

## A Graduated Plan To Develop Servant's Hearts

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When ministry is viewed as a process, rather than a program, there is tremendous potential that is understood. Most children's ministries (CM) and youth ministries (YM) operate separately with very limited collaboration. When the CM and YM view the development of servant hearts as a process that begins at birth and progresses to adulthood, both ministries understand the power of collaboration and unity.



A unified effort between the CM and the YM should include considerations for the curriculum, programming, worshipping, policies and events. Not everything can be shared, but everything should be coordinated. The CM will "have" children from birth to middle school or junior high. Then, the CM "passes" the youth to the YM. The question should be asked, "What character does the YM want in the middle schoolers/junior high students?" A good answer to that question might be, "Youth who are committed to Jesus and who have a passion to serve others."

Servant hearts are created over time. It is a process that stretches throughout the CM and into the YM. Here is a brief illustration of how this "graduated plan" can result in youth who are involved in mission trips and the evangelism and discipleship of others when they graduate high school.

