

The Landing Youth Ministry Vision Statement

Our Purpose ¹

*The Landing Youth Ministry (TLYM) exists to partner with parents in raising up young men and women who **savor, strengthen, and spread** their hope in Jesus Christ to the glory of God!* This savoring, strengthening, and spreading, is no less than youth who trust in Christ alone for salvation and increasingly treasure Him (Acts 4:12). It means we desire to see youth growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ so that they will not be carried away by error but instead are equipped for every good work that God has prepared for them (2 Ptr. 3:17-18). It also means we long to see youth become more like Christ, motivated by the gospel, through the power of the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 3:18).

Why do we have a ministry for youth?

Youth need the gospel just as all people do! Also, the Bible makes it clear that God does not relegate youth to the sidelines; just the opposite is true: God loves to use youth to accomplish His purposes! Mary, the mother of Jesus, was a teenager. Timothy was called to set an example for believers as a young man (1 Tim. 4:12). David was called to be king of Israel as a shepherd boy (1 Sam 16). Paul demonstrates that young people are part of the church by addressing them specifically in Ephesians 6. Therefore, we will strive to honor youth as a valuable part of the body of Christ. We will intentionally look for ways that youth can use their God-given gifts for the glory of God.

What about the role of parents in their youth's life?

TLYM does not seek to replace or devalue the God-given role of parents as the *primary disciples* of their children (Deut. 6:6-7). Rather, we want to come alongside parents in their high calling to raise children in the Lord. We seek to proclaim God accurately and passionately, through His word and the power of the Holy Spirit. We will humbly pray for, encourage, care for, biblically counsel, and seek to be a blessing to youth. TLYM is not a replacement for the essential role of the local church; it is an opportunity for youth to be encouraged in the Lord. TLYM loves God and His gospel and we are zealous to make Him the focus of all we do. We invite all 6th through 12th graders to come savor, strengthen, and spread hope in Jesus Christ to the glory of God! ²

¹ TLYM is a ministry of The Landing and gladly under the oversight of The Landing Elders

² Youth do not have to be members or attenders of The Landing to come to TLYM but all are welcome to come to The Landing.

Passions ³

God-Centered

Being God-centered implies that all we do is focused on and around God (1 Cor. 10:31). Being God-centered is no less than people who seek to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, with precision and passion. It means everything we do will be saturated in prayer. It means God's Word is taught with serious-joy and the aim of all we do is to awaken and strengthen faith in God in the hearts of all who hear. It means we will seek to grow ever deeper and broader in sound doctrine. It means we will be ever more dependent upon the grace and power of the Holy Spirit so God gets all the glory.

Gospel-Driven

Being gospel-driven means that the gospel will be highlighted in all we do (1 Cor. 15:1-4). We will proclaim the bottomless depths of God's love in Christ's death on the cross and resurrection in the place of sinners like us. It means we will strive to exalt and extend the worth of the Lord Jesus Christ in every heart. It means we will seek the Spirit's work to make us more like Christ in all matters, pleasant and painful. We will seek to comfort one another with the gospel at every opportunity. We emphasize a Reformed-covenantal understanding of salvation which is nothing more than a careful understanding of Scripture's whole counsel.

Biblical Teaching

God has spoken to us through His word as recorded in Scripture. God's word is inerrant, powerful, and is sufficient for life and godliness (2 Tim. 3:16). We seek to teach God's word faithfully, humbly, clearly, and passionately. We also want to equip youth to understand, apply, and cherish God's word for themselves.⁴

Faith Family Involvement

God has given His followers the gift of the local church. TLYM is not a replacement for the local church, it is a blessing of the church. At TLYM we want to help youth plug into the broader life at The Landing, provide opportunities to serve and be served, and carry out the many 'one-another' commands given to us in scripture.

Spreading Hope in Christ

God is saving people from every nation, tribe, and tongue, for His glory (Rev 7:9). God graciously uses people (including youth) to accomplish His plan to seek and save the lost. We are eager for youth to be equipped and encouraged to spread the gospel far and wide. We seek to display Christ's love for those in our community by serving their physical needs while not losing focus on everyone's deepest eternal need for Christ.

³ These passions are taken from and often quote The Landing's *Vision For Life Together* document by Pastor Brent Nelson.

⁴ ** If we are ever covering a more mature subject (such as a biblical understanding of romantic relationships, sexuality, addiction, etc.), the teacher will email parents their notes before teaching so that parents can decide whether their student should participate.

Gatherings

Weekly

During the school year we have weekly gatherings on Wednesday nights⁵ and Sunday mornings. These weekly gatherings are times to receive teaching from God's word, pray with one another, and encourage one another in the Lord. We also enjoy games, food, and fellowship.

Large and Small Events

We plan events throughout the year to grow in our relationships with God and one another. There are larger events like retreats and smaller events like game nights.

Youth Retreats

Youth retreats are short getaways for youth to savor Christ and be strengthened by God's word through the power of the Holy Spirit. We see retreats as a unique tool that help youth break out of the every day grind and fix their eyes on Christ (Heb. 12:1-2). Retreats are great opportunities to spread our hope in Christ, all of our retreats will include clear proclamations of the gospel. (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

Discipleship Partners⁶

The Bible calls all believers to the precious task of making disciples (Matt. 28:19). One of the ways we seek to make disciples at TLYM is through discipleship partners. Discipleship partners consist of a youth and adult (young men with men and young women with women) who meet on a regular basis to encourage one another, pray, dig into God's word, give counsel, and grow in the Lord together (Titus 2:1-5).

TLYM Adult Leaders

We are so thankful for the wonderful adult leaders God has given to TLYM! All adults involved in TLYM are part of the faith family at The Landing as members or regular attenders. They are living-out and growing-in the qualities of a deacon as seen in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. All leaders are in joyful agreement with The Landing's statement of faith. They also go thorough a background check. If you are interested in being an adult leader, please contact our youth and family discipleship pastor Andrew Ross.

⁵ Wednesday Nights continue through the summer, take the month of August off, and continue again in September.

⁶ Discipleship partners are not pushed on anyone but are available for those who want to pursue 1 on 1 discipleship

TLYM Curriculum

On Sunday mornings (in youth Sunday school), we have been using a curriculum by Truth78, which is also used in our children's Sunday school classes.

On Wednesday nights, we *mainly* work our way through whole books of the Bible. We go through an Old Testament book for the first half of the year and a New Testament book in the second half. At times, we will look at what God's word says about specific topics or doctrines, but the majority of our teaching on Wednesday nights is not topical.

Discipleship partners go through books of the Bible or Christ-centered, age-appropriate books together to learn from other godly men and women. These books are vetted by the elders of The Landing.

We are always seeking to sharpen our vision. We want our vision to remain faithful to scripture, keep in step with the Holy Spirit, and be abundantly clear. If you see ways our vision can be sharpened, we would love to hear from you. Suggestions will be considered by leadership at The Landing.

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