



## Youth Ministry Team

In Matthew 28:19 Jesus tells his closest followers to “go and make disciples of all nations...” Ultimately our mission is an extension of God’s commandment to love our neighbor and commission to make disciples. In short The Walk Student Ministry exists ***to build a better community by God’s grace where unconnected students become passionate & devoted followers of Jesus Christ.***

### Our Overall Vision

Proverbs 19:21 says, “Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.” We summarize the Lord’s purposes for our ministry with the following phrases which describe why we exist: a closer walk with God, connections with others, and community outreach. While these purposes include a number of elements, we use these concepts to focus what we do and to ensure a balanced experience for each student. ***As God works in and through us we hope to become a community where students encounter...***

#### 1. A Closer Walk With God

*"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all...If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." - 1 John 1:5-7*

Worship Services, Bible Studies, Youth Walk Devotions, Student Life Camp, Events

The Walk Student Ministry is designed to help students answer questions of life such as "where are you walking?" and "who are you walking with?" The ministry seeks to introduce students to a personal relationship with God that is alive and exciting, and helps them to grow in spiritual disciplines of Bible study, prayer, and worship. Ultimately, growth is God’s work, but it often takes place in the context of a healthy environment and balanced “diet”. To help students have a closer walk with God we do what is possible for us to do (share God’s Word, encourage, equip, and pray) and we watch as God does the miraculous – bring growth.

At the end of the day one of our primary measures of success is how many youth are still connected to God and the church after they age out of youth ministry. While we may incorporate youth oriented worship elements on some occasions, we see a value in youth participating regularly in adult worship gatherings. We certainly value programs and studies that relate to them in their language, but we do not want to separate them from the larger community of faith. Since youth benefit from relationships with other adults and involvement in the overall worship of the congregation, we will strongly encourage youth to participate in the regular worship services of the church.

## **2. Connections With Others**

*"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household." (Eph. 2:19)*

Weekly Gatherings, Discipleship / Connection Groups / Mentoring.  
Beach, Malibu, Movies, Grand Prix, Rock The Universe, Scavenger Hunt, Holidays

A main idea behind the word connecting is fellowship and family. As believers in Christ we have a connection with God through faith. In addition, we are part of a family of believers in the body of Christ. We have been created for community with other Christians, not isolation.

We desire to create a friendly, inclusive environment where students can be known, nurtured, cherished, held accountable, and encouraged. In addition to larger weekly gatherings we envision a network of student groups and where friendships are formed, burdens are carried, real community exists, and people regularly pray for one another. We will create a safe place that is free from sarcasm, put downs, or cliques, and we will seek to build each other up. We need each other to experience growth in our Christian life and to encourage us in our daily lives.

## **3. Community Outreach**

*"...and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."  
(Acts 1:8)*

Metro Min, Toys For Tots, Salvation Army, Acts Of Grace, Community Events, 30 Hour Famine, Service In Church, Campus Clubs, 5<sup>th</sup> Quarters, Youth Outreach Events

In the context of mission faith is demonstrated and matured. God has given students gifts that they may use in our church and in our community. We want to develop passionate, devoted followers, not graduate program attendees. We will help students discover these gifts and use them to extend God's love. We envision students willingly giving back to God a portion of the time, talents, and resources that have given to them. We envision building students to Christian maturity with a process that will prepare people for their personal ministry & mission in the world.

Maturing students will reach out to friends and fellow students. While evangelism will exist on a program level as an essential part of a healthy youth ministry, we will seek to equip and encourage the next generation of ministry leaders, church planters and missionaries for God's work. We hope to participate in community service, "Acts of Grace", and mission projects both locally and beyond. We envision friends inviting friends to community activities, student events, campus groups, etc.

## **Our Vision For A Youth Ministry Team**

(Please mark those you would like to know more about)

In order to see this vision become a reality we will need to form a significant team of support. A Youth Ministry Team will meet monthly for pizza, planning, and prayer before the weekly gathering. Some of the key roles and responsibilities are listed below.

### Group Leaders & Assistants

Youth & Parent Emails (Constant Contact)  
Relationship building with youth & between youth  
Develop Bible Studies, Games, Weekly Gatherings  
Separate small groups or split discussions for Jr. & Sr. High

### Outreach / Events

Fun, social gatherings  
Serve the community in love.  
Events to invite kids and present an invitational message  
Event Logistics—Supplies,

### Transportation

Driver Forms,  
Arranging Car Rides  
Permission Slips

### Financial & Forms

Money Collection Forms  
Receipts, Reimbursement, & Reports

### Communication

Bulletin Announcements  
PPT / Church  
Youth Calendar  
Youth Website / Blog

### Fundraising

Plan & Execute 4-6 fundraising events per year  
Raise money for teens and chaperones to attend winter retreat, summer camp, etc

### Student Leaders

Phone Calls / Reminders / My Space / Emails  
Greeting / Welcoming Other Youth  
Positive, inclusive atmosphere  
Big brother / Big Sister.  
Could also assist any coordinators

### Praise Team

Monthly or biweekly practices for interested students  
Arrange quarterly youth Sundays where teens take an active role in a service