



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 fivesixers, but they 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 student and serve you at the same time.

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

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

Dan Bender
Next Generation Minister

PARENT HANDBOOK

 **FCC**
fivesixers
grades **5-6**



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THE BASICS

OUR STAFF



Dan Bender

Next Generation Minister
bender@kenoshafcc.com

18 year youth ministry vet. Avid Pittsburgher aka "YINZER". Movie Buff.



Noel Wilson

Life Group Coach
noel.wilson@abbvie.com

Noel is an elder at FCC. He will be the main Bible teacher during Life Groups.



WHAT WE DO

SUNDAY SUNDAY SUNDAY

5-6th GRADE | SUNDAYS FROM 9-10:15AM

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

5-6th GRADE | SUNDAYS 10:30AM

Sunday mornings are set aside for FCC fivesixers to accomplish two things: Worship and Serve. We encourage all FCC fivesixers to attend worship service and jump in and serve from time to time. 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 pre-teens in FCC fivesixers. Each one is designed to strategically invite pre-teens on a journey into deeper relationships with their peers, leaders, and Jesus. Each environment is designed with every pre-teen in mind – the student who’s grown up in church and the first-time visitor too.

EVENTS: Throughout the year, we’ll host several events designed to help pre-teens connect with their peers and Life Group leaders. These events are often a perfect place for a pre-teen 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 pre-teens. Like, is anything we’re teaching sinking in? Are pre-teens 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 PRE-TEEN 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 pre-teen 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 fivesixers 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 pre-teens that participate in Life Groups.
- 4. RECOGNIZE MULTIPLE LEARNING STYLES:** God designed us all differently. 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 PRE-TEENS

Do you know the last thing that Jesus said to His followers while he was on earth? “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 pre-teens 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 pre-teens who are in it for the long-haul. That’s why our Life Group leaders don’t bail on their pre-teens 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 pre-teen's life. The impact you're making is far more significant than any impact FCC fivesixers could ever hope to make. You are the most important voice in your pre-teen's life, both now and for a lifetime.

But in all our time caring for pre-teens, we've learned something important. (We drew a picture to help you remember it.) We believe that, in every pre-teen's life, this is true: your best chance at influencing your pre-teen'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 pre-teen 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 student.

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

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



THE FINE PRINT

SAFETY GUIDELINES

The safety of your pre-teen is a priority for FCC fivesixers, 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 fivesixers staff and volunteers. As a parent, you can help us make sure your pre-teen 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 student in a vehicle alone. If a student needs a ride, we must arrange to have another adult or student ride accompany them.
- All staff members and volunteers must maintain appropriate physical boundaries with students at all times.



WE REQUIRE PERMISSION SLIPS

We will ask for your consent in order for your pre-teen 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 pre-teen'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 pre-teen. Subscribe at 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

INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com/our_fcc_students

TEXTS

We send out texts to equip parents with the 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= @fcc56par to the number 81010.