

# UPRISING ON CAMPUS



In our modern culture there is no place quite as hostile to the gospel message as our secular schools and university campuses. Students are confronted with a secular worldview that is growing in hostility toward their faith. That is why we must call our Christian students to **rise up** for the sake of the good news, instructing them how to properly **revolt** against the godlessness promoted by both faculty and classmates, in an effort to **reach** the whole campus with the unmatched love of Christ.

We have compiled a few broad strategies that you and your student ministries can employ as they initiate an *uprising* on their campuses.

## ENVISION Be Missional, Not Marginal

- Your approach to campus ministry will be directed by your understanding of how campuses relate to the overall mission of the church. According to Jesus, the mission of the church is disciple making [see **Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8**]. A campus ministry then should support the local church's effort of making disciples in your community. As a minister to students, your primary mission field is their school. What this means then, is that **your campus club is not just another program to fill up your students' time, it is one of your ministry's greatest opportunities to fulfill the Great Commission.**
- Campus Ministries are not a substitute for local churches but a supplement to them. Too often campus ministries try to duplicate what happens at youth group back at church. That means worship and Bible study (and maybe breaking up into small groups) almost every single week. In that way, a campus club sort of functions in the place of a local church. Instead, every student should be encouraged to belong to a healthy local church and club time should be used as a missional overflow of local church life.
- As a staff, cast the vision for club meetings. Develop an approach that best equips and mobilizes your club to impact their school. Here's our monthly approach as an example:
  - **Week 1:** Worship and the Word
  - **Week 2:** Fellowship
  - **Week 3:** Outreach
  - **Week 4:** Discipleship

## EMPOWER Motivate, Don't Micromanage

- Pray for, select, and equip gifted student leadership to coordinate your clubs, rather than micromanaging from afar.
- Help student leadership investigate and fulfill the administrative requirements for the campus you intend to minister at, such as faculty sponsorship, time and location, rules and regulations, etc.
- As a church staff, provide resources and assistance (including your presence) to your student leadership to aid in weekly meetings and outreach events.
- Make campus ministry a priority in your ministry by promoting and encouraging clubs in your weekly church services.
- Frequently solicit ideas from club members and, whenever possible, implement them.

## ENGAGE Infiltrate Don't Isolate

- Develop intentional outreach events and activities that uniquely speak to the students of your campus.
- Partner with the other local churches who are involved with campus ministries as much as possible in order to ensure unity and progress for the common goal of the gospel.
- Whenever possible, join with other (non-Christian) clubs in efforts that both organizations agree with. We should affirm what the culture is doing well, while simultaneously challenging their misguided secular worldview (**1 Corinthians 9:19-23**).
- Wherever possible, give of your time, energy, and resources to simply bless your schools and universities (**Galatians 6:10**).

**"All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us." 2 Corinthians 5:18, 20 ESV**