



## ***HEY THERE!***

So you're the parent of a soon to be teenager, huh? Congratulations! You have one of the most important (and sometimes the most difficult) jobs on the planet.

We know your job isn't always easy, but here's what we want you to know: we're here to help, in any way we can. Sure, we call ourselves FCC Students, but students aren't the only people we care about. We care about you too.

No matter how connected (or not connected) you are with our church, this Parent Handbook will show you some of the ways we're trying to care for your kid and serve you at the same time.

Thanks for letting us be another voice in the life of your child. Your trust and partnership means a lot to us. We hope we are able to make your voice the #1 spiritual voice in your child's ears.

We can't wait to see what this year has in store!

JR Horn  
Minister of Compassionate Service

# **PARENT HANDBOOK**

 **FCC**  
**Students**  
7-12



# WHAT'S INSIDE

## THE BASICS

Our Staff ..... 1  
 What We Do.....2  
 Our Big Win ..... 3  
 Discipling Students ..... 5  
 Engaging with Life Group Leaders ..... 6

## THE FINE PRINT

Safety Guidelines ..... 7  
 Contact Us ..... 9

# THE BASICS

## OUR STAFF

**JR Horn**

Minister of Compassionate Service  
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He's crazy enough to have been doing this for over 10 years at FCC!

**Bill Weigel**

Life Group Coach  
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Bill is the face of the Large Group teaching time during FCC Student Life Groups.

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Next Generation Minister  
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18 year student ministry vet. Avid Pittsburgher aka "YINZER". Movie Buff.



## WHAT WE DO

### **SUNDAY SUNDAY SUNDAY**

#### **7-12<sup>th</sup> GRADE | SUNDAYS FROM 6-8PM**

Sunday nights are for LIFE GROUPS!! FCC Student Life Groups is the FLAGSHIP program of FCC Students. This is a place where students can come to learn, laugh and belong!

#### **7-12<sup>th</sup> GRADE | SUNDAYS 9AM & 10:30AM**

Sunday mornings are set aside for FCC Students to accomplish two things: Worship and Serve. We encourage all FCC Students to attend a worship service and then jump in and serve during the other service. Serving gives a place where your child will experience what it means to be depended on and they will know that their serving matters.

### **OUR ENVIRONMENTS**

There are a few key environments for teenagers in FCC Students. Each one is designed to strategically invite teenagers on a journey into deeper relationships with their peers, leaders, and Jesus. Each environment is designed with every teenager in mind - the kid who's grown up in church and the first-time visitor too.

**EVENTS:** Throughout the year, we'll host several events designed to help teenagers connect with their peers and Life Group leaders. These events are often a perfect place for a teenager to invite a friend that doesn't currently attend a church. Whether it is a Life Group event or a Serve Team event, they will not want to miss out!

**LIFE GROUPS:** Life Groups are the most important part of what we do. They happen every week, but the relationships built in Life Groups extend outside the walls of our church. They're designed to connect every teenager with a Caring and Consistent adult leader as well as a community of their peers.



## OUR BIG WIN

It's hard sometimes to know when you're winning with teenagers, you know? Like, is anything we're teaching actually sinking in? Are teenagers really growing in their faith? That's why we decided to go ahead and define the big win for our ministry. It's the one thing that we, as a ministry, want to achieve. It's the goal we want to keep in mind at all times. And it's what motivates and guides everything we do. It goes like this...

### **WE WIN WHEN A TEENAGER TAKES A STEP TOWARD OWNING THEIR FAITH.**

#### **TAKING A STEP**

Now, we say "takes a step" for a reason. It's because there's no finish line or certificate of completion when it comes to spiritual growth. Instead, spiritual growth is a journey (a life-long journey) and no two journeys are identical. That's why our big win doesn't have anything to do with a specific skill or achievement. Instead, we win anytime we see a teenager take a single step closer to owning their faith.

#### **5 VALUES**

"So what do you have in place to ensure that happens?" Great question! FCC Students has five foundational values that shape everything we do. From events to Life Groups even down to our Parent Communication Strategy, these 5 Values provide the alignment and focus we need in order to "meet people where they are and move them closer to Jesus."



## 5 VALUES

- 1. PARTNER WITH PARENTS:** The home is the number one place where spiritual development should happen. The role of the church should be to serve as a resource for families to be able to raise their children to become men and women of God. As such, we are making a commitment to ensure that families know what we are teaching and have resources to continue those conversations at home.
- 2. SERVE IN YOUR SWEET SPOT:** The best way to know more about who God is through faithful study. But the greatest way to experience God is through Compassionate Service. Our Life Groups do not exist solely as groups where we can learn more about God. It is what we learn about God in those Life Groups that propel us into places to serve him.
- 3. LESS IS GREATER THAN MORE:** We have a limited amount of time in our Life Groups therefore it is essential that we are extremely focused. In order to make the greatest impact on someone's life we will focus on key elements of scripture including Jesus, the Gospel, A lifestyle of worship and more. We know that by teaching a few key things, we will make a greater impact in the lives of the teens that participate in Life Groups.
- 4. RECOGNIZE MULTIPLE LEARNING STYLES:** When all of those differences are put together, it makes a beautiful picture of God's artwork. Our Life Groups will not just have one form of teaching but will strive to engage multiple learning styles for everyone in the group.
- 5. CARING AND CONSISTANT LEADERS AND PEERS:** In order to create an environment of encouragement and a safe place for them to talk, it is essential that there is consistency. Consistency in what we teach, how often we meet and in who is there. Parents, this is why it is important to strive to make sure your children are at every Life Group and important for our Life Group leaders to be there every time as well.



## DISCIPLING TEENAGERS

Do you know the last thing that Jesus said to His followers while he was on earth? Some people call it The Great Commission: "Go and make disciples." Duplicate yourselves. Go and make more of you.

Take your faith and pass it on to someone else.

When we talk about helping teenagers begin to own their faith, we're really just talking about discipleship. So what is discipleship? Here are three thoughts . . .

### DISCIPLESHIP IS ABOUT LIVING, NOT LEARNING

Rather than asking, "What can we teach a teenager about God?" we ask, "How can we help a teenager live out their faith?" It's not just about teaching them about Jesus - it's about modeling what faith in Jesus looks like. That's why our Life Groups spend time together outside of church. Because discipleship isn't taught in a classroom - it's modeled in everyday life.

### DISCIPLESHIP HAPPENS IN COMMUNITY

In the Gospels, you don't really see Jesus doing one-on-one discipleship. That's because discipleship happens best in a community of people. That's why we focus so much energy on getting teenagers plugged into consistent Life Groups, why we emphasize the role of parents and families, and why we surround teenagers with tons of Jesus followers. Because discipleship takes all of us!

### DISCIPLESHIP IS A PROCESS

Discipleship is never really complete because learning to live out our faith is a life-long process. And because we know discipleship takes time, we want to put people in the lives of teenagers who are in it for the long-haul. That's why our Life Group leaders don't bail on their teenagers after a few months, but stick with them for an entire year or longer - because it's a process.



## ENGAGING WITH LIFE GROUP LEADERS

As a parent, you are making a huge impact in your teenager's life. The impact you're making is far more significant than any impact FCC Students could ever hope to make. You are the most important voice in your kid's life, both now and for a lifetime.

But in all of our time caring for teenagers, we've learned something really important. (We drew a picture to help you remember it.) We believe that, in every teenager's life, this is true: your best chance at influencing your teenager's faith and future is to recruit other adults to influence them with you.



Dr. Kara E. Powell and Dr. Chap Clark, authors of *Sticky Faith*, encourage parents to “develop a sticky web of relationships” for their kids. We love that idea! Especially during the teenage years, when your kid is beginning to pull away from you in their search for independence, we want to come alongside you by creating a pool of trustworthy adults who can help you influence your teenager.

That's why FCC Students is so committed to Life Groups. Life Groups are about more than just good discussions. Life Groups exist to connect your kid with an adult you can trust so you can better influence their faith and future.

So, this year, engage with your kid's Life Group leader. They can be a powerful ally for you and your family!



# THE FINE PRINT

## SAFETY GUIDELINES

The safety of your teenager is a priority for FCC students, so we wanted to get you in the loop on how we plan to care for and protect them.

### WE SCREEN VOLUNTEERS

Before any volunteer is permitted to serve with us, they undergo an application and interview process, including a criminal background check.

### WE SET BOUNDARIES

We have set a number of guidelines for our FCC Students staff and volunteers. As a parent, you can help us make sure your child is well-cared for by helping us maintain these boundaries.

- No staff member or volunteer should initiate a one-on-one meeting with a teenager without the knowledge and consent of you, their parents.
- No staff member or volunteer should transport a teenager in a vehicle alone. If a teenager needs a ride, we must arrange to have another adult or teenager ride accompany them.
- All staff members and volunteers must maintain appropriate physical boundaries with teenagers at all times.



## ***WE REQUIRE PERMISSION SLIPS***

We will ask for your consent in order for your teenager to attend any event, retreat, or gathering outside of our regular weekly program.

## ***WE REPORT DANGEROUS SITUATIONS***

Every staff member and volunteer in our ministry is a mandated reporter, which means we are legally required to report any dangerous or potentially dangerous situations immediately, including...

- If a student is being harmed, neglected, or abused.
- If a student is harming or abusing someone else.
- If a student is harming or at risk of harming themselves.

## ***WE ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE***

If you ever have a concern about your teenager's care or safety, please reach out to us. We're just a phone call or email away!



## ***CONTACT US***

### *LET'S STAY IN TOUCH*

This year, we'd love to stay in conversation with you. Here are a few ways we're hoping we can keep the lines of communication open . . .

### **EMAIL**

We send an email just for parents every month. It's packed with information on Life Groups, Events and on how to be a more awesome parent of a teenager. Subscribe at [kenoshafcc.com/ministries/students](http://kenoshafcc.com/ministries/students).

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

We post photos, videos, and updates from our ministry each week. Follow along at . . .

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/ourfccstudents](http://www.facebook.com/ourfccstudents)

**INSTAGRAM:** [www.instagram.com/our\\_fcc\\_students](http://www.instagram.com/our_fcc_students)

### **TEXTS**

We send out texts to equip parents with the nightly lesson topic as well as questions for you to continue the lesson impact around the kitchen table or on the car ride home from Life Groups. To receive these texts text the keyword= @fcc712par to the number 81010.