

## **At LifePoint Church our philosophy of Student Ministry is founded on three convictions:**

1. The discipleship of children is primary the responsibility of their parents.
2. The Church is called to bring people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.
3. Discipleship begins with and is cultivated by the revelation of God through His Word.

Romans 10:17 tells us that “faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God,” and Isaiah 55:11 tells us that “[God’s Word] will not return empty, but will accomplish that for which He intends.” These promises remain true and as important as ever for engaging and training the next generation of believers. Therefore, we embrace a teaching model at LifePoint first and foremost, with the understanding that young people, like all people, need opportunities for interaction and social engagement as well.

## **So what does student ministry look like at LifePoint Church?**

The primary focus of our student ministry at LifePoint is aimed at encouraging parents to teach and equip their own children. For those students who are part of LifePoint but whose parents are uninvolved, the goal is that other adults (staff, small group leaders, mentors) will invest in and disciple these young men and women. Our ministry to youth will consist of clear, biblical teaching, a curriculum that is intentionally focused on teaching the foundational truths of the faith, and activities geared toward a combination of fun, fellowship, opportunities to learn and relate to fellow believers, with occasional activities focused on outreach, Christian service, and evangelism.

## **What we believe....**

1. We believe the greatest joy in life is knowing Jesus Christ. We believe that once someone is born again, they live and breathe to know God and the power of His Word. Therefore, we desire to please our young people with the things of God.
2. We believe that the Word of God is alive and powerful (Hebrews 4:12), and that God’s Word will not return empty (Isaiah 55:10-11). Thus, we count them able to hear and understand the teaching of the Word along with adults. It is the responsibility of parents and adults to help students work through the Word, answer questions, and continue to teach them.
3. We believe that cross-generational connections are vital to the health and vitality of a church. We try intentionally to avoid creating a youth sub-culture that is uninvolved with the rest of the congregation. Thus, we encourage older and wiser believers to mentor, disciple, and teach the next generation (Psalm 78).
4. We seek to develop a fervent life of the mind that is thoughtful in regards to Scripture. The result is that we strive to teach the whole counsel of God as it relates to creation, man, fall and redemption. This includes, but is not limited to, instruction in understanding Scripture and doctrinal concepts born from it, the application of that Scripture to our lives, and Scripture memorization. Along with an enlightened mind, we desire the students to have inflamed hearts. These hearts should be moved by the revelation of God to feel deeply about the things of God. Whether it is a great joy for God, a tremendous grief over sin, or a sincere hurting for the lost, it must transcend mere intellectualism. Finally, all of our goals are aimed at students developing a transformed life that is distinctive. We want students to be “doers of the word” because “faith without works is dead” (James 1:22; 2:17). Our

hope is that students who have been made alive by faith in Christ and who know the foundational principles of that faith will in turn share their faith with their families, friends, fellow students, etc.

5. We believe that time with family is of utmost importance in the life of a teenager, and families today are busier than ever with school, sports, work, etc. Therefore, we are not event driven. The goal is that families will take advantage of increased opportunities to eat dinner together, fellowship together, worship together, and talk. There is no substitute for the influence of parents and familial community in the life of a student. Youth also need time for fellowship and to relax with their Christian peers, therefore we provide opportunities for enjoyment, relaxation, and fellowship, along with summer and winter retreats and student-led fellowship opportunities.

6. We believe that faith is meant to be lived and shared. Our youth ministry has high expectations for youth who are believers to mature in their faith. We will also provide opportunities for non-believing youth to hear the gospel and respond, acknowledging that the first step in discipleship is a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Our goal is to provide an environment where all students feel welcomed and invited, while at the same time teaching those students who want and need to hear the deeper things of the faith. We believe this type of community will have the most impact on nonbelievers.

7. We believe that all of life is meant to be lived under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We do not delineate between the sacred and the secular. We encourage students to view whatever they do as service to the Lord. That includes athletics, art, study, work, rest, and play. At least two Scriptures give us warrant for such an approach to ministry: Psalm 24:1 says, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof," and 1 Cor. 10:31 tells us, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."