1. Start with who you have.
Invest into the young people that you do have
Every church is connected to at least a few young people
Make a long term strategic plan and invest as they grow
Even if that means investing into 5 year olds right now

2. Eat food together.
If you are eating meals together, you are doing life together
Have them over for dinner, watch movies, take them tramping
Show them how to ride that old motorbike in your garage
Show them how to fix that old motorbike when they break it

3. Make loom bracelets.
Spend time doing what your young people are interested in
Play Xbox, ask them what their favourite scooter trick is
Compliment their hipster haircut, challenge them to petanque
If you don’t have a clue what interests them - then ask them!

4. Get to know their story.
Who is in their family? What gets them excited?
What are the highs and lows of their life?
Remember their answers because...
They are your best ammunition for engaging them!

5. Be their community.
Their patch, their family, the group of people where they belong
Help them feel valued and to use their skills, to feel accepted
Help them to feel like there is something for them at church
If your Sunday service is solely directed at 40-70 year olds...
How can you expect a 20 year old to feel part of the community?

6. Tell them about your 80’s mullet.
Share about your life, about how you came to faith
How has God moved in your life, transformed, encouraged you?
Continue sharing how about you are growing in faith
Life stories help deepen trust, plus, young people are awed and...
terrified that you once dealt with what they are dealing with now

7. Be passionate.
Show that you are excited by what God has done and is doing now
Share what God did in your life this week
Ask them what God is doing in their life and get excited about it!!
We should be pumped up on how life changing Jesus is!
Passion is infectious, so share your passion for God with them

8. Discover YouTube. And google. And Pinterest.
When trying to reach the YouTube generation… use YouTube!
There is a truck load of amazing content on the internet...
That you can use to illustrate ideas when teaching or preaching
On that note: Data projectors can be used for more than just...
White or yellow text on black background!

9. Don’t get ahead of yourself.
There’s no point arguing the finer points of infant baptism...
If your audience doesn’t understand who Jesus is and what he did
Know where your young people are at and...
Use that to work out your teaching focus
Ask them what they want to learn!

Be strategic about helping young people to grow in their faith
Pair people up with mentors, people they enjoy spending time with
Group people together with a leader
Create intentional discipleship structures
Encourage your young people to disciple others as well
Ask your older folk to get involved, to share their wisdom and...
Life experience with the young people in their lives

11. Embrace the movement.
Help young people to know they are part of a global movement...
Something that’s radical and life changing
Young people like to know they are part of something bigger
Teach them about how they have a great purpose in God
Help them to know what they can do to be part of the...
Great Commission; serving, sharing, loving

Help grow a social conscience! Find out and harness their passions
It could be helping those in poverty, isolation, hospitality, serving
Help them to set goals and achieve them, like:
- Coordinating Christmas presents for kids in poverty
- Raising $1000 for the 40 hour famine
- Putting on a barn dance for the local community

13. Take a Chance.
Give leadership and responsibility even if you think they might fail
It is so important for young people to be believed in
Ask them to cook for the group, lead prayer, share a message...
Run kids church, help with the multimedia, design a new website
Responsibility helps empower, equip, lets them know they belong

14. Remove the Barriers.
Churches are alien for an unchurched generation
If you want young people in church it will mean some compromise
This doesn’t necessarily mean loud rock music - but...
If a young person came in off the street would they know...
What to do and how to act in your service?
Would your congregation know how to act towards them?
What can you develop to make it more comfortable?

15. Refresh your design.
This includes; Powerpoints, church signage and building, vibe...
Food, music, website, photography, seating and much more
Young people love good design and will tend to recoil at the sight...
Of a website that hasn’t been touched since 1999
The good news is that many young people are happy to help!

I’ll show you how much I care about you...
With this watery instant coffee - said no-one ever
It costs money to upgrade, but it is hospitality that shows you care
Greeting new people with a “Hello, it’s great to meet you” along...
With a Tim-Tam or an espresso makes them feel valued
Young people are consumers of resources and do cost money

17. Find your Niche.
We are all part of the wider church family, and all fit into an age...
Bracket that relates to young people differently, this is okay
You don’t have to be young to engage with young people
Don’t pretend to be their peer if you belong to the older bracket
They want adults who care about them who they can trust

18. Stop waiting for 100% approval before you move the pews.
Youth dislike rigidity when it seems to be irrelevant to the gospel
We don’t mean to beli0gL2Ale tradi0gL…Aons or ceremony but we come...
Young people hate Church poli0gL…Acs
Youth dislike rigidity when it seems to be irrelevant to the gospel

19. Take them on an Adventure.
Take your young people on a camp, tramp, picnic. This removes...
Them from their normal environment and breaks down barriers
It is the fastest way to build relationships and gives a great space...
For talking through big questions together

20. Train your Young People to do the dirty work.
Train the youth you have, how to share the gospel with their peers
Young people are your best tools for reaching other young people
They naturally know more young people than you will!