



DRIVENLIFE

NATIONAL YOUNG ADULTS

AMBASSADOR
M A N U A L

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DRIVEN LIFE COORDINATORS

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WHAT IS DRIVEN LIFE?

Driven Life is a ministry focused on young adults that are 26+, unmarried, and with no children. It is a ministry that wants to inspire, disciple, support, and encourage.

A person who is driven is defined as one who is propelled or motivated by something. We believe that God has created each of us with a unique drive. The question that needs to be asked is, what is our drive? The church needs driven, Apostolic young adults with one hand tightly clutching truth and another hand in the world grasping for the lost! Our goal is for young adults around the world to realize they were created for a God-given mission. We want to help them rediscover, relaunch, and reconnect them to church, community, and to God.

WHERE DO YOUNG ADULTS FIT IN?

Single, Apostolic young adults are an extraordinary gift to the church. There is a great need for the talents and experiences possessed by this group of individuals in ministry.

Undoubtedly, youth in this sector have endured the realities of adulthood, but their unwavering faith has sustained their walk with God. Their worth to the Kingdom of God is immeasurable and now is the time to reinvigorate their drive to serve God.

THE JOURNEY.

We want to help our young adults develop a deeper walk with God, through retreats, conferences, fellowship, and various ways of interaction with other young adults.

These years are full of possibilities and choices that shape who they will become — it's a season of adulthood that feels unlimited. As a ministry of the Messengers of Peace, Driven Life was created to help young adults navigate life's path with biblical wisdom and intention.

We want to challenge them to maximize these years — to embrace new responsibilities, own their faith, date with purpose, prepare for marriage, and above all, honor God in everything they do.

LEADING A DRIVEN LIFE CULTURE

We live in a world that desires and seeks for community and it's the church's responsibility to create a place and atmosphere in which people can feel emotionally and spiritually connected to each other and to God. Unfortunately, as young adults reach transitional life stages, their social circles change due to relocations and scheduling differences. Since it is only natural to desire community and because of the cultural stigma associated with single young adults, many begin to feel alienated. Therefore, it is imperative that the church provide a Godly outlet for young adults to have a sense of community and come to be in relationship with God and His Kingdom. Research has shown that there are four components necessary to create a foundation for community within a group:

PARTICIPATION

Your young adult ministry should define boundaries of what constitutes membership. Driven Life provides an opportunity for like-minded individuals to connect. It is a ministry where shared experiences are common among this particular age group. This ministry should offer emotional security, require personal investment, and create an environment of belonging.

IMPACT

Members of your group should feel they equally impact the group. Everyone who makes up this ministry is a unique individual and can contribute diverse ideas. Allow the flow of creativity to be exchanged among your space in order to better any programming. Conversely, the group should impact its members by the dialogs, lessons, and gatherings that are programmed throughout the year.

INTEGRATION AND FULFILLMENT OF NEEDS

Members should feel recognized in some way for their attendance and participation. Go the extra mile to relate to everyone, to allow the individual to feel a part of the ministry, and to allow peer-to peer relationships. It feels great being noticed, even in this stage of a young adults life.

CONNECTION AND COMMUNICATION

In order to successfully reach young adults, it is important to understand the best ways to communicate with young adults. The

gospel clearly surpasses time, social, and cultural crisis; however, it is imperative to use the most effective means of communicating the truth to ensure your audience understands and receives the message. This is why the methods we use for certain demographics are crucial. When communicating the gospel to young adults, make sure your message transcends biased or opinionated traditions. There is a genuine longing for truth in this time. Unfortunately, so many think they know what the Bible and Christians stand for, but most of the time it is only a collection of statements or opinions they have heard from others or seen misconstrued in the media and elsewhere. Remember that they are not in the youth or elementary Sunday school class. They are adults and should be treated as such. Don't waste time telling them they need to "know better", "grow up," or "be like other generations." Be humble and teach them from where they are and with what traits they do possess. ***Do not make generalizations.*** Doing so will cause you to lose credibility with the young adults.

BEING A DRIVEN LIFE AMBASSADOR

There is no one better than you, it is your time to launch a Driven Life Ministry! If you are reading this, God has given you a heart for young adults and the vision to see a ministry that is tailor-made for young adults come to life in your local church or district! Here is the secret to help you be a successful Driven Life Ambassador: ***There is no right or wrong way in doing young adult ministry. The key to getting started as a Driven Life ambassador involves continual prayer, the covering of your Pastor, and tailoring the structure of your group to meet the needs of your local church.*** Remember that our goal is to see souls saved and disciplined in the Kingdom. The message is unchangeable, but the method of spreading the gospel can be and must be creative. We encourage that you follow these following steps to help you prepare for this incredible journey:

PRAYER

This is the lifeline for your young adult ministry. From the start, it is vital that every step is covered in prayer. Before the process of launching a Driven Life Ministry, spend time covering your efforts in prayer and fasting. ***“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.” (1 John 5:14)***

STRUCTURE

It is time to create your Driven Life framework. Be prepared to have consistent events, worship and discipleship opportunities, and/or small groups. These can be offered weekly, monthly, or quarterly depending on the size and availability of your team. Establishing the structure of your young adult group is important to have down before moving forward to any of the next steps. We can easily draw up a structure for you, but that would only set you up for failure. A “one size fits all” program will not work with young adults. It is important that you evaluate the current needs and culture of the young adults in your church and brainstorm ways to meet those specific needs. This is where you jot down your expectations for your group and the names of possible leaders with their strengths. During this process you want to create a specific mission, core values, and responsibilities for your future Driven Life team. Understanding your overall vision will be helpful in knowing what kind of Driven individuals you want on the team - if 3 out of 4 core team members are marriage-driven, it will reflect in the output of the ministry. Once you have established the

mission, core values, and structure of your leadership team, it is time to schedule a meeting with your Pastor. ***“By wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established” (Proverbs 24:3).***

PASTORAL BLESSING

Schedule a day and invite your pastor for some coffee. It is important that you share with your pastor the vision and burden for a young adult ministry. Finally, invite him to join you in prayer. It is imperative that your pastor gives you his blessing and covering before stepping forward in the launch of a Driven Life Ministry in your church. ***“And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding” (Jeremiah 3:15).***

THE TEAM

Once you have received your Pastor’s blessing, begin prayerfully assembling a team of Driven leaders. With your Pastor’s help, choose team members that will add value, strength, and leadership to your team. Plan consistent meeting times with your core leadership team and begin delegating roles and responsibilities. ***“Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor” (Ecclesiastes 4:9).***

LAUNCH PARTY

The launch of your young adult group will set the stage for the future growth and development of your young adult ministry. Launch with excellence. Perhaps your first event will be a hangout, Bible study, or small group. Regardless of how you choose to launch, be sure to plan and advertise in advance so as to create excitement within your church.

PLANNING A DRIVEN LIFE EVENT

Planning a creative event for your Driven Life group is easier than you think. Remember, **DO NOT** try this alone! With your team by your side, you will be surprised how much can be done.

PLAN

This is where everyone's voice is heard and notes are compared. Meet at least 2–3 months ahead of your event. Time frame can be tailored depending on event size. Meet with your core team of leaders to begin discussing your event(s). In this initial planning meeting, the overall structure of the event is being established. This is the meeting in which items such as dates, themes, goals, budgets, and team responsibilities are discussed. Following the initial meeting, schedule multiple future meetings and assign tasks to be presented or completed by those dates. You will be amazed at how being efficient will take your events to the next level.

KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE

During the planning process, knowing who you are serving must be the center of all the planning. It is vital that the core team is fully aware of the audience and culture. The goal of your events should be to create community, unite guests and new members, and empower young adults to grow. Do you know your group? If you do, you will not hesitate in answering the following questions: Is your group into coffee? Do they enjoy outdoor activities? Are they artistic? What activities do they participate in outside of church? Find the answers to these questions and planning your event will be a breeze. Offering young adults a fun alternative in a Christian environment is key in creating excitement, assimilating new members, and building camaraderie within your group.

CREATIVITY

I was once told that it is in the details of the event where the hearts intent is revealed. In other words, people will see how much excellence was invested in the event. Show your young adults that they matter and make them to feel part of the event. Creativity in the details of an event is what sets it apart from “just another young adult gathering.” You can use creativity within event elements such as a theme, décor, music, location, attire, food, activities, giveaways, etc. The golden questions you should ask yourself regarding your event

should be, “If someone would have invited me to this event, would I want to attend?” “Would I feel comfortable if I showed up?” Use your creativity to make the event appealing not only to your young adult group, but to unchurched young adults in your community as well.

DELEGATE

There is strength in numbers. Delegate as many event-related tasks to the young adults on your team/group as possible. Sharing the responsibility will not only lighten your load, but it also will empower others and give them a sense of belonging. When young adults buy in to an effort, they will often begin taking initiative in bringing ideas to the table.

PROMOTION

Perhaps the most important reason planning ahead is critical to the process of event organization is to provide ample time to promote. You can plan a fantastic event only to have it fail simply due to the lack of timely promotion. Once you have established the date, time, location, and theme of your event, call a graphic designer (or explore the many free apps available), create an ad, and promote it!

CREATING A MARKETING PRESENCE

A marketing presence is the message your group communicates to its audience base. To be effective, the message should be clear and simple -- and contain the key attributes you want associated with your group. There are many different ways to do marketing, and marketing is key for young adults. With all the emphasis on social media and how adept young adults are with using filters and editing photos, they are practically professionals in marketing as they “advertise themselves” on social media. Therefore, you must take the time to plan your marketing strategy for your young adults demographic, but don’t be overwhelmed. You do not have to reinvent the wheel. You can easily use an established social network like Facebook to be your online home base.

Here are a few questions you can ask yourself to help you choose from the many avenues for marketing.

- What are the goals of your marketing efforts?
- Where do the people you are trying to connect with spend the majority of their online time?

Most organizations do not channel all of their marketing efforts through one avenue; they establish a presence in as many places as possible with their information. For example, the National Messengers of Peace has a website, Facebook profile, Twitter account, and an Instagram account. Each of these are tools used for specific purposes in their marketing goals and strategies. Here are some more social media outlets that young adults are a part of and can be used to connect with them:

- LinkedIn (professional network)
- Blog or Vlog (such as YouTube)
- Personalized Facebook Page
- Personalized Facebook Group

Remember, they may communicate and respond to information in different ways and that’s OK! Research what communication tools work well for your specific group and then utilize them. Once you’ve gained your audience, keep them in the loop.

MYSPACE

If you pray for it, plan for it, and build it... they will come. Your young adult group needs its own space, a place where they can mentally establish as a place that is theirs. When you create that space, let it be the following:

WHERE THEY CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER AND GOD

As mentioned earlier, young adults want to develop their spiritual life and connect with others that are on the same path. They speak of this as being the foundation—the rootedness—of their lives. It is through this space that young adults can create or re-establish a spiritual life that allows them to grow and witness God working in their lives.

IT'S TAILORED FOR YOUNG ADULTS

- Unique to them so that it represents the young adult who is no longer an adolescent, but not yet in the next phase of their life.
- Created by them, which will give them a sense of ownership of the space.
- Allow them a say in the design, in bringing in/choosing things for the room, in setting up the room, and in maintaining the space.

WHERE THEY FEEL COMFORTABLE

- Casual and comfortable. Offer/allow drinks/food. This automatically creates a more relaxed atmosphere.
- Softer lighting, maybe lamps, or hang overhead lights. This isn't to create the dark atmosphere that often exists in youth culture, but a softer light than the fluorescent light of a school classroom.
- Variation in seating arrangement to induce conversation —set up conversational spaces such as chairs with a side table in between. This will help the space feel more like it's theirs and not just a place for a lesson.
- Remove any distractions from your space.
- Furniture placement should flow —don't have chairs facing the entrance.

WHERE THEY HAVE AUTONOMY

- Don't point out when they are late.
- They can enter and leave as they please.
- They are free to choose whether to speak up or just listen.

IT IS TIME!

It comes at no surprise to know that the Apostolic church, like many other churches must confront the challenges of declined membership. Over the course of time, young and old have walked away from the church and their faith. Due to many factors and unknown variables, no other demographic has been lost like the age group post-high school. Young adults are confronting the realities of life and choosing to shelve their faith. This crossroad in their faith is what stirred the foundation of having a young adult ministry.

We are part of a society with rapid social and cultural changes. One of the biggest changes seen is the decline of marriage and the age of marriage rising. Inadvertently, these trends also apply to Apostolic youth who choose to remain single or delay marriage. These decisions, whether by choice or not, impact the identity of young adults in the church. We've come to understand that the church is mainly geared towards the family. We constantly hear messages about being a better parent, son/daughter, or a better family. Rarely do we hear a sermon geared to a seasoned young adult who is educated or career driven.

We pray that this ministry opens a door for all single, young adults to participate in the Kingdom of God. May this manual ignite a wildfire within your church. Thank you for taking the time in transmitting love and care to your young adults by initiating a Driven Life group in your respected local church or District. Be the ambassador we need at this time.

This is just the beginning and God has so much more for the young adults of the Apostolic Assembly and for Driven Life!

God Bless You,

Julio & Elsa Guerra
Driven Life Coordinators

