

# LAUNCHPACKET



# PROJECT TIMOTHY

**vineyard**youth

# History and Vision: Project Timothy

In 2009 a group of youth pastors in the Eastern Region of the Vineyard started asking some questions. Given the spectrum in the Vineyard for youth ministry - some churches have amazing volunteer parents leading in their spare time, others have full time paid youth pastors, and everything in between - we wondered, is there a consistent opportunity for teen leaders to be identified, trained, empowered, and released?

What if we created a place where youth ministries of all shapes and sizes could send their teen leaders for a life changing week of training and empowerment? What if built into this experience was the goal that those teens would go back to their local youth group and church, having signed a one-year commitment to serve and lead there? It was out of this heart, to resource and train teen leaders to be sent back into their churches, that Project Timothy was born.

We have now completed our eighth year in the East, having seen 100's of students attend Project Timothy. In the last few years two new locations have launched (Colorado and Kansas City) and have seen similar fruit. We are now looking to offer Project Timothy to other regions who desire to create a culture of teen leadership.



## Target Audience: Teen Leaders

Teen leaders (freshmen-seniors) who show leadership potential and can commit to serving for at least 1 year at their youth group, their church, or their community in a leadership capacity. Also, current youth pastors/adult leaders who are willing to give up a week and serve as an adult leader.

## Four Year Plan: Goals for Each Year

We have created a plan that will keep students coming back for four years if they want to. This doesn't mean that a student must start as a freshman though. Students can jump into the plan at any point. We have three overarching goals that we pursue each year: Personal Growth Goals, Spiritual Growth Goals, and Leadership Growth Goals. Every class and experience is tailored to fit into one of those growth areas. Also, each year has a specific vision statement. The next page contains a table displaying how each year's vision statement, and the three goals for each year, are achieved.



# PROJECT TIMOTHY 4 YEAR PLAN



## LAUNCH EMPOWER EQUIP GIVE BACK

year 1                      year 2                      year 3                      year 4

### LAUNCH (YEAR 1) OVERALL GOAL: *To launch you on the adventure of servant leadership and empowered ministry.*

**Personal Growth Goal:**  
*Knowing yourself and God.*

- learn to spend time with Jesus
- team building activities
- building foundations in God

**Leadership Growth Goal:**  
*How to lead and work with others.*

- plan and lead outreach project
- lead small groups
- servant leadership training

**Spiritual Growth Goal:**  
*An introduction to ministry.*

- hearing God's voice
- 5 step healing prayer model
- gift testing
- sharing your faith
- personal prophecy

**FOLLOW UP: 1 YEAR OF SERVING IN LOCAL CHURCH OR COMMUNITY**

### EMPOWER (YEAR 2) OVERALL GOAL *To emphasize growing in understanding and experiencing ministry by the power of the Spirit.*

**Personal Growth Goal:**  
*Deepening disciplines.*

- deepening Jesus time
- study the spiritual disciplines
- overcoming sin and addiction
- falling in love with the Bible

**Leadership Growth Goal:**  
*Using leadership skills in larger settings.*

- boldness teaching
- plan and lead small groups
- lead several outreaches
- plan and lead a main session

**Spiritual Growth Goal:**  
*Going deeper into ministry.*

- ministry emphasis tracks:
  - worship, teaching, or missions
- prophecy 201
- deliverance 101

**FOLLOW UP: 1 YEAR OF WORKING ON A MINISTRY TEAM IN YOUR LOCAL CHURCH**

### EQUIP (YEAR 3) OVERALL GOAL *Apply your experience to forward-looking, visionary ministry goals in your life.*

**Personal Growth Goal:**  
*Deeper growth with mentoring.*

- ministry foundations
  - accountability
  - pacing yourself

**Leadership Growth Goal:**  
*How to start and lead something new.*

- mentoring and making disciples
- VUSA ministry network classes
- mentoring with guest speakers
- organize and run personal prophecy
- goal setting and vision casting

**Spiritual Growth Goal:**  
*An introduction to ministry.*

- ministry emphasis tracks:
  - worship, teaching, or missions
- deliverance 201
- kingdom theology

**FOLLOW UP: IN THE NEXT YEAR, TRY TO START AND LEAD A NEW MINISTRY**

### GIVE BACK (INTERN) OVERALL GOAL *To team up with the adults in the ministry and leading of Project Timothy.*

**Personal Growth Goal:**  
*Growth through personalized meetings and ministry.*

- personal time with a life coach
- mentoring with a leader

**Leadership Growth Goal:**  
*Working directly with students of PT.*

- mentoring with main speakers
- call all new students before it begins
- investing in the lives of new students

**Spiritual Growth Goal:**  
*Growth by doing - as you minister you will grow and be stretched!*

- church history
- lead a healing prayer session
- lead a deliverance session

# Why Do This: The Results

We are very excited about the lasting results in the lives of the teens who have attended Project Timothy. Many were results we had hoped for, but we've also been surprised to see several we hadn't anticipated! After eight years we can tell you with confidence that you will see this fruit in your region, and that it is worth all the hard work!

- ▶ Teens have a life impacting experience that they will remember the rest of their lives.
- ▶ Teens grow in our three target areas: Spiritual Growth, Leadership Growth, and Personal Growth.
- ▶ Teens return to their churches with experience leading and a greater confidence to put their gifts into practice.
- ▶ Spiritual gifts and life callings are imparted and often healing and inner transformation is powerfully accomplished through Holy Spirit ministry.
- ▶ Relationships and friendships are formed between youth leaders and churches which fosters greater unity in the region.
- ▶ Teens create life-long friendships across church and state lines -- and they see themselves as part of the larger picture of the Vineyard and Body of Christ as a whole.
- ▶ A community of like minded young people who want to passionately serve God is formed and supports one another online and personally as they all pursue God's call on their lives.



## Launching PT: A Culture Not An Event



First, if you are interested in launching a Project Timothy in your region we would encourage you to consider this as an establishment of a culture, not the hosting of an event. Project Timothy only really works (the way it is described above) if it is embraced at multiple levels across the region. For it to succeed, many churches need to be involved and need to have ownership - this is not just a one church event. Also, it needs to be reinforced at other events - regional leadership conferences, youth retreats, etc. We have our PT grads serve as prayer ministers at youth

retreats, as worship people at regional events, and any other way we can find a place to plug them in. This reinforces the value of teen leadership as a practice rather than something we are just talking about.

# Launching PT: Non-Negotiables

Our goal is to hand off Project Timothy and let the host region use their gifts and talents to make it the best it can be for their region. You know your region's culture and can best adjust PT to reach your culture. However, for PT to still be PT, there are some things we ask you not to change.

**Teen Leadership** - This is not a retreat or an event open to ALL youth. Many will want to come, but this is ONLY for current and potential teen leaders. This is something cultural you'll have to fight for, in order to maintain. We've found that the inertia of the event over multiple years tends towards more and more teens wanting to come who are less and less like leaders. It is equally hard, as adult leaders, to turn teens away who are excited about this event. But to maintain the integrity of the purpose of PT, and the experience of the teen leaders who should be there, we have found it necessary to repeatedly communicate the vision: this is for teen leaders.

**Spirit Empowered** - This may be obvious in the Vineyard, but we have found that authentic encounters with the presence of God is one of the best ways to leave a lasting mark on a teen's life. This includes but is not limited to - spirit led worship, training and practice of the gifts, many times of personal prayer ministry, power evangelism, training in hearing God's voice, and times of personal prophecy.

**Multi-Church Effort** - PT needs to be led by a team of at least 5 churches. 5-10 is really a great range. It's fine to have one church take "the lead" as host, but a team needs to be created with shared ownership and responsibility.

**Regional Leadership Support** - This will only work if there is support from the Regional Leader!

**Regional Prayer Support** - This is a huge undertaking. Much prayer is needed.

**Multi-Year Commitment** - To really establish the PT culture in your region, you'll want to have this for several years. We have created a 4 year program to encourage teens to come back.

**Attend a Project Timothy** - We have found that the ethos of Project Timothy is best "caught" if you can spend a few days at PT BEFORE you host yours. Vineyard Youth will pay your expenses to get you there.



## Launching PT: What We Offer

Vineyard Youth is committed to supporting the creation of PT's in other regions. To that end, here is a list of what we can offer you.

**Marketing** - We create one marketing "campaign" for all sites so you will be included on marketing cards, the website, and the promo video.

**Graphics** - PT logo, t-shirt logo, tshirt ordering option.

**Online Registration** - All registration, waivers, and payment is handled online through Vineyard Youth site.

**Schedule** - We have a schedule with class topics and everything that you can plug and play for the week - you'll have to adjust things of course, but it's a great place to start.

**Curriculum** - Some of our classes have curriculum that we can share with you if requested.

# Launching PT: What We Offer (cont.)

**Budget Overview** - We will share the East's budget with you, and advise accordingly.

**Coaching** - Christian Dunn will meet with you and your team online to discuss and plan as the event draws near. He and others will also be available for any questions and support over email and text.

**Support Staff** - We can send you several young adults who have been in PT for more than 3 years. They can come to serve and minister, and often more if you are interested! They help establish that culture of PT too since they've been there and caught it!

## Launching PT: Why We Do What We Do

There are many components to PT, and each of them has an intentional purpose. Over the years we have tried to cut out as much of the "fat" as possible, making every second "count" towards the goals of Spiritual, Personal, and Leadership Growth. Some of these are obvious, but we wanted to briefly express our vision for each.

**Night Meetings** - Our goal for these is profound, life-changing impact. This is where we invite the Holy Spirit through worship, teaching, and prayer ministry to touch the lives of these teens in a way they will never forget. Practically, we invite worship leaders from around the region and fill in the teams with teens as often as possible. Over time you will have the teens leading worship most of the time! And then we invite a mix of pastors and youth pastors from around the region to speak. We ask them to speak on leadership and make it both instructional and impartational (i.e. ministry focused). The specific topics are up to you, or you can leave it up to them.

**Classes** - We try to make classes equal part instructional and experiential. With so many classes, we work hard to avoid a "school" atmosphere. So we try to make all classes have a discussion, ministry, or hands-on activity. We don't just want to teach, we want to give them time to practice—by the end, all students have been trained in, and practiced, all of the following: giving a short teaching (depending on their year); leading a small group; organizing and leading an outreach; praying the 5-step model over people; and more! Also, we never schedule two classes back to back. We always break them up with something fun, or a meal, or something interactive like small groups or Jesus Time.



**Outreaches** - We have smaller outreaches throughout the week, and one large scale outreach the last day where everyone goes on an outreach. The purpose of the smaller outreaches is to instill a heart of compassion and evangelism. These happen more often the more years that you add. The purpose of the large outreach is to give them hands-on experience planning, praying for, and leading an outreach on their own. Basically at the beginning of the week the teens are broken into outreach teams, and they prayerfully choose an outreach. Then throughout the week they are coached through planning and prepping for this outreach, including having to "pitch" the idea (budget and all!) to a group of adults. Lastly, they lead the outreaches they have planned on the last day of PT.

**Small Groups** - The goal of small groups beyond what you already know, is to give each teen a chance to actually lead a small group. We provide training at the beginning of the week, and then we debrief at the end once everyone has led one.

# Launching PT: Why We Do What We Do (cont.)

**Fun Times** - We purposely schedule a fun time every day. Honestly it is good for everyone to get “off campus” for a while, be together, and have fun.

**Jesus Time** - We want to encourage a lifestyle of daily spending time with Jesus. We give some instruction on this at the outset, and then we schedule 30 minutes every day for prayer, reading, study, worship, and reflection.

**Team Building Activities** - We schedule a few of these each week as a more focused “fun time.” These have changed a lot over the years, so be creative!

**Prophetic Time** - This is a very powerful time near the end of the week. We create teams of 3-4 people and provide a 5-7 minute time slot of personal prophetic prayer. We write down everything and send it home with them. Teens hold onto these words for years to come.

**Blessings** - This may seem like a small element, but it’s worth mentioning. We challenge every student to write a “blessing” for every other student by the end of the week. We create small pieces of paper, and hand out lists of all the students. It encourages them to invest in each other.

**Pre-Meeting Games** - As the week goes on, friendships grow, and the culture of being “one community” really takes hold. One way we foster this is by being stupid and silly together. These games are good to get everyone awake again after dinner too!

**Buffalo Wild Wings** - This isn’t a joke :) A tradition has been established of going out to eat late after a night meeting at least once (ok, we do it twice!). This is just another way of letting off steam and building community. It works for the adults there too! You don’t have to go to BWW, but choose something that works for your culture (this is not part of the budget, teens bring their own money for this)!

**Multi Year Track** - You’ll see this in our writings. We have created a schedule that allows for 4 years of students to run simultaneously. They are together for some things and separate for some.

**Meals** - The way we do meals is we purchase food for breakfast, lunch, and snacks and have adults set out food for all these. Teens are assigned to teams for clean up and set up as well. For dinner, when we are out we purchase something. When we are at the church, we provide money to families to cook for us. As we’ve gotten larger this has been harder to do, but it’s a great value to have home cooked food for our students.

**Host Homes** - We house all our students in host homes from within the host church.

## Launching PT: Getting The Word Out

As we’ve planted the two new Project Timothy’s over the past few years, we’ve learned a few strategies that seem to work. They may seem obvious, but we’re putting them in here anyway!

- ▶ Send cards to every church in your region with a letter inviting them
- ▶ Establish an online call with Christian Dunn to learn more
- ▶ Hold monthly calls for churches in PT interested to meet and ask questions
- ▶ Advertise at regional leadership conference, and at any youth events
- ▶ Send video to all churches
- ▶ Invite speakers from multiple churches to get them invested.

# Launching PT: Year Long Flow Chart



## Early Fall

- Announce dates for PT to your region
- Send out follow up letter to Pastors/Youth Pastors

## Late Fall

- Cards are made to hand out at events

## Winter

- Advertise at retreats, youth pastor conferences, and other gatherings with videos, cards, and announcements
- Start lining up any speakers outside of your region

## 4 Months Out

- Start lining up speakers from within your region

## 3 Months Out

- Work on worship teams for night meetings
- Finalize daily schedule with speakers
- Find host homes
- Line up someone to cook
- Start making calls to places/organizations that you'd like to work with for outreaches
- Set up team to read through applications
- Respond to applications as needed
- Start contacting people for Skype calls if desired (we use skype calls as a way to get more voices involved without having to fly them all in)

## 2 Months Out

- Assign/Plan pre-meeting ice breakers
- Assign/Plan games
- Assign/Plan team building exercises
- Finalize housing - break kids into groups for housing
- Establish driving, ensure enough cars, rent vans if needed
- Make sure all outreaches are planned and ready to go
- Respond to applications
- Work on the "fun days;" make sure they are planned
- Double check with Skype calls to speakers or other PT regions
- Write small group material and Jesus Time material
- Break small groups up

## 1 Month Out

- Get T-shirt sizes to us so we can print them for you, or we can provide you with graphics and you can print them yourself locally if that's a better option for you

## Week Before

- Buy food for lunch and breakfast
- Buy stuff for games
- Buy stuff for outreaches
- Buy "send off" gift. Basically, the last night we do a teaching that ends with some sort of "prop" that ties into the teaching but also gives them something tangible to take home. We also try to make it something on which they can write encouragements to each other on the last night.



# Find More Resources Online

## [vineyardyouthusa.com/PTLaunch](http://vineyardyouthusa.com/PTLaunch)

We will continue to add more resources as they become available. Here is what we have up currently for you to download and use. We are excited to partner with you in this adventure!

- ▶ Example Budget
- ▶ First Yr Schedule
- ▶ Multi Yr Schedule
- ▶ Invitation Letter From Rick Olmstead
- ▶ Letter For Youth Pastors
- ▶ Other Documents Used During the Week of PT



## Join Other PT's Across the Nation!

