

# **Keys to Pastoring Students**

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As a school pastor, you have a crucial role in creating a strong sense of community in your school environment. Your students get to directly receive from the blessing of who you are as a spiritual father or mother. When you invite students to build connection with you and other members of your school, you allow them to experience God's design for community.

Below, we have provided some of our favorite keys to pastoring students in revival in both individual and corporate settings. We believe these strategies will help you develop a sense of family within your school! They will also help you lead students to experience greater measures of freedom and step into their identities as children of God.

As you read the tips below, we encourage you to ask the Lord to highlight the specific ways you are called to build trust with your students and support their growth journeys. Most of all, trust the Holy Spirit operating through you! Believe that lives will be transformed as you freely love the ones He places in front of you and make room for Him to move.

- *Pray for your students.* Ask the Lord for prophetic insight and wisdom as you support your students to grow in intimacy with Him and one another. Prayer will also help you discern how to lead students on encounters with the Holy Spirit, activate them in spiritual gifts, and apply what they are learning in school.
- *Know what you carry.* As a leader, it is important for students to experience your unique anointing and gifts. When you lead from your unique identity, you will encourage your students to discover their own. We encourage you to teach and activate students from your personal encounters and breakthroughs as they carry impartation to foster growth in their lives.
- *Lead with vulnerability.* To create an environment where students feel known and valued, they need to experience healthy levels of vulnerability. Set the tone for your school environment by first demonstrating vulnerability. When you convey your heart to your students and invite them to know who you are, you build trust. By first practicing vulnerability, you invite students to also share vulnerably, opening them up to the support your community has to offer.
- *Demonstrate sincerity.* Students need to know you are genuinely concerned about them. We encourage you to check in with your students and provide space for them to verbalize their needs. This allows your school community to care for and champion them. For instance, if a student's family is experiencing difficult circumstances, you can take time to pray and prophesy over the student and his/her family. If you feel led, you can also invite students to provide for any practical needs (e.g. meals, donations, etc.).
- *Lead from core values.* As a leader, you hold a key role in establishing the culture within your school environment. We encourage you to develop your school's culture by pastoring students in light of your school core values. Also, create opportunities for students to practically incorporate core values into their lives. For example, if one of your school core values is, "God is good," invite students to share how they are experiencing His goodness.

- *Capitalize teaching moments.* Ask students for permission to share about any prior conversations that revealed areas of growth or breakthrough. You can also invite those students to share and impart revelation they receive during class or other group settings. This will create greater levels of vulnerability and opportunities for activation.
- *Encourage risk-taking.* Create a safe place for students to take risks without being punished. Developing this safe environment requires connection through relationship. Make sure to intentionally connect with students so that they feel known and safe to step out and take risk. As you encourage students to step into new levels of the supernatural, take time to disciple them on how to take risk in a way that demonstrates honor for others.
- *Cultivate an atmosphere of faith.* When you set a high expectation for how the Holy Spirit can move in your school, students' experiences will rise to that level of expectation. You can raise the ceiling of belief by sharing testimonies of breakthrough, releasing individual or corporate prophetic words, or declaring bold statements of faith that speak to how God desires to move in your students' lives.
- *Include the entire group.* Create a plan to connect with students who do not approach you or share in a group setting. At times, these students need some one-on-one connection to feel known and more confident to share with the entire group. You can also ask volunteers to check in with those students who need more group inclusion.