

PARENTlink

February 2019

WHAT WE'RE TEACHING

Our teaching schedule was interrupted a bit in January, as we had to cancel two weeks of our scheduled meetings. We missed out on our series on how pain can be used in our spiritual growth. We will continue to develop our quarterly discipleship value of **Developing Godly Communion** with two new series this month.

Feb 3 - Unbelievable week 1 - We will kick off a new series on doubt, and the role it plays in our spiritual development. Doubt can be tricky, but it is a necessary process of owning our faith. In this first lesson, we will see that Jesus encourages our questions, and offers real answers. We will also be reminded that the things that we cannot understand are not deal-breakers to the entire system.

Feb 10 - Unbelievable week 2 - In this last lesson of the series, we will look at how our doubts transfer to our actions. Even when we doubt, sometimes obedience needs to come before understanding. And if we are tempted to walk away because of our doubts, we have to remember that when we turn away from Jesus, we are turning toward something else.

Feb 17 - Make it a Habit week 1 - In this series on spiritual disciplines, we will begin by looking at how our interactions with other people can help or hinder our spiritual growth. When we intentionally focus on helping others grow, and serve others, we will find our own relationship with God growing.

Feb 24 - Make it a Habit week 2 - We will use this last lesson in the series to set up our next Theology 101 series that we will teach in March. This last lesson looks at how sharing our own story of what God has done for us can increase our love for God. Next month we will help our students understand and write their own theologically-informed story of God's work in their lives.

WHAT WE NEED

Every week, Bryan and Pam lead two after-school clubs, one at Milford Junior High School and one at Milford High School. The club at the Junior High School is called **First Priority**. It meets every Wednesday after school in **Room 20 from 2:05-3:15pm**, hosted by our faculty sponsor, Melissa Vaughn. We have an average attendance each week of around 15 students, and have had over 30 different students attend at various times throughout the school year. Each week we bring a snack for the students, play a game, and read through the Bible together, interacting with the text as we read.

The club at the High school is called **Trio**, and meets every Thursday after school in **Room A17 from 2:05-3:30pm**, hosted by our faculty sponsors Kathy Baugh and Melissa Chandler. The club is co-led by staff members from Milford Christian Church as well. The name Trio comes from our three-fold emphasis on Loving God, Loving Students, and Loving our School. Each week varies in its focus, with some designed as Bible studies, some as community-building activities, and some as service projects within the school. We average around 15-18 students per week, with almost 40 different students having been involved throughout the school year.

Both clubs have been great opportunities to serve in one of the largest mission fields in the community, the public school. Through these clubs, we get to encourage our students to be missional in their schools, and see them connect with other Christian students. We also get to form new relationships with unchurched students. It is an incredible opportunity to serve our community and the Kingdom of God.

But we cannot do it alone. Many of you have already helped serve this ministry by contributing snacks for us to take to the schools, which we greatly appreciate. But we also need regular prayer partners in this ministry. Please pray these clubs would be an encouragement to our own Faith Church students, and a great source of outreach to the unchurched students in the schools. We also need ministry partners to join us at the schools, people who have a passion for teens and are willing to commit to being a regular presence in their lives. If you would like to talk more about becoming involved in these clubs, please come talk to Bryan or Pam in the church office.

WHAT WE'RE DOING

As part of our regular programming in Faith Student Ministry, we offer mid-week small group opportunities for our high school and junior high students. While our SMS groups provide a limited small group experience every Sunday morning, it is only a taste of what true small-group experiences can (and should) be. So each week we also provide a time and place for all of our students to diver deeper into God's Word and into each others' lives as well.

Our junior high small group opportunities are called **LifeGroups**, and are divided by gender. Our **Guys LifeGroup** meets in the MPR at Faith Church every Tuesday evening from 7:00-9:00pm. The group is led by Casey Fox, Nick Adams and Chris Keebaugh. A meal is provided each week, followed by a Bible study, and games in the gym.

Our junior high **Girls LifeGroup** meets on Thursday evenings, from 7:00-8:30pm. This group is led by Aimee Bell, Pam Humphries, Rene Watkins and Theresa Wooley,. Each leader takes turns hosting the group in their home, where snacks are shared, and the Bible is read together.

Our high school small group event is called **The Journey**, and meets every Tuesday evening from 7:00-9:00pm in the Student Ministry room at Faith Church. Each week features a large-group game or activity, followed by an extended small group Bible study and a snack. Our high school small groups are generally coed, and students are placed in different groups each week, with different adult leaders.

We hope your student is able to make these small group opportunities a priority in their schedule. And as with everything we do, friends are always welcome, and encouraged, at our mid-week groups. If you would like further information about these groups, please give Bryan or Pam a call.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Social Media 101: Teens and Social Media Use

HomeWord.com -

The broad reach of teen social networking

According to Pew Internet & American Life Project's "Report on Teens, Social Media, and Privacy," released in May 2013, fully 95% of kids ages 12-17 use the Internet. Eighty-one percent of online teens use some form of social media. Sixty-seven percent of teen social media users visit social sites daily, and 42% visit several times a day.

Facebook is still the #1 social network for teens, but it's fading

While 94% of teen social media users say they have a Facebook profile, and 81% say that Facebook is social site they use most often, it appears that Facebook's teen appeal is fading. According to the Pew report, "Many teens expressed a waning enthusiasm for Facebook." Teens complain of too many adults on the site, advertising, and too much drama interacting with friends.

Teen Twitter use is increasing significantly

Teens largely ignored Twitter when it first appeared and those who used it found it chiefly as a way to stay current with celebrities. In 2009, only 8% of teens used Twitter. Today, the number of teens using Twitter has increased to 24%.

Why teens are migrating to Twitter

The reasoning starts with fewer adults on Twitter than Facebook. While 67% of online adults have Facebook profiles, only 16% are on Twitter. Further, Twitter's platform and character limit (140 characters) allows kids to express their thoughts, feelings, and what they are doing without the drama that Facebook's platform of longer posts, endless comments, and "likes" allows.

Advice for parents who allow kids to use Facebook and Twitter

1. Set the expectation that you will friend (Facebook) or Follow (Twitter) your teenager on their social media account. This requires you to establish your own Facebook and Twitter accounts.
 2. Facebook: Use profile privacy settings to limit who can access your teen's content.
 3. Twitter: Set Tweet privacy setting to "Protect my Tweets." This requires your teen to approve everyone who follows them, and then only displays tweets to those who have been approved. Without taking this step, anyone can follow your teen, and all tweets are available to the public. Make sure your teen approves you as a follower.
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