

Knollwood Community Church
Student Ministry Plan
2018-19

Our Essence

Our Vision

To see lives changed by Jesus Christ

Our Mission

Helping people grow into disciples of Jesus

The youth group's vision and mission is no different than Knollwood's as a whole, for the youth group is but a ministry of Knollwood created for the purpose of see the church's vision and mission accomplished amongst teens. While the form and structure of how the youth group carries out Knollwood's vision and mission will vary from other ministries in the church, the essence (vision and mission) remain the same.

Our Form and Structure

Intrinsically bound to our vision and mission is the idea of discipleship. Discipleship simply refers to the process by which people become and grow as disciples (followers) of Jesus Christ, hence, a biblical view of discipleship consist of two pillars: outreach/evangelism (justification) and growing in relationship with Jesus (sanctification). In order to faithfully engage in discipleship, the youth group is primarily made up of three structures: FLOW, Rock Solid, and Immersion. All of which are positioned chronologically along the line of discipleship.

FLOW

FLOW is our annual Sunday night program that takes place from 6pm-8pm. If we view discipleship as a chronological line, FLOW is positioned at the very beginning. FLOW is structured as an environment where students can be introduced to Jesus. For students who are already farther down the line of discipleship, FLOW provides them with a fun yet intentional outlet for fellowship, while also given them the opportunity to minister to those who are new in their faith. A typical structure of FLOW consists of prayer time, activity/game, message (seeks to be more evangelistic in nature), and another activity/game. Our ideal goal for a student who begins to regularly attend FLOW is the following:

- Have a basic understanding of what the Gospel is and what my response needs to be

- Enters into relationship with Jesus, if not already a Christian.

While our regular location will be the Fellowship Center located at Knollwood, we plan on spending more time off campus than we have in years past. There are two categories of off-campus locations we plan to utilize. The first category consists of activities such as bowling, laser tag, trampoline, etc... The idea behind such places is that they provide informal environments where intentional conversations can occur between leadership and the students. The second category consists in getting together with local churches in the area. Currently we have a great relationship with Redeeming Grace; our desire is that our mutual relationship would overflow and branch out to other churches in the area.

Rock Solid

Rock Solid is our Sunday morning time from 9am – 10 am. Rock Solid provides students with an environment where they can intensively study God's Word in community. In the past Rock Solid has seen all youth ministry students (7th -12th grade) meet together in one large group. However, with our growing rise in middle schoolers as well as our desire to provide both guys and girls with safe and appropriate spaces that allow them to talk about heart issues, Rock Solid will now be split into three groups: Junior High, High School Boys, and High School Girls. Rock Solid is typically broken up into 15 minutes of breakfast and recapping the week and a 45-minute period for the lesson and prayer. Rock Solid is the second structure along the line of discipleship, hence, for students who begin to regularly attend Rock Solid these are our ideal goals for them:

- Have a working knowledge of foundational Christian beliefs.
- Have working knowledge of how to study the Bible and how it fits together as a whole.
- Growing in sensitivity and knowledge of what it means to walk with Jesus day to day.
- Have a spiritual growth plan in place.
- Have a basic understanding of evangelism (what it is, and why we are to do it).
- Have a basic understanding of apologetics.
- Receives Baptism, if they have not already done so (ideally done by the end of the 8th grade).

Junior High

Our desire for the Junior High group is to see students make their faith their own. In order for this to occur, we believe there are two primary areas of study that students must become proficient in: Biblical Theology and Systematic Theology (the essential dogmas of the Christian

Faith). Each subject will be on a year to year rotation. Our following curriculum for the year will be systematic theology. For our lessons we will be using the *New City Catechism* developed by the Gospel Coalition.

The *New City Catechism* is a yearlong curriculum that is centered around 52 question and answers, hence, the usage of the word catechism. The *New City Catechism* is broken up into three parts: 1) God, Creation & Fall, Law 2) Christ, Redemption, Grace 3) The Spirit, Restoration, Growing in Grace. A typical lesson is 45 minutes which includes Introduction, Study of a Bible Passage, Question and Answer, and Application.

Post-Reformation the practice of catechism or even just the term has been largely forgotten, especially in evangelical churches. Catechism is simply a form of teaching that relies upon memorization through the use of a question and answer format. Originally, utilized prior to and during the Reformation, catechisms were used to teach the lay person the Scriptures, which were often not accessible to him or her because of the lack of translation. *New City Catechism* adds greater depth to the practice of catechism by having the students study the Bible passage the question and answer are based upon, while also summing up the lesson under one of its seven virtues (serves as the application point).

Senior High Boys and Girls

It is our firm conviction that discipleship most effectively occurs on a personal basis. Teenagers, high schoolers in particular, are meet with great challenges today, some of which we would have never conceived of. While the world has always been diametrically opposed to Jesus and his Church, increases in technology as well as other social factors have presented our students with specifically unique challenges. In light of these growing trends, we desire to provide both high school guys and girls with safe environments where they cannot only study the Scriptures with qualified leaders, but also be open with the struggles and pressures they face. Due to the nature of some these struggles or pressures, we felt that it would be inappropriate and inhibiting to have guys and girls together.

As far as curriculum is concerned, we did not want to be as stringent as we have been in the past. In doing so the idea is that we would have more room and freedom to be led by the Holy Spirit in structuring our lessons to specifically speak to the issues or questions the students have. Yet, it must be stated that this approach by no means undermines our commitment to faithfully and correctly teaching the Scriptures. The form of the series may vary (topical versus going through a book), yet the commitment to being faithful to God's word remains the same. If there is ever a question about what the students are currently being taught, feel free to contact me personally.

Immersion

Immersion is the last structure on our discipleship timeline. An integral part of discipleship is as disciples of Jesus grow in maturity they would then turn and help disciple others (evangelism and mentoring). In order to aid and equip the students in being able to share the gospel and disciple others, we have set up a bi-weekly program (Sundays from 5pm – 6pm) where students learn how to share the gospel. A component of being able to share the gospel effectively is being able to understand opposing worldviews. Each class will focus on a specific worldview or religion: Among those we study are: Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity (Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy), Daoism/Confucianism, and Naturalism/Atheism. By delving in what could be termed apologetics, students are not only better equipped to share the gospel, but they are also better equipped to disciple others, as such information can help answer questions or objections they themselves may have.

Our desire for Leadership is not just that students would be filled with information, but that they would use what they have learned and share the gospel. In order to encourage the students to do so, this year we are focusing on having more accountability set in place. Each student, once a semester (twice a year), will be encouraged to move through the following progression with someone in their lives.

General: Survey People in Life
Pray

Specific: Initiate Intentional Gospel Interactions (specific to each person):
Either Have Gospel Conversation or invite to Church, Small Group, or Home

Our desire for accountability is neither to shame or discourage any student, but to encourage and challenge students in ways that will see them grow exponentially. In order to ensure that this is the case, such accountability will not occur in isolation, but within the context of mentor relationships between leadership and the students.

Lastly, our ideal goals for students who regularly attend Immersion are as follows:

- Have a working knowledge of evangelism (how to effectively engage in it).
- Have a working knowledge of apologetics.
- Actively participating in evangelism (moving through above-mentioned progression twice a year).
- Actively undertaking leadership responsibilities with the Youth Group (teaching, input in planning, and leading games).
- Engaging in discipleship of younger students within the youth group.

Major Events

- **November 18** – Youth Group Day Retreat @ Museum of the Bible (10am – 5pm)
- **December 9** – Youth Group Christmas Party @ The Hearin's Apartment (6pm – 8pm)
- **March 9, 10, 11** – Breakaway Youth Conference @ Roland E. Powell Convention City (Ocean City, MD)
- **July 14** – Trip to King's Dominion