

Youth Ministry and Discipline

by Doug Fields

Training Notes

Discipline is part of being a disciple

Three principles to help you discipline with truth and grace while having a positive relationship with teenagers

- 1. Let students know you believe in them and that you expect appropriate behavior**
- 2. Communicate clearly**
- 3. Enforce lovingly**

? Reflection questions:

To get the most out of your online video experience we encourage you to take some time to answer the following questions:

- What's the most difficult part of discipline for you? Why?
- On a scale of 1-10 how do you feel about taking disciplinary actions? (1= don't mind at all, 10=I hate it & avoid at all costs).
- If I discipline a teenager for his/her actions, I will be labeled as the mean leader." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?
- Doug said, "You can't be a disciple of Jesus without having a sense of discipline in your life. So, you're actually helping that teenager grow spiritually when you use effective discipline." What do you think of that statement? Have you ever thought about discipleship and discipline going hand-in-hand?
- What are some practical ways that your youth ministry can establish an expectation of appropriate behavior? Give 3 specific examples:
- How would you best the following phrase to a brand new youth ministry leader: "you don't want a lot of rules and you don't want to waste rules."
- What is an example of a youth ministry situation (that you've experienced) that requires one-on-one attention/conversation?
- In order to enforce lovingly, Doug taught about (1) not embarrassing a student, and (2) following-up with encouragement and affirmation. Which of these two actions is most difficult for you and why?
- Finish this sentence: "Teenagers need your loving discipline in their journey toward becoming a disciple because..."



If you'd like to receive a DYMU certificate at the end of this course, be sure to answer the questions online.

💬 Talk it over:

- Consider sharing what you've learned with others.
- Process this information with another leader on your team.
- Write out specific questions you want to ask someone on your leadership team.
- Leave a comment in the space below the video window and engage with other DYMU participants.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Doug Fields

Doug Fields is most well known for his longevity in youth ministry (30+ years as a youth pastor) and the award-winning book Purpose Driven Youth Ministry—which is a youth ministry textbook translated in over 20 languages and used all over the world. He's also the author of 60+ books, including Your First 2 Years in Youth Ministry and Speaking To Teenagers. He's the co-founder of DownloadYouthMinistry.com where he currently spends his time creating resources like this for people like you.