

## 1.0 Philosophy

### 1.1 Mission

*We want to help students **talk to God** in prayer, **listen to His Word** and apply it to their lives, **share the faith** with confidence, **love the community** as much as themselves, and **live as Christ-followers** everyday.*

### 1.2 Vision

We want to be:

- A connection to Christ
- A blessing to the city
- An engine for innovation within Calvary
- A fellowship of many cultures

### 1.3 Philosophy

There are five values we hope to pass on to students involved with our programs and events. These values are in bold type in the mission statement above and coincide with Calvary's 5 Essentials. While each value is in itself vital to overall spiritual development, we focus on one or two values at a time, and cover the range of them through our various programs or events. In general all our programs are meant to be attractive to a student as they mature in their understanding of faith and in their relationship with God.



**Talk to God (Prayer):** We model prayer openly. Adults pray for students in public and private settings. We ask students to pray for each other, to share prayer requests and sometimes to develop a prayer journal. We encourage intimacy with God through talking to him regularly in prayer. Prayer is at the base of our relationship with God.



**Listen to His Word:** We help students understand what is written in the Bible so that they can choose to respond appropriately to what it says. We have two ways of teaching Scripture. We provide a weekly class setting on Sundays (RESONATE), where qualified instructors lead students through passages of scripture often related to topics of interest to the group. We also have informal discussion times held during or mid-week meetings (SHAKER, TEAM) where current issues or questions lead us to reflect on things written in Scripture. We get students interacting with each other to talk about what they are learning and how it applies to life. These discussions are usually led by adults or older students in the program.



**Share the Faith:** We don't push an "in-your-face" attitude but we do encourage students to talk about God with their friends. We teach them to be sensitive in their approach to telling others about Christ and to focus on what they've experienced since they've come to believe in Jesus. We stress the fact that words and actions must complement each other to give the message we share credibility. Students are encouraged to join or start faith based groups that will benefit their campus. We schedule a bi-annual cross cultural trip that exposes students to the needs of people in other parts of the world and lets them be part of a team of Christians who address one or more of those needs.



**Love the Community:** This aspect of our ministry is more difficult to program. Each year we offer opportunities for students to use their abilities or resources to serve others. There are often roles for students to play in our Vacation Bible Schools, Day Camps, and Holiday Musicals. There are various teams within the church that value student insight and membership. We encourage students to get involved with community programs, charity drives and other initiatives that help people while reflecting Christ’s values.



**Live as Christ-Followers:** We always challenge students to honour God with their lifestyles. Our leaders are selected based on their ability to do this so that by their very presence they’re teaching students to worship God. It’s our desire to worship God in everything that we do that sets us apart from secular student organizations. We encourage and promote singing, prayer, personal bible-study, giving to the church, being baptised, becoming a church member, and having Christian friends as joyful parts of the Christian life.

## 2.0 Program

### 2.1 Youth Sponsors & Workers

Sponsors are Christian adult volunteers who are or will soon be members of our church. They are trusted with the responsibility of providing ministry to students on behalf of Calvary. They invest part of their lives with our students and are primarily tasked with relationship building and mentoring. Ideally, each sponsor is responsible for the care of certain number of students of the same sex.\* Guardians and parents of our younger students may feel more comfortable if they take the time to get to know our youth sponsors & workers.

\*Visit our Website for current lists of adults involved with the youth ministry.

### 2.2 Scope and Schedules

Throughout the School year, we’re offering organized programs on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday. We reserve weekends for social events, retreats and conferences. Here’s a typical week of ministry.

Sunday	Tuesday	Thursday	Weekend
Resonate	TEAM	Shaker	JH Events, Retreats, Conferences

### 2.3 How will I know what’s going on?

We have several ways of communicating with our congregation. The bulletin carries information on a weekly basis. We make

announcements at our programs and publish certain events on our church calendar. If you have internet access we maintain a website with an up to date calendar and news about our events as well as links to web logs (blogs) and online communities related to our group.

## 2.4 Curriculum

We function more like the adult ministry education program in that we do not all follow the same curriculum. Our teachers, sponsors and workers, listen for and suggest topics that seem to be of interest and relevance to the students. We develop some curriculum as we move along. This allows us the flexibility of dealing with the actual needs of the students gathered in front of us. We consider the development process of an adolescent person as they move through the stages of adolescence. Topics that are normally of high interest to youth are emotions, relationships, peer pressure, media influence, sex in terms of dating and appropriate physical expressions of intimacy. They sometimes struggle in dealing with parents and other authorities, in determining right from wrong, and in developing a healthy faith and trust in God that they carry into their adult lives. Our teachers are trained to be sensitive to the unique behaviours, distractions, and normal rebellious attitudes of adolescence. Our main concern is to help students make a smooth transition from childhood to adulthood, while enjoying the years in between. We believe that spiritual development is a vital part of making a smooth transition and realize that students during this phase of life are drawing their own conclusions about what it means to be a Christian.

## 2.5 Website: [www.calvary.on.ca/youth](http://www.calvary.on.ca/youth)

We use the website to advertise other events that we don't sponsor but do support. We post information about events, and pictures of things we've done. Some registration can be done online.

## 2.6 Accountability Structure

Students>Sponsors & Workers>Student Ministry Pastor>Senior Pastor

## 3.0 Policies

### 3.1 “Do unto others as you would have them do to you”

Our vision is to be a connection to Christ, and a fellowship of many cultures. To this end we ask that each person consider his or her actions and treat others in the group positively at all times, even when we aren't together as a group. Pranks, jokes and a little social embarrassment or awkwardness are expected in moderation but no one person, or culture should be targeted repeatedly. Rather, as much as you can, be inclusive and make as many people feel welcome as possible.

### 3.2 “Hands Off!”

And student or leader involved in our programs will be informed that in any situation where they feel uncomfortable with the type of physical contact they receive from another person they are to say “hands off!” These key words will be respect and the leaders will enforce that respect. If a situation of harassment develops, parents will be notified and authorities may be involved.

### 3.3 “Medications”

It is not common, but we are asked to hold medications for students. Parents or Guardians of students requiring medications are asked to notify us personally and instruct us on how the medications are to be administered. There are some cases where

we decide it will better to leave a student at home than to risk a problem with medication. A decision like this is made in circumstances where the student's presence requires more care, observation, or control than we can or want to give.

### **3.4 “No Drugs, Alcohol, Pornography, Inhalants, etc”**

No narcotics, alcohol, or drugs are permitted at our events. If someone is discovered with them, they will be confiscated. Parents will be notified each and every time this rule is broken. We reserve the right to deal with each case individually, but generally, disrespect for the rule will not be tolerated.

### **3.5 “Smoke Free”**

Cigarettes are not permitted when attending a youth event. You can chew gum or wear a patch. We recognize that there are students whose parents permit them to smoke. Other students may be addicted to nicotine. It will be a struggle for those students to follow this rule, but it still stands. Smoking can adversely affect the habits and health of other students in the group. Students are free to smoke when they are not with us, but we don't endorse the practice.

### **3.6 “Positive Influence Music”**

We like to hear music at our events because it adds to the atmosphere. Students are welcome to bring music from home to play when it is appropriate. It is easiest for us to use music that is done by Christian artists or does not promote violence, sex outside of marriage, drug use, abusive or unnecessarily coarse language. A given song may reflect your preference but it may not promote the things Christ stands for. If a student has music they feel may be on

the borderline he or she should review the music with a sponsor before deciding to play it. The sponsor's decision stands.

### **3.7 “Swearing/Derogatory Language”**

Our sponsors set an example of using commendable speech. We ask that those who participate with us follow that example. Cases where swearing, threats of violence, or demeaning words are directed to person may be consider abusive and the offending student may not be permitted to stay at the event.

### **3.8 “Retreats & Over Night Events”**

Girls and guys are issued separate sleeping areas. Further, those areas are private to the groups using them. Curfews are announced and enforced. We expect students to remain inside their building, cabin, or tent after curfew. They don't have to sleep, but do have to get up with everyone else the next morning. Students that “sneak out” after hours assume responsibility for themselves.

### **3.9 “Ministry Team Apparel”**

When we form a team for ministry we wish to uphold a standard of dress that doesn't provoke or distract. Clothing should be free of inappropriate logos, slogans, phrases and pictures, not depicting violence, ethnic slurs, alcohol, drugs or cigarettes. Underwear should remain hidden from view. Opaque clothing material for tops and bottoms – check swimwear too. Cleavage, tummy, and lower back and bottom should be concealed. Shorts and skirts should be mid thigh length or longer. One piece or tankini swimwear for girls, with shorts and surf style shorts for guys. Some cultures may require other considerations.

## 4.0 Ministry Philosophy

The Church's practices are best rooted in biblical principles. Two verses have become prominent as foundational for youth ministry. You may have heard of them as the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. Surely, all of Scripture can help us determine the course to take from one decision to the next, but these two passages are, and should remain, pillars in our minds as we attempt to design ministry against the backdrop of culture.

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)*

*"Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"*

*"The most important one" answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:28-31)*

Youth Ministry leaders have reflected and written on these verses and what effect they should have on our thoughts about ministry. Accordingly, it has become standard ministry practice to think of youth ministry in terms of its purpose. Two highly respected, and therefore very recognizable North American models are...

<b>Purpose Driven Youth Ministry</b> (Evangelism, Discipleship, Fellowship, Ministry, and Worship)	<b>Son Life Strategy (GC2)</b> (Win, Build, Equip, Multiply)
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The intent with both strategies is the same. Organizers of youth ministry are encouraged to develop strategies around these foundational elements. In both strategies, Jesus Christ's interaction with the disciples and their subsequent actions with the

early church are used as the model. Neither strategy would claim to be innovative, but would say that they are faithful to scripture and have identified a pattern that is suitable for us to follow. Essentially, the overlap of the two models would go something like this...

Son Life (GC2)	Purpose Driven	Bible (The basis)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Win,</li> <li>• Build, Multiply</li>   <li>• Equip</li> </ul> (4 Elements)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evangelism</li> <li>• Discipleship, Fellowship</li> <li>• Ministry</li> <li>• Worship</li> </ul> (5 Elements)	Matthew 28:19-20 Luke 10:27

Calvary's approach to youth ministry is modified such that it includes some key elements that are not present in the above lists. In fact, when you look at our list, we are not talking about the purpose of programming. We are looking at marks of discipleship, and therefore our list is different but none-the-less good. However, with the switch, we need to realize that Calvary's list of essentials (and therefore SM's list of essentials) tells more about *who we want to be together*, rather than *what we plan to do together*.

Calvary's Essentials	Resonates Key Words
Word	Listen
Witness	Share
Worship	Live
Growth	Love
Prayer	Talk

Due to the reality that students don't grasp concepts as well as activity, we should try to talk about the Essentials in more concrete

terms, giving a picture of an expectation each time we discuss them. Taking a cue from the Purpose Driven Model, we arrive at a brief statement describing why we are running this program.

We want to reach students and help them **talk** to God in prayer, **listen** to His Word, **share** the faith with confidence, **love** the community as much as themselves, and **live** as Christ-followers everyday.

The last part of the Great Commission contains a promise – We can count on the presence Jesus Christ with us as we focus on accomplishing His will! We can trust that God is present with us as we help people incorporate the Essentials in to their lives.

Draft: 31/07/2009

## 5.0 Ministry Evaluation

We always need to “keep the main thing, the main thing”. There are no other organizations formed for the purpose of making disciples. This is the unique preoccupation of the Christian church. We should never become confused about what we’re trying to do. In youth ministry all our activities must support our main objective. This is the idea behind being purpose driven (Saddle Back’s Model). More importantly it honours our mandate.

Discipleship is about people. So, our students are the best measure of our health as a ministry. I use a survey administered in various forms that measures our effectiveness on just seven questions. I redesign the survey based on what we’re trying to accomplish as an organization. Currently, I’m determining our level of health based on student response to these questions

*God seems to be with us  
Environment provided encourages obedience to scripture  
The leaders are accessible to me  
The leaders can give good advice  
My friends can connect with the group  
My friends can connect with God.  
I've grown*

Make a Comment

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In survey form, the students can reply “yes” “no” or “see comments”

Other forms of evaluation are done as a group at monthly meetings. We will seek to answer the questions: What is working? What is distracting us? How do we want to proceed?

## 6.0 Current Program Descriptions

**Program Schedule** (During the School Year.)

### On Sundays:

**Resonate\* (9:45am)** – We begin every Sunday morning with a high energy, highly interactive praise and worship time and then meet in smaller groups to study God’s word and think about how God wants us to live.

**Music Teams (9:00am)** – We encourage students with musical talent and a dedication to practice to get involved with our music team that plays at Resonate. The teams are coached by our some of our adult leaders. Practice begins at 9am. Students are required to have and maintain their instruments or singing voices, be able to play from chord charts, or sing by ear, and have a good reputation as a believer among their peers at school and in the church.

**Audio Visual Teams (8:45 am).** – Students with technical skills in mixing audio signals or working with computers and artistic media may find a place to serve with this team. Please contact Derek Gilmore.

**Choir (9:15am & 11:00am)** – Students are welcome to participate in our choir which serves on Sunday Mornings in both services. Please contact Pastor Steve Cottrell for any information regarding worship, music or drama.

### On Tuesdays:

**The Early Adult Ministries (6:30pm-8:00pm)** – TEAM is our midweek meeting for students in Grade 7 & 8. We run one group for boys and another for girls emphasizing God’s character through a variety of fun and memorable experiences. Please contact Tim Wagner or Debbie Martin.

### Choir Practice (6:30pm -8:00pm)

#### On Thursdays:

**Shaker (7:00pm-9:00pm)** – This is our midweek program for high school students. The format and focus change on a weekly basis, but the first Thursday of every month is reserved for a drop in, which begins with a meal for \$2, at 6pm.

#### On Weekends:

##### Events for Grade 7 and 8 students:

At least twice a month, Grade 7 and 8 students gather on Friday, starting around 6:30pm. They meet all over the place and have lots of fun. Contact Rachel Vollick for information. Please follow our announcements and Calendar for a schedule.

##### Events for High School students:

Families and Students organize their own activities in smaller numbers. These events are not advertised but you can usually find out what’s going by asking around. If you can’t find something good to do, invite people to do something good with you! Contact Cindy Wagner for information on hosting our high school students in your home.

##### Retreats & Conferences:

Occasionally, we’ll host or attend a large scale event requiring students to pre-register in advance. These are great opportunities for students to take advantage of.

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## **7.0 aRTHuR Outreach Focus**

Arthur is an acronym referencing the population of Oshawa that lives and works in or around Ritson, Taunton, Harmony and Rossland roads.

This region is accessible to our student population and there is no church operating within this geographical square, other than Calvary.

We will use this area as our local area of witness, and give it primary consideration in our efforts to serve in the name of Christ. Hopefully we'll develop a new following of students from this area.

## **8.0 Student Worship Arts Teams**

Song is one the ways which we praise our Creator. We worship God through musical expressions of his word to us and our response to him. We use popular music and lyrics from other Christians to maintain a bond with the greater body worldwide. We create, develop and critique music and lyrics to express our own unique experience in the Durham Region.

We encourage students to sing and make music to God and about God. We will train select students in this area of church ministry by inviting them to participate on S.W.A.T. team. A Student Worship Team consists of students from Calvary Baptist Church who prepare songs in advance to assist and lead other students in the public praise of our great God and Saviour.

S.W.A.T. teams will receive direct supervision from the Student Ministries Pastor or his appointee.