



# LEADER GUIDE

#WELOVESCHOOLS



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**W**hy should a church, pastor, or youth leader care about their area schools? Simply, your schools are the most convenient and strategic mission field.

### **FOR THE CHURCH**

The largest collection of unreached people in any community intersects through the local school. On any given school day, at least 20 percent of your community's population is gathered on the school campuses made up of teachers, students, and school employees. Often, your school district(s) is one of your community's largest employers. While the church and adults have no legal rights on the school campus, they can invest in and serve the school. By engaging the local school, the church impacts the broader community through its family and networking relationships.

Reaching your community, including your local schools, is as much a mindset as it is a method. Love Your Schools can be more than a method about how you specifically reach out, but also a way to introduce to your congregation that local schools are in your church's mindset (philosophy/culture) as well.

### **FOR THE PASTOR/YOUTH LEADER**

School life is community life. The cause of making Jesus known to every student and every school begins with relationally connecting to school leaders and students through their school life. From painting classrooms and meeting school needs; serving on the school board or as a sports or fine arts chaplain; substitute teaching; and attending school events, youth leaders can connect to and influence a vast network of students, teachers, parents, and families.

Additionally, mobilizing your church's students to be on mission with a cause to share the gospel is imperative to reach every student in every school. Nothing of significance will happen unless our students pray and break the silence through conversations about Jesus.



## HOW TO USE THE LOVE YOUR SCHOOLS KIT

The Love Your Schools kit provides resources to help assist churches and leaders toward three key actions to love your schools: Pray, Care, and Share.

### PRAY

Prayer is a strong first step in loving your schools. Ask God to work in the lives of the students and educators at your schools. Ask Him to bless them, meet their needs, and open their hearts to His love and truth.

#### AS A CHURCH/PASTOR/YOUTH LEADER

- Promote [See You at the Pole™](#). Open the church for anyone to come and pray at the same time students are at the flagpoles praying for their schools.
- Launch an ongoing, easy-to-remember prayer strategy for students, teachers, and schools ([Prayer Zone Partners®](#)). Pray for students, teachers, and their schools throughout the school year. When you go through a school zone, make it a prayer zone. When you see a school bus, pray that this generation would know Jesus.
- Mobilize and equip your students to promote and participate in [See You at the Pole](#) at their schools.

### CARE

Caring in the name of Jesus brings attention to His greatness and demonstrates His unconditional love in action. Meet with your school officials and ask for important school needs. Take the next few steps in mobilizing your church to serve schools and your students to reach other students.



## AS A CHURCH/PASTOR/YOUTH LEADER

Conduct a Love Your Schools Sunday in your church. (Nationally, we recommend the Sunday before See You at the Pole™ but use the Sunday that works best for you and your church.)

- Sunday Morning Service: A Sunday Service Message Outline has been included in the Love Your Schools kit. Dedicate a Sunday to emphasize that your church loves your schools as you launch the church's efforts to adopt and serve school(s), bless teachers, and pray for students.
- Pray for students, teachers, schools, and See You at the Pole later in the week (if the Love Your Schools service is done the Sunday prior to See You at the Pole). Launch an ongoing prayer strategy for students, teachers, and schools ([Prayer Zone Partners](#)). Open the church for anyone to come and pray at the same time students are at the flagpoles praying for their schools.
- Inspire your students to care for their friends. Have students develop a list of friends and pray for them daily. Encourage students to talk to and listen to their friends—what are the major things currently happening in their life? Have them write a note of appreciation to their friends. Create opportunities for young people to invite friends to youth group and youth ministry activities. Spending time with their friends is one of the greatest ways to show that they value them.

## How do you start conversations with your local schools?

- a. Connect with your Youth Alive® missionary or district youth director. Your Youth Alive missionary or district youth director can help guide you and your church leadership team as you prepare for your first visit with school leadership.
- b. Select the school(s) you desire to serve.
- c. Talk to your local school administration.



- Set a meeting with your school administration. It is important you schedule a meeting first with school leaders before making any assumptions of what needs the school may have. Meeting a legitimate need goes further than telling them what you think they want or need. This also facilitates a positive relationship between the church and the school, which is the real win.
  - Inquire about the school's needs and share with them the church's desire to support their work.
  - Tell school officials you will let them know what you and your church will do after conversations with your church leadership.
- d.** Decide what you can do.
- Discuss with your church leadership what your church can do for the school. Needs can be made scalable for any size church. You may not have the capacity to meet an entire need, but you can be a part of the solution. Do what you and your church can do in a healthy manner.
  - Create an action plan to respond to the need and determine what will be needed (funds, supplies, people) and when it is needed.
  - Consult with your Youth Alive missionary or district youth director for additional ideas and resources to assist your action plan.
- e.** Recontact the school administration.
- Let them know how your church would like to serve their school.
- f.** Identify a coordinator from your church.
- Your coordinator will help facilitate your service to the school including enlisting people, gathering resources, and leading the effort.



**g.** Launch the vision by having a Love Your Schools Sunday.

- This service can be used to collect the needed supplies, raise funds, or rally the people to join the effort when the service is needed.

**h.** The ways your church can serve are endless.

- Ways to bless and serve a school could be:
  - ▶ Donate back-to-school supplies and backpacks for students in need. The school can provide a list of appropriate supplies to collect. If you live in a rural community, connect with [Rural Compassion™](#).
  - ▶ Explore a school assembly effort to assist students in making healthy decisions. Connect with [The Seven Project](#) or other Youth Alive school assemblies to build a customized assembly for your students.
  - ▶ Provide spa gift certificates for teachers during teacher appreciation month.
  - ▶ Prepare gift packs for every staff/faculty member in the school building.
  - ▶ Deliver meals from a well-liked restaurant to the staff break room.
  - ▶ Send personal notes of appreciation to administrative officials.
  - ▶ Send a work team to fix, repair, and repaint the school's facilities.
  - ▶ Stop by the school to thank the principal. Express your gratitude for what they do without expecting anything in return.
  - ▶ Speak well of administrators, teachers, and faculty whenever the topic of your local school(s) comes up.



- ▶ Enlist volunteers to serve as teacher aides or help with recess supervision.
- ▶ Host seminars for parents and students dealing with issues relevant to Christians in the public schools.
- ▶ Create an ongoing prayer movement to pray for schools, staff, and students ([Prayer Zone Partners®](#)).

\*Remember, meeting any need starts with a conversation to discover what their needs are.

## SHARE

Share the gospel and what it means to trust Christ. Students and adults are silently asking questions about life, God, and eternity. They need someone who will take the time to relate and share what it means to put their trust in Christ. You have the truth and love they are looking for.

## AS A CHURCH/PASTOR/YOUTH LEADER

- Launch the *I Dare You* Youth Series in your youth services. The Youth Series is adapted from a book written by Youth Alive missionaries called *I Dare You*. This book provides challenges to your students which will initiate conversations and provide opportunities to share the gospel. Within the Youth Series is a five-week launch series. The launch series concludes with the ultimate dare—I dare you to put your faith in Jesus. In addition to the launch series, a sermon for each month of the school year is included. The concept is to present a new challenge and equip your group to dare their friends in a new way each month, keeping the momentum and conversations going throughout the school year. The book can assist you and your students to deepen the experience of sharing the gospel one dare at a time. To order the *I Dare You* book, visit [My Healthy Church](#).
- Train your students to share the gospel. Alive in Five is a visual, graphic way





for students to learn and share the gospel message. Learn more at [Alive In Five](#). Alive In Five has a complete youth series as a follow-up to the *I Dare You* series to train and help your students discover the gospel is a message we live as well as a message we share.

- Resources include:
  - ▶ [Salt: Creating Thirst](#)
  - ▶ [I Dare You](#)
  - ▶ [Something Amazing](#)

## BONUS RESOURCES

### AWARE AND PREPARED COMMUNITY CRISIS GUIDE

You never know when one of the darkest days will come to your schools or your community. Offering help in the moment of crisis requires **Personal Preparation** and **Community Connection**. These are the keys to unlocking the door of opportunity and effectiveness. The Aware and Prepared Community Crisis Guide from the National Network of Youth Ministries will enable you to establish key relationships in advance and identify initial steps to take in the midst of responding to a crisis.

### SPORTS/FINE ARTS CHAPLAIN GUIDE

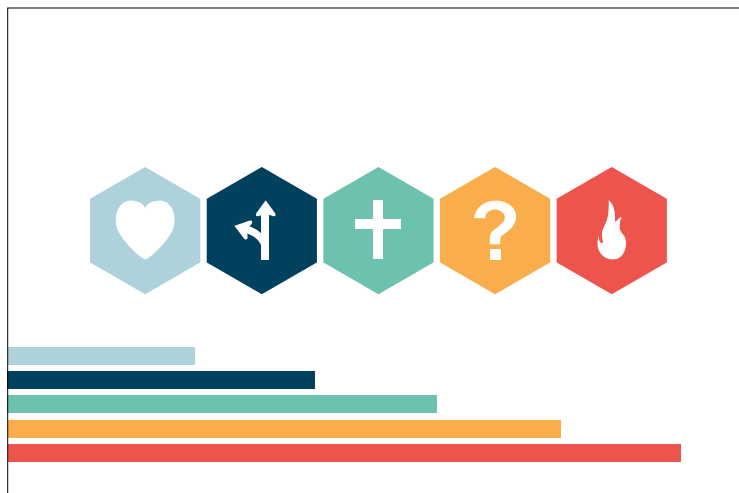
Sports or Fine Arts Chaplaincy is another opportunity for a leader to love and serve the various teams on your school campuses. The Sports/Fine Arts Chaplain Guide is packed with ways to get started and includes ideas, strategies, and devotions from current team chaplains.

### ALIVE IN FIVE

Explore a new gospel advancing resource, **Alive In Five**. Alive in Five is a visual,



graphic way for students to learn and share the gospel message. There are five clear aspects of the gospel message connected to five icons: God is love; Our sin divides us from God; Jesus died for our sin, then came back to life; We need to decide to put our faith in God; and The Holy Spirit will help us live for God. To find more information, order Alive in Five brochures, and download a free youth series, visit [Alive in Five](#).



## SHARE YOUR STORY

Share your Love Your Schools testimony (written testimonies, pictures, and videos) on social media using the hashtags #weloveschools and #youthalive.

Share your efforts by emailing Youth Alive at [ya@ag.org](mailto:ya@ag.org).

 **LOVE YOUR**  
**SCHOOLS™**

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