

# Zeeke Griffin

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Zeeke Griffin. I am a 33-year-old male with a BS in Religion: Christian Ministries from Liberty University. I have worked with middle and high school youth for the last 18 years of my life. I have done work at single and multisite churches, various private and public schools and Christian camps. My student groups have ranged from 30-120 students. My heart for students started back when I was 15, after being a camper at Sky Ranch in Van, TX. One counselor took the time to invest into my life for 3 straight years, something that at the time I didn't understand, but came to soon grasp why. This investment tremendously impacted my life, because I had such a tough upbringing. Ever since, I've wanted to show that type of value and love towards the next generation.

12 years ago, for six years of my life I traveled as a semi-professional and college basketball player. During my travels to different cities, I began to see how my life was strategically preparing me for my future. I took on multiple opportunities interacting with multiple schools and students along the way, sharing and teaching them the various skills and life lessons I had learned along the way, rather in sports or life in general.

My drive for shaping the next generation of students comes out of wanting everyone to feel accepted and loved no matter who they are or what their background may be. I want everyone to feel included and valued, so I set environments where they can be themselves and grow not only individually, but together.

My ultimate goal is to one day open a 24-hour student venue, which would include offering a variety of life skills classes, mission trips within the city, special events, a variety of studios and more allowing them to express themselves freely. I would love nothing more than to give students a place they can call their own. I'll start in one state, but the end goal is to have one in every state, right on the dividing lines of socially economic and racial backgrounds. I want to bring everyone together.

I would like the opportunity to sit down and chat with you sometime via Skype, Zoom, Face Time and/or have a phone conversation about the position you have available within your church/organization. Please feel free to contact me at any of the contacts listed above. Thank you for your time! Hope to hear from you soon! PS am willing to move/relocate!

Sincerely,

Zeeke Griffin





# MY LIFE WITH STUDENTS







## VIDEO

<https://cdn.subsplash.com/videos/DX6V76/fa2e851b-684c-4521-9fac-ba0af04c19dc/video.mp4>



## Social Media

<https://www.instagram.com/zeekealeek/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/zeeke.griffin>  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/zeekegriffin/>



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## RESUME

### Summary

A determined and enthusiastic leader, driven by the desire to create change in the lives of youth through intentional development, energy, relationship, leadership and love. Able to use creativity within a team to accomplish new goals and support team members to accomplish new and/or improved visions—all while bringing joy and new ideas to staff and/or community. Continuously seeking a challenge and new ways to improve. Created to create and determined to shape the next generation through the lens of love.

### Core Competencies

Played NCAA basketball at Boyce College in Louisville, KY and 2 years of Pro-Am Ball for Twin City Stars and Players Revolution, developed strong leadership skills and the ability to encourage, lead and motivate within a team. Self-motivated, strong and timely analytical skills, always looking to improve individually and as a team, disciplined and driven to be the best. Futuristic thinker that aims for a vision and—with proper development and support—will acquire and exceed goals and expectations. Graphic designer for multiple companies and organizations.

### Experience

#### Covenant Community Church | Student Pastor

February 2021 – Present

- Create a safe space for 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to be vulnerable with their peers and leaders in Christ.
- Create, develop and grow a team to lead and grow with 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students
- Engage in student life aside from in-church programming
- Promote events through social media and graphic design work
- Engage in student life aside from in-church programming

#### Grace Bible Church | Student Director

August 2019 – October 2020

- Create a safe space for 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to be vulnerable with their peers and leaders in Christ.
- Create, develop and grow a team to lead and grow with 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students
- Engage in student life aside from in-church programming
- Travel and host with a team that performed shows and/or assemblies at various elementary schools
- Promote events through social media and graphic design work

#### Springs YMCA | Athletic Trainer (Basketball)

January 2019 – August 2019

- Create drills based on athlete's current physical and mental stages of the game
- Drive and push athletes towards becoming a better version of themselves on and off the court
- Train athletes in ways their bodies are not use to, helping them tap into new areas of the game

#### Dripping Springs Presbyterian Church | Youth Pastor

October 2016 – April 2019

- Build and create strong Christ-like relationships with junior high and high school students
- Create a safe space for 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to be vulnerable with their peers and leaders in Christ.
- Search, create and execute plans for community outreach, community growth and student enjoyment





- Create, plan and teach age and maturity-based lessons weekly for junior high and high school development
- Engage in student life aside from in-church programming
- Promote events through social media and graphic design work

### **ATX Knights | Basketball Coach**

**August 2015 – August 2019**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball Coach
- Promote health and fitness
- Organize tournaments, implement a system of teamwork and enthusiasm

### **Austin New Church | Youth Pastor**

**April 2015 – August 2016**

- Create a safe space for 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> - grade students to be open and vulnerable with their peers and leaders in Christ
- Search and execute plans for summer camp and summer activities involving community outreach and community growth
- Create, plan and teach lessons on a weekly basis for both junior high and high school groups
- Identify and develop student volunteers to execute ministry goals
- Engage in student life aside from in-church programming

### **Veritas Academy | Discipleship Teacher & Coach**

**August 2015 – May 2017**

- Use curriculum and life experiences to develop 8<sup>th</sup> - grade boys into young men of Christ
- Execute strategies for middle school boys and girls geared towards winning games in basketball, volleyball and within track events
- Exemplify and teach what it means to be a student-athlete in Christ

### **Boyce College | Ambassador**

**August 2014 – December 2014**

- Promote campus through creative and organized events.
- Organize travel plans, including expenses

### **Grace Community School**

**August 2013 – August 2014**

- Girls Varsity Assistant Basketball Coach, May 2013 - August 2014
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Head Basketball Coach, May 2013 - August 2014
- Junior High PE Teacher, May 2013 - August 2014
- Promote health and fitness
- Organize tournaments, implement a system of teamwork and enthusiasm

### **Grace Community Church | High School Coordinator**

**August 2013 – August 2014**

- Organize creative games, events, and supervise high school students
- Promote events through social media and graphic design work
- Prepare and lead music within Worship

### **Grace Community Church | Gospel Village Intern**

**May 2013 – August 2013**

- Create from scratch a program designed to educate elementary aged students in the Gospel
- Work alongside Grace Community Church as a high school ministry volunteer
- Create character videos for opening interactions for students



- Provide a safe and fun environment for students to enjoy their summer experience
- Transport students to and from homes and central hub for Gospel Village summer camp

### **AlphaBEST | After School Counselor**

**August 2011 – May 2012**

- Mentor elementary students with homework
- Promote educational and organized activities

### **Sky Ranch | Senior & Senior Assistant Counselor**

**May 2005 – May 2013**

- Counsel teens and exemplify a Christian role model
- Adhere to and promote all safety policies and procedures
- TRU Camp COR and FIRE Squad | August 2010 – August 2018
- Provide leadership and understanding towards Counselors, monitor and counsel inner-city youth

## **Education**

### **Liberty University**

**August 2015 – May 11, 2019**

Received my certification in Christian Ministries. Made the Dean's List sophomore year with a 4.0 GPA.  
BS - Religion: Christian Ministries, from August 2015 to May 2019.

### **Boyce College**

**August 2014 – December 2014**

Completed coursework towards Family Counseling and Youth Ministry, from August 2014 to January 2015.

### **The University of North Texas**

**August 2007 – May 2009**

Completed undergrad coursework towards Radio/Television and Film, from August 2007 to May 2009.

### **North Garland High School**

**Graduation Date May 2007**

Attended all four years of high school and graduated with my diploma in May 2007. Was an A & B Honor Roll Student from 2003-2007.

## **Additional Skills**

Expert in Final Cut Pro. Proficient in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Pro Presenter. Member of IOTA PHI THETA Fraternity INC., since March 2009. Lighting and Soundboard Technician. Graphic Designer. Skilled in event promotion.



# Questionnaire

## BACKGROUND QUESTIONS

### How are you involved in your local community?

I coach student athletes in basketball (boys/girls), mentor youth at various schools, grab lunch with students and families and play ball at the recreation center with other students and young adults. I host multiple game and movie nights for friends, family and neighbors.

As far as my immediate neighbors: I do my best to interact and have conversations with them in the small moments we may have together while getting our mail, walking by each other or inviting them over for those fun nights, students included.

### Looking at your life, what are the things you are most proud of?

Graduating college has to be at the top of the list, because it was a generational curse that I have broken - becoming the first guy on my dad's side of the family to do so. Another would be playing basketball on the college and semi-professional level. Playing hoops at the level was a dream come true. Another would be realizing the role I play in people's lives, stepping into those roles whole-heartedly without compromising what has made me unique—my relationship with Christ and the abilities He's given me.

### What role are you looking for in your next move? Why do you think you are ready for this role?

I would like to continue to combine coaching basketball, hosting and teaching the youth. Looking back over the previous jobs and experiences I've gone through, it's very obvious that I was called to do these things. These are fields of work I love and understand, especially knowing that I am training the next generation in different aspects of life through both.

I know I am ready for this role, because I recognize the positions either God has placed me in or (based on decisions in life) I have found myself in. It's taken me some time to realize why God has made me the way I am. From my goofiness to moving around state to state and being introduced to different cultures, I know that student ministry is more than a job, but a calling and a purpose, one that can't be compromised.

## LEADERSHIP QUESTIONS

### What are your top three strengths? How have you used them?

Inclusivity, laughter/joy and having a creative mindset are my top three strengths. I never want anyone to feel excluded, whether it's simply playing a game or having a conversation. Sometimes I'll even physically position myself in a conversation so that everyone can be seen and heard. My laughter is contagious and can easily turn someone's day around. As such, I try to make others laugh all the time. Plus, it tears down walls someone may not even have known are there. As a creative, the ideas are endless! Give me an empty room or a room that is packed to the brim of whatever and I will find a way to, in the terms of ORANGE, "Make It Better" and bring something new to the table. Creativity is where I come alive. My imagination runs wild and being made in his 'image,' there's no limits.

### What 2-3 skills have your current/former employers communicated need improvement?

Administratively, I have not been the best at delegating tasks and/or assignments to others. Once I get an idea for something, I know exactly how I want it to look but sometimes come up short due to not allowing others/volunteers to showcase their skills in areas they enjoy and/or are good at. Still inclusive, but not great at delegation. Another skill I could use improvement in would be the fine-tuning of an event, the dotting of the i's and crossing the t's. There are small details I may overlook in the process of planning that may play a major role in the event itself.





### **What are the most important decisions you make as a leader in any of your positions?**

At one of the churches I worked at, the most important decisions that were made were how I ran high school small groups and how I promoted events. Our high school students simply wanted a place to unwind and be completely honest with each other. Thus, I created an environment where they could do that with leaders who supported them no matter what. This was key! I had to abandon the temptation to do youth group as usual with the sermon, worship team, and lights for my HS kids because it was not what they wanted. Our HS group excelled at relational evangelism and the ministry itself consisted of transgender students and those who were same-sex attracted. They did not know Christ, but we loved them all the same.

How I promoted events was important because not everyone had the same platform of communication. As such, I communicated to everyone via e-mail and social media with a strong awareness of time of day and potential student attention span and considering whether my intended audience was a parent or a student. That in itself meant I had to switch up verbiage in order to clearly communicate my thoughts and the vision of whatever it was being presented.

### **What is the largest staff size you have managed? What is the largest volunteer group size?**

I never managed staff before, just volunteers and that was 12 volunteers: 8 for high school and 4 for middle school. In high school they were broken up by grade levels, so each level had two volunteers. Middle school was more of a behind the scenes role, providing snacks, cleaning after games and supervision. Middle school students led their own small groups (teaching them how to be leaders) with about 4-6 of their peers in a group.

### **Describe how you manage people (paid and unpaid).**

Managing unpaid volunteers was simply making sure they knew they were valued and heard. I created a GroupMe with all the volunteers and allowed them to bounce ideas, feedback and other things off each other. Outside of that, it was connecting with each leader individually to hear their thoughts and ideas and providing proper training for their particular positions. We also held volunteer appreciation nights where we'd have all leaders come out for a night of fun, games and goofy awards. Within their roles, they each had responsibilities, which brought about a "buy in" to the ministry.

### **Talk about a time you made a bad decision or your performance did not meet expectations. How did it affect people? What did you do to fix the problem? How did you grow as an individual because of it?**

There was a moment where life was overwhelming in this last position and it started to show in my work. In our annual staff evaluation, I had discovered that the person they had hired, the creative, fun, outgoing, driven youth pastor had taken a backseat to each of those characteristics and it was starting to show in my work. At the time, I was working as a youth pastor, going to school as a full-time student, coaching both boys and girl's basketball teams, coaching an AAU basketball team, all while trying to maintain a social life. It was too much and hearing from the staff that they wanted the guy they hired back was more than enough because it showed me that they believed in what I was capable of doing, they believed in me. Immediate change!

I reached out to some friends and mentors about what I need to do and one in particular, Ryan Leak, told me about a book called *Choosing to Cheat*, by Andy Stanley and how there are seasons of life where we need to say no to things and people, as well as prioritize life - making sure we deposit the right chips (time) into each basket. From then on, my church got back the guy they hired. I stopped coaching all the basketball teams and simply focused on student ministry and being a full-time student. It was hard to hear that I had let the team down, but all I needed was a real evaluation and challenge from the right people. This has rolled into my life today, choosing to say no at the right times in order to maintain not only my sanity but my friendships in a healthy way.



### **Have you ever had a relational conflict with anyone on staff? How did you handle it?**

There was a time where my boss' kid was not attending youth group and I was approached by both of our boss' about it. He felt as if it were a bad look to outsiders to see that my boss' kid wasn't at youth group. Then shortly after he said these words, "Some kids matter, but others matter more." This was something I was in complete disagreement with because I had seen all students as equal and was not going to cater to one just to appease someone else. I did not know what to say at the moment so I took the next few days to go to counselors to discuss the matter and get their opinions on what I should do and/or say. I also spoke to the source, the student who had not been attending, to learn exactly why he had not been attending. I came to find out that it was simply because of the baseball season. Wednesday night was the time they had to practice with each other outside from school scheduled practice. I understood this having played on teams before – that team chemistry is necessary. So, I then went to my boss and explained to him exactly what happened and came to an understanding of what he had meant when he spoke about "some students matter more."

### **What does a healthy relationship look like between you and your colleagues?**

Space where we can be vulnerable without the fear of judgment. Being able to challenge each other in healthy ways, both spiritually and in our areas of work. A relationship where we can hang out away from the workplace and still be ourselves, not feeling a need to talk about work but simply having fun together. Accountability to the point where we immediately know something is off and/or wrong with someone, with the encouragement and boldness to step in and either speak truth or just listen and then give honest feedback about what may be going on. Last, an atmosphere of fun! Ministry should be fun, even in the things that seem mundane. Staff retreats, staff getaways, etc., help create that atmosphere of fun!

### **Name and define the key elements of a highly functional team.**

- Communication - being unified, being vulnerable and within a judge free zone
- Fun - you want to love what you do, so having space where fun is key is important
- Drive - if everyone is on board for one particular goal, then it makes it easier to accomplish that goal both together and individual (doing our parts to get to that goal)

### **If you have taken any of the major personality tests available in ministry/professional development--- feel free to share what your results are below?**

ENFP

Dominance, Influence, Steadiness, Compliance

Type 3, taking wings into account a type 3w2 - Enneagram Test

Futuristic, Strategic, Achiever, Adaptability and Competition - Clifton Strengths Finder Test