

What Is Next in Ministry?

Commit your activities to the Lord, and your plans will be established. *Proverbs 16:3*

Recognizing and supporting the way that God has called our teens to ministry is an amazing step in each of their spiritual journeys. It's essential for us to affirm these callings, since realizing that God has called them can be profound and life-changing. Encourage them to take intentional steps toward exploring, understanding, and fulfilling this call. Remind them that the path to ministry is as much about personal and spiritual development as it is about acquiring knowledge and skills. Be supportive but also help them to approach this journey with humility and a willingness to learn and grow.

➤ conversation starter

It's inspiring to hear you feel called to ministry. What are some of your thoughts and feelings about the next steps you'd like to take?

How can I support you in this journey? Are there specific areas where you're seeking guidance?

➤ navigating the conversation:

- **Discuss Education and Training:** Talk about the importance of theological education and training. Look into Bible colleges, seminaries, and ministry training programs that align with their calling.
- **Encourage Mentorship:** Suggest finding a mentor in ministry. A mentor can provide invaluable guidance, support, and practical advice through lived experiences.
- **Explore Different Ministry Areas:** Encourage teens to explore different areas of ministry to understand where they feel most called. This could include youth ministry, pastoral work, missions, worship, and more.
- **Gain Practical Experience:** Discuss the value of gaining practical experience in ministry settings, such as volunteering in church.
- **Focus on Spiritual Growth:** Emphasize the importance of personal spiritual growth and developing a strong foundation in faith and biblical knowledge.
- **Build a Support Network:** Encourage teens to build a network of support within your church. This network can offer encouragement, advice, and opportunities to serve.
- **Encourage Patience and Discernment:** Remind teens that discerning and preparing for ministry can take time and should be approached with prayerful consideration.
- **Explore Financial Planning:** Discuss practical aspects, such as financial planning for education or training in ministry.
- **Pray Together:** Offer to pray with them regularly for guidance, wisdom, and provision in their pursuit of ministry.
- **Stay Open to God's Leading:** Encourage an openness to how God may lead, even if it takes them in unexpected directions.
- **Research Opportunities:** Help them research opportunities for young people in ministry, including internships, mission trips, or youth leader roles.
- **Encourage Church Engagement:** Being active in the local church can provide practical insights into ministry life and responsibilities.
- **Trust God:** You might not sense the same calling in your teens as they do. Be patient and trust that God will call and equip them as He desires.

