

### BOOST KIDS' LEADERSHIP SKILLS

As a new school year begins, teenagers will have many opportunities to explore and develop their talents. One often-overlooked talent is leadership. Yet your youth minister can tell you how desperately this trait is needed—and not just in church settings. In fact, in a *Group* magazine survey about youth ministers' "dying needs," the top response was "developing leaders."

Leadership means more than just good citizenship, discipleship, or community service. It's the process of helping people accomplish together what they couldn't do as individuals. Contrary to popular belief, leaders aren't born. They can come in a variety of forms, from charismatic pied-pipers to troublemakers to reserved kids on the verge of blossoming. Indicators for high leadership aptitude include boldness, curiosity, a wealth of opinions and ideas, the fact that peers listen to those ideas, and dissatisfaction with the status quo.

After identifying young leaders, it's important to group them together, give them opportunities to truly lead, provide them with feedback and mentoring, and disciple them so they're spiritually grounded. Partnering with your church's youth minister is a great way to provide teenagers with meaningful leadership and growth opportunities. As one youth leader says, "It's one thing to quote scripture to kids; it's quite another thing to actually entrust them with greater responsibilities—that's what truly enables them to reach their full potential."

### TIPS >>>

**Youth ministry pioneer Doug Fields offers this advice for cultivating teen leaders:**

- **Understand that teenagers can be ministers.** Kids aren't the *future* of the church; they're the church of *today*. We must challenge teenagers to serve others and discover the significant life God has called them to live.
- **Think small.** Instead of devising huge leadership programs, spend time developing each teenager individually. Rely on resources such as small-group leaders.
- **Paint potential.** Let your kids know that they're gifted and talented in the leadership department and able to carry out

God's work. Some teenagers believe that if they're not outgoing or popular, or lack an upfront-type personality, then they can't be leaders or ministers. So it's important for us to encourage them and challenge them by "painting their potential." They need to "see" that their lives can make a big difference.

- **Position individuals.** First seek out opportunities that will make good use of teenagers' current interests. Then try to stretch them a bit by exploring new opportunities. Such intentional leadership development can alter kids' understanding that God has shaped them in unique ways and can leave an imprint in their community, as well as a legacy in their long-term walk with Jesus.

### THE VIEW

- Kids begin to form ideas about what they can and can't achieve by age 7 or 8. Yet only 42% of kids ages 10 to 18 say they're energetically pursuing their goals. And only 35% strongly believe they can navigate around obstacles to reach their goals. (Gallup Poll)
- When asked why they chose particular role models, 26% of teenagers said personality traits were most important. Another 22% of kids said the decision was based on whom to emulate or in whose footsteps they'd like to follow. (Barna Group)

### PONDER THIS

- What leadership potential do you see in your teenagers, and how have you been trying to nurture it?
- In what ways do you view yourself as a leader or as a leadership role model?
- With whom can you partner to further develop your teenagers as leaders?

# Confidence Connection

Expert Insights for Parents of Teenagers

By Doug Franklin

LeaderTreks founder Doug Franklin says teenagers' leadership skills will grow in direct proportion to their confidence. Three key ways to grow kids' confidence include:

## 1. Understanding God's design.

Most kids don't think they're special. They don't think they have some great God-given ability to change the world around them. They rarely see their potential. They need to understand that God made them for a purpose and would never short-gift one of his children. God isn't in the business of giving life to his kids and then cutting them off. For students to be confident, they must know that

God has their back. He's their safety net, and, in the end, every Christ-follower wins. Kids must realize they're made for a purpose and God gives them all the needed tools to complete that purpose.

**2. Positive life experience.** Kids need an experience beyond what they thought was possible. They must be placed in situations that require them to reach beyond themselves, such as mission trips. The experience is reinforced when they receive recognition from peers and point out one another's giftedness.

**3. A positive adult who is willing to risk.** Kids need a positive adult

figure in their lives who's cheering them on to greatness. Adults need to tell kids how they see God working in their lives. Adults also need to take risks and offer teenagers leadership opportunities. Teenagers need adults to connect the dots for them concerning how God has made them and how that giftedness can be used in real life. When kids are allowed to lead an event and the success or failure of that event is in their hands, with positive adult support, they'll develop confidence regardless of the outcome.

Confidence doesn't happen by accident, so create a solid plan for your teenagers to develop into confident leaders.

—SimplyYouthMinistry.com

## RESOURCE

*Help! I'm a Student Leader*, a practical guidebook from Doug Fields (Simply Youth Ministry), offers young people guidance about being creative, encouraging leaders—and leading as Jesus did.

## BIBLE FOCUS

Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.

1 Timothy 4:12

# MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

## MAINSTREAM MUSIC

### T.I.

**Background:** Once called “the Jay-Z of the South,” T.I. is a hip-hop artist, producer, and actor. He also started Grand Hustle Records. T.I., 31, has had some run-ins with the police, including probation violations and weapons charges. He’s worked with almost every name in hip-hop, been nominated for Grammy Awards, and won numerous Billboard Music Awards—including Rap Artist and Rap Album of the Year. He works with the Boys and Girls Clubs and once gave 200 bicycles to kids in Atlanta.

**Albums:** *Trouble Man* (2012), *No Mercy* (2010), *King* (2006)

**What T.I. Says:** He once talked a man down from a ledge, where he was threatening to kill himself. Afterward, T.I. said, “I’m not taking any credit. ... The fact of the matter is that God put me in a position to help, and I can’t take any credit for that.”

**Explore:** T.I.’s albums are available to listen to on Spotify—including both Clean and Explicit versions of many of them.

## CHRISTIAN MUSIC

### LECRAE

**Background:** Hip-hop artist Lecrae, 32, was raised by his Christian grandmother. He ran with gangs and did drugs, using a Bible as a “good-luck charm.” After going to Bible studies in his late teens, Lecrae realized the characters were just like him—but had hope and love. Five years after becoming a Christian, he started his own label and has won two Dove Awards. Lecrae is incredibly popular and a positive role model.

**Albums:** *Gravity* (2012), *Rehab* (2010), *Real Talk* (2004)

**What Lecrae Says:** In response to people accusing him of selling out the gospel, Lecrae writes: “[Christians] limit spirituality to salvation and sanctification. ... Most Christians have no clue how to engage culture in politics, science, economics, TV, music, or art. We tend to leave people to their own devices there.”

**Explore:** All of Lecrae’s albums are available to listen to on Spotify.

## MOVIES

**Movie:** *Looper*

**Genre:** Action, Thriller

**Rating:** Not yet rated

**Synopsis:** In the future, when the mob wants to get rid of someone, they send the target 30 years into the past, where a “looper”—a hired gun—is waiting to mop up. Joe is a Looper, and one day the mob decides to “close the loop,” sending back Joe’s future self (Bruce Willis) for assassination.

**Our Take:** This sounds like a Christopher Nolan movie (but isn’t). It promises to be incredibly clever. I hope they keep it to PG-13.

**Movie:** *House at the End of the Street*

**Genre:** Horror, Thriller

**Rating:** PG-13

**Synopsis:** A woman and her teenage daughter move next door to a house where terrible things happened years ago. When the girl begins a relationship with the only survivor of that night, things start to go badly.

**Our Take:** This fall’s horror-movie offering features *Hunger Games* star Jennifer Lawrence. So it’s a good bet that teenagers will be interested.

For more media discussions and ideas, go to [www.MinistryandMedia.com](http://www.MinistryandMedia.com).

## VIDEO GAMES

**Ratchet & Clank**—This game collects three classic *Ratchet & Clank* games—fully remastered—in one place. They’re fun, clever, and *mostly* teen-friendly platformers. Some titles are full of innuendo: *Up Your Arsenal*, *Going Commando*, etc. (Rated E10; PS3)

**Borderlands 2**—This first-person shooter has a unique cel-shaded art style, plus technology that can create thousands of different gun combinations when you kill bad guys and loot their stuff. It also has foul language and lots of gore. Don’t let your kids talk you into this one. (Rated M; Xbox 360, PS3)

# SEPTEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Labor Day		Student Bible Study 6:30-8pm			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
			Student Bible Study 6:30-8pm			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Youth Event Planning Meeting (for parents) after pm service			Student Bible Study 6:30-8pm			
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29
			See You At The Pole @ 7am @ CHS Flag pole  SYATP Rally 6-8pm @ CMS GYM			