

## **Cornerstone Student Ministry Foundations**

### **ALL STUDENTS MATTER**

At Cornerstone Church, we believe that ALL PEOPLE MATTER. God created everyone in His image. More importantly, he calls everyone into a life changing relationship with Jesus Christ, His son. Every single person on this earth can be redeemed by trusting in Christ's sacrifice for them, so we always have hope that anyone can accept God no matter how dark the story or lost they seem. We trust in God's Spirit, plan, and timing to work in the hearts of people.

So specifically, with the Student Ministry, we believe that every student we meet in the community or who comes to Cornerstone can be redeemed by the power of God. Also, God has created every student with specific skills and talents that He can use for His plans and purposes. Based on this truth, we can never ignore a student's ability to be saved, or their potential for being used in God's ministry.

### **LOVE GOD DEEPLY**

God created us solely to be in relationship with Him. He desires every aspect of our lives to glorify Him. He calls us to love Him with all our hearts, souls, and minds. He freed us from sin to live every day for Him, not just on Sunday mornings. More importantly, He calls us to follow Him outside of the church walls. He wants us to live for Him and to show our relationship with Him in the community where we live and to the world.

Our hope with the Student Ministry is that teens will passionately embrace this statement. So many "Christians", young and old, don't fully pursue a relationship with Jesus. Typically, it's non-committed faith they prefer. Our goal is to be used by God to show teens what this deep relationship looks like through experiences together. We want them to know that spending time with God on a regular every day basis is the way to live your life. We will stress the spiritual disciplines: being in His word, prayer, service, and worship, to enhance their relationship with Jesus. Daily and yearly spiritual growth must happen in a teens' life to fully know the life Jesus is calling them to. After a teen commits to Jesus the main goal is to become more like Him.

### **LOVE STUDENTS GENUINELY**

The second greatest commandment is to love our neighbors as ourselves. We do not carry the complete capacity to love others without the deep love of God flowing in and through us. Motivated by the love God has for us, we can then go love others. This love is based on loving people the way Jesus loved. This love is unconditional and full of forgiveness and mercy. It strives for peace with everyone, but at the same time speaks truth in gentleness when we are called to. This love is there at all times and seasons of

life and cannot be taken away. With God's Spirit and power we hope to experience this love in our hearts and through our actions.

## **MAKE DISCIPLES CONTINUOUSLY**

The two main tasks of our Student Ministry. We desire to be used by God to bring teens to Christ and then make disciples of all teens. If a teen keeps what they believe about Jesus to themselves or they don't personally pursue the kingdom of God and His righteousness, we fail as a Student Ministry. We must be about making disciples who make disciples. God has called the teens of today to impact their peers. They are the real student ministers. Our hope is that God will use the teens to change their schools, homes, friends, and community where they live through the Spirit living in them.

## **WE WIN WHEN...**

**All Students Matter to God**-Every student that comes to our programs/events feels welcome and valued. Every student has an interaction with a leader during our programs/events. There is diversity of types of people/interests/skills in the youth group. Teens are unified as a group but are always open to new people joining.

**Make Disciples Continuously**-Every student is daily following Christ and encouraging others to do the same. Every student is inviting others to Church/youth events. Teens bring Christ into their community (example: school or sports team). Teens are disciples who make disciples. Teens share the Gospel and life-giving salvation with accuracy, passion, and deliberateness. Teens choose to lay themselves down and live sacrificially. Teens are ambassadors for Him. Teens live like Jesus.

**Love God Deeply**-Every student makes spending time with God a priority. Teens are defending truth, growing, developing, are equipped, and making their faith their own. We win when teens strive for a greater knowledge, understanding, and love for Him. Teens understand the character of God: He is Personal, Savior, Father, Lord, Holy, God of the Bible, Jesus, justice, and forgiving. He calls them to relationship, grace, to be set-apart, and to love. We win when they understand He is the designer and the creator of all things, and that He's perfect in every way. We win when they understand that He is the author of salvation, loves them deeply, gives mercy, He is never changing, the author of life, the sustainer of their soul, gives unconditional love, and deserving of their praise and respect. He has giving them everything. He is king, eternal, all-knowing, the beginning and end, priceless, wise, and the light. We win when teens know God, His word, and worship/serve him. We win when teens have unshakable faith/followers forever/trust in Him no matter what. We win when teens are led by the Holy Spirit and put God first.

**Love Students Genuinely**-Every student and youth leader respects everyone during events/programs. They are looking to the interests of others and bring

forgiveness/mercy to tough situations with others. Everyone strive for peace with all people.