

Ten x 10

THE TEN 10 COLLABORATION

The TENx10 Discipleship Roadmap

One of the key goals of TENx10 is to translate what we already know from Scripture and research into a **focused discipleship strategy** that works in diverse ministry settings. To accomplish that goal, the TENx10 team has spent the last two years studying 25 discipleship-related organizations, convening focus groups with practitioners and thought leaders, and surveying the most relevant research on teenagers' faith formation.

As a result, TENx10 is advocating for this local strategy in every church and parachurch youth ministry: **Empowered leaders and caring Christian adults focused on teenagers' identity, belonging, and purpose.** It's not flashy. It's not "new." It's as old as what's always worked in faith formation: Relational discipleship radically focused on the life and teachings of Jesus.

Since discipleship is all about relationship, we break that strategy into 3 groups of people:

YOU. Empowered leaders...

TENx10 enables you to nurture your own **relationship with Jesus** and your **ability to lead change.**

TEAM. Caring Christian adults...

TENx10 increases your ability to influence the faith of young people through your support of **mentors** and **families.**

TEENAGERS. Focusing on teenagers' identity, belonging, and purpose.

TENx10 empowers your ministry to offer Jesus' best answers to young people's pressing **identity, belonging, and purpose** questions.

We've developed this **Discipleship Roadmap** to help leaders know how to move forward in this strategy. Comprised of over **30 checkpoints and grouped into 7 key areas**, the Discipleship Roadmap, while helpful for partnering organizations contributing tools and

training to TENx10, can be overwhelming as a list. **Thus, leaders will typically only see one key area's primary checkpoints at any given time. Secondary checkpoints will be addressed in advanced training.**

But we want partnering organizations to see, and help shape, all 30 checkpoints.

YOU. Because discipleship starts with you.

1. THE LEADER'S OWN SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Aim: Leader intentionally nurtures their own spiritual formation.

Primary

- 1A. Spiritual growth.** Leader identifies 1 or 2 spiritual practices to deepen their own journey with Jesus.
- 1B. Mentoring.** Leader seeks out a mentor and/or community to further their spiritual formation.
- 1C. Theological purpose.** Leader develops their theological “why” that gives their ministry a sense of purpose and helps define discipleship. (They are welcome to use FYI’s and TENx10’s definition of discipleship as “our everyday Yes to Jesus” as a springboard.)

Secondary

- 1D. Self-awareness.** Leader cultivates personal and communal habits that reveal their own leadership growth areas.

2. THE LEADER'S ABILITY TO LEAD CHANGE

Aim: Leader strategically influences their ministry toward more effective discipleship.

Primary

- 2A. Need for change.** Leader is able to discern the need for change by surveying their own unique context.

- 2B. Team-building.** Leader develops buy-in from diverse levels of an organization including their supervisor, lead pastor, and/or other age-group leadership, who become more committed stakeholders and advocates for youth discipleship.
- 2C. Disciplined attention.** Leader is able to pace a process for change that is contextualized and aligned with God's mission for the organization.

Secondary

- 2D. Adaptive change.** Leader is on a path toward true cultural change.
- 2E. Improved metrics.** Leader implements and assesses the fruit of the ministry through metrics that better represent discipleship (beyond attendance at gatherings, and including a ministry's or church's prioritization of young people).

TEAM. *Because discipleship doesn't happen alone.*

3. MENTORS

Aim: Caring adults journey with teenagers and model everyday faith.

Primary

- 3A. Intergenerational relationships.** Leader recruits diverse adults, and partners with parents, so teenagers are accompanied by adults in their life and faith journey.
- 3B. Volunteer development.** Leader implements an annual rhythm of training and nurturing volunteers that enhances their spiritual maturity, as well as their pastoral and mentoring skills.
- 3C. Mentor/parent partnership.** Leader helps mentors and parents partner together to enhance teenagers' spiritual formation.
- 3D. Empathy.** Leader trains every adult in the ministry or church to better empathize with teenagers.

Secondary

- 3E. Crisis response.** Leader makes sure that hands-on mentors know how to respond to students' crises and trauma, including stress, anxiety, and suicide.

4. FAMILY

Aim: Parents and caregivers are intentional at home and connected to a faith community.

Primary

- 4A. Meaningful conversations.** Families feel capable of, and prioritize, regular intentional conversations about faith and other important topics (e.g., sexuality, race, technology, culture, politics).
- 4B. Growing parents.** Families grow in their own relationship with God.
- 4C. Unique phase.** Families are educated about their kid's unique developmental phases so they can empathize and parent more effectively.

Secondary

- 4D. Resource network.** Families are offered a structure/system that enables them to receive support from other parents and community resources.
- 4E. Family service and worship.** Families are offered a variety of opportunities to serve and worship together in and beyond the church.

TEENAGERS. *Because discipleship happens best when you focus on what matters most.*

5. IDENTITY

Definition and Aim: Identity, or our view of ourselves: Young people grow in Christ and integrate their faith with their growing perception of themselves.

Primary

- 5A. Prayer and Scripture.** Teenagers' understanding of themselves and their relationship with God is shaped by prayer and Scripture (through Communal Reading of Scripture, Lectio Divina, personal and group Bible study, and other practices).
- 5B. Faith foundations.** Teenagers center their view of themselves, God, and others in the fundamental teachings of the faith.
- 5C. Faith integration.** Teenagers grow in practical wisdom and spiritual transformation as they integrate faith with their character and everyday decisions.
- 5D. Unique social location.** Teenagers explore how their social location (e.g., race, ethnicity, socioeconomics, gender, family) informs their identity and faith.

Secondary

- 5E. Exploration of doubt.** Teenagers are given the space and freedom at home and in the faith community to ask tough questions about their identity, faith, and doubts.
- 5F. Spiritual disciplines.** Teenagers incorporate other spiritual disciplines that fit their needs and context (e.g., Sabbath, lament, giving).

6. BELONGING

Definition and Aim: Belonging, meaning our connection with others: Young people are changed through trusted peer and intergenerational relationships.

Primary

- 6A. Weekly discussions.** Teenagers have regular opportunities to process their lives, faith, and Scripture in community with peers and an adult mentor.
- 6B. Meaningful community.** Teenagers enjoy consistent peer and intergenerational gatherings in which fun enhances depth and belonging.
- 6C. Church connections.** Teenagers are prioritized and integrated into overall church worship, service, liturgical rhythms, and community life.

Secondary

- 6D. **Technologically connected.** Teenagers' relationships with friends and mentors are strengthened through social media and technology.
- 6E. **Sharing stories.** Teenagers experience a safe environment for stories about life, church history, and faith to be shared and received.

7. PURPOSE

Definition and Aim: Purpose, which is our contribution to the world: Young people serve their neighbor and make more disciples, thereby turning the world into a better place.

Primary

- 7A. **Gifts and vocation.** Teenagers identify their gifts and unique contributions, and commit to serving God in their future career and vocational paths.
- 7B. **Serving in ministry.** Teenagers serve in the ministry (e.g., as student leaders) and/or throughout the church.
- 7C. **Justice and service.** Teenagers learn about, participate in, and bear witness to God's work in the world by engaging in local service/justice work.
- 7D. **Evangelism/Making disciples.** Teenagers are equipped to share their faith and invite others to become followers of Jesus.

Secondary

- 7E. **Cross-cultural service.** Teenagers engage in annual (perhaps cross-cultural) evangelism and justice/service work.