

# STUDENT-LED SUMMER VENUES

HELP SET UP STUDENTS TO LEARN HOW TO BE "SENT" WHILE THEY HAVE TO DO INTERNSHIPS

## THE BIG PICTURE

**Setting students up to grow and learn when they can not go on summer project because they have to do an internship.**

The majority of college students will spend at least one summer doing an internship either in their hometown or in a city where they don't know anybody. Traditionally, most students involved with Campus Crusade (or similar organizations) often write this summer off as a loss when it comes to continuing their ministry which often receives much of their focus when they are at school. Furthermore, many students not only grow disconnected from their goal in reaching the world for Christ, but also in their personal walk with the Lord. Students who do not have the opportunity to go on mission trips or summer projects often face challenging, spiritually dry, and discouraging summers because of the lack of Christian community surrounding them. However, there is nothing innately more spiritual about a summer project or mission trip than a summer spent at home working 40 hours a week. The difference is in the established community, opportunities for evangelism, and intentional time set aside for personal growth and development on summer projects.

**There is no reason why students who spend a good portion of their summer in a cubical should experience any less intimacy with Christ, opportunities for evangelism, or benefits from being in Christian community than those who spend 10-weeks on a summer project. However, it takes a few students with the initiative to create an environment that will be conducive for the spiritual growth of many in order for this trend to be reversed.**

What would it look like for you (as a student) to invite other students to join you in experiencing authentic community, challenging one another to share the Gospel with your co-workers and encouraging you to pursue your walk with the Lord throughout the summer? Below are some thoughts from students who tried it out and discovered how the Lord could meet them, and use them regardless of their environment.

**On the next few pages, you as a student leader can learn what it would look like to help lead a student-led summer internship venue:**

- >One example of a student-led summer community that worked well
- >And a grid to think through to help you plan and involve people

**Take a step of faith to help lead one, and learn what it means to be a SENT ONE...Now!!!**

# **AN EXAMPLE OF ONE THAT WORKED & WHAT WAS LEARNED**

## **CRU SUMMER COMMUNITY: ORLANDO 2008**

(written by TJ Sellers, one of the student leaders at Univ. of Florida who helped Cru Summer Community: Orlando 2008 possible)

As a few of us prepared to head back to Orlando for our summer internships, we started talking about how essential Christian community had been throughout our years in college, and how that community was often absent in our lives over the summer. So heading into the summer, we decided to form a small community of believers for the purpose of personal growth with Christ, encouragement to share our faith at work, and the opportunity to invest in the lives of others. We basically made an announcement at Crusade, made a facebook group, and invited our friends to join our “summer community” if they were going to be in Orlando for the summer. I think a big step for each of us was just identifying the need that we had to be surrounded by brothers and sisters in Christ who would challenge us to pursue the Lord throughout the summer.

### **Studying the Word:**

Our primary gathering as a large community was Tuesday nights at somebody’s house after everybody got off work. Although there were many desires for our time together, the ultimate goal was that students would walk away encouraged to seek the Lord on their own throughout the week and develop a vision for reaching their workplace. One aspect of the group was studying the Word, but we felt it was much more than a traditional “Bible study”. Since we had 30-40 students each week, we would split into four different “small groups” for part of the time in order for students to go deeper with one another and to make group discussion more manageable. Over the course of the summer, we worked through the first portion of a Tim Keller study on the book of Acts. The study is a great resource that focuses on evangelism and what it looks like for us to live that out daily.

### **Living Missionally:**

In addition to being a community devoted to studying the Word personally and as a group, our desire was to put into practice what we were learning. Throughout the summer, we tried to continuously cast vision for what it looks like to see our workplace as the mission field—not just our campus or other countries. We would often spend the first portion of our “community group” sharing stories about relationships we were building at work or discussing what it looks like to be Christ’s ambassadors at work. Also, as we were working through Acts, we would challenge students to make it personal, picturing what ministry could look like in their internship and eventually back on campus. Since the majority of us will never be in “full-time ministry,” learning how to incorporate our faith into our working relationships is essential.

### **Authentic Community:**

Throughout the summer, we definitely experienced the benefits that come from living in community with other believers. As mentioned earlier, we strived to create an environment that was more than just a weekly bible study and would

really serve as an encouragement to seek the Lord throughout the week. We would normally spend a portion of each Tuesday night just fellowshiping and catching up on life. This seemed to provide a greater sense of connectedness between students and the encouragement that comes from seeing how others are living. We also made an effort to have social events outside of our weekly gathering/study in order to help students feel connected and experience the benefits of living in community with other believers. We had a few lake parties, went to the beach, had prayer/worship nights, went bowling, etc. All of these were designed to obviously have fun, but also provide the encouragement that many of us miss out on when we try to live life without Christian community around us.

### **Multiplying our lives:**

Beyond seeking to grow personally and make disciples in our workplace, we sought to invest in the lives of high school students in the area. We invited graduating seniors that some of us new from our high schools to be a part of our community. This provided an outlet to avoid the often stagnant summer many graduates face and was a great way for them to get connected with other Christians who might even be at their school next year. In addition to inviting graduating seniors in, some of the college students in our group helped out with youth groups or disciplined students that were still in high school. I think high school students look up to college students more than we realize, and this provides an easy opportunity to play a role in their spiritual development.

### **What worked and What didn't:**

- We had four leaders who helped bring direction to the overall community throughout the summer. We would meet once a week to discuss direction for the community, touch base about the Acts study and to pray for the group. On Tuesday nights we would each lead one of the small discussion groups. Having at least one other person to plan and discuss the vision for the group was extremely helpful.
- Social gatherings outside of our weekly meeting seemed to help people feel connected with one another. We tried to shoot for one gathering at least every other week, normally on the weekend.
- Although we think we will have much more time when we are not at school, a job takes up a considerable amount of time. Also, many students are already well connected with other circles of friends if they are working in their hometown. These are just things to keep in mind when planning gatherings, both in terms of location and frequency.
- Next time, we might consider getting intentional coaching from the Campus Crusade Student Linc coaches to help us grow in being missional (contact [Jenny.Lang@uscm.org](mailto:Jenny.Lang@uscm.org) if interested in knowing more how this is helpful and about how it works). And we would put our summer team on [www.allcallings.com](http://www.allcallings.com) so other students from surrounding schools could join in with us.

# 4 SIMPLE THINGS FOR A STUDENT LEADER TO FOCUS ON TO LEAD A **STUDENT-LED SUMMER INTERNSHIP COMMUNITY**

## 1. PRIORITIZE **CHRIST**

This is our first priority. Paul wrote in Philippians 3:8 *'I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.'* Paul understood the value of Christ and He was his first priority. The same should be true in our own lives while in college, during an internship or for the rest of our lives. Continuing to seek and love our Lord is our first priority.

During an internship you will get to experience what life post graduation will be like. Your location, friends, workload and other stuff will all be new and exciting. But there is a reality that all these things can quickly overshadow our first priority. How much different would an internship be that at the end you see how you have grown in your knowledge of the Lord. It will also give you a foundation to build on when you finally graduate and enter the real world. Here are some ways to Make Christ a Priority.

- **Personal Worship:** Call it what you want but this is a regular time in the Bible as well as a time in Prayer. Plan in and put it on your phone calendar (you will need one anyway for your internship).
- **Community Bible Study:** This is something you can do with others that are on your "Missional Team" in the same city, office building or greater network.
- **Fellowship:** Surround yourself with guys/girls who will challenge you to live in a way honoring to the Lord and to live missionally.

## 2. EXPERIENCE **COMMUNITY**

Being in a community of believers is essential for spiritual growth. In Acts 2:42-46 we see how Christian community was a major part of the church. From breaking bread together, worshiping and studying the word of God together and caring for each others needs. This was a thriving community not only in holiness, fellowship and love for the Lord but also missionally (v46).

Being involved in a Christ centered community while on your internship provides an environment not only for spiritual growth but for encouragement, fellowship and reaching your missional goal. Here are some ideas of some ways to develop Christ centered Community:

- **Weekly Community Bible Study:** This time together should not only be a study of the Word, but truly encompassing Acts 2:42-46. Challenging one another to seek the Lord personally and to live missionally
- **Socials:** Plan ways for the community to enjoy the city and area you are in while experiencing the benefits of living in Christian community. And/or these events can be used to invite co-workers/fellow interns
- **Week day Lunches:** This could be a time during the week to connect
- **Guy/Girl Nights:** a time of accountability, bible study and or fun.

### 3. LEARN A NEW **ENVIRONMENT**

You will be learning a lot during your internship. You will be spending hours in an office or on the road but there also will be a lot of time for you to learn a little about what life will be like after college. From how to spend your free time on the weekends, learning how to budget, how to make a schedule and so much more. Take advantage of this time to begin to learn about the details of life post college.

- **Church:** Make a priority to find a Christ centered church. Crusade will not be there after college, and this summer can help you learn how to not fall in the trap of church hopping for years after college.
- **Life Management:** Learn how to manage your time and priorities as you adjust to working 40+ hrs a week (see 8 Habits of the Transition in the ESS Resource Guide)

### 4. LIVE **MISSIONALY**

Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:19 *‘Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.’* Paul knew his purpose. He was entrusted with the message of Christ and considered him and ambassador of Christ. A government’s ambassador is someone who sent by one nation to another to represent his home nation and explain its policies to another’s. This is great picture of how we can live our life missionally in the context of an internship. We are to be as an ambassador of Christ to all those around us.

- **Learn/Disuss the “5 Things”** of living with a purpose (see ESS Resource Guide for discussion questions)
  - Kingdom Vision
  - Team
  - Plan
  - On-going Equipping
  - Coach
- **Top Ten List:** Make a list of individuals that you can pray for and trust the Lord for an opportunity to share the gospel with during your internship.
- **Discuss/share/pray** with your community what representing Christ at work can look like. Allowing the workplace to be the mission field is a great idea in theory, but can be hard in practice.
- Spend time with your co-workers outside of work, learn to love those who live a different lifestyle.
- **Multiply:** Look for opportunities to multiply your life (disciple high school students, spend time with old high school friends, or better yet, take some steps of faith in your summer workplace and learn how to minister in the workplace first hand before the transition). Your missional focus is not limited by one location.