

Family Meeting 2020

FW-Kids

“He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”-Col. 1:13-14

Seeing growth

Since moving into the new building about five weeks ago, our average amount of kids first service is 65 kids and average second service is 51.

Our classes have been growing in numbers since Southridge, and we would very much like to split up the younger kids classrooms, but we lack the needed amount of volunteers, so please be praying about that.

One change that was implemented, since moving into the new building:

Some of you have voiced to me that you are hesitant to serve in FW kids because of the responsibilities that are involved. In the past, leaders were asked to Read over the curriculum and organize and supply the crafts for the kids. We have taken away one of those responsibilities, which is organizing and supplying the crafts. In the Craft room, you will see bins for each class containing all the needed curriculum and supplies, making it easy to show up on a Sunday, grab your bin and head to the classroom.

Needs in FW Kids

With that being said, there are a couple of needs within kids' ministry.

- 1) As mentioned earlier, there are some classrooms that we would like to split up, because of their size. We are looking for committed leaders to disciple our kids. So if you are coming to only one service, can I ask you to consider serving regularly in FW Kids?
- 2) We are also looking to have a substantial substitute list. Currently we are at around 8 people. A substitute is someone that cannot commit every week, but receives a message from me when we are running short on leaders. With the realities of covid that we find ourselves in, and much needed breaks for our regular volunteers, having a substitute list is essential. So, if you are serving in another area of the church, and that service isn't weekly, can I ask you to consider joining FW Kids as a substitute?

The importance of FW Kids and Caring for leaders

Now, I recognize that those two asks cover just about everyone in the church, but let me say this. The temptation with just about any church, is to view Children's ministry as, "if you have a pulse you can serve" or "fill this spot so we can use you as free childcare." That is NOT how we view FW Kids. Out of all the ministries, I truly believe that FW kids is one of the most important, because leaders are teaching our kids at their most formable season of their lives. Therefore, we want to make sure that the teachers we have are leading our kids faithfully to the Lord, teaching them the true Biblical Gospel. The leadership of FW wants to adequately care for you as you care for our kids. What does this mean?

- a. FW leadership strives to consider how we can encourage you and help you grow in the knowledge and love of Christ. Service flows from Christian growth and not growth from service. We will aim to care for you and help you flourish and grow in ministry; not squeeze you dry in the interests of keeping our programs running.
- b. Open communication: if this is not the season for you to serve (depleted energy, spiritual fatigue, stress, etc), please come talk to the elders and I so that we can adequately care for you.
- c. In order to show our gratitude and give them a small break from serving, we have decided to cancel FW Kids and have an all family service on the Sunday after Thanksgiving (Nov 29th). Please come prepared to have your children stay in the service with you on those days. Also, when you see a FW Kids volunteer, remember to tell them 'thank you' for their faithful service.

To close, let me tell you what one volunteer says about serving in FW Kids, "I love working with Freshwater Kids and being able to pour God's truth into their little hearts. It has been so exciting to see some of them put their faith in Christ. I only get to spend about 40 minutes with them every week but I have noticed that in that 40 minutes they learn

and grow so much in their relationship with Christ. It's so encouraging to see and is a blessing to witness. I don't feel like it's a job at all, it really is a joy and a blessing to serve in FW kids."

FW-Students (middle and high School)

"Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ."- Col. 1:28

FW students exists to help students become totally committed followers of Jesus Christ through Christ-centered teaching, meaningful relationships, and family-oriented discipleship.

How do we seek to accomplish this?

4 P's: Prayer, people, proclamation, and patience. This is what ministry is all about. Prayerful dependence on the Spirit. People as God's fellow workers. Proclamation of the good news of the Bible in multiple ways. Patiently watching our leaders and students growing into Christian maturity.

With that being said, those four P's of ministry are lived out by engaging students, evangelizing students, establishing students with biblical convictions, and equipping students and leaders to engage, evangelize, and establish others.

What have we taught thus far in student ministry?

-Why Read the Bible?- Jesus and Sufficient, Clear, Authoritative, Necessary

-3 weeks in Mark- Looking at chapters 8,9, and 10, and the cost of discipleship

-Went through the whole book of Philippians, and about how Paul instructs us to Stand firm in the Lord, we looked at how that means taking on Christ humility, being others focused, just to name a few.

-Now, we are currently half way through Jonah, where we are looking at the amazing Mercy of God, and how all of us are like Jonah reluctant to show mercy to others. But it is by looking at God that compels us to be merciful to others.

- "Upcoming teachings will be a series on Apologetics, a series on the two ways to live, and others. Please feel to chat with me if you know of a specific area of need that your student would benefit me teaching on."

Parents, Caring for your student:

I want to clearly say, that any care that you find your student needs, please, let's schedule a meeting together to talk about it. I want to be an accessible resource for you, parents.

A way to care for your student is to know what is being taught on Wednesdays and partnering with our student ministry. There are many ways that this can take shape, but let me suggest one practical way: by signing up for Freshwater Student Equip- Which is a monthly email that seeks to equip parents of Freshwater Students to disciple their teens. In equip, I write about practical ways for you to disciple your students, update you on events, and provide good online and book resources for you to consider.

This is what one Parent said about what she has enjoyed with the student ministry, "What I appreciate in student ministry is other brothers and sisters are willing to invest and pour into my kids. They find ways to connect with youth. I find value in student ministry because it's the impressionable years and we won't be able to get that back. They will not always be young."

Please consider joining us:

High School students: A couple of parents have voiced to me that their High school student didn't want to come to youth group because of its predominantly young age. A few months ago, we averaged about 10 students on a Sunday evening, since moving into the building, and moving our youth group to Wednesday evenings, we have grown to average about 20 students. Out of those 20 students, half are in middle school and half are in high school. So, with all of that to say, our number of high school students has increased. Since we have increased in high school students, would you and your High School student reconsider and join our group?

This is what one High school student said about what she enjoys in student ministry, "The fellowshiping get together such as girls and boys events, the engaging scripture teachings, and the games."

Wednesday evening Small Group: We have some great volunteers right now, but could benefit from one more male volunteer. If this is something that you might be interested in, please contact me.

Event/food helper: Students love food, and the students would appreciate your generosity. Showing generosity from people within our church goes along way! 1) Generosity points to the generous King that we worship. 2) Generous people spur others on to be generous with their time, money, and other gifts. With that said, would you consider being generous by providing snacky type food to our students on Wednesday nights? Currently we have 3 food helpers on a rotation signed up. If you are interested, please email kyle@freshwaterjc.com

One-to-one Bible reader: This past fall we started a one-to-one bible reading program. Where we have a couple of students actively meeting with adults to read the Bible. Why read the bible one-to-one with another person? David Helm, in his book titled "one-to-one says: "We do [this] because of our convictions about the power of God's word. When people are exposed to it, they find salvation in Christ, they are sanctified in faith, they are trained for effective ministry, and they find community... that (is) unlike any other the world has to offer." Students who actively read God's word is in decline, most times they would only read or hear it on a Sunday or Wednesday. To help students be in the word, and better readers of it, would you consider Leading a One-to-one with a student, and considering signing up your student for One-to-One?

Each leader and student would meet for a about 6 weeks, read through a book of the bible, answer the same questions every week, and meet together for about 20 minutes. They can meet either before, between, or after services on a Sunday, or before or after youth group on Wednesday. Freshwater Church, how cool would it be to see people sitting through out this building on a Sunday or Wednesday night talking about the Bible instead of the surface level conversations, like the weather, that makes us cringe.

With all that being said, there are a lot of changes within our Student ministry, and a lot to be excited about. Especially looking forward to 2021! Please be on the lookout for dates, but a couple of big things are: Super Summer in June, A back to school retreat at the end of July or August, and our regular monthly events. But most importantly, I look forward to seeing your students grow in their knowledge and love for the great God that we worship.