

Excel Discipleship Program

A Discipleship Program of Victory Youth

Definition

ex-cel (verb)

from the Latin words ex (out, beyond) and celsus (lofty) > Latin word "excellere" > English word "excel"

be exceptionally good at or proficient in an activity or subject

synonyms: shine, be excellent, be outstanding, be skillful, be talented, be preeminent, stand out, be the best, be unparalleled, be unequaled, be second to none, be unsurpassed

Mission Statement

To empower youth to excel in Bible proficiency, leadership and serving

Vision Statement

Teaching students how to escape average, build their spiritual foundation and become disciples of Jesus Christ through accountability and daily disciplines.

What is a disciple? A disciple learns Jesus's words; a disciple learns Jesus's way of ministry; a disciple imitates Jesus's life and character; a disciple who follows Jesus teaches their disciples. In essence, they are reproducing and aligning themselves with those who have the same vision that they do.

THE WHY BEHIND EXCEL

Jesus charged the disciples with the Great Commission - He charged the disciples to go and build relationships with others so that discipleship could be birthed. Discipleship is incomplete without relationships. Discipleship is being willing to be the anvil in someone's life and bridging the gap from good to best. The catalyst to raising up world changers in this next generation is discipleship which is the breeding ground for total transformation.

Key Program Verses

- And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. (Luke 2:52)
 - **Grow as Jesus grew!**
- Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. (1 Timothy 4:12)
 - **Be an example to those older and younger!**
- How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. (Psalm 119:9)
 - **Live according to God's word!**

- Therefore, we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us (Hebrews 12:1)
 - *Drop sin like dead weight and run the race of life God has set before us!*

Excel Program Overview

Dates – June 2 to Aug 26 (12 weeks)

Growth Coach – You will select a growth coach from the youth leadership team. You can submit online at <http://www.ourvictory.org/ministries/youth/> , scroll to the bottom for the form. You will approach a youth leader and explain your intention to complete the program and ask them to be your coach. Your coach will be your mentor throughout the 12 weeks and you will be expected to check in with them once per week.

3 Key Components:

- **Bible reading and scripture memorization**
 - Read one Proverb per day (Monday- Saturday) and answer question that corresponds to chapter
 - After 31 days of that, read one chapter of John and answer question that corresponds to chapter
 - After 21 days of that, read one chapter of Acts through Chapter 20 and answer question that corresponds to chapter.
 - Memorize weekly scriptures (given out during youth services | 12 in total)
- **Peer Leadership**
 - Peer leadership project (see separate document for project options)
- **Serving (in good standing in youth services and in main church)**
 - Serve on at least 1 “servanthood” ministry such as ushering, Java, sound and lighting, care team, Victory Kids, cleaning, youth group and more! (For example, some ministries that are NOT an option would be performing arts or “once in a while things” such as tag sale ministry). The ministry must be ongoing and “serving” in nature. Ask your coach if you are unsure. There are 12 weeks so you should plan to serve at least 3 times (1-2 times a month is the norm.) in your ministry of choice. You can serve more of course and if you want to or already do 2 or more ministries talk to your coach about extra credit!
 - Serve in youth once per month (3X in total over the 12 weeks) [Host team, AV or Java]
 - Sarah Tyrol will sign off if you serve as a host.
 - Christian Aguayo will sign off if you serve on the AV Team.
 - Kelli Vasso will sign off if you serve on our youth Java team.

Student Checklist

- **Every day (Monday-Saturday):** Complete your daily Bible reading in Proverbs, then John, then Acts and work on memory verse.
- **Every day:** Speak daily declaration prayer out loud.
- **Each Thursday:** Share that week's memory verse in youth group or in person with your coach.
- **Each Sunday:** Send a message to your growth coach with your replies to the daily Bible reading questions. Write down your answers in your journal each day, take a photo of your journal pages and text or email them to your coach.
- **At the start of the program:** Connect with your growth coach to make plans for your peer leadership project. **Submit your leadership project form to your coach within the first week or 2 of the program.*
- Make sure to plan to complete your peer leadership project within the 12 weeks. (If you're going to teach a lesson, work with Emilio Ramos and your coach to get on schedule to teach it within the 12 weeks.)
- Meet all ministry team requirements (serving diligently within youth services and on your main service ministry.) Reach out to the ministry director once a month to see if there is anything they could use your help with.
- **Daily Declaration to pray over your life:**

"Today is the day the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it. Today, I choose to put God first in my life. I will honor those who are in authority over me. I speak God's Word over my life. I have the wisdom of heaven and the mind of Christ. I walk in divine favor with God and man. I speak Psalm 91 over my life and the lives of my family. The angels of the Lord are encamped around me wherever I go. All the days of my life, I live in divine health. Everything I put my hand to prospers. I am fantastic, strong, intelligent, creative, wonderful, incredible, amazing, powerful, and created in the image of God. In Jesus name, Amen!"

Program Privileges (What's in it for me?)

Once you have graduated from the Excel Program, you will gain the following:

- You will be honored by your youth leaders and Pastors in front of the church body as an Excel Program graduate. (**Sunday, August 26**)
- You will receive a card that gets you 20% off all Java purchases for one year.
- You will receive a \$20 credit to use towards youth apparel (t-shirt, hat or hoodie)
- 1st year graduates will receive a personalized Bible with your name engraved on it.
- If this is your second year going through the Excel program, you will receive a different gift.
- You will receive an Excel Program t-shirt

Excel Commitment

This discipleship program will challenge you mentally and spiritually. By taking this challenge, you agree to complete your daily tasks and reading assignments while also communicating at the end of every week to your Growth Coach about finishing your list of accomplishments. Repeated incompleteness and failure to earn the required amount of points will result in withdrawal from the Excel Program. It is not your Growth Coach's job to follow up with you. It is your responsibility to contact them at the end of each week.

Excel Discipleship Agreement Form

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Cell #: _____ **Grade:** _____

Email: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

Gender: _____

I _____ (student) commit to take ownership of my own spiritual growth and come into alignment with the **Victory Youth Excel Discipleship Program** by committing to follow all program guidelines in order to achieve growth in **Bible Knowledge, Servanthood and Leadership**. I am committing to submit all tasks and assignments required through the program to my designated leader by the designated due date. I am committing to grow and mature in my relationship with God and will be accountable for my daily disciplines, Bible reading, spending time with God, serving and attending church services weekly. I acknowledge that failure to do any of the requirements will result in an incompleteness of the program.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian

I have reviewed all program requirements and I commit to support my child in the Excel Discipleship Program.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____