

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR STUDENTS

Encouraging teenagers to embrace the long-term benefits of holistic Christian activities that foster healthy lifestyle outcomes is challenging. The values of today's youth are focused on the short-sightedness of immediate gratification, with little regard of the long-term consequences of spontaneous and often harmful choices. Furthermore, the ideals of society advocate that the pleasures of life are to be obtained in the present without a critique of their values or consequences thereof.

At Trinity International College, we are not unmindful of this prevalent mindset among children and teenagers alike. However because we are obliged to meeting the spiritual and moral needs of our students, we have over the years develop creative ways of presenting the undiluted truth of God's Word to them within the ambit and comfort of teen-culture.

How do we help our students grow spiritually?

Here is a list of **four spiritual habits** we have developed to help our students grow spiritually. Here they are . . .

1. SPEND TIME WITH GOD

Spending time with God is a big part of growing spiritually, but it's not the whole picture. That's why it's just the *first* of *four* spiritual habits.

Spending time with God may not be the *only* spiritual habit that exists, but it's still a pretty important one. We motivate our students to make their faith their own. They are taught to learn the importance of opening the Bible on their own, having conversations with God on their own, and discovering how they best connect with God through worship on their own.

They are also equipped Daily Devotionals with which they observe their quiet time every morning.

HOW DO WE HELP OUR STUDENTS SPEND TIME WITH GOD?

- **They are mandated to have a Bible.** Preferably one written in words they can understand preferably NLT, the NIV, The Message, or Revised Standard Version. They're all written in language that's easy to read, easy to understand, and easy to remember.
- **Help them memorize Scripture.** Students might be good at memorizing movie quotes, song lyrics, and whatever, but memorizing Scripture probably doesn't come quite as naturally. That's why it's so helpful for us to give our student simple practical tools for memorizing Scripture.
- **Teach them to pray.** At Trinity, we *model* conversations with God and *teach* them how to have conversations of their own. So regularly pray out loud with your students, teach them about prayer, and give them opportunities to pray alongside with teachers and House Parents. In their various hostels and classes there are daily rosters that ensures that each student leads his or her class in prayer sessions or praise and worship once or twice weekly and also to share and minister the Word to classmates.

2. SPEND TIME WITH OTHERS

Engaging in healthy community is a spiritual habit we help our students develop. But "healthy community" doesn't just mean hanging out with Christians. This spiritual habit is about growing in Christ-like relationships with everyone.

HOW DO WE HELP TEENAGERS SPEND TIME WITH OTHERS?

- **We create consistent small groups.** In small groups, students are given opportunities to grow closer to their peers, to grow closer to an adult who cares about them, and to grow in community with people who believe like they do *in small Bible study and Sunday school groups.*

3. SHARE THEIR STORY

We encourage our students to learn how to pray and share their testimonies before others.

Because when we talk about God and His place in our story it helps us believe, helps us understand, and helps to build their faith. Sunday Service provides this avenue through testimony time.

HOW DO WE HELP TEENAGERS SHARE THEIR STORIES?

- **Create consistent small groups.** Small groups are places for teenagers to process their beliefs, their questions, and their experiences.
- **Invite students and volunteers to share their stories.** We invite students and volunteers to share their stories regularly to strengthen their faith. Reputable youth ministries such as The Scripture Union and Solid Foundation Teens and Youth Ministry are always handy render such help.
- **We create space for hard questions.** Kara Powell, from Fuller Youth Institute, says "It's not doubt that is toxic to faith," she says. "It's silence." If you want teenagers to get comfortable having conversations about their faith, so we help them have healthy conversations about their doubts, fears, and questions. Students *do* have doubts, even if they're not expressing them we give them the opportunity to talk about those things openly.

4. USE THEIR GIFTS

We make our students know that God made them unique, and special, and with really specific gifts, talents, passions, and resources. We encourage them to *use those gifts* to love God, love others, and influence the world around them. The various units in the school Chapel provide The platform for them to discover, serve and administer their gifts and talents.

5. INVITE SEASONED MINISTERS AND YOUTH MINISTRIES TO MINISTER TO OUR STUDENTS- on salvation, faith in God, moral and academic excellence and Bible perspective on courtesy, integrity, Self-Control, Perseverance, Indomitable Spirit and of course trending sexual orientations.