

Youth Ministry Mission

1. Ministry Statement

At First Baptist Church of Friendsville, we are committed to partnering with parents to disciple students to the Glory of God.

In so doing, we have designed a Youth Ministry (6th – 12th grade) that is Gospel-centered and focused on preparing students to serve Christ in whatever capacity they are called to.

2. Direction

Our desire is for the students to develop...

- 1) a deeper understanding of the metanarrative of Scripture, how all of Scripture testifies about Christ, and where each story fits in God's Redemptive Plan (Luk. 24:44-49; 2 Pet. 1:20-21);
- 2) a disciplined life of prayer and Bible study (1 Thes. 5:16-18; Psalm 1:2);
- 3) a biblical worldview (1 Cor. 2:16; 10:31);
- 4) a sense of unity and comradery in the Church (1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4:1-6; Phil. 2:1-4);
- 5) a passion for evangelism and missions (John 4:25-42; Acts 4:13-31);
- 6) a knowledge of contemporary challenges in the world that they will face (Rom. 12:2);

all so that they will be equipped to engage and transform their culture by making disciples of Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:18-20; Rom. 10:11-15; 2 Tim. 4:1-5).

To accomplish this mission, we have developed a strategy that addresses each point above.

3. Sunday School

We have two Sunday School classes in the Youth Ministry: a Guy's class and a Girl's class. Both of the classes dive into the same curriculum each week.

3.1 A Case for Gender-Segregated S.S. Classes

Separating by gender allows the students to discuss issues that might be more embarrassing in a co-ed context. Brotherly and sisterly relationships develop as they meet to study God's Word each week. We seek to cultivate an atmosphere where each student will sharpen one another (Prov. 27:17), challenge one another (Col. 3:16), encourage one another (Heb. 3:13), and speak life to one another (Eph. 4:29).

3.2 Curriculum

We have adopted the Gospel Project curriculum which focuses on Scripture's overarching message (metanarrative). It is a 3-year study through pivotal stories in the Bible. It aims to tie together the four main themes of Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Reconciliation. We will also cover 99 doctrines that are essential to understand God and His Word.

4. Midweek Gathering (Wednesday Night)

Our mid-week session on Wednesday Nights are not segregated by age or gender; instead, all of the Youth gather together for fellowship and study time.

4.1 A Case for the Age Range

The Church is multigenerational and God has orchestrated the Church according to His Will (1 Cor. 12:11). Therefore, we understand that each person (regardless of age, ethnicity, or gender) is in the Church (both local and global) according to His Will. Age differences in the Church are indispensable for the building up of the whole Body: the older members serve as pillars of faith where their wisdom is seen as a gift from God (Job 12:12; Prov. 16:31); the younger members often are filled with exuberance and - especially for children - optimism (Matt. 18:2-4; 1 Tim. 4:12). The age range (6th - 12th grade) of the Youth Ministry mimics that of the larger church body. It allows the High School students to take more leadership responsibilities while serving as biblical examples to the Middle School students. The younger students get the privilege of seeing the older students demonstrate how to live a faithful life to Christ through the challenges they themselves will soon face.

4.2 Curriculum

We have adopted the Disciple6 curriculum for the study time. Disciple6 is a 6-year curriculum developed by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary that covers the following 9 disciplines each year (4 lessons per discipline):

- **Apologetics**
- **Biblical Interpretation**
- **Biblical Relationships**
- **Core Doctrines**
- **Ethics**
- **Evangelism & Missions**
- **Servant Leadership**
- **Spiritual Disciplines**
- **Worldview**

4.3 *D-groups*

Our midweek gathering begins with prayer and a lesson from the Disciple6 curriculum. After the lesson, the Youth breakout into their D-groups (Discipleship groups). Each D-group has a *D-group Leader* who leads their group in discussing the lesson, Scripture, and how to apply them to everyday life. More about D-groups and D-group Leaders is provided below under the *Passage to Adulthood and D-group Leader Milestone*.

5. **Milestones**

There are *Three Milestones* that we have integrated into the Ministry that redeems certain “rites of passage” for the purpose of discipleship.

5.1 *Initiation Rite and Purity for Life Milestone*

Upon completion of the 5th grade, students from the Children’s Ministry will graduate into the Youth Ministry the summer before their 6th grade year. That summer, an *Initiation Night* will be held to welcome the upcoming 6th graders into the Youth Ministry.

There are many challenges students face when they enter Middle School. Puberty sets in, altering their psychology and physiology. Exposure to pornography also significantly intensifies at this age. Opportunities to give into lustful temptations arise more frequently once a student enters Middle School. Because of these (and many other) influences that seek to ensnare our students, this time is understood to be the most appropriate for the first *Milestone*, the *Purity for Life*.

In this *Milestone*, parents will be equipped with the *Passport2Purity* material to go over with their children. This material’s message is biblical purity, the abstaining from sexual activity until marriage. It is both comprehensive in scope and biblically grounded (1 Thess. 4:1-4).

It is also in this time where parents will be encouraged to consider catechisms as a means to instruct their students in biblical Truth and to develop a natural dialogue between parent and child over spiritual things.

5.2 *Passage to Adulthood and D-group Leader Milestone*

Upon turning 16, the student will begin to be equipped as leaders in the Youth Group. They are models for the younger students and will be entrusted with more opportunities to demonstrate and practice leadership. It is the goal of this *Milestone* to begin intentionally helping students achieve a place of spiritual maturity where teaching, leading in prayer, and serving become a part of who they are as disciples of Jesus (Heb. 5:11-6:3).

Each year, a *D-training* (Discipleship Training) will be held for students 16 and older (and who are turning 16 that year) so that they can become a D-group Leader. D-group Leaders will be assigned a group of kids whom they will lead that year in D-groups. Leaders will also meet each month with the Youth Pastor in D-Leader Meetings.

D-Leader Meetings

D-Leaders will meet once a month with the Youth Pastor to discuss challenges and opportunities within their groups, to be disciplined by the Youth Pastor, and to pray for the students in their groups.

Pre-gathering

Prior to each midweek gathering, D-group Leaders will be provided with discussion questions, Scripture for their group to memorize, assignments to challenge their group with, and a *mission*.

The Gathering

Leaders will use the discussion questions to guide discussion time in their D-groups. They will present their group with three assignments to choose from and will be challenged to complete one of them before the next gathering. They will also reflect on the assignments attempted from the previous week. Leaders will challenge their group to memorize a selected Passage each week.

The Mission

D-Leaders will receive a mission for each week. The mission will be something for the Leader to accomplish that week that will challenge their perspective on who they are as a disciple-maker. It will also be something that communicates a heart of love and servant-leadership to their group.

Examples:

- Pray for one of the students in your D-group this week. Ask the Lord to teach you how you can better show Christ's love to that person

Updated 6/28/17

- Text each student in your D-group a Passage of Scripture to encourage them this week
- Offer to give one of the students in your group a ride to church
- Remind your students to memorize their week's Bible verse

Qualifications for D-group Leaders:

- A baptized disciple of Jesus
- Has undergone the D-training
- Regularly attends all of the church services
- Meets once-a-month with Youth Pastor for D-Leader Meetings

5.3 High School Graduation Milestone

During the student's senior year of High School, they will meet with the Youth pastor for college/career advising. It is a time-sensitive year for the student who already feels a tremendous amount of pressure from parents, friends, society, and personal expectations. Therefore, in the college/career advising, students will be exhorted to seek God's guidance in making these decisions.

Also during the student's senior year, they will have the opportunity to be disciplined in apologetics by the Youth pastor using the *More Than a Carpenter* book by Josh McDowell.

Upon graduating from High School and the Youth Ministry, the student will be presented with a study Bible before the church. The church will be tasked to pray for and encourage the young adult to continue in the faith, to seek God's guidance, and follow God wherever He would have them as a servant of the Gospel.

6. Family-Equipping Model

We understand that there is an unfortunate statistic related to Youth Ministry: some 69% of students who graduate from the Ministry fall away from the Church and the faith. We believe that there are many factors that contribute to this statistic and affirm that a *Family-Equipping* ministry model is the most biblical and affective at lowering this number.

6.1 Practical Justification

Updated 6/28/17

If a student is a faithful church-goer, they will only be spending ~4% of their *critical developmental years* being disciplined by the pastors of the church. If they are part of the public school system, ~33% of their *critical developmental years* will be spent in a secular (often to the point of being hostile towards the faith) context. Therefore, if the pastors of the church are seen as the *primary disciplers* of the student then that student will be severely underdeveloped, spiritually.

6.2 Theological Justification

There are many Passages that show God entrusting the family with the responsibility of *primary disciplers* of their children (Deut. 6:4-9; Psalm 78:5-7; Prov. 22:6; Acts 2:44-47; Eph. 6:1-4; Col. 3:20-21). This is a parent's primary ministry, and the role of the Church is to equip parents so that they can fulfill this ministry (Neh. 8:13-25; Col. 3:16; Heb. 5:12; Eph. 4:10-16).

That is why we are committed to a *Family-Equipping* model for this Ministry. We believe that it is the most biblical and the most practical model to correctly understand the roles God has entrusted us with so that we may faithfully fulfill the calling to disciple the students given to us.

7. Ministry Theme

The theme of the Youth Ministry has become: **Worship. Grow. Disciple.**

Worship

We affirm that our chief end, the purpose for our lives, our highest goal is to *glorify God & enjoy Him forever.*

Grow

God wants us to grow in our knowledge of Him and His Word, as more faithful disciples of Christ, and in our love for others.

Disciple

We are preparing a generation for disciple-making. This is our mandate and to not be actively making disciples is to be distracted from the cause of Christ.