

Hey Jr. High Parents!

We have a new opportunity for your child to grow in their faith. Based on some questions and suggestions from parents we are going to experiment with offering a jr. high small group during the 10:45 service starting May 1st. We realize that there are some jr. high students who come to second service who would benefit from the opportunity of participating in a Sunday school type small group study and/or some students whom 9:00 may just be too early for. Jr. high is a valuable time of growth and transition and is also one of the most important time for students to make decisions to follow Jesus and grow in that relationship. We want to reach as many students as we can and help our current jr. highers grow more. With that in mind we wanted to answer some questions we anticipate will be asked:

What happens if we come to the 9:00 service?

We are still having Sunday school for jr. high students during the 9:00 hour. There has been discussion about shifting the format of the 9:00 hour to continue to include discussion based bible teaching, but to also provide more of a worship gathering type emphasis. Much of this depends on how large the group of high school and jr. high students are.

What if my family is here both hours?

There are really two options. First, your jr. high child can attend both the jr. high options, since the study will be different each hour. Second, we really do not want to de-emphasize the importance of intergenerational worship. Worshiping God across a broad spectrum of ages helps to prepare students for getting plugged into a church when they leave home either for work or college. The option is really up to you, either your child can attend both the 9:00 Sunday school group and/or the small group at 10:45 or you can have them worship with your family during one of those hours.

What does Sunday morning look like for my family?

The 9:00 group will still meet in the youth room. The main difference will be with the 10:45 small group. We will all start out together in the 10:45 worship gathering, but we will dismiss the jr. high students after the music part of the worship gathering before the children's sermon, prayer time and offering. The small group will end around 12:00, which is when the second service concludes.

What will they study?

Our goal is to have all of the studies to be bible based and practical for the students. We want them to open the bible and to focus the learning as you would in a small group, which is discussion and application based. The scripture focuses and topics will vary from month to month. At times we will try to overlap with the worship gathering's focus so that the theme is similar to what you parents are learning in the church service.

What about when they enter high school?

We are only going to offer this 10:45 option for jr. high students. Once they hit 9th grade they will be encouraged to come during the first hour Sunday morning group and/or participate in the worship gathering at 10:45. The reason for this was stated above; we feel strongly that

having high school students participate in intergenerational worship is essential to successfully getting plugged into a church body when the transition to college/work comes about.

I look forward to seeing what God does with this time. I believe that God will honor the last 6 months of prayer and discussion that we have had going into this decision. Likewise, I think there is tremendous growth for this group, both spiritually and numerically as we continue to help jr. high students see and know Jesus. If you have any questions that were not answered above please e-mail or call me.

Upcoming events:

Apr 22 – Indoor Rock Climbing

We are taking the jr. highers to Sanctuary Rock Gym in Sand City for a day of indoor rock climbing. The main purpose of this is to give students an opportunity to invite friends and to connect with other rock climbers. The cost is \$20 and will include lunch, climbing and transportation. Departure time is 10:30; estimated time of return is 3:30. Please let us know if you need help getting your child there or help with the cost!

May 13 – “the Forum”

This is the first night of its kind! We want to keep parents more informed about what is happening at youth group and how you can plug in. We are hosting a **dessert** from 6:30-7:30 (during the first hour of RAD Nite), which will focus on youth culture, upcoming events for the jr. high and high school group and simple ways to pray and plug into the group. Not a jr. high or high school parent? That is ok, please come! We want anyone who is interested to be informed, involved and praying.

Mission Trip – Navajo Nation June 25-July 2

This is for 8th graders who are going into 9th grade next year. We still have room on our mission team. Specific details can be found at www.mhpc.org

July 31-Aug 4 – Rock n Water Summer Camp “Encounter”

This is for 8th graders who are going into 9th grade next year. Rock n Water is our summer camp adventure. We are going river rafting for two days and participating in an awesome canyon hike that will be one of the highlights of your summer. We are partnering with Calvary Chapel Gilroy’s high school group and sharing the teaching time which will focus on encountering God. We leave the afternoon of July 31 and return around lunch time on the Aug 4. The cost is \$375, but if for any reason that is an issue (we know summer is expensive!) please call me because we have extra money floating around to help people get to camp.

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