

## **The Bones**

The pioneers of LOGOS visited and studied churches that had effective, sustainable youth programs. With those findings and the research of the day, they set out 12 nurture realities – beliefs that inform our decisions, and 8 bones – essential elements that were common in all healthy programs.

High School – nurturing our high school aged youth is the key focus of LOGOS. It is the heart of LOGOS. We will do whatever it takes so they know that they are valued and important to the life of this church.

Pastoral Leadership – we all have a sense that the ministers show up for the really important things at church – they don't go to every meeting or activity – but they are there if it really matters. Our children and youth really matter – and this is one way to communicate that.

Call – we use the process of call – it involves discernment and prayer – you are not volentold, we don't just fill slots with warm bodies.

Fees – we value what we pay for and are willing to pay for what we value. It also establishes resources to do fun things, pay for things like tone chimes, eat well.

Mid-week – in our culture we do regular things Monday to Friday and want to keep weekends flexible. We want a regular commitment to LOGOS so it needs to be worked into our Monday to Friday structure.

Four Parts – students participate in all 4 parts every week. Each part is the most important part. It is one situation in which the whole thing is greater than the sum of its parts.

Parental Commitment – there are practical reasons for this but it is also important for children to know that their parents value their children's participation in nurture programming by contributing time and energy to it. We have at times had 30 – 40 % of the adults involved not have children in the program so it is not staffed just by parents, but at least one parent needs to be involved in at least one part.

Worship Participation – what the students learn in Worship Skills / Worship arts is meant to be shared as leadership in worship on Sunday. It is preparation for worship participation.

Bones themselves are not flexible but the bits holding them together can be. Some flexibility is built into this structure. We have scholarships with co-pay for fees, parents may be involved in shopping or laundry if they can't physically be here on Thursday night and High School programming always starts with recreation so that those involved in Varsity Sports can count that as their recreation and join us later for the other 3 parts.

In maintaining these elements we send a clear, unmistakable message that we care, we care enough that we will do whatever it takes to provide a place for each person to develop and mature in Christian faith, because the first nurture reality reminds us that this is the most important thing the church ever does.