

Design That Connects: Creative Tools for Youth Ministry

If it matters to students, it matters to your Youth Ministry. Design is one of the ways we speak the language of the next generation. When we use visuals with care, we're opening the door for students to see and hear the message of Jesus more clearly.

Excellence doesn't mean expensive, polished, or over-produced. **Excellence means intentional.** When what's on social media matches what's in the room—and both reflect the heart of God—students will engage. It's about pairing honesty with clarity.

This *Creative Cheat Sheet* is here to take the guesswork out of design so you can focus on what really matters: pointing students to Jesus.

Canva = Your Best Friend

- Easy to use for beginner designers—anyone can jump in.
- Store your logos, colors, and fonts in one brand guide.
- Trendy, minimal templates that adapt for screens, reels, promos, print, and more.

Free Gold: Design Assets

- <u>TheNounProject.com</u> | <u>FlatIcon.com</u> | <u>Unsplash.com</u>
 Free vectors + stock photos to boost your visuals.
- CreativeMarket.com

Thousands of fonts, vectors, templates, and filters. Sign up for free weekly drops!

Inspo Hubs: Moodboarding

- **Pinterest** endless inspiration.
- Milanote & Freeform (Apple app) organize ideas with boards.

Go-To Vendors (We Love These!)

- RadiantPrinting.com church-specific banners, signs, and print.
- StickerMule.com stickers, magnets, even hot sauce.
- **Terminus Tees** custom shirts + merch.
- <u>4imprint.com</u> sign up for free monthly samples.

Design Hacks That Actually Work

- **Hierarchy** Guide the eye. Biggest + boldest = most important.
- Balance Step back. Does one side feel heavier? Fix alignment.
- Similarity Stick to 1–3 fonts max.
- **Negative Space** Let your design breathe. Empty space is your friend.
- **Consistency** Stay on brand. (When in doubt, use Helvetica.)
- Contrast & Readability Make text easy to read. Add stroke/shadow if needed.