

Walk Alongside

Part two in a three-step process for you to grow in your ability to lead leaders.

1. **Clarity is kind**
2. **Walk alongside**
3. **Inspect what you expect**

Just because you have communicated a role — including qualifications, commitments and dreams — to a volunteer leader does not mean your job is done as a leader. Often, student ministry leaders onboard a new volunteer and simply turn them loose.

As leaders, we must walk alongside our volunteers to help them become all God has called them to be. Here is a five-step process to help you in this task.

STEP ONE: TELL THEM WHY

- Cast vision for why they should spend their time discipling the next generation. There are many different ways to serve in the church — It's your job to tell them why reaching the next generation is the most impactful.

STEP TWO: SHOW THEM HOW

- Before sending them to teach a Bible Study or lead a small group, show them how. Teaching them how includes equipping them with the right resources, training them how to teach and answering their questions.

STEP THREE: MODEL IT BEFORE THEM

- Let them watch you teach. Let them see how you prepare. Is there another key leader already in your ministry who could model it before them?

STEP FOUR: DO IT WITH THEM

- Leaders need to have shared experiences with feedback for complete understanding.

STEP FIVE: SPUR THEM ON

- After walking through the previous steps, encourage and send them on mission.

Pick a leader and start them on step one this week.

Environments

People grow best in a grace-filled environment where failure is not fatal. Failure opens up doors for learning and growth. Are you creating an environment where volunteer leaders feel supported, challenged to try new things and receive grace upon failure?

Most leaders focus on creating the best strategy. The best leaders focus on empowering the right leaders. Your potential is not determined by what you do — your potential is determined by the leaders you empower.

A healthy student ministry sustains an environment where there are leaders at each of the five steps. Walking alongside volunteer leaders in their development process is a long process. Patience is key. Crock-Pot mac and cheese is always better than microwaved Easy Mac.