

PARENTlink

October 2018

Welcome to the Faith Student Ministry ParentLink Newsletter. Each month we will update you on the things we are teaching, events that we have coming up, and information you need to know. Please feel free to contact Bryan or Pam in the church office if you have any questions or concerns.

WHAT WE'RE TEACHING

Once every quarter, our junior high and high school teaching team develop a series to educate our students in the doctrines of our faith. We call these series "Theology 101." We have already covered the study of mankind, the Trinity, the Bible, and the church. This month we are looking the end times. Here is a summary of our teaching schedule for the month:

Oct 7 - Death - What happens when we die? We will define death as a temporary separation of the body and soul, and see the destination of the Christian and non-Christian before the judgment.

Oct 14 - Judgment Seat of Christ / Great White Throne Judgment - Every person will stand under the judgment of God. We will look at the judgment awaiting non-believers, and the judgment awaiting believers. The realities of these judgments should motivate us in this life.

Oct 21 - Return of Christ - The hope of Christ's return is the desire of every Christian. But when will it come, and what will it be like? We will look at the promises associated with Christ's return, and the implications for us as we wait.

Oct 28 - End Times / Revelation - This lesson will contain a general overview of the book of Revelation, looking at some of the prophecies and pictures that John uses. We will see coming judgments on this world, the spiritual realm, and the return of Christ and the future state.

WHAT WE NEED

Last month's newsletter listed several areas that we could use some extra help in Student Ministries. (If you missed last month's newsletter, you can pick up a paper copy in the Parent Resource Center in the Student Ministry lobby.) One of the largest needs is food. The axiom is true, "If you feed them, they will come!" We feed students snacks three times a week, minimum. With our after-school clubs at Milford Junior High, Milford High School, and weekly Journey event, we go through a LOT of food, and need a LOT of help!

Theresa Chumley has stepped up to coordinate volunteers to help us out. She has created an online sign-up, which you can find here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4FAFA92BAAFF2-snacks> You can sign up to provide snacks for any one (or more!) of these events, or even to come and help serve them on Tuesday evenings. Snacks can be purchased or home-made, as simple or as elaborate as you desire. All the details can be found on the sign-up website. Snacks can be dropped off Sunday mornings in the collection center in the sanctuary lobby, or brought to the youth room throughout the week.

Thanks for your help, we greatly appreciate it!

WHERE WE'RE GOING

Each quarter we have a discipleship value that guides our teaching, our events, and our focus. This fall quarter's value is **"Sharing the Gospel in Word and Deed."** Our theme verse is 2 Corinthians 5:20 - "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf: 'Be reconciled to God.'" This quarter is all about encouraging our students to see themselves as ambassador's for Christ. Our Junior High Fall Retreat focused on understanding and applying the gospel. Our high school event in September was an evangelistic event, where the gospel was presented, and conversations started about what it means to live in the light or in the darkness. In November we will have different service projects for our students to participate in, showing God's love in tangible ways.

In your conversations at home, encourage your students to live as an ambassador for Christ. Ask them who it is they are reaching out to. Ask them what challenges they are facing representing Christ to others. Pray with them, pray for them, and pray for their friends. If we want to see our students become good ambassadors, they will need a lot of prayer, encouragement and support. What can you do to help your student in their role as an ambassador? What can you offer, make available, or equip them in? Find ways to partner with your student in this role. We look forward to hearing stories of what God does in your families!

WHAT WE SUGGEST

Communication is getting more and more difficult these days, as there are an increasing number of options, but fewer standards. To make sure everyone is on the same page, here is a reminder of the methods we use, and how you can utilize them.

Website: The church website is our primary means of communication. Information about events, programming and resources can be found under the Student Ministry section of the website.

Email: We send emails primarily through our church database, so please make sure your address is current. If you are unsure if we have your current email address, you can add it to your communication card on a Sunday morning, or send an email to Angel Reichard in the church office (areichard@faithchurch.net) to make the change. We also send emails to families who have registered for events, using Planning Center. These emails will be sent to the email address used when registering. Please make sure you use an email that is regularly checked when registering for events. Please avoid using students' email addresses.

Texting: We have chosen to use Remind as a convenient way of texting students and parents about Student Ministry updates, registration reminders, and last minute changes. To receive these texts, simply text **@9a849a** to **81010**.

Newsletter: The ParentLink newsletter will be emailed once a month, and paper copies can be found in the Parent Resource Center of the Student Ministry lobby. The current and previous issues can also be found on the Student Ministry section of the church website.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Adolescence: A Season of Pressure

Doug Fields -Author of Intentional Parenting

On the outside, most young people seem happy-go-lucky, but inside each adolescent is a complex network of potentially explosive pressures. Adolescents with a strong parental and social support system are the least likely to experience the painful effects of the pressures they face. When parents become aware of the typical sources of pressure that kids face, they are better able to provide their kids encouragement and support. Here are five common pressures adolescents face:

1. The Pressure to be Perfect.

Teens repeatedly talk about their parents wanting them to be perfect, particularly in the areas of behavior and school. No kid is perfect and when they fall short of their parents' expectations, they feel more pressure.

2. The Pressure to Succeed.

The pressure to succeed elicits the attitude that life is a perpetual performance. To fail is to feel stupid. When kids fail, they fear that others will reject them.

3. The Pressure to Conform.

Kids find it extremely uncomfortable to be different from their peers; so, they work hard to fit in and be accepted by one of the subcultures on their school campus.

4. The Pressure from Body Changes.

Since consistent change is part of the developing adolescent body, teenagers are in a continual state of stress over what's happening or what's not happening.

5. The Pressure from Emotions.

Adolescence is a time of emotional development. For many teens, the strength and frequency of their emotions is much like having new emotions altogether. They are often not sure where the emotions have come from, and they are equally unsure what to do with them.

Pressure is simply going to be part of the adolescent experience. Learning to process pressure and stress is actually an important part of preparing kids to face the pressures and stresses of adulthood. Rather than trying to eradicate all pressure, the wise course for parents is to help kids manage and moderate the pressures they face so that they do not become overwhelmed as they journey toward adulthood.
