

# Selling the Vision to Church Leaders Meeting

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- Theme:** Our purpose with service
- Scripture:** Luke 13:18-19
- Objective:** Interact with your church leaders about the value of mission and service experiences as a central focus of your youth ministry.
- Materials:** For the meeting, you'll need...
1. Large potted plant (not a fake)
  2. The Group Workcamps Foundation "Life Changing Mission Trips" DVD. (We recommend you use the "short" version of the appropriate video introduction to your project).
  3. Device for playing the DVD.
  4. Description of your mission trip detailing the scope of your project. (You can use materials from the [www.groupworkcamps.com](http://www.groupworkcamps.com) website that are specific to your project)
  5. Bible
  6. Your fundraising plan (go to [www.groupworkcamps.com//essentials/resources/](http://www.groupworkcamps.com//essentials/resources/)) for great ideas. If you have trouble developing your plan, please call us for help!
  7. Additional support materials (optional – see below)

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Be BRIEF in your presentation. Being brief is almost as important as what you have to say!**

## **Introduction:** *The plant and ministry*

**Say:** I brought this plant with me to this meeting because it is a metaphor for our youth ministry.

**Ask:** In what ways is our youth ministry like growing a plant? Give some time for them to come up with some answers... they may say things like:

"It is growing."

"It is alive."

"You need to provide care – water, sunlight, etc."

**Say:** You're all right – the youth of our church are like tender plants that need nourishment, care, protection and more. But that's not what I'm thinking. I brought this plant because it is a great example of the core philosophy of our ministry – Mission and Service.

**Read:** Luke 13:18-19

**Say:** Jesus is clear that God's Kingdom starts small, like a mustard seed, but it miraculously grows to something quite large and impressive – because God causes the growth! Any act of service in Jesus' name may be small, but God makes incredible things happen in the heart and life of the one who serves AND in the one who is served! As the youth leader, I am in gardening business... Helping our kids plant seeds that become impressive plants in God's Kingdom!

**Say:** The youth of our church are a valuable investment. Their lives are being formed by many different pieces of our culture – schools, internet, friends, coffee shops, and.... our church’s youth ministry. They have many choices before them as they shape their future, and we want to provide them with the beliefs and experiences that will serve them well over the course of their lifetime. That’s why it is so important for us to invest in their lives through providing service opportunities for them.

**(Note: The following “talking points” can be used to further explain your description of your philosophy of ministry and service – use what is helpful or skip to the program description).**

Service is the strategic means we use to develop important characteristics in the lives of our kids.... We design our ministry to:

- **Produce other centered students.** When our kids serve, they become aware of the need in our community and world. Their eyes are opened to how they can provide a key service that will make a meaningful difference in the life of another person. As a result, they grow in their faith because they see God’s work as it is produced their own hands. They become less focused on their own needs and concerns.
- **Produce lifelong Christ followers.** As they begin to see the result of their service and become aware of God’s empowerment, they are much more likely to establish a lasting commitment to faith in Christ. They have a valuable experience in God’s greater purposes and can see how their life fits into what He is doing in the world.
- **Produce lifelong commitment to the church.** As our kids gain experience in service, they will also see the importance of the Christian community. They are more likely to see the church as an important part of their life through adulthood.

- **Mission and Service Trips – key strategies for growth....**

We have discovered that service experiences through Group Workcamps are effective for producing the changed lives I’ve just talked about. GWF has a long and excellent history of crafting and providing service opportunities for Youth Groups. We have chosen to participate in the following project:

- Project specifics...
  1. Briefly describe the project – (print the description page for your specific project off the website [www.groupworkcamps.com](http://www.groupworkcamps.com)) and give each person a copy of the description.
  2. It may be helpful to show a portion of the Group Workcamps DVD (use the short version!)

We see this mission experience as an important part of our ministry to the kids of our church. It is more than a short term service experience, it is a life-changing, life-enhancing, life-sustaining pathway to a change of their lives! This experience will take them out of their comfort zone, will get their focus off of themselves, will give them some “miracle grow” for their faith...

1. More than service – life change!
2. Getting out of comfort zone
3. Building relational bridges to those they serve

➤ Fundraising plan...

It is important for you to be able to articulate how you propose to raise the funds to pay for the project. There are many fundraising ideas (including many that don't include asking people in the church for more money!) at the [www.groupworkcamps.com](http://www.groupworkcamps.com) website (insert the link here)

We humbly ask for your support of this project as we see this opportunity to be an important part of the ministry we provide to the youth of our church.

***Outline for presentation***

- The plant and ministry
  - Luke 13:18-19
  - Even the smallest service done for Jesus produces great results
- Mission and Service – the philosophy for our Youth Ministry
  - Produce other centered students
  - Produce lifelong Christ followers
  - Produce lifelong commitment to the church
- Mission and Service Trips – key strategies for growth....
  - Presentation of the project
  - Details of project
  - Fundraising plan
  - Ask for support