

Ministry Philosophy

Adult Leaders: Adult leaders are a key component of our ministry.

- Leaders teach small groups on Sunday and Wednesday. Through their leadership, they are forming relationships with students. With these relationships, the leaders will show the students what it looks like to lead a Christ-filled life.
- Leaders are required to ask questions that are given to them prior to their group time. The questions are to help continue the conversation that was taught in the large group time. Each small group is co-led by two adult leaders.
- Outside of church events the goal is for the leaders to attend sporting events or school events that their students are a part of. We also want to see our leaders having small group hangouts outside of church events.
- For the adults who don't volunteer to teach a class, there are different tasks they are assigned to within the student ministry. That can be helping with check-ins, serving food, welcoming students, helping new students meet me or other students, mingling with the students before and after services, recreation, and crowd control.
- Adult leaders are asked to attend monthly or every other month leader meetings. These meetings include leadership development and an overall view of what is coming up in our student ministry.

Discipleship: Discipleship is a core foundation of our youth ministry

- Discipleship does not come from me teaching from the stage alone. Each student who is involved in our student ministry has an opportunity to be disciplined through our discipleship strategy.
- The model I use currently is called Follow. Each student chooses an adult in the church to be their mentor. Every mentor is trained on how to teach and lead Follow. Once a week the student and their mentor will meet. In-person meetings are highly suggested but not required. In these meetings, they will discuss what bible passages were read that week. With the mentor Q&A section being discussed after.
- Within the mentor training, leaders will learn how to teach Follow. I train the leaders to create Christ-centered relationships with their students. You should not just meet with them once a week and call it good. Take time to invest in the life of your student. Go to games or events, invite them to dinner with your family, and do life with them.
- The ultimate goal of Follow is to show our students what true discipleship is. Discipleship is not just learning about Jesus, it's learning to be more like Jesus. With the intent of making disciples like we are called to do.

Worship: Worship through music helps bring our students to the presence of God before the message on Wednesday nights.

- We worship to help our students connect with God on a personal level. We encourage our students to not look at worship as just singing songs but as a way to communicate with God.
- Our worship team is built up of students and adult leaders. Our adult leaders help our students by teaching them how to lead from the stage and that being on stage is not for self-gratification but to glorify God.
- There are requirements for our students if they want to be a part of our worship team. We have a practice each week. This practice helps the team grow together as musicians. At practice, we also go over new songs and practice the set for the following service. If we are going to incorporate a new song we will practice that song for at least two practice times before playing it on a Wednesday night.
- When we have a new student, who wants to join the team we invite them to practice with us for a few weeks before having them play with us on a Wednesday night.
- We have written out a band criteria that we have each student agree to. Each student is not required to sign this but we do ask each student to agree to following our band criteria. They will be asked to attend practice and if they are unable to attend, they will not play that week. At the end of practice, there is a 15-20 minute

meeting. We look at what worship is and how to enhance our personal worship experience. Being on the worship team is seen as a leadership position. For each of our students leading our worship team, we don't want to hinder your worship experience because you are on stage. Being able to worship for yourself is an important part of leading worship.

Parent Ministry/ Family Ministry: Parent ministry is our way of communicating with parents and teaching them how to become the primary disciple-maker of their household.

- We want the parents of our students to take the lesson home with them. Each week we send out a preview of our lessons. The preview gives the main topic of discussion, bible passage, and questions to ask their student. The questions on this page are to help have a conversation after the lesson at home. For our students who are unchurched and their parents do not attend. We make efforts to invite and encourage them to learn along with us.

Missions: Missions is another core value within our student ministry

- What missions look like in our student ministry will come from our church's model of missions. As a student ministry, we take one mission trip over the summer and a spring break trip.

- We also have smaller mission efforts we do throughout the year like local serving opportunities.
- To go on a mission trip out of state each student must meet with me or their mentor and answer three questions.
 - 1) What is the Gospel?
 - 2) What is your testimony?
 - 3) What can we do better in student ministry?
- We ask these three questions because we want to help train and know that the students we are taking on our trip can share the Gospel and their stories. We ask the students the third question because I believe it is always helpful to get constructive criticism.

Theology: Our student ministry theology comes from the core theology of our church.

- We believe that we as humans are sinful people and sin separates us from God. The question we must ask is, how do we become one with God? Jesus is the answer because Jesus came down to live a sinless life and died on the cross for our sins. We now have an opportunity to receive the gift of salvation.
- As a church, we invite people to join the family of Christ by teaching them why Christ died for us. As we teach them what it looks like to have their life changed by the Gospel.

- Our core statement is, “Helping people find life in Jesus Christ by following him.” We use this statement to summarize the idea that we are here to give true life to all people.

Student Leadership Team: This is a core group of students we call our student leadership team.

- The goal of this leadership team is to teach students how to become servant leaders. As a servant leader in the student ministry, these are some expectations that should be met; attending small groups, leadership training meetings, and being involved in discipleship. We ask this core group to invite their friends to church and other events.
- In the leadership training meetings, we allow students to ask questions regarding discipleship and train them in discipleship. We ask the students to help make decisions in our student ministry. Like what activities they like, where to go on mission trips, and how we can improve our weekly services.