

The Landing Youth Ministry Vision Statement

Purpose *

*The Landing Youth Ministry (TLYM) aims to partner with parents in raising up young men and women who **savor, strengthen, and spread** hope in Jesus Christ to the glory of God!* This savoring, strengthening, and spreading, is no less than youth who trust in Christ alone for salvation and increasingly treasure Him (Acts 4:12). It means youth are growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ so that they are not carried away by error but instead are equipped for every good work that God has prepared for them (2 Ptr. 3:17-18). It also means youth are becoming more like Christ, motivated by the gospel through the power of the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 3:18).

We believe that youth are the church, not the future of the church. The Bible makes it clear that God does not relegate youth to the sidelines. What we see in the scripture is that God loves to use youth to accomplish His purposes. Mary the mother of Jesus was a teenager. Timothy was called to set an example for the believers as a young man (1 Tim. 4:12). David was called to be king of Israel as a shepherd boy. Paul demonstrates that young people are the church by addresses them specifically in Ephesians 6. Therefore, we will strive to honor youth as a valuable part of the body of Christ. We will intentionally look for ways that youth can use their God-given gifts for the glory of God.

TLYM does not seek to replace or devalue the God given role of parents as the *primary disciples* of their children (Deut. 6:6-7). Rather, we want to come alongside parents in their high calling to raise children in the Lord. We seek to proclaim God accurately and passionately, through His word and the power of the Holy Spirit. We will humbly pray for, encourage, care for, biblically counsel, and seek to be a blessing to youth. TLYM is not a replacement for the essential role of the local church, it is an opportunity for youth to be encouraged in the Lord. TLYM loves God and His gospel and we are unashamedly zealous to make Him the focus of all we do. We invite all 6th through 12th graders to come savor, strengthen, and spread hope in Jesus Christ to the glory of God!**

We are always seeking to sharpen our vision. We desire to keep in step with the Holy Spirit, increasingly aligned with scripture, and be ever more fixed on Christ. If you see ways our vision can be sharpened, we would love to hear from you. Any suggestions will be prayed about and considered by leadership at The Landing.

* TLYM is a ministry of The Landing and gladly under the oversight of The Landing Elders

** Youth do not have to be members or attenders of The Landing to come to TLYM but all are welcome to come to The Landing.

Passions*

God-Centered

Being God-centered implies that all we do is focused on and around God (1 Cor. 10:31). It means everything we do will be saturated in prayer. It means God's Word is taught with serious-joy and the aim of all we do is to awaken and strengthen faith in God in the hearts of all who hear. Being God-centered is no less than people who seek to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, with precision and passion. It means we will seek to grow ever deeper and broader in sound doctrine. It means we will be ever more dependent upon the grace and power of the Holy Spirit so God gets all the glory.

Gospel-Driven

Being gospel-driven means that the gospel will be highlighted in all we do (1 Cor. 15:1-4). It means we will strive to exalt and extend the worth of the Lord Jesus Christ in every heart and to each horizon. It means we will seek the Spirit's work to make us more like Christ in all matters, pleasant and painful. Aware of spiritual warfare, yet not focused on it, we will focus rather upon the bottomless depths of God's love in Christ's substitutionary atonement. We will emphasize a Reformed-covenantal understanding of salvation which is nothing more than a careful understanding of Scripture's whole counsel. It means we will comfort one another with the gospel at every opportunity.

Biblical Teaching

God has spoken to us through His word as recorded in scripture. God's word is inerrant, powerful, and is sufficient for life and godliness (2 Tim. 3:16). We seek to teach God's word faithfully, humbly, clearly, and passionately. We also want to equip youth to understand, apply, and cherish God's word for themselves.**

Faith Family Involvement

God has given His followers the gift of the local church. TLYM is not a replacement for the local church, it is a blessing of the church. At TLYM we want to help youth plug into life at The Landing, provide opportunities to serve and be served, and carry out the many 'one-another' commands given to us in scripture.

Spreading Hope in Christ

God is saving people from every nation, tribe, and tongue, for His glory (Rev 7:9). God graciously uses people (including youth) to accomplish His plan to seek and save the lost. We are eager for youth to be equipped and encouraged to spread the gospel far and wide. We seek to display Christ's love for those in our community by serving their physical needs while not losing focus on everyone's deepest eternal need for Christ.

* These Passions often directly quote The Landing's *Vision For Life Together* document

** If we are ever covering a more mature subject (such as a biblical understanding of romantic relationships, transgender, addiction, etc.), the teacher will email parents their notes before the lesson so that parents can decide whether their student has the maturity to participate.

Gatherings

Weekly

During the school year we have weekly gatherings on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. These weekly gatherings are times to pray with one another, receive teaching from God's word, and encourage one another in the Lord. We also enjoy some games, food, and fellowship at these gatherings.

Events

We plan events throughout the year to grow in our relationships with God and one another. These could be larger events like missions trips, conferences, or smaller events like worship nights, game nights, or holiday parties. Often, though not always, these events include some form of biblical teaching.

Youth Retreats

Youth retreats are short getaways for youth to savor Christ and be strengthened by God's word through the power of the Holy Spirit. Retreats also provide wonderful opportunities to spread hope in Christ to youth who do not know Him. We see retreats as a unique tool that help youth break out of the every day grind and fix their eyes on Christ with one another (Heb. 12:1-2). We are jealous for all our retreats to clearly proclaim and celebrate the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

Discipleship Partners

The Bible calls all believers to the precious task of making disciples (Matt. 28:19). One of the ways we seek to make disciples at TLYM is through discipleship partners. Discipleship partners consist of a youth and adult of the same gender who meet on a regular basis to encourage one another, pray, dig into God's word, give counsel, and grow in the Lord together (Titus 2:1-5). As youth are being discipled they will be strengthened to go and make disciples as the Holy Spirit leads and supplies.

TLYM Adult Leaders

We are so thankful for the wonderful, Christ-loving, adult leaders God has given to TLYM! All adults involved in TLYM view The Landing as their church home and are members or regular attenders. They are living out and growing in the qualities of a deacon as seen in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. All leaders are in joyful agreement with The Landing's statement of faith and go through a background check before serving with youth. If you are interested in being an adult leader, please contact Pastor Andrew Ross.

Curriculum

On Sunday mornings (in youth Sunday school) we go through The Gospel Project. It is a curriculum that walks students through the Bible showing how all of scripture points to Christ.

On Wednesday nights we *mainly* teach through passages of scriptures or work our way through whole books of the Bible. At times we will look at what God's word says about specific topics or doctrines, but the majority of our teaching on Wednesday nights is not topical.

Discipleship partners go through books of the Bible or Christ-centered, age-appropriate, books together to learn from other godly men and women. These books are vetted by the elders of The Landing.

Contact

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