things you can expect:

- *Develop some wonderful relationships with your Discipleship Journey Team.*
- *Develop some very meaningful relationships with youth from our congregation.*
- *Witness the transformation of lives within your youth group.*
- *Growth in your own faith journey.*
- *Increase the ability to talk about your faith.*
- *Enjoy lots of fun opportunities in the building of relationships with youth.*
- *Joy in seeing God at work through this ministry.*