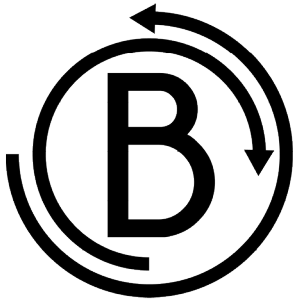


MIDDLE SCHOOL
Century Baptist
Student Ministries
PARENT GUIDE

TURN



THE

WORLD

UPSIDE

DOWN

ACTS 17:6



WELCOME TO THE MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY FAMILY

WHO WE ARE | **Century Baptist Student Ministries**

A Student ministry that seeks Jesus Christ by growing in knowledge of Him, serving Him, and introducing others to Him.

WHERE WE CALL "HOME" | **The Basement**

So, the youth room is upstairs....but it's called The Basement?

We strive to provide a place that helps students become radical disciples of Jesus Christ. In Acts 17 there were some young followers of Jesus who were changing the world. The accusation against them was that they were "turning the world upside down." Our hope is that our youth ministry would be a place that world changers would be equipped and sent out to do great things for Jesus Christ.

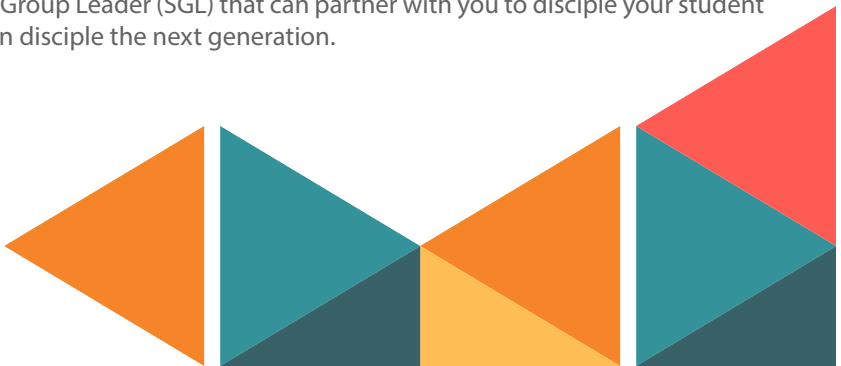


PARTNERING WITH PARENTS | TWO COMBINED INFLUENCES MAKE A GREATER IMPACT

We believe the family and the church have the most potential to influence a student. The family and the church can do this on their own, but separately it is a limited influence. When you combine these two influences, you'll have a greater impact. The family and the church exist as a part of God's plan of restoration and redemption. They work better together than alone.

Your role as a parent is to lead and guide your student's discipleship journey. Our role as a ministry is to partner with, resource, and support YOU. We will partner together so that we can leverage our influence to disciple the next generation so they can disciple the next generation.

It is well known that a student grows in their faith with caring, consistent adults that support them. It is the goal of our student ministry to connect every student with a Small Group Leader (SGL) that can partner with you to disciple your student so he/she can disciple the next generation.



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Century Baptist Student Ministries! Our team of leaders is so excited to have your student join the student ministry and is looking forward to the next 7 years. To those of you who have a student in our ministry for the first time, we extend a very special welcome to you. Century Baptist Student Ministry seeks Jesus Christ by growing in knowledge of Him, serving Him, and introducing others to Him.

Middle School is a time when a student is trying to figure out his/her identity. Our goal is to provide an environment for students to be disciplined, an environment that's grounded in the truth and love of Jesus, so that middle schoolers may know who Jesus is and who they are as a follower of Him. Figuring out who you are can be scary. You aren't sure about yourself, and you are learning more and more that people can be different than you. We work hard to make the student ministry a safe environment by surrounding middle schoolers with adults who actively follow Jesus and love people. Small groups play an important role in our middle school ministry, providing the space for students to draw closer to adults and a smaller group of peers, all determined by gender and grade.

Your student's small group leader is one of your student's biggest fans and one of your biggest fans! Their desire is to partner with you as you and your family journey through the Middle School years and even beyond. We encourage you to get to know your student's small group leader and invite them to come along on the journey. Don't be surprised if your student's small group leader shows up to a game, concert, or wants to take your son or daughter out for ice cream-it's all because they love your student and want the best for them, too!

God is up to great things at Century Baptist. Our vision as a church for the next few years is 2020 disciples of Jesus by the year 2020. We look to the future with anticipation and expectation that God is going to do more than we could ever dare to dream or imagine, believing that a large percentage of the 2020 disciples will be Middle School students who bravely step forward and declare they are all in as disciples of Jesus.

I look forward to getting to know your student and your family. Whether it's over a cup of coffee or frozen yogurt, I'd love to sit down and chat! Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or ideas. Thank you for entrusting us to partner with you to help teens actively follow Jesus and love people!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "April Wahl". The script is cursive and fluid, with a large initial 'A'.

April Wahl
Middle School Director

PHASE TIMELINE | 0-12TH GRADE

EVERY
KID



MADE
IN THE IMAGE OF
GOD



LOVE GOD

THINKS LIKE AN ARTIST

THINKS LIKE A SCIENTIST



BEGINNING
(Baby dedication)



WISDOM
(First day of school)



FAITH
(Trust Jesus)

AM I SAFE?

AM I ABLE?

AM I OKAY?

DO I HAVE
YOUR
ATTENTION?

DO I HAVE
WHAT IT
TAKES?

DO I HAVE
FRIENDS?

ZERO
TO ONE

ONE
& TWO

THREE
& FOUR

K &
FIRST

SECOND
& THIRD

FOURTH
& FIFTH

MOTIVATED BY SAFETY

MOTIVATED BY FUN

EMBRACE their physical needs

ENGAGE their interests

To Know God's Love

To Meet God's Family

To Trust God's Character

To Experience God's Family



wonder discovery passion



wonder discovery passion

THE REALITY OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PHASE

From 6th-8th grade, our study of God's Word will center around the three following truths. We believe that by teaching these three truths continuously throughout the Middle School Phase will give Middle Schoolers an understanding of the 8 Characteristics of a Disciple that matter most at this phase of their lives:

Identity: I will actively follow Jesus believing He knows me better than I know myself.

Community: I will grow as a disciple connected to other disciples.

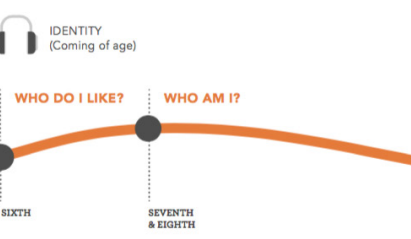
City: I will live out God's story by loving others so they can know who Jesus is.



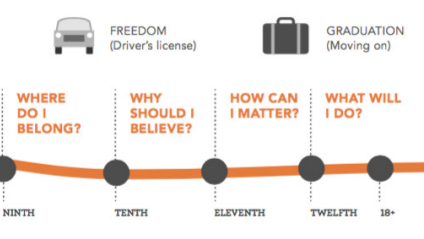
Every phase in a child's life has significant relationships to influence, present realities you need to understand, and distinctive opportunities for you to leverage to lead and guide their discipleship journey. We need to understand what's changing in every phase physically, mentally, relationally, culturally, emotionally, and spiritually so we can leverage our influence as we partner together.

WITH ALL THEIR HEART SOUL STRENGTH AND TRUST IN JESUS ... BETTER FUTURE

THINKS LIKE AN ENGINEER



THINKS LIKE A PHILOSOPHER



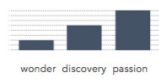
MOTIVATED BY ACCEPTANCE AFFIRM their personal journey

- To Own Their Own Faith
- To Value A Faith Community



MOTIVATED BY FREEDOM MOBILIZE their potential

- To Keep Pursuing Authentic Faith
- To Discover A Personal Mission



THE REALITY OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PHASE

Together, these three Characteristics help students tackle the three tasks of adolescence:
 Who am I?
 Where do I belong?
 Why am I here?



MIDDLE SCHOOL...THE PHASE WHERE YOUR CHILD IS ALL ABOUT: WHO DO I LIKE? WHO LIKES ME? WHO AM I?

Everything about your Middle Schooler is changing in this phase. Not only are their physical bodies experiencing growth, there is a massive “growth spurt” in the brain of a Middle Schooler (similar to a toddler growing brain!) Now your Middle Schooler will start to think more abstractly, understand multiple perspectives, and think critically about themselves and others. They’re starting to think like an engineer: putting things together and seeing how they work.

WHAT DO YOUR STUDENTS NEED FROM THE FAMILY AND THE CHURCH?

Students need an overdose of acceptance to combat the storm of changes they are experiencing.

Students are increasingly self-aware and self-conscious, beginning to wonder who they really are. They need to be reminded of who they are and Whose they are.

It makes sense then that the primary motive of the Middle School phase is ACCEPTANCE. Middle Schoolers want to know that they have a place where they belong and are accepted in the family and in the church. This is why the family and church working together as a combined influence is vital.

So while the Middle School Phase can be impulsive and intense, our role is to continue to affirm their personal journey. They have a unique blend of confidence and insecurity, unlike any other phase. Our combined roles as the family and the church are to keep reminding them of who they are and Whose they are.

WHAT WE TEACH AND WHY

8 Characteristics of a disciple

“A disciple of Jesus Christ Actively Follows Jesus and Loves People.”

From 6th-8th grade, our study of God’s Word will center around these three truths. We believe that by teaching these three truths continuously throughout the Middle School phase will give Middle Schoolers an understanding of the 8 characteristics of a disciple of Jesus that they can grasp:

Who am I? [Identity]: I will actively follow Jesus believing He knows me better than I know myself.

Where do I belong? [Community]: I will grow as a disciple connected to other disciples.

Why am I here? [City]: I will live out God’s story by loving others so they can know who Jesus is.

2020 VISION

2020 DISCIPLES BY 2020



IDENTITY:

A disciple of Jesus Christ finds their identity in Christ alone.



IMITATION:

A disciple of Jesus Christ focuses their life on becoming more and more like Jesus every day.



GOSPEL:

A disciple of Jesus Christ knows, applies, and speaks the Gospel at all times.



WORSHIP:

A disciple of Jesus Christ worships God above everything else.



GIFTS:

A disciple of Jesus Christ realizes their spiritual gifts are for giving spiritual gifts.



WORD:

A disciple of Jesus Christ holds high and applies the Word of God.



COMMUNITY:

A disciple of Jesus Christ lives IN community.



CITY:

A disciple of Jesus Christ seeks the best for their city.



GATHERINGS | THE BEST DAYS OF THE WEEK

Wednesday Nights

Where: Up in the Basement

When: 6:30-8:00pm

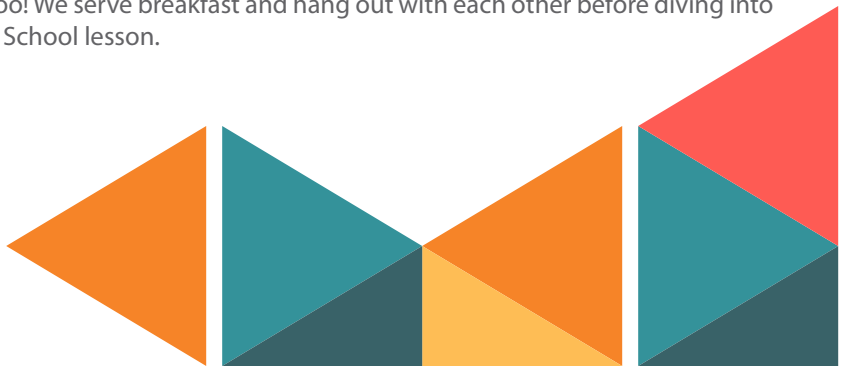
What: One of our favorite moments of the week is when we start to see students arrive on Wednesday nights. A free snack is always available. Students can purchase other snacks and drinks from our Snack Shack. Our gathering consists of a large group time, filled with a game, worship, and a message. We end our night our by meeting with a small group leader to catch up on life, chat about the message, and pray for each other. Small groups are organized by gender and age.

Sunday Mornings

Where: Up in the Basement

When: 8:30-9:30am

What: We love kicking off our Sunday mornings with a donut or a bowl of Captain Crunch. Or if a cup of hot chocolate or a vanilla latte is what you're looking for, we have that, too! We serve breakfast and hang out with each other before diving into our Sunday School lesson.



THINGS WE LOVE...

overflow PROJECT

The Overflow Project started as a movement in Cameroon. The youth of the Cameroon Baptist Convention were and are proclaiming the name of Jesus; they were in need of a place to retreat together, to grow as disciples of Jesus as the body of Christ. Together with the student ministry of Century Baptist, the youth of the Cameroon Baptist Convention partnered to build a camp through the Overflow Project. Our students collected change in blue cups to go towards the funding of the camp and some students even traveled to Cameroon to help build the camp. The Overflow Project continues not just in Cameroon, but as a part of the Century Baptist Student Ministry to meet the needs of people in our city, our state, our country, and our world. Each student can take a blue Overflow cup home, fill it up with change, and bring their "overflowing" cup to The Basement.

MSM Winter Retreat

In January, we take a break from the fast pace of life and head to Terry Peak, SD. This weekend retreat is a great time to connect with Jesus, each other, and leaders.

Winter Soulstice

In March, Crystal Springs Baptist camp hosts and programs a retreat for Middle School students. This is another opportunity for students to take a break from the regular routine and get away to be with Jesus.

Beauty Set Apart

Beauty Set Apart began as a desire among youth leaders to disciple young women in understanding their identity, value, and purpose as women of God. Events are held throughout the year to dig deeper into what it means to be a woman of God.

Summer Trips & Missions

Each summer, we take a week to get away and be with Jesus, each other, and other youth leaders. This looks different each year: an adventure trip to Lions Ridge in Bozeman, MT, a missions trip to Linton, ND and beyond to lead a VBS, or traveling out of state to connect with students around the country to grow as disciples of Jesus.

Junior High Camp

One of the highlights of our summer is a week spent out at Crystal Springs Baptist Camp. A week filled with time on the lake, worship, rec games, growing closer to Jesus, and hanging out with friends?! Now that sounds like one of the best weeks ever!

COMMUNICATION | STAY CONNECTED

Middle School Minute Parent E-letter

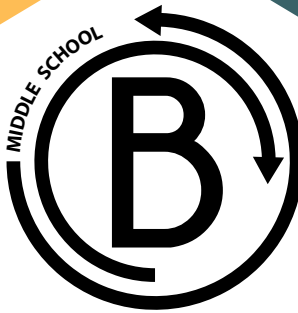
- Sign up to receive email updates on what's happening in the Middle School
centurybaptist.org/ministries/middle-school

Social Media

Facebook: Century Baptist Middle School Ministry

Instagram: @upinthebasementmsm, @upinthebasement

Twitter: @upinthebasement



Contact Info:

APRIL WAHL

Middle School Director

centurybaptist.org

april@centurybaptist.org

701.223.0478