



## From the Youth Leader

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To the TriCon Community,

In the fall of 2005 I was hired to be the Youth Leader. Little did I know how my life would change over the next 13 years. In that time, I have run over 400 Sunday night Youth Groups, facilitated over 500 Wednesday night Discussion Groups, and led 13 Mission Trips. I would guess that during my tenure, around 250 high school kids have participated in one form or another in at least one on these activities. I am truly blessed to have had the opportunity to be there with them.

I am often asked to describe the youth program, and I never really have had a good answer. We are a spiritual group, but we are definitely not bible study. My knowledge of the Bible is limited, at best.

We play a lot of games, often times pretty physical games, but we are not gym class. There is no hierarchy of those picked first and picked last.

We laugh together and cry together. We care for each other, but we are not group therapy. We have our own rituals, especially surrounding the Mission Trip, but we are not a club. We are open to all, regardless of where you live, where you go to school, or even where your parents may go to church.

The best I can describe Youth Group is as follows: We are a group of teenagers (and a couple of adults), on varying paths of faith, that respects and embraces our differences, and that enjoys each other's company. We believe in each other, in understanding what made us who we are today, and supporting where we are going in the future.

Even though I am stepping down as the Youth Leader in June, I am still a member of this congregation. And I know first-hand that this congregation values its youth. The Youth Group will change and evolve in the future, just as it did under my tenure. With the support of this congregation, I have no doubt that it will remain a vibrant and important part of our church.

Warm regards,

Nick Bruning

