

YOUTH BECOMING LEADERS

High School Christian Leadership and Global Transformation Institute

SENDING SERVICE LITURGY

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A liturgy intended for church and youth group services directly before a student leaves for Youth Becoming Leaders or a ministry/mission opportunity, to be performed by a pastor or youth pastor, the student, parent(s) and the congregation.

Pastor: (Explanation to Congregation of Youth Becoming Leaders) This next week, _____ is traveling to Asbury University in Kentucky for a ministry leadership institute called Youth Becoming Leaders. Before we send them off, we want to acknowledge as a congregation their giftings for leadership and commit to supporting them as they continue to grow into the leader that God has called them to be for the Church. At this time, I'd like to invite up _____ along with their parents (and mentor if present in the congregation).

Pastor, to student: _____, Jesus said to go into all the world. Into big cities and small towns, the farms and mountains, the shelters and homes.

Student: I will love as Jesus loved.

Pastor, to student: Jesus said to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, heal the sick, and visit the imprisoned.

Student: I will love as Jesus loved.

Pastor, to student: Ask for nothing in return. Expect nothing in return. Love without expectation. Love without any strings attached.

Student: I will love as Jesus loved.

Pastor, to student: He loved for no reason but to love. We will do the same.

Student: I will love as Jesus loved.

Pastor, to Parents: Parents, it's an equally amazing and terrifying thing to have a child feeling called to leadership. They will need an endless amount of love, support, and direction from you in the coming years, just as they have in the past. Will you commit to leading them as the Lord leads you? Will you challenge them to stay close to God? Will you pray for them as they discern this next step? Will you trust God in this new season, and commit to seeing your child as a new creation, open to positive changes and correcting and redirecting them in love?

Parents: With God's help, we will love wholeheartedly and seek God's leading in how to shepherd our child into this new season. We will pray for them and with them. We will ask them questions and stop to listen. We will trust the Lord as he directs us to parent well, and as he guides our child into deeper relationship with him and service to others.

Pastor, to the congregation: Church, we want to acknowledge the blessing it is to have a young person called to follow the Lord closely. Will you commit to encouraging and supporting him/her with your words as well as your prayers? Will you celebrate with him/her in success, and edify him/her in failure? Will you offer guidance and support as he/she discerns God's call, and will you always speak truth in love to them as they live out their calling?

Congregation: With God's help, we will love them, encourage them, and support them with prayer and the giving of our time. We will offer guidance and support to them and will speak truth in love to them as they continue to live out their calling.

Pastoral Prayer: God, we thank you for your work in ____'s life. Thank you for the strong system of support and guidance you have already built up around them. Thank you for this opportunity to learn more about you and to grow in the gifts and abilities you have already given ____. We ask that you would give them an open heart to receive all that you have for them during the course of this, and that you would show them how to be the hands and feet of Christ in every area of their life service, family, scholarship, and leadership. Help them show the world that they are your child. When they offers themself to those in need, Lord, they offer themselves to you. Amen.