

Our core commitments:

1. Christ-like Mentoring

Christianity is not only taught, but caught. As Eric Mason says, *"A disciple is a learner, but not in the academic setting of a schoolroom, rather the work site of a craftsman."* Therefore, we give a high priority to mentoring relationships that complement a child's spiritual relationship with his or her parents, or help fill the void for children lacking one or both parents. Often the faith of others in the body of Christ reinforces what parents are already teaching their children.

"What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4:9)

2. Partnering with Parents

The Jubilee Youth Center highly honors the role of parents as the primary disciplers of their children (Ephesians 6:4). Therefore, our desire is not for parents to abdicate this great privilege to us. Rather, we long to give children opportunities to build relationships with other followers of Jesus who, along with their parents, will encourage and strengthen their faith.

"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:7)

3. Teaching the Bible in Understandable and Engaging Ways

The Jubilee Youth Center helps youth love the Word of God by teaching it in a way that engages their minds and hearts. Mentors help them focus on application and heart transformation as they walk through life side-by-side.

"Go therefore and make disciples...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19–20).

4. Shepherding the Heart

As we address behavior at the Jubilee Youth Center, we make it our aim to remember how people change. Mere behavior modification is fruitless from an eternal perspective. Therefore, we make it our aim to address matters of the heart: *"For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."* (Mark 7:21–23)

Any kind of training takes time, even more so the training of behaviors overflowing from sinful hearts. Since youth are by nature foolish, we aim to help train them to live wisely and turn away from evil. We help them understand how they are to act. More than that, we want them to see

their sinful hearts, ask God for forgiveness, and rely on the Holy Spirit's help to change both their hearts and their actions.

5. Focusing on At-Risk Youth

The Jubilee Youth Center values children because God values children. We also see children as a unique bridge to build relationships with families. Therefore, we invite families into the Jubilee Youth Center who want their own children to grow in their love for Jesus, as well as have a heart to build relationships with other kids and families who do not know Jesus.

Many children in Minneapolis do not have a father in the home. This often wreaks havoc in the life of youth. Just consider:

- 63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes (Source: U.S. D.H.H.S., Bureau of the Census)
- 85% of all children that exhibit behavioral disorders come from fatherless homes (Source: Center for Disease Control)
- 71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes (Source: National Principals Association Report on the State of High Schools.)
- 75% of all adolescent patients in chemical abuse centers come from fatherless homes (Source: Rainbows for all Gods Children.)
- 70% of juveniles in state-operated institutions come from fatherless homes (Source: U.S. Dept. of Justice, Special Report, Sept 1988)
- 85% of all youths sitting in prisons grew up in a fatherless home (Source: Fulton Co. Georgia jail populations, Texas Dept. of Corrections 1992)

We believe God calls us to imitate him in being a father to those who have none: "*Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.*" (Psa. 68:5) Therefore, we make it our aim at JYC to intentionally reach out to those who come from at-risk homes.

6. Serving the Whole Person

The Kingdom of God expands through both words and deeds. We see this in the life of Jesus. "*And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.*" (Matthew 9:35). Jesus's deeds authenticated his words.

Therefore, our goal at the Jubilee Youth Center is to love each child holistically and give at-risk children a solid foundation from which they can build a fruitful future. This means that we minister to each child spiritually, emotionally, physically, intellectually, and socially (Luke 10:27).