

AN INTRODUCTION TO STUDENT MINISTRIES

answering a few key questions

WHO ARE WE? WHAT ARE WE DOING?

NHC Student Ministries is a **gospel-centered, relationally-driven, discipleship-focused** ministry to junior and senior high students. We exist to glorify God by loving like Jesus, introducing students to Jesus, and strengthening students in Jesus.

GOSPEL-CENTERED because students need the gospel and not primarily instruction regarding their behavior. Just because a youth ministry teaches the Bible doesn't necessarily mean that it teaches the gospel. It is possible to teach the Bible in a way that communicates to students that God will be upset with them if they don't measure up, or that he just wants them to feel good about themselves but is otherwise not involved in their lives. This is not the gospel. Only the gospel will bring true transformation in the life of a student. *So we focus our energy on pointing students to the redemption found only in the cross of Christ and the life-changing work found only in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

RELATIONALLY-DRIVEN because relationships are the vehicle by which discipleship takes place. This was the vehicle for discipleship modeled by Jesus, taught by the apostles, and brought to life in the local church. *Our gospel is a missional gospel—one that works to transform the world through relationships.*

DISCIPLESHIP-FOCUSED because we are not interested in primarily asking the question, "how can we get bored teenagers to church?" This ultimately has little to no long-term value. Instead, the question that NHC Student Ministries seeks to ask is, *"How are we to faithfully plant and water the gospel of Jesus Christ in students for his glory and our joy in him?"*

WHAT ARE WE **NOT** DOING?

We are not a replacement for family discipleship or the church.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP: While we believe that an increased level of biblical instruction along with peer-to-peer encouragement and accountability is important for students, we also strongly believe that the most important teaching that a student receives is from the home and from the pulpit (in that order). We believe that the Bible is clear that parents are given the great joy and primary responsibility of discipling their students. We desire to come alongside of families and students in this process.

THE CHURCH: While we see benefit in having some age specific ministry targeting students for the purpose of peer-to-peer mission, this must not conflict with a student's primary identity with the local church. Student Ministries is not a "church for students." It's a ministry of our church. When a student graduates, our desire for them is to have a deep love for the local church and an understanding that church isn't about them or their preferences, but Christ and his mission. This will make it much easier for a student to connect in the church after graduating high school.

WHY DO WE DO WHAT WE DO?

At New Hope Church we desire to prepare students to continue to be passionately in love with Christ and committed to a specific local church after graduation. Two observations help us to understand why this is so important:

1. The world of youth ministry is beginning to recognize that it has often created something very different from the local church and has encouraged students to identify with that program primarily instead of the local church (or even at the expense of the local church). As a result, we should not be surprised when, after graduating, students are confused and put off by how different the local churches are from their previous youth ministry experience. This approach has conditioned students to think about the church in terms of consumerism instead of mission. *This is why we desire to create a love for the local church in our students' lives.*
2. As noted above, many youth programs geared for students spend far more time dealing with topical issues in an effort to remain relevant than they do teaching the gospel through biblical preaching, community, and mission. When we abandon the gospel, we abandon the very thing that is truly different and therefore attractive about Christianity. *Our ministry will not concentrate primarily on topics or "edu-tainment." It will instead be focused primarily on the gospel and allow all of our topics and teachings to be influenced by the gospel.*

As a result, we believe that students will not only have an easier time transitioning into a local church, but they will also desire to become a part of a church that holds up the gospel as first and foremost. This happens as they continue to see and hear about the life-transforming message of the gospel from the home, the pulpit, and in our student ministries.

WHEN & HOW ARE WE DOING IT?

- Sundays, 11am [LARGE GROUP GATHERING]
- Wednesdays, 6:45pm [SMALL GROUP GATHERING]
- SNACS (monthly gathering for Middle School) [COMMUNITY BUILDING]
- Brotherhood/Sisterhood (monthly gathering for High School) [DISCIPLESHIP]
- Coffee House – Wednesdays, 3-6:45pm [OUTREACH]
- Retreats/Trips/Special Events
- Missions Experiences

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

- Help serve on a Sunday morning
- Mentor/disciple students in a one-to-one setting
- Let us know how we can serve you!

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: NHC Student Ministries
Instagram: @nhcstudentministries

CONTACT US

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