



UNDERSTANDING CURRICULUM: CORE TEAMS

It is essential to understand the philosophy behind Core Team curriculum development so adult Core Team Coaches can appropriately leverage the resource for maximum impact at a local ministry site.

CURRICULUM CONTEXT

The National YFC Core Team expects that ministry site staff and volunteers will contextualize the provided Core Team Curriculum to fit the needs and uniquenesses of their local ministry. The Core Team curriculum is designed using a certain set of values, assumptions and best practices to create a consistent and excellent resource for adult Core Team Coaches and ministry site leaders. However, the National YFC Core Team encourages users to adjust Core Team Curriculum to fit the context of your unique ministry site situation. For example, you may have less time available than the curriculum suggests, requiring you to reduce the amount of content covered. Or, you may have a team with mostly new believers, requiring more in-depth explanation of Biblical concepts. Whatever the reason or context, it is important that ministry site staff and volunteers proactively make adjustments to ensure excellence and meet the Core Team's needs.

CURRICULUM IS WRITTEN FOR THE ADULT COACH

Core Team Curriculum is written for adult coaches as partnering guides capable of accurately handling biblical truth and modeling a lifestyle of relational evangelism with their own peers. Core Team Curriculum is not written to the student and we strongly suggest students never see the curriculum or have it read to them. The National Core Team desires coaches to read the curriculum lesson each week to understand the concepts, biblical principles and desired experience, so they can then lead their team naturally through the meeting without the feeling of curriculum formality.

CURRICULUM AND MATURITY LEVELS

Because Core Team Curriculum is written for adults rather than students, Core Team Coaches are entrusted with making appropriate adjustments for their team's maturity level and uniqueness. Core Teams function well with a mix of personal and spiritual maturity levels. Occasionally, teams are relatively uniform in maturity, but this is not common. Some Core Team members will be new Christians, some will be younger adolescents, and some will be more advanced in their spiritual formation or adolescent development. Coaches are to translate their understanding of the curriculum into an appropriate and understandable experience for their team.

CURRICULUM LEARNING MODEL

A fundamental aspect of the Core Team ministry model is peer-based learning. Rather than adult coaches being the sole source of information, learning should be gained through experience (applying of scripture and care for friends) and peer input - while guided and kept in check by the adult coach. Retention of information and biblical concepts is proven to be stronger when learned via application and experience. In addition, students are more likely to digest and apply what is shared by a peer, versus an adult.

CURRICULUM AND DISCIPLESHIP

The National Core Team is frequently asked about our view of discipleship and why Core Team Curriculum is not considered a "discipleship curriculum." While the National Core Team holds a deep value for discipleship, we have encountered many ministry leaders who solely see discipleship as growth in biblical competency and knowledge of Jesus. **The National YFC Core Team believes discipleship is about growing in relationship with Jesus as well as growing to understand relational influence in everyday peer contexts (Great Commission). Because we value both inward growth and outward action, we avoid discipleship language to avert confusion and represent these specific values.** Our goal for this curriculum is to help disciple every teenager on a Core Team toward personal growth and outward influence.