

# Welcome to Apex Campus

## STUDENT MINISTRY TRAINING DAY!

Youth Ministry is changing all the time, but one thing remains a constant - **healthy volunteers are the backbone of a healthy youth ministry!**

YOU are so very important to our church, the youth ministry, families, and the teenagers you connect with. **THANK YOU** for what you do and for being the type of leader who is open to training with a heart to learn!

As a volunteer, the impact you make on teenager's life is immeasurable. We realize that quantifying your impact on a young life isn't always something you can see, feel, or realize right away. ... right? Teenagers aren't the best at assuring you with the positive feedback and tons of encouragement and always thanking you for the difference you're making in their lives. We get it!

We also get you too ... and we've been around youth ministry long enough to know that teenagers NEED caring adults like yourself to come alongside them. **We also know that God IS and CAN do amazing things through your willingness to follow Jesus and serve teenagers.**

We're thrilled to provide you with training today from some of the most wonderful and experienced youth workers. There is a lot of wisdom and experience represented sharing their hearts and content with you. This group we've assembled is passionate in their love for Jesus and their love and concern for volunteers like you. Obviously, we can't cover all the issues that you'll face this year, but we're covering enough to equip you for ministry to teenagers!

So, welcome to a time of incredible training, we're very grateful you're here!



Justin Thompson  
APX HSM Pastor

Justin Thompson



Jay Reynolds  
APX MSM Pastor

Jay Reynolds

# WHEN INTERRUPTIONS BECOME MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

## Oza Jones Jr.

Director, African American Ministries Texas Baptists



Oza is a gifted communicator of the gospel message with extensive Pastoral, Evangelism, Student, and Community Ministry experience. He serves as the Director of African American Ministries for The Texas Baptists Convention with over 1,000 African American Church Affiliations. He also serves as the Director of WAVE, a student conference. It is unequivocally clear that Oza seeks to see a WAVE of the gospel saturate the world for the Kingdom of God. Oza resides in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area with his wife of 23 years, Shamecca, and their five children: Macaiah, Malachi, Majesty, Melody, and Micah.

Jesus **EMBRACED** the interruptions of life as opportunities to do ministry.



Crowd of Onlookers vs. Crew of Onboarders

“Interruptions give birth to innovation.”



The key to overcoming interruptions in ministry is to be **innovative** and **find another way!**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

With all discussion times you can talk about whatever is most helpful to your group. Here are some potential questions to choose from:

- 1 - What is your usual response to interruptions in life and ministry?
- 2 - Can you recall a moment when an interruption resulted in a ministry opportunity? What was that like for you?
- 3 - How do you balance sticking to plans with being flexible for interruptions?

# THE POWER OF ASKING QUESTIONS

**Sean McDowell**

*Author, Speaker and Professor*



Dr. Sean McDowell is a gifted communicator with a passion for equipping the church, and in particular young people, to make the case for the Christian faith. Sean is an Associate Professor in the Christian Apologetics program at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University. Sean still teaches high school students, giving him exceptional insight into the prevailing culture so he can impart his observations poignantly to fellow educators, pastors, and parents. Sean is the author, co-author, or editor of over twenty books including *Chasing Love*, *The Fate of the Apostles*, and *So The Next Generation Will Know* (with J. Warner Wallace). In April 2000, Sean married his high school sweetheart, Stephanie. They have three children and live in San Juan Capistrano, California.

## WHY ARE QUESTIONS SO VITAL?

1. Questions help students think.
2. Questions help surface the question beneath the question.
3. Remember that God uses questions with us!
4. Know that questions bring clarity.

## HOW DO WE BECOME BETTER QUESTION-ASKERS?

1. **Learn** from Jesus and Paul's example in Scripture.
2. **Follow** people who ask good questions.

*"What do you think?"*

*"How did that make you feel?"*

*"Can you tell me more about that?"*



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

With all discussion times you can talk about whatever is most helpful to your group. Here are some potential questions to choose from:

- 1 - How do you typically handle students' challenging questions?
- 2 - What are some ways that you can "draw out" the question beneath the question?
- 3 - Reflect on and answer the questions that Sean asked at the conclusion of the training:
  - a) What are the best questions anyone has ever asked you?
  - b) How can you become the kind of person that students will come to you with their questions?

# EFFECTIVE UP-CLOSE DISCIPLESHIP

**Jessica Sanchez**

20+ year Veteran  
Youth Worker



Jessica has been serving the local church for over 20 years in a variety of roles in children's, youth, and adult ministry. Her deepest joy is found in empowering, ministering to, and caring for leaders in the church. She's on the Download Youth Ministry team, a volunteer small group leader at her church, and a spiritual director.

**EFFECTIVE DISCIPLESHIP** is about being formed into the likeness of Christ, not simply about being informed about the life of Christ.

1. **SPEND TIME** with teenagers outside structured youth group meetings.

*All different types of deposits, made over the course of time, will earn you the right to speak into the life of a teenager.*



## A FEW IDEAS:

- Embracing Zoom and Facetime.
- Add everything to your calendar.
- Invite teenagers into the most ordinary parts of your life.

2. **SHARE** your own discipleship journey with them.

- Share your own experience first.
- Ask them for prayer.
- Tell them about what God is doing in your life right now.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

With all discussion times you can talk about whatever is most helpful to your group. Here are some potential questions to choose from:

1 - What are some ways you could invest in the lives of students outside of structured youth group meetings, given your current life circumstances?

2 - What is a "small deposit" you can make in a student's life this week?

3 - How might you integrate sharing your own faith journey into your interactions with teenagers without making the conversation about yourself?