

# DO'S & DON'TS OF COLLEGIATE MINISTRY

## DO...

### **START WITH REGULAR, CONSISTENT PRAYER ON AND FOR THE CAMPUS.**

Prayer is the lens through which we see the world, so create a culture of prayer that focuses on the advancement of the gospel. Make prayer the focus, not just an appetizer. Pray for the students, the campus and leaders. Prayer is a necessity, but it is often neglected.

### **VALUE ALL VOCATIONS AS A MEANS TO BLESS PEOPLE AND GLORIFY GOD.**

Computer programmers, attorneys, teachers and artists are just as important as pastors and worship leaders. Encourage students to think about their career as a calling. How does God want to use their unique gifts, talents and abilities for His Kingdom?

### **GATHER A COMMITTED, COMPETENT TEAM; REFUSE TO BE A LONE RANGER.**

Team is essential. You can't do this alone. But you also can't do it with people who are not dependable or incompetent. Recruit and invest in good people to be part of your team. Surrounding yourself with talented people will sharpen your own skills as a leader and expand your impact.

### **DISCIPLE STUDENTS TO DISCIPLE OTHERS; DON'T DISTRACT THEM FROM MISSION.**

Students' lives are already busy. The last thing they want (or need) is another activity or program that distracts them from being a disciple who makes disciples. Meet them on their turf and take time to build a genuine relationship through which the gospel can flow in the rhythms of life.

### **ALLOW STUDENTS TO FAIL (AND SUCCEED)...IN LIFE AND MINISTRY.**

Let students experiment with appropriate aspects of the ministry. Give them permission to think outside the box. Mentor and encourage them. When they succeed, celebrate with them. When they fail, make sure it's not in vain by helping them learn from the experience.

# DON'T...

## **LOSE FOCUS BY CREATING AN OASIS FOR CHRISTIAN STUDENTS; EMPHASIZE MISSION FROM THE START.**

It's counterintuitive, but if you start as a "holy huddle" that's what you'll always be. Instead, right from the start, make it a safe place where everyone is welcome to come explore and engage the big questions of life and faith. Start with seekers and skeptics, and you'll set the stage to remain focused on the mission.

## **MONOPOLIZE RELATIONSHIPS; NOT EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW YOU.**

Resist the urge to feel like you have to do everything. Not only will this approach lead to stress and burnout, it will prohibit multiplication. Find ways to delegate and empower leaders to get their hands dirty with mentoring, discipling and leading.

## **PLACE YOUR VISION ON A PEDESTAL; ALLOW OTHERS TO SHARE IDEAS.**

You may have lots of great ideas, but remember that God speaks through other people too. Be receptive to the voices of others who might expand the vision of where God is leading. Respect and value others' ideas.

## **FAKE PERFECTION; VALUE AUTHENTICITY AT ALL COSTS.**

Be real, be transparent and be vulnerable. Admit it when you make a mistake. Ask for forgiveness when you blow it. Share stories highlighting your failures as much as your successes. Students can spot inauthenticity from a mile away.

## **SETTLE FOR ONE TYPE OF PERSON; STUDENTS VALUE DIVERSITY AND SO SHOULD YOU.**

Don't develop a reputation as a club for just one type of person. Be intentional about reaching out and including people from all different backgrounds and walks of life. Geeks and Greeks, athletes and actors, internationals and intramurals, introverts and extroverts — ostracize no one.

