

Dear Potential Student Ministry Leader,

We are thrilled that you may be a significant part of our student ministry!

At First Baptist Church Student Ministry we have a particular mission that is compelling and satisfying. We also believe that a healthy student ministry is built on healthy relationships between adult staff and students. Healthy, God-centered relationships are the key to a thriving youth ministry.

The quality of our adult team is very important. We are looking for men and women who have a deep commitment to Jesus Christ and a desire to shepherd students. Please take time to read the following material and fill out the application with prayer and consideration.

Once your application has been received, we would love to sit down and talk with you about your potential involvement. All will be confidential. In the meantime, please feel free to observe our mid-week worship time (Wednesday night) and or Sunday morning Bible study and see if God is stirring in your heart a desire to serve in this area.

Every great revival in history began with youth students. The average age of a person receiving Christ is fourteen years old, and there are still 10,000 unreached people groups in the world today. This is an amazing place to serve in God's Kingdom purpose.

We are looking forward to meeting you and spending some time talking about your hopes and desires for ministry. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the church office (979) 849-4311.

What Students Need

Students do not need more entertainment or programs, they need people who love them and will invest in them. Jesus Christ was extremely relational with His disciples and He knew them well. He spent time with them and shared His life with them. Students need that today. Students also need to reconnect with their parents as the spiritual leaders of their home. If this isn't possible, they need to connect with other Christian adults who will take an active role in their spiritual life, while also reaching out to their parents.

Common Misconceptions

- You must be young
- You must have outstanding Bible training.
- You must be a perfect example of a Christian
- You must be a captivating communicator
- You must feel secure
- You must be able to act like one of the students
- You must have plenty of free time
- You must play the guitar
- You must be liked by all students
- You must be relevant.
- You must own a 15-passenger van.

Students need adults who will...

- Passionately pursue God
- Be interested in their struggles
- Take initiative to spend time with them.
- Pray for them
- Be real.
- Say encouraging things.
- Believe in them.
- Laugh and have a good time.
- Remember their name and care for them.
- Share God's love through personal experience.
- Be consistent in their church attendance.
- Be patient with them.

How to Get Involved in Student Ministry

1. Understand the direction of Student Ministry

We have a pursuit that is found in a vision and declaration. Everything we do in this ministry has an intentional pursuit to live out that vision.

2. Commit to a role in our ministry

After you have an understanding of the different possibilities for your involvement in our ministry, we will ask you to commit to a specific role. These roles are described in detail on the following pages.

3. Live!

Your walk with Christ is crucial. If you join this ministry, you will be expected to stay fresh in your walk with God. This doesn't mean that you must be a spiritual super hero—quite the contrary. It means you must be humble enough to lay your pride down and join Jesus Christ where He is.

1. Understand the Direction of Student Ministries

There are four things we would like you to know and be excited about:

1. Purpose
2. Vision
3. Values
4. Strategy

Purpose:

Great Commandment: *“Jesus replied, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’. All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:37-39)*

Great Commission: *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)*

Vision:

“Yes, LORD, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts.” Isaiah 26:8

Our passion is to see students fall madly in love with Jesus Christ. We want to see teenagers have a heart that beats “to the ends of the earth”. We long for parents and teens to reconnect emotionally and spiritually in the home. We desire to see teenagers engage their schools with the gospel message and live lives of sacrifice. In short, we want teenagers to have a heart that craves for God to be magnified and praised supremely in their life.

We exist to make passionate worshipers of God who gladly make the gospel known to their friends, family and world.

The Five Pillars of our Ministry by which we base our programs and activities:

EVANGELISM - Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with those who don't have a personal relationship with Him.

WORSHIP - Celebrating God's presence and honoring Him with our lifestyle. It is why we exist.

FELLOWSHIP - Is connecting believers to one another with meaningful relationships for strength and support.

DISCIPLESHIP - Learning to abide and remain in Jesus Christ and to find supreme satisfaction in Him in everything we do.

MINISTRY - Glorifying God by meeting the needs of others through the love of Christ.

These five pillars will be *attempted* to be expressed in five different audiences that make up a typical youth group. (Although we are the *body* and not a *business* and must allow the Spirit to lead in all we do, yet this is model is helpful for balance. *Crowd/Congregation and Committed/Core are often very similar and intermingle.)

Community	Committed to the world (without Christ)	Evangelism
Crowd	Committed to an event (hearing about Christ)	Worship
Congregation	Committed to Sunday School (relationship with Christ)	Fellowship
Committed	Committed to spiritual disciplines (growing in Christ)	Discipleship
Core	Committed to serving and doing (fully growing in Christ)	Ministry

Our Values and Passion

The following (adopted from the 268 Declaration) reflect the priorities of the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

1. **BECAUSE I WAS CREATED BY GOD AND FOR HIS GLORY, I WILL MAGNIFY HIM AS I RESPOND TO HIS GREAT LOVE. MY DESIRE IS TO MAKE KNOWING AND ENJOYING GOD THE PASSIONATE PURSUIT OF MY LIFE.**

[GOD, GIVE ME A DESIRE FOR YOU LIKE THE DESIRE THAT YOU HAVE FOR ME.]

Colossians 1:16-18, John 17:3, Revelation 3:20, Philippians 3:7-10, Jeremiah 9:23-24, Psalm 73:25-28, Psalm 16:11, Isaiah 43:7

Program: 4, 5, 6

2. **BECAUSE CHRIST ESTABLISHED THE CHURCH FOR GOD'S GLORY, I DESIRE TO MAGNIFY GOD AS I USE THE GIFTS HE HAS GIVEN ME TO SERVE AND BUILD UP THE LOCAL CHURCH. I WILL PRAY FOR CONTINUED RENEWAL AND REVIVAL.**

[GOD, RENEW IN ME A LOVE FOR YOUR CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST.]

Ephesians 3:20,21, 4:1-13, 5:25-27, Hebrews 10:23-25, Acts 2:41-47

Program: 7

3. **BECAUSE GOD IS GLORIFIED GREATLY WHEN BELIEVERS LOVE EACH OTHER, I DESIRE TO MAGNIFY HIM AS I HUMBLY PRAY FOR UNITY AMONG ALL CHRISTIANS ON MY SCHOOL CAMPUS.**

[GOD, GIVE ME A DESIRE TO LIFT UP YOUR NAME ABOVE ALL OTHER NAMES.]

John 17:20-26, John 13:34-35, 1 Corinthians 3, Psalm 133:1, Colossians 3:12-17

Program: 6

4. **BECAUSE GOD IS GLORIFIED THROUGH MY OBEDIENCE TO MY PARENTS, I DESIRE TO MAGNIFY HIM AS I HUMBLE MYSELF AND SUBMIT TO MY PARENTS AUTHORITY, PRAYING FOR THEM REGULARLY AND SHOWING CHRIST TO THEM.**

[GOD, HUMBLE ME AND CAUSE ME TO LOVE AND RESPECT MY PARENTS]

Deuteronomy 5:15, Ephesians 6:1-3, Colossians 3:20

Program: 1

5. **BECAUSE MANY AT MY SCHOOL CAMPUS OR IN MY FAMILY ARE HOPELESSLY SEPARATED FROM GOD, I DESIRE TO MAGNIFY HIM BY SHARING THE LIFE AND LOVE OF JESUS WHERE I LIVE. AS I SHARE, I WILL EARNESTLY PRAY FOR REVIVAL ON MY CAMPUS AND HOME**

[GOD, BREAK MY HEART FOR THOSE WITH WHOM I LIVE]

Romans 10:11-15, Isaiah 6:1-8, 62:6-7, Matthew 5:13-16, 1 Peter 2:9-12, Philippians 2:12-16, 1 John 5:14-15

Program: 3

6. **BECAUSE GOD IS SEEKING WORSHIPERS OF ALL PEOPLES, I DESIRE TO MAGNIFY HIM AMONG THE NATIONS. I ACTIVELY COMMIT MY LIFE AND ENERGY TO PARTICIPATION IN HIS GLOBAL PURPOSES IN MY GENERATION.**

[GOD, KINDLE IN ME THE DESIRE TO GO ANYWHERE, AT ANYTIME, AT ANY COST, TO DO ANYTHING TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.] **Program: 2**

Strategy

Every purpose has a ministry or program that reaches a particular group of students. The following is a list of primary programs that will be offered to reach students and families.

Prayer

1

Concerted prayer gives power, not good planning. We will devote ourselves to creating a team of prayer warriors that will lift up students, parents, and the community to God asking for renewal and revival.

Potential Audience: ALL YOUTH

Primary Purpose: MINISTRY, WORSHIP

Family Devotions and Parent Ministry (primary)

2

Since parents are the primary influencer of their teenager's life, we will equip parents with simple, easy to use devotionals to be used once or twice a week to bring the family together under the authority of God. For students whose parent(s) are unable or unwilling to do devotions we hope for families to invite those students into their homes for family devotions 6 to 12 times a year. See heartconnex.org for details.

Potential Audience: CONGREGATION, COMMITTED, CORE

Primary Purpose: FELLOWSHIP, DISCIPLESHIP, WORSHIP

Mission Projects/Trips (primary)

3

Our students will regularly be challenged with stepping outside of their comfort zone and joining Christ in His kingdom purposes. 7th -12th grade will regularly be planning and positioning themselves for outreach and mission. In reality, this is where students have the most fun and feel a sense of purpose. Students long for adventure and accomplishment.

Potential Audience: CONGREGATION, COMMITTED, CORE

Potential Purpose: DISCIPLESHIP, MINISTRY

Friendship Evangelism (primary)

4

Effective evangelism happens best in the context of friendship. Although we will train students in a variety of different methods for evangelism, essentially these steps will be involved.

Step 1: Make a friend with a lost student.

Step 2: Invite a friend to a program.

Step 3: Tell your friend why you're a Christian.

Step 4: Tell your friend how to become a Christian.

Step 5: Ask your friend if he or she would like to become a Christian.

Potential Audience: COMMUNITY

Primary Purpose: EVANGELISM

Twentyeight 19 Wednesday night (primary)

5

This mid-week worship experience is designed to be a place where students can feel comfortable bringing their friends and worshipping God and being challenged by truth. The gospel will regularly be proclaimed and will serve as a bridge for crowd and community students.

Potential Audience: CROWD, COMMUNITY
Primary Purpose: WORSHIP, EVANGELISM

Student Life Bible Study Sunday morning (primary)

6

Our Sunday morning Bible study is designed to create a rich and creative atmosphere where students learn glorious truths about God in His word. We also hope to establish and foster deep friendships and relationships through small group interaction.

Potential Audience: CONGREGATION
Primary Purpose: FELLOWSHIP/DISCIPLESHIP

Pursuit Sunday night (primary)

7

This Sunday night program is designed to create accountable relationships with other growing Christian students and to develop personal spiritual disciplines. Special time is spent praying for our campus and lost friends.

Potential Audience: COMMITTED/CORE
Potential Purpose: DISCIPLESHIP

Ministry Teams Sunday night (primary)

8

As students begin to grow, they must involve themselves in ministry in order to find joy. Therefore, ministry teams exist to help students find their spiritual gifts and to use them for the glory of God. They may join an existing ministry, or create their own.

Potential Audience: COMMITTED/CORE
Potential Purpose: MINISTRY

2. Commit to a Role in Our Ministry

Student Life Bible Study Leader

Program: Student Life Bible Study

Time: Sundays: 9:00-10:00am

Our Sunday morning Bible study is designed to create a rich and creative atmosphere where students learn glorious truths about God in His word. We also hope to establish and foster deep friendships and relationships through small group interaction.

Ministry Opportunities:

- Small group leader
- Care group/Outreach leader

SMALL GROUP LEADER Ministry Description

Challenge

To participate and lead in Sunday morning Bible study with students of a particular grade (7-12), as well as make heart connections with students. We will attempt to encourage them and help them apply the truth of God's Word in everyday life.

Expectations

1. Arrive no later than 15 minutes prior to the start of Sunday morning.
Early arrival demonstrates care. Arriving before the students will allow you to greet them as they enter.
2. Be a greeter
Shake hands, touch shoulders, and help students feel welcomed and valued.
3. Be Passionate! Live the Scripture.
Our ministry will attempt to use Student Life Bible Study curriculum (see studentlifebiblestudy.org for details), but YOU are the curriculum the students are looking at. Students need to see that the "lesson" is real. This involves being Spirit led and prepared on Sunday mornings, leaving the "teacher's book" at home and working out of your written notes or none at all.
4. Encourage student interaction
Introduce students to each other and try to foster a "family" environment.
5. Know students' names
Students love to be known by their name. As your group continues to grow, so does the need for knowing student's names.
6. Help visitors with the information card
Help ensure that the care group/outreach leader gets a completed information card for each visitor that will place him or her on our mailing and email list.

Follow-up with visitors

Write a quick encouraging note (3 lines) to the visiting student from your grade. (You can place this on my desk)

7. Follow-up with regulars
Write a quick note (3 lines) or email the regular students from your grade that missed a week or even a friendly phone call.
8. Encourage fellowship and assimilation
Encourage Biblical fellowship among students and others. Be willing to plan a monthly fellowship with your students. Also be willing to sit with students and participate with them in corporate worship on Sunday mornings.
9. Encourage students to come to PURSUIT or join a ministry team.

Time Commitment

Small group leader WEEKLY time commitment

Consistent attendance at Student Life Bible Study, arriving 15 minutes early or sooner to greet students:
1 ½ hours per week.

This translates into a MONTHLY time commitment of

Small group leader- 6 hours

Once-a-month fellowship- 2 hours

Monthly team meeting- 2 hours

Outreach/In reach- 1 hour

Total per month- 11 hours

Optional: Connect with students from your small group sometime during the week either by attending one of their school activities, visiting their home and meeting their parents, or caring for students and their families and to lead the students into caring for one another- 1 hour.

CARE GROUP/OUTREACH LEADER Ministry Description

Challenge

To participate in the growth of Student Life Bible Study through maintaining group records, outreach and in reach files, and knowing everything there is to know about the students in your group. You are the eyes and ears and administrative help of your group.

Expectations

1. Arrive no later than 15 minutes prior to the start of Sunday morning.
Early arrival demonstrates care. Arriving before the students will allow you to greet students as they enter the room. You will often be the first adult a student will come into contact with upon "signing in".
2. Greet students and know them by name.
Shake hands, touch shoulders, and help students feel welcomed and valued. Create a warm, caring environment as best you can. Process and maintain group records.

Compile reports for the youth minister and small group leader of what students were present as well as who was missing. Also process and maintain outreach records, and maintain an up-to-date prospect file.

3. Follow-up with visitors
Using the visitor card, write, call, email, or preferably visit a student within 2 days of his/her visit. Ensure that the small group leader makes a contact with a visiting student as well. Getting contacted by not only one adult but several will create a tremendous impression for both the student and parents and will communicate our values and passion.
4. Follow-up with regulars
Assist the small group leader in touching base (write, call, or email) with a student that misses on any given Sunday morning.
5. Help with Breakfast
Provided we eventually have breakfast for students, we need your assistance in coordinating with parents or other members of the church for homemade goodies or donuts.
6. Know the student's parents by name.
Because your role is highly relational, we need you to know the parents as well as anyone. Be the liaison between your small group and the student's homes through emails, phone calls, or letters. Establish a rapport with parents and try to get them involved in socials, events, trips, camps, etc.

Time Commitment

Care group leader WEEKLY time commitment

Consistent attendance at Student Life Bible Study, arriving 15 minutes early or sooner to greet students:
1 ½ hours per week.

This translates into a MONTHLY time commitment of

Care group leader	6 hours
Once-a-month fellowship	2 hours
Monthly team meeting	2 hours
Outreach/In reach	1 hour
Total per month	11 hours

Twenteight 19 Wednesday Night Leader

Program: Twenteight 19 (mid-week worship)

Time: Wednesdays from 6:15-7:30pm

* Students arrive much earlier than that and stay later giving wonderful opportunity to share the gospel and encourage their spiritual walk.

This mid-week worship experience is designed to be a place where students can feel comfortable bringing their friends and worshipping God and being challenged by truth. The gospel will regularly be proclaimed and will serve as a bridge for crowd and community students.

AFFIRMER Ministry Description

Challenge

To create a comfortable environment for visiting and regular students during our mid-week worship time. This comfortable environment includes facilitating conversation, affirming students, remembering names, caring for immediate needs, leading a small group occasionally, and helping students get plugged into our Sunday morning Bible study.

This is a vital role within our ministry because a student won't become theologically aware of God's love if he/she doesn't feel loved by anyone in a crowded room.

Expectations

1. Arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of the service
Early arrival demonstrates care. Arriving before the students will allow you to greet students as they enter the room.
2. Be a greeter
Shake hands, touch shoulders, and help students feel welcomed and valued. Please don't stand at the back. Be a shepherd not just a chaperone.
3. Encourage student interaction
Introduce students to other students and facilitate group interaction during games and other student interactions.
4. Know student's names
Students love to be known by their name. As our group continues to grow, so does the need for knowing student's names.
5. Model genuine worship during singing
You can witness to students by truly showing a heart for worshipping God. This is something that a lost and dying world needs to see.
6. Help visitors with the information card
Help student "seekers" fill out the information card that will place them on our mailing and email list.

Follow-up with visitors

Write a quick note (3 lines) to a visiting student that you personally met. (You can put the letter/postcard on my desk.)

7. Follow-up with regulars
Write a quick note (3 lines) or email the regular students that you notice missed a week (You can put the letter/postcard on my desk.)

8. Tell the students you appreciate them coming and ask “will I see you next week?”
Foster a recognition-level interaction by asking to see them the following week.
9. Respond to noise and disruption
Encourage students to pay attention and to respect the attention of others during the message.

Time Commitment

AFFIRMER WEEKLY time commitment

Regular attendance at IGNITE each week: Arriving 15 minutes early and staying 15 minutes after IGNITE ends to carry on conversation and write a quick note: 1 ½ hours per week.

This translates into a MONTHLY time commitment of

AFFIRMER - 6 hours

Monthly team meeting - 1-1 ½ hours per month: 7 ½ -8 hours

MINISTRY TEAM LEADER

Program: Ministry Teams

Time: Sunday nights 5:00pm-6:00pm

We want students to “own” the ministry and to serve tremendously. When a visitor comes into the youth ministry they need to see students greeting, students worshipping, students announcing. All this requires training and time. Students need adults to walk alongside them for coaching, encouragement and accountability.

We will start with 4 simple teams:

1. Drama
2. Worship
3. Games (IGNITE intro)
4. Encouragement

However, as God leads and students step up to serve there are numerous ministry teams that hopefully will be utilized. For example:

Audio
Video
Computer/Web

Baby-sitting
Care calling
Missions

Prayer
Homebound
Office Work

Challenge

To oversee and care for students involved in a ministry team. This leadership position would include investing in an encouraging/mentor relationship with the student leader as you set an example for them and guide them in their leadership role.

Expectations

1. **Care** for the needs of the ministry team and the ministry team leader.
2. **Contact** the student leader for encouragement and be the facilitator of the ministry team.
3. **Aide in the organization** of planned ministry events.
4. **Follow-up** on the needs of the student leader and help him/her to follow-up on the participants of the team.
5. **Integrate** new students into the team.
6. **Be an example** to students, a leader passionate about God and committed to loving them. Pray for students to discover the joys of serving.

Time Commitment

Typically the WEEKLY time commitment including arriving 15 minutes before beginning is a little over an hour a week. However, some ministries take longer planning time (for example worship and drama) while some will take less time. In addition to any student time, all of the ministry team leaders will need to attend our 1 hour monthly meeting.

PURSUIT LEADER

Program: PURSUIT discipleship groups

Time: Sundays 6:00 to 7:00pm

This is our small-group discipleship ministry that focuses on accountability and spiritual disciplines. It is designed to help students their own personal pursuit of God.

Challenge

To oversee and care for the spiritual development of a small group of students (3-4) within a grade and gender.

Expectations

1. Be a loving minister
Minister to the needs of your students within your group.

2. Practice Spiritual disciplines
If you do not model spiritual disciplines the teenagers you are trying to train won't either.
Spiritual disciplines that we will focus on:
Quiet times Prayer Bible study
Evangelism Fellowship Scripture memory
Service Humility

3. Follow-up
Follow up on students' needs (as needed) throughout the week through letters, phone calls, email or personal visits.

4. PRAY for your students
Really sit with the Lord regularly and pray for the students you are trying to train. Pray for their parents as well that they will model Christ to their teenager.

5. Go "Beyond the program"
As time allows, meet with your small group or an individual once a month for fellowship.

Time Commitment

PURSUIT leaders WEEKLY time commitment:

PURSUIT small group: 1 hour

One letter or phone call: 5 minutes

This translates into a MONTHLY time commitment:

PURSUIT small group: 4 hours

Letter or phone call: 20 minutes

Connect with students outside of PURSUIT: 1 hour

Monthly team meeting: 1-1 ½ hour

Total per month: 6-7 hours.

3. Live!

As you begin to serve in any area of this ministry, you must consistently walk in obedience to God and trust in His strength. Good planning and programming do not create revival. Only a heart that is walking in obedience will see God do amazing things with that person. This is what we want! We desire to see God magnified in you as you minister to this generation. Here are some practical steps to being fresh in ministry.

1. **Practice Spiritual Disciplines.** You would be amazed at how many people are in spiritual depression simply because they will not walk in obedience to what they already know God wants them to do.

- Pray
- Study your Bible
- Meditate on scripture
- Evangelize (share the gospel)
- Fellowship (talk about your walk with other Christians)
- Serve in humility
- Fast

This is not an exhaustive list, but this cannot be emphasized enough. **Happy Christians do these things. Sad Christians do not do these things.**

2. **Keep your family first!** We are a family-centered youth ministry and that starts with yours. Have devotionals with your family and spend time in prayer. Let them know that they are the top priority.

3. **Be a mentor, not a buddy.** Students don't need more buddies that only talk about surface things or worldly topics. They need adults who love them and show them consistently a holy life and a holy standard. A true friend speaks truth!

How to Become a Student Ministry Leader

1. **Pray about your involvement**

2. **Review this Adult Leadership Guide.**

This guide gives you the basic information about different areas in our student ministry, including a list of programs, meeting times and places, and the philosophy behind the programs.

3. **Commit to our Values and Direction.**

4. **Observe a Program**

Although we are still in a formative and transitioning time, you are encouraged to observe our programs. This is an important opportunity to get a "feel" for the ministry without any expectations put on you. You will have a chance to meet students, other adult leaders, and take notes. Observing can be overwhelming and uncomfortable, but we encourage you to continue to observe.

5. **Complete the application Packet**

This application packet was developed with care in order to obtain appropriate information to be used in the selection process.

6. Schedule a Meeting with the Youth Minister

This is a get to know you and your heart, not a business transaction. This gives you an opportunity to share your thoughts from your observations, describe your spiritual journey, and discuss in more detail your gifts and desires for working in the student ministry.

7. Introduction to the TEAM

Once you've decided you want to make a commitment, you'll be introduced to the Student Ministry Team at the next monthly meeting.

8. Begin ministry

This date will vary depending on your involvement and desire.

9. Participate in a 30-day check-up meeting.

After your one-month mark, you will meet with the student minister to evaluate your feelings and perceptions of your involvement. This is a time of encouragement and affirmation. Throughout the year we will continue to positively evaluate your ministry involvement in order to adjust your role to better fit your style, personality, and strengths.

What you can expect from Student Ministry staff...

- Structure and leadership
- Encouraging words
- Prayer
- Training and learning opportunities
- Challenges to develop your ministry

What you can expect from the Team...

- Deep, meaningful friendships
- A sense of family; a team mindset
- Accountability
- Prayer and Support
- Challenges to develop your spiritual walk and your ministry.

Congratulations! You made it through this packet! I know it seems like a lot of information, but through this "process" you will learn valuable information to make your transition into the student ministry much easier. If you have any questions or would like some additional information, please feel free to contact the church office (979) 849-4311.