

3 Meeting Retention Worksheet

This worksheet coincides with the article, [Getting Students Back: Proven Tactics For Student Retention](#)

The goal of this worksheet is to help you plan a 3 week strategy to retain youth group guests instead of a 1 week strategy where you cross your fingers and hope they'll be back.

Work through this sheet by yourself first, come up with a few ideas and then work through it again with your team. This way everyone on your team can flow in the same direction.

Part 1: Evaluating Your Current Approach

Guest Reactions:

- How do you currently gauge student reactions to your youth meetings (worship, message, altar call)?
- Do you observe students actively participating or passively attending?
- Are there elements that seem to resonate more than others?

Telling Your Story:

- Briefly describe the core message and purpose of your youth ministry.
- How do you communicate this message to potential and returning students?
- Consider the stories of your ministry:
 - Worship - What makes your worship unique? Are there stories behind the worship leaders?
 - Message - Why do you choose the messages you deliver?
 - Impact - Can you share testimonies of students who have found faith in your group?

Three Visit Rule:

- How do you identify first-time visitors in your youth group (large or small)?
- Do you have a system to welcome and integrate new students?
- What incentives or reasons do you offer to encourage students to return for a second or third visit?

Part 2: Developing a Retention Plan

Gauging Reactions:

- Describe specific ways you will observe and assess student reactions during your next youth meeting.

Crafting Your Story:

- Develop a clear and concise message that captures the essence of your youth ministry.
- Brainstorm ways to share stories about your ministry's impact through worship, messages, and student testimonies. Consider using multiple formats like announcements, videos, or social media.

The Three Visit Strategy:

- Determine a method to identify new students in your youth group.
- Plan a welcoming process for newcomers that includes introductions, icebreakers, or small group activities.
- Design a "three-visit plan" with incentives or reasons for students to return. This could involve:
 - **First Visit:** Welcome gift or activity
 - **Second Visit:** Special invitation to an event or follow-up conversation
 - **Third Visit:** Offer to participate in a leadership role or service project

Next Steps:

- Based on your evaluation, what elements of your youth ministry will you keep, modify, or eliminate?
- Develop a timeline for implementing your retention plan.
- How will you measure the success of your plan?

Remember:

- Building relationships and fostering a sense of community are crucial for student retention.
- Continuously strive to create a welcoming and engaging environment where students feel they can connect with God and their peers.

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