

# Top Ten Steps to Starting a Young Adult Group

1. **Ask your audience** – What's most interesting to the young adults in your congregation or area? Volunteering? Shared meals? Small group discussions? Social justice activism? Figure out where to focus first.
2. **Start small** – A grand vision may be what inspires you, but the quickest way to get there is to start with one great regular activity, avoid burning out your resources or leaders, and build on it in the future.
3. **Pick a time** – Predictability helps with planning and attendance. Meals are often a good choice, e.g. Sunday brunch after the service.
4. **Reach out** – Ask church leaders, check the congregational directory, and talk to friends of all ages to find people who might be interested in joining your group.
5. **Communicate, communicate** – Use social media, email, flyers at church and word of mouth to talk up your new group or activity. Reminders right before events help people remember.
6. **Get allies** – Talk to a minister, religious educator or other congregational leader to figure out what they can do to support you (e.g. logistics, pastoral care, books and materials, budget requests, etc.).
7. **Check in** – After a few months, ask your group how you can improve. More childcare? Cheaper events? Avoid weeknights?
8. **Tag along** – Rather than planning an event just for your group, consider recruiting your group for something your congregation is already doing, e.g. volunteering at a food bank.
9. **Partner up** – Collaborate with other groups, ages or committees in your congregation, or other churches in the area, to meet new people.
10. **Keep the faith** – Open and close events with a reading or chalice lighting. Remember, people are joining a spiritual community!

