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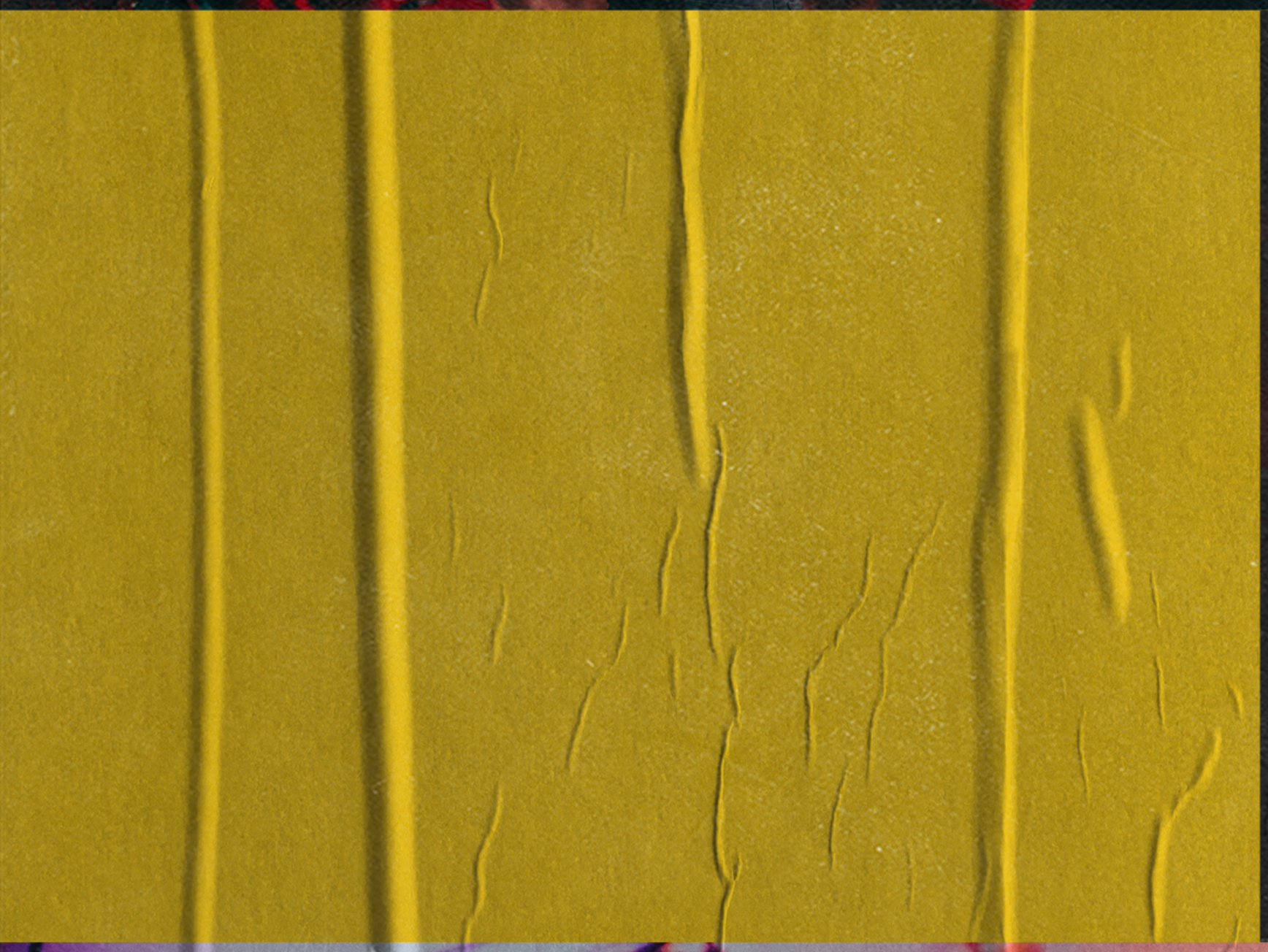
LEADERS HANDBOOK

IKON CHURCH



WELCOME

to IKON Youth, the youth ministry of IKON Church. Thank you for committing the next year to building IKON Youth.

It's a great privilege to serve the next generation and we take that privilege seriously. We appreciate your desire to leading this generation and making a positive impact on their lives.

It's really important that you understand all that you're committing too upfront and know that there are certain expectations we place upon you in regards to the way you live and conduct yourself as a leader.

This handbook exists to empower you to make wise choices as a leader and protect you and our Church from any unwanted situations. This handbook should form the basis upon which you lead in our youth ministry.

By becoming a leader, you are agreeing to conduct yourself according to this handbook. If you have any questions, concerns or issues with what is contained in this handbook, please speak to one of the youth pastors about them.

As we now reach hundreds of young people each week through our youth ministry, the need for transparency, integrity, excellence and accountability has increased.

The purpose of this handbook is not to take the fun and excitement out of what we do as youth leaders, but to create a place where we can do what we do best over the long-run, which is radically impacting young people's lives in a passionate and exciting way.

We pray that your journey of leadership within IKON Youth is fruitful and rewarding and that together we can have a huge impact on this generation.

Love,
Nathan & Debbie Benger Youth Pastors

IKON VALUES

GENEROUS

We give and we give again
(As IKON youth leaders that means we give financially every Friday, we have a regular giving plan into the life of the Church, when working we tithe and we are generous towards young people)

CREATIVE

We always find a way
(As IKON youth leaders that means we never just bring problems but always solutions, we don't have excuses, we always find new ways to present Jesus to this generation)

POSITIVE

We believe and speak the best
(As IKON youth leaders that means we get rid of gossip, slander and malice from our mouths, we big people up to their face and even more so being their back, we honour leadership and create environments that are positive)

EMPOWERING

We give away responsibility
(As IKON youth leaders that means we're not here for a task but to raise leaders. So we recruit, raise up and release young people over and over again)

PASSIONATE

We go all in because it really matters
(As IKON youth leaders that means we are vocal, setting an atmosphere of passion. We go wild & crazy in worship, we respond to the speaker and we throw ourselves all in. What crazy things are you willing to do, so young people have a good time?)

COMMITMENTS OF IKON YOUTH LEADERS

DIE TO FRIDAYS

Friday nights are a non negotiable. Every Friday we turn up on time, engaged and prepared because we know what we do on Fridays matters. We are committed for the next year to turn up every Friday.

EXIST TO BUILD IKON CHURCH

We don't exist to build our little area of IKON Church, but we exist to build the Church. We at least serve one and sit one on Sundays and we encourage young people to do the same. We make sure we leave every room/area of church better than we found it. We attend all leaders meetings that we are required to attend. We are committed for the next year to at least sit one and serve one in Church, attending all midweek meetings.

TEAM IS THE MOST IMPORTANT

The team we are apart of is bigger than the part we play. So if it's good for the team we do it, if it's not, we don't. We believe in our team and everyone on that team. We are committed for the next year to attend all leaders meetings.

THROUGH THE ROOF

We are willing to do whatever it takes, from cleaning toilets to leading worship, from putting out chairs to speaking on stage. We recognise that we need it all, but we go the extra mile, making sure it's the best. We are committed for the next year to turn up to serve in whatever area I am asked to.

REPLACE YOURSELF

We are not precious about our role or position but are always looking to replace ourselves. We recognise to reach hundreds of young people we need many people taking responsibility. So we RECRUIT, RAISE UP & RELEASE constantly. We are committed for the next year to replace myself 3 times.

I AM FAT

We are always Faithful, Available and Teachable. No one has to question this. I am always on time, willing to do whatever and grow through feedback. I give permission to my youth pastors to give formal and spontaneous feedback. We are committed for the next year to grow through feedback.

WHY IS YOUTH IMPORTANT?

It’s the main place young people make a decision:

86% of christians make a decision before the age of 25, and of that number 85% before the age of 18. We are called to reach a generation with the message of Jesus.

It’s where discipleship happens best:

Jesus didn’t call us to make solo christians, he called us to make disciples, plural. This happens best in the context of community and an atmosphere of faith. This is why we lead young people to being at youth every week, to be in connect and to serve.

Young People are built for the future:

Our message is one that is not limited by present circumstance but an incredible future with Jesus. In the presence of Jesus, under His word and being called to greater is how this happens.

This is family:

We build environments of grace and not judgement. Anyone is welcome and we make sure they know they are. YOU BELONG HERE is our mantra to anyone and everyone.

6 THINGS EVERY YOUTH LEADER DOES

1. PRAY FOR YOUR YOUTH

2. CREATE MEMORABLE MOMENTS

3. CONTACT WEEKLY

4. CELEBRATE SPECIAL OCCASIONS

5. ENCOURAGE SPIRITUAL GROWTH

6. CONNECT THEM TO CHURCH

WHAT WE BUILD

RELATIONSHIP X3

RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

When a young person arrives at youth, they are assigned a connect group and through that connect we facilitate them building relationships. Hang times are vital for these and so as leaders we make sure this is happening. We spot those on the fringes and get them involved. Through our connect chats we also encourage interaction between young people.

RELATIONSHIP WITH A LEADER

As leaders we build great relationships with our young people, we utilise hang times to there maximum and are never found in leader cliques. Our connect chats are places of building relationships, information and regular contact. Once a week won't cut it with this generation

RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

This is our ultimate. We want young people to experience the life changing power of the gospel and grow in relationship with Jesus. Our environments are ones of no judgement and are places where young people can belong before they believe. We encourage constantly bible reading, prayer and attending church on all occasions.

LIFESTYLE COMMITMENTS

- As a leader you are expected to live by a moral standard that is an example to our young people that helps you live a life that is beyond reproach.

- Wisdom and example in social activities

- Maintaining sexual purity both personally and in relationships

- To maintain Biblical integrity in your work, business, friendships and family

- To abide by the laws of our nation

- To pursue spiritual growth at all times and have a daily habit of spending time in prayer and the Word of God

- To have an honest accountability relationship with someone in leadership who is able to encourage you to keep growing and changing.

In relation to alcohol consumption we ask you to use your wisdom and remember that as a leader, you're an ambassador for Christ and the Church at every moment. Here are some guidelines to help with your decision making:

- Leaders should not drink in the presence of young people under the age of 18

- Leaders must not consume alcohol at any church related event including Connect Groups.

- Leaders should drink responsibly and in moderation, if they choose to drink

- Whenever unsure of anything, make sure to ask your youth pastors

CULTURAL COMMITMENTS

Here's things we say and do. This builds the atmosphere where God is at home and young people are at home.

YTH OWN THE FRONT

We are always at the front. This is not just a positional commitment but a cultural commitment. During the message we engage and encourage the speaker. We take notes with a notepad and pen, as young people can not question what we are doing.

WILD & CRAZY

During worship we are wild and crazy. We give our all because Jesus gave his all for us. When worship leaders encourage us to raise our hands, sing louder etc... we are first in wildly and crazily. No one can question what we are passionate about.

LANGUAGE IS KEY

Our language is so important what we say and the way we say it is vital. Here's some things we don't say and some things we do say a lot.

DON'T SAY	DO SAY
I'm just a volunteer	I'm a leader, which means I take responsibility
I have to be here	I get to be here
I have to do it	I get to do it
My connect	Our conncet
My Church	Our Church
It's great to have you with us	It's great to be together
Young people don't do that	We've not learned to lead young people to do that yet, but we will

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