



# Parent Information Manual

A booklet prepared for the parents of...  
**Emmanuel Youth IMPACT**

Emmanuel Baptist Church  
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## *Suggested Reading*

Often, parents will inquire about good books that they could read in order to gain good, godly counsel to aid in their parenting. The following titles are recommended. As always, read with discernment.

Pastor Bates' parenting booklet: *Now That I Have Children What Do I Do With Them?* (Available at the EBC Office or Bookstore)

**Though these titles are recommended, please do not assume that this is a blanket endorsement of each author and every word of these books.**

*How to Really Love Your Children.* Ross Campbell, MD. Inspirational Press: New York, NY, 1992.

*How to Really Love Your Teenager.* Ross Campbell, MD. Colorado Springs: Chariot Publishing, 1993.

*Training Your Children To Turn Out Right.* David Sorenson. AACCS: Independence, MO., 1995.

*Shepherding a Child's Heart.* David Tripp

*Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens.* Paul David Tripp. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2001.

God. Lord willing, each month we will be making a devotional guide available for each teen to use in their personal devotions. These guides will encourage thoughtful Bible study, not just reading to “get through the Bible.” We will study various books of the Bible and provide devotional thoughts for personal application. Encourage your teen to have devotions, and if they need a tool, make sure they have the IMPACT devotional guide!

### *Youth Services*

From time to time, we have been given the opportunity by Pastor Bates to be involved in running the Sunday Evening Service. From preaching, to ushering, to singing, to instrument playing there will be many opportunities for each teen to be involved. We’ll seek to be a blessing to the church ministry on those nights!

### *Youth Website*

A members-only site provides protected access to only those members directly invited by the youth pastor. Inquire about this with Pastor Sawtelle.

## *Introduction*

Mom and Dad are by far the most important people in a teen’s life. My parents were the most influential people in my life. The Lord uses parents to prepare their children for His Will! Because I believe so strongly in this, I desire to have a good working relationship with each parent that has their teen in our youth group. I realize that this relationship will take time to grow, but I hope that our quarterly parent information meetings and individual contacts will make for a real partnership. The youth group is not the solution to all the parent’s problems, but I believe very strongly that if you as the parent will take advantage of all that this youth ministry has to offer, you will be taking advantage of a great tool that could be your best friend in the job of parenting. You see, this youth ministry has the purpose of investing in teenagers in order to prepare them to serve actively as Christ-like teenagers.

The purpose of this manual is to delineate information that I hope will be of help to you as you seek to take full advantage of the youth ministry. Please, feel free to call me with any question. There is an answer for each one you might have. I’d like to be of help!

Serving families for the glory of God,

*Todd Sawtelle*

## *What is our philosophy of ministry?*

I have mentioned it briefly in the note above, but let me spell it out concisely... I believe any church ministry has a three-fold responsibility according to Ephesians 4:11, 12:

1. *Evangelizing- Bringing the Gospel to the lost.*
2. *Equipping- Equipping teens for the ministry.*
3. *Edifying- Building up teens in the faith.*

Realizing a real need in youth ministry is to get the teens actively serving the Lord, I have taken on the purpose of investing in ACTIVE Christ-like teenagers. Thus our youth group name is Youth IMPACT. IMPACT is an acrostic meaning an Investing Ministry Preparing Active Christ-like Teenagers. What does this mean to you as the parent? I would ask that you encourage your teen to be active in his/her youth group by being faithful to the youth services, Sunday School, T.E.A.M. Time, activities, and camping opportunities. I realize this will mean some work on your part; but isn't the investment in your teenager worth the extra effort? I know *the world* offers a lot to today's teenager; but I would challenge you to support your youth ministry with your time, effort, and prayer. Please be sure to attend our Parent Information Meetings where you can be brought "up-to-date" with what is happening in our youth ministry. It is best that teenagers not be in attendance at the meetings.

of our church. Our youth meetings are structured so that the teens are very involved in their teams and the program. If they get involved, they'll get excited!

## *When to contact the Youth Pastor...*

Communication is very important to me. In general, I am available any time to serve you. Certainly, any time you have a question, praise, criticism, suggestion, prayer request, etc. please contact me. The church number is 666-1055. My office extension is 226. My home number is 225-7640.

## *Parental Involvement in the Youth Program...*

For the most part, the operation of the youth ministry will be handled by the youth pastor and his volunteer youth staff. There are a number of handpicked faithful people that help as youth staff. Parents, will be invited to aid in specific areas and opportunities that will be made known at the Parent Information Meetings. Parental participation is needed and encouraged! Of course, prayer is always a need.

## *IMPACT Devotional Guides*

A burden of mine, as the youth pastor, is the devotional lives of our teenagers. Spending personal time with the Lord every day is vital to a close walk with

year. It is very important that your young person have the time away from the worldly pressures that they normally face (friends, TV, music, work, school, family, etc.) and be confronted with concentrated preaching from the Word of God. Each summer we will take a trip to one of the best Christian camps in the country, so that they will be able to “get away” and get into God’s Word. Our Winter Retreats will be conducted, by our youth staff, in either January or February at a camp here in New England.

### *TEAM Time...*

This is a regularly scheduled time where the *Teens Evangelize And Minister*. This is a vital part of the youth ministry, that we need to increase focus on. The practice of giving out the Gospel is important for all ages to be regularly involved in; but also a regular time of service to others is healthy. The regular time for this to be scheduled is on Wednesday evening from 4:30 - 6:30. This time will include a dinner for those who come to minister. Also, we will mix in other service opportunities such as nursing home visits throughout the year.

### *Teen Involvement and Participation...*

By now you have probably caught one of the themes of this youth ministry: teen involvement. I desire to get the teens involved in every way possible in the ministry

### *Dress Standards...*

Three words summarize our dress standards: modesty, distinction (between the genders), and appropriateness. We seek to uphold the high standards of Emmanuel Baptist Church in the spirit of maintaining modesty and distinction between the sexes. Therefore, we ask the young men wear shorts that come to the knee and jeans or sweat pants that fit properly at the waist. There should never be any obscene or inappropriate writing or advertising on any garments worn by either the boys or the girls. We ask that the young ladies not wear slacks or jeans of any type, but that they wear modest loosely fitting walking shorts or skirt that come to the middle of the knee. Shirts and blouses may not be tight-fitting or have low neck lines for the sake of modesty. In short, we want to be modest and proper in our dress so that we will be pleasing to our God!

### *Discipline Problems...*

There is never a problem that cannot be solved if the parents and youth pastor will seek the wisdom of God and teamwork to work through. If there is a discipline problem at Youth IMPACT this is how the youth worker will handle it...

1. The teen will be pulled aside from the group and spoken to calmly but sternly.

2. If the problem continues the teen will be addressed individually by the youth pastor calmly and sternly.
3. The youth pastor will contact the parent to inform them of the situation and how it has been dealt with.
4. If the problem continues, the youth pastor will “suspend” the teenager from the next youth meeting or until the teen shows a willingness to submit to the authority and change the action.
5. More serious offenses may warrant more serious actions per the situation. All steps necessary will be taken to ensure the safety and well-being of each teenager in our youth meetings. No disruptive behavior will be tolerated.

### *Activities...*

Activities for the most part will be scheduled once per month. I realize that we are living in busy times, and family time is a precious commodity. We do not seek to rob time from the family, but the purpose for the activities is to provide companionship, contacts, and counsel. In short, activities are a very important part of the calendar for our youth ministry. I will publish the activity calendar in the fall of the prior year so that you will be able to make plans. Our church youth bud-

get will be used to keep the activities more affordable. Though some activities will be more expensive than others, I will try to give you enough notice to be prepared. There will be a permission slip given for each activity for the sole purpose of ensuring the youth pastor that the parents know the information about the activity. A generic permission slip can be downloaded from our church's website at [www.emmanuel-newington.org](http://www.emmanuel-newington.org). Please faithfully support us in the area of activity attendance.

### *Mission Trips...*

Lord willing, each year we will take a mission trip. Mission trips can, in a unique way, grab the heart of a young person. Life-changing decisions will be made and eternal lessons will be learned from missions trips. Each year preceding the trip there will be information published with the details of the trip for all parents to know. We will also use Parent Information Meeting as a forum to keep you up-to-date on these plans. The schedule for Summer of 2005 includes a trip to Brazil. In 2006, we are planning to visit David and Marsha West again in the bush country of Quebec.

### *Camp and Winter Retreat...*

Again, camp is a vital part of the youth calendar each