**GCCHM Leadership Certification**

**Level X, Course #1**

**MINISTRY TO BOYS**

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**(Presenter’s Notes)**

**Introduction**

Boys and girls are created differently. Have you ever wondered, “What are the boys thinking?” I am convinced that if we could make that question a personal practice in our churches, we would quickly see the need to make major changes in the way boys are being ministered to.  It should be our mission to evangelize, equip and empower boys to become the next generation of strong and faithful men who will serve God, their families, and their communities.

**Why a Ministry to Boys?**

* Many boys decide around the age of nine to leave church, but it takes a few years before they do.
* Lack of sufficient male role models to encourage long-term relationships with boys that is conducive to their discipleship.
* Boys are very different from girls and we need to tailor our teaching to reach them.

**Scripture Union Survey -- Sept 2009-February 2010**

* SU survey was an online survey.
* A total of 630 responses received.
* 90% of respondents worked with children or young people in church-related activities.
* Under half worked with a mix group of boys and girls; 25% worked with mix group with girls in majority; 23% with a mix but with boys in majority; 7% work just with boys.

**SU Survey Results**

* Boys need more active approach to activities
* Boys need positive role models
* Boys need male leaders to mentor and foster spiritual growth

**8 out of 10 Agree with the Following**

* Leaders should try to understand the world in which boys live day by day.
* A supportive team spirit and training opportunities help build a strong leadership team.
* Leaders of all ages, including older leaders, are valuable in boys’ ministries.
* Leaders working with boys need to do so on a regular basis and be highly committed to building relationships.
* Boys are looking for positive male role models.
* Younger boys benefit in seeing the spiritual development of older boys who serve as their role models.

Boys need a positive role model at home and in the church. Fathers who model true Christian virtues to their sons will have a strong impact on their lives. Sabbath School teachers, youth leaders and pastors all play a role in inspiring the boys to emulate them in their faith.

Notice Ellen White recognizes such important role models in our church:

**Ellen White, *Christian Leadership, p. 23.***

“The ministers of Christ are to be examples to the flock. He who fails to direct his own household is not qualified to guide the church of God.”

* Boys value having a specific role that uses their individual gifts.
* Small groups encourage trust and openness so vital for the spiritual growth of boys.
* Boys prefer variety in activities with information given in small chunks.
* Boys like sport activities.
* An integrated program where group activity provides leaders with the opportunity to speak about God is more effective than one single ‘God slot’.

**Needs of Teenage Guys**

**(Teenage Guys by Steve Gerali)**

1. **They need to be known and understood** – how they develop, think and feel, their fears and joys. We must know about adolescence and masculinity if we really want to meet this need in guys.
2. **They need a close connection to God** – have a deep internal spiritual sensitivity but must taste for themselves & see that God is good.
3. **They need validation and empowerment as unique individuals** – don’t stereotype them. Empower them to be all that God wants them to be.
4. **They need community** -- clan-oriented. They need the closeness of other men who act as a compass for their manhood. If they cannot be intimate with the masculine on a tangible level, then they cannot become intimate with an invisible God whom they perceive as predominantly masculine in nature.
5. **They need mentors** – mentors proclaim to them they ‘re valuable and worthy of investment.
6. **They need to know how to work** – culture defines their value by their contribution. Hard work helps them develop responsibility and sense of purpose that ultimately plugs into the Kingdom purpose of bringing glory to God.
7. **They need to lead and to follow** –
8. **They need to play** – innate need for the hunt, for competition, or for adventure.
9. **They need the freedom to BE** -- they often question their identify because they are squeezed into the cultural mold of masculinity.
10. **They need to be loved** – often they confuse love with sex. Men who demonstrate Christ’s love to teenage boys break that sexual connection they tend to form between being and needing love. They need to be loved as a means of fulfilling their deepest emotions and understanding that they’re valuable.

The Apostle Paul reminds all young people, boys and girls, to live a life that exemplifies a true disciple of Jesus which will help meet their needs.

**1 Timothy 4:12**

*“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example*

*for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”*

**According to Tim Beilharz, CHM Advisor for Anglican Youthworks**

**Boys Need 4 Types of Relationships**

* **The father** figures – older fathers of the church who lead and guide them. (Many families today have absentee fathers. Mothers are left to raise the children all by themselves without a father figure at home. Hence, these boys did not have a father to show them how to deal with life, how to make good choices, how to treat a woman, etc.
* **The mentors –** lead & disciple them. (Boys can benefit from other males who mentor them to grow in their spiritual journey as well as equipping and empowering them with leadership skills to serve the church and community.
* **The peers –** friends who inspire, encourage them to grow in Jesus. (Strong Christian peers play a major role in influencing boys in their walk with Jesus and in making wise choices.)
* **The younger guys –** boys are leading the younger ones who look up to them. (Boys can be given responsibilities to teach younger boys in Sabbath Schools, or serve as counselor in Pathfinders for the younger ones look up to them,

**To Minister to Boys, Ask Yourself These Questions**

* **Can They Move?** --in order for boys to learn, they have to move. Attention span is 1 min per age of the child.
* **Is it fun?** – Bible stories can be fun.
* **Is there adventure?** -- adventure is a basic need for the male learner. The Bible is filled with stories of amazing adventure.
* **Is nature involved?** --use natural items from outside to teach. Boys love outdoors.
* **Are you training male teachers and leaders?** – boys need men teachers to provide a positive role model. Train them and challenge them to lead in the ministry.
* **\*Are you being a positive role model for boys?** – in 1 Cor. 4:16 Paul says, “Therefore I urge you, imitate me.” Are you living your life as a leader that would make a boy think about imitating you or being like you? This is the true test of leadership.

**Royal Rangers Ministry’s 7 Experiences for Boys**

* Connect with a community of Christlike men
* Do fun things together
* Grow in Christlike manhood
* Learn in interactive ways
* Belong to something big
* Lead yourself and others
* Serve God, your family, church, and community

**In Conclusion**

* Focus attention on the needs in your church.
* Make sure the needs of boys are being considered.
* Make sure that men are given a chance to minister to boys in church activities as to equip them to lead and mentor younger ones.

***“There is no such thing as a bad boy – just a bored one!”***

**References**

* **Ken Hindman, *Ministering to Boys.***

<https://www.preaching.com/leadership/ministering-to-boys/>

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* **Tim Beilharz, Helping Our Boys Become Godly Men.**

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* **Royal Rangers Ministry for Boys.** <https>[://royalrangers.](https://royalrangers.com/)com