



STUDENT & FAMILY HANDBOOK

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Welcome to Student Discipleship! We are a ministry of Fellowship Baptist Church that exists to help students in 7th through 12th grade *Worship Jesus, Follow Jesus, and Share Jesus . . . Together*. This handbook will guide you through our mission, program, leadership, code of conduct, and more. We are so glad that you are interested in our ministry and hope this handbook helps you understand our ministry of *discipling students through the family and the church*.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to grow students into maturing disciples of Jesus Christ through the family and the church.

Through the Family

We believe discipleship starts at home. We seek to come alongside parents to equip and engage them in discipling their students at home.

Through the Church

We also believe discipleship continues through the church. We seek to gather students to teach and disciple them in age-appropriate ways.

Our Values

Our ministry is built on five interrelated core beliefs that guide all our decisions related to programs, events, teaching, counseling, and relationships.

The Gospel • We believe the gospel of Jesus Christ is the only message of salvation and eternal hope. (Romans 1:16)

The Bible • We believe the Bible is God's Word and is the foundation for all we do and teach. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

The Church • We believe all disciples of Jesus Christ – young and old – are full members of the local body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)

The Mission • We believe all disciples are called to make disciples of those across the street and around the world. (Matthew 28:19-20)

The Family • We believe parents are the primary spiritual leaders and teachers of their children. (Ephesians 6:4)

Our Strategy

Our strategy is simple and consists of four key activities designed to help students grow into maturing disciples of Christ.

Sharing • We share the gospel of Jesus Christ with students through our programs and building relationships.

Teaching • We teach students the whole counsel of God's Word through expositional instruction focused on knowledge and application.

Gathering • We gather students for fellowship while also integrating them into the whole church.

Sending • We send students into the community and around the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ to make disciples.

Our Goals

What does a maturing disciple of Jesus Christ look like? While our list is certainly not exhaustive, it provides a glimpse into what we are working toward as we make maturing disciples.

Sharing • A maturing disciple of Jesus Christ believes in the gospel, as evidenced by . . .

- Clearly articulating the gospel;
- Confessing belief in the gospel through baptism; and
- Demonstrating on-going gospel growth.

Teaching • A maturing disciple of Jesus Christ loves the Word of God as evidenced by . . .

- Consistently reading the Bible;
- Memorizing Scripture; and
- Participating in a Small Group Bible Study.

Gathering • A maturing follower of Jesus Christ engages in gospel community, as evidenced by . . .

- Faithfully participating in the church's weekly Worship Gatherings;
- Establishing a connection with at least two adults in the church; and
- Serving the church in a specific ministry area.

Sending • A maturing follower of Jesus Christ is on gospel mission as evidenced by . . .

- Boldly sharing the gospel with others;
- Participating in local mission projects; and
- Going on a mission trip.

Weekly Schedule

Bible Study • Sunday Mornings @ 9:30 AM

Our Bible Study combines solid exegesis and student-directed discussion as we study book-by-book through the Bible.

Midweek • Wednesday Nights @ 6:00 PM

Our Midweek gathering focuses on teaching the breadth and depth of Scripture on a given theme from our scope and sequence each semester.

Small Groups • Wednesday Nights @ 7:00 PM

Our Small Groups build community around biblical discussion, accountability, and Christ-centered fellowship.

Events

Student Discipleship hosts several events throughout the year to help us share the gospel, teach the Bible, gather in fellowship, and send on mission.

Doovalacky • Doovalacky is a *sharing* event that occurs on Friday nights.

The Decathlon • Decathlon is a *sharing* and *gathering* event that occurs in early October. It is an overnight event consisting of ten activities designed to create fellowship while also providing an opportunity to share the gospel.

Winter Weekend • Winter Weekend is a *teaching* event that occurs in late January or early February. It is an overnight weekend retreat focused on a biblical theme or passage of Scripture.

Spring Break Missions • Spring Break Missions is a *sending* event that occurs in March during Spring Break focused on involving students in serving the community and sharing the gospel with others.

Camp • Camp is a *teaching* and *gathering* event that occurs during the summer.

Midweek Missions • Midweek Missions is a *sending* event that occurs on 5th Wednesdays during the school year and on Wednesdays throughout the summer. It is focused on serving and sharing in our community.

Back-2-School Bash • The Back-2-School Bash is a *gathering* event that occurs at the beginning of the school year. It is focused on getting the students to interact with each other as we begin a new school year.

Our Scope and Sequence

We believe that discipleship requires intentionality. This intentionality is reflected in our scope and sequence. We have identified seven core content areas that are taught on a three-year rotation.

Fall 2025 • Evangelism

Bible Study • Acts

Midweek • Go

D-Groups • *Evangelism & the Sovereignty of God* by J.I. Packer



Spring 2026 • Relationships

Bible Study • Galatians & Ephesians

Midweek • Connections

D-Groups • *The Peacemaker* (Student Edition) by Ken Sande



Summer 2026

Bible Study • Ezekiel

Midweek • Midweek Missions



Fall 2026 • The Gospel

Bible Study • The Gospel According to Mark

Midweek • This Changes Everything

D-Groups • *What is the Gospel* by Greg Gilbert



Spring 2027 • Identity

Bible Study • Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon

Midweek • By Design

D-Groups • *Who Am I: Identity in Christ* by Jerry Bridges



Summer 2027

Bible Study • 1 & 2 Timothy

Midweek • Midweek Missions

Fall 2027 • Theology

Bible Study • Genesis

Midweek • Rooted

D-Groups • *Knowing God* by J.I. Packer



Spring 2028 • Spiritual Growth

Bible Study • James

Midweek • Back to the Basics

D-Groups • *Spiritual Disciplines* by Donald Whitney



Summer 2028

Bible Study • 1 & 2 Samuel

Midweek • Midweek Missions

OUR LEADERSHIP

Student Discipleship is under the authority of the Elders and parents of Fellowship Baptist Church.

As a ministry of Fellowship Baptist Church, Student Discipleship is under the authority of our Elders. Our ministry is not separate from the church but is an important ministry of the church.

As a ministry to teenagers, Student Discipleship is also under the authority of our parents. As the primary teachers and leaders of their children, parents serve a vital role in shaping the vision and strategy of our ministry. As part of that leadership function, we have developed a Council of Fathers which consists of all fathers who are members of Fellowship Baptist Church who lead our ministry by helping to establish the vision for Student Discipleship as well as advising and consulting on the curriculum, calendar, leadership, and budget.

Our Shepherd

Student Discipleship is shepherded by our Lead Pastor, Ed Willoughby, who has a heart for teenagers, their families, and for the church. He has been faithfully shepherding our ministry for nineteen years.

Our Team

Our Student Discipleship team includes a number of adults who serve as teachers, small group leaders, mentors, and event staff.

Teachers • Responsible for teaching the Sunday morning Bible Study.

Small Group Leaders • Responsible for leading a small group during our Wednesday night Midweek.

Mentors • Responsible for one-on-one discipleship with a student. Mentoring can be as simple as being a prayer partner or as in-depth as working through a discipleship curriculum together.

Event Staff • Responsible for helping carry out a Student Discipleship event.

In addition to these adults, we allow students opportunities to participate in the leadership of Student Discipleship through planning the yearly calendar and preparing for Student Discipleship events.

How to Become a Leader

In order to provide a safe environment for our students, all Student Discipleship leaders must be qualified and complete the leader application process.

Leaders must meet the following qualifications:

- Believers who have made a public profession of faith through baptism.
- Members in good standing of Fellowship Baptist Church.
- Individuals who are 19 years of age or older.
- Those who demonstrate on-going discipleship through active participation in the ministries of Fellowship Baptist Church for a minimum of six months.
- Those who have never been convicted of any sexual offense or any crime involving a minor or dependent child.

Those meeting these qualifications may apply to serve in Student Discipleship ministry by

- Completing the Fellowship Baptist Church Leader Application.
- Passing a Background Investigation.
- Completing an interview with our Lead Pastor.

Upon completing these three steps, leader candidates shall be submitted to the Council of Fathers. If there are no concerns from the Council of Fathers, the candidate may be approved as a Student Discipleship leader.

How to Volunteer

In addition to leaders, Student Discipleship also utilizes many volunteers to help support our programs and events.

Those wishing to volunteer in Student Discipleship must meet the following qualifications:

- Believers who have made a public profession of faith through baptism.
- Members in good standing of Fellowship Baptist Church. (Parents who are not members of Fellowship may volunteer in limited capacities as approved by the Lead Pastor).
- Individuals who are 18 years of age or older.
- Those who have never been convicted of any sexual offense or any crime involving a minor or dependent child.

Those meeting these qualifications may request to serve as a volunteer by:

- Completing the Fellowship Baptist Church Leader Application.
- Passing a Background Investigation.

Purpose

The purpose of the Student Discipleship Code of Conduct is to clearly and explicitly communicate expected behavior for all students during Student Discipleship programs and events.

Expectations

We believe in setting high standards for our students and holding them accountable to those standards. The following outlines our expectations for all students and leaders for Student Discipleship programs and events.

Respect

- Submit to Authority (Romans 13:1)
- Treat Others Like You Want to be Treated (Matthew 7:12)
- Care for Places and Things (Deuteronomy 22:1-3)

Engage

- Come Prepared (1 Corinthians 14:26)
- Participate Willingly (Hebrews 10:25)
- Interact with Others (Hebrews 10:24)

Lead

- Positive Example to Others (1 Corinthians 11:1)
- Courage to Do the Right Thing (Joshua 1:9)
- Protect Each Other (Psalm 82:4)

Consequences

The consequences for Code of Conduct violations are meant to correct behavior in order to maintain a safe, appropriate environment for other students. The following consequences will be applied to any student found in violation of expectations or student guidelines, except where other consequences are specified.

Warning • Students shall be given a warning which shall include the inappropriate behavior and future consequences if the behavior is not corrected.

Restrictions • Repeated violations may result in restricted freedom for the student for the remainder of the program or event.

Contact • Serious or repeated violations may result in contact with the student's parent or guardian.

Dismissal • Students may be dismissed from a program or an event for unsafe behavior, repeated violations, insubordination, or sexual misconduct.

Conference • Extreme or excessive violations may result in a conference with the student(s), parent(s), and Lead Pastor.

Guidelines

These guidelines outline specific inappropriate behaviors. These are not meant to be exhaustive of all inappropriate behavior. Student Discipleship leaders shall determine the appropriateness of any behavior and consequences for violations.

Abuse • Abuse is defined as a specific act of commission by one person that leads to non-accidental harm or threatens the physical, mental, or emotional development of another person.

Student Discipleship leaders shall contact the proper authorities if the nature of the abuse requires.

Students may be required to attend counseling before being allowed to attend any Student Discipleship programs or events.

Alcohol and Tobacco • Possession or use of alcohol or tobacco is not allowed at any Student Discipleship program or event.

The substance shall be destroyed, and personal possessions may be checked during future programs or events for up to one year.

Cell Phone & Electronic Devices • Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices during programs. Students are asked to keep cell phones put away and on silent mode during programs.

Students may use phones and other electronic devices during travel or free time for events, so long as it does not isolate the student, become a distraction for the student or others, and the content of use is appropriate

(i.e. rated 'R' movies, music with explicit content, or video games rated "mature" are not appropriate content).

Violations of the cell phone policy may result in confiscation of the cell phone for a period of time or until the end of the program or event.

Curfew • Curfew is the specified time students are required to be in their assigned areas for the night. The curfew clock will be determined by the Student Discipleship leader assigned to that area.

Curfew violations may result in an earlier curfew during the event or non-harmful creative consequences. Students late for curfew by more than thirty minutes may be required to contact their parents at the time of the offense.

Designated Areas • Every Student Discipleship program or event has designated areas for students. These designated areas shall be communicated to students at the beginning of each program or event. Students are expected to stay within the designated areas throughout the program or event.

Dress Code • Students are asked to dress in a respectful and modest manner. The following is a helpful guide to define modest; however, Student Discipleship leaders will make the final decision regarding the appropriateness of clothing.

- Shorts should be finger-tip length.
- Skirts or dresses should cover the knee while standing.
- Shirts should have sleeves. Halter tops, spaghetti straps, or tank tops may be worn if accompanied by another shirt with sleeves.

- Shirts should cover skin between the shirt and pants when arms are extended in the air.
- Shirt or pants should cover underwear when standing with arms in the air or in the seated position.
- Clothing with offensive content, such as offensive language, sexual innuendo or drug/ alcohol references, may not be worn.
- Girls may wear modest one-piece swimsuits or any swimsuit covered by a dark t-shirt. Guys may wear any modest swimsuit accompanied by a shirt.

Dress code violations may result in the student being asked to change clothes or cover the clothing that is in violation.

Drugs • Drugs shall be defined as any illegal substance or any over-the-counter or prescription medication used in a manner other than its prescribed use. Possession or use of drugs is not allowed at any Student Discipleship program or event.

Student Discipleship leaders may contact the proper authorities to report the illegal substance or use at their discretion.

The substance shall be destroyed and personal possessions may be checked during future programs or events for up to one year.

Fighting • Fighting is defined as any physical contact intended to harm another person. Fighting includes — but is not limited to — pushing, shoving, punching, kicking, etc. Any form of fighting will not be tolerated.

Harassment • Harassment is defined as any unwanted or unprovoked

verbal comments or physical contact. Harassment includes any action in which a student has requested that an action cease and the offender fails to cease the action. Harassment includes — but is not limited to — joking, throwing items, name calling, degrading remarks, etc. Harassment will not be tolerated under any circumstance.

Insubordination • Insubordination is defined as the failure to attempt to follow instructions given by a Student Discipleship leader.

Mutual Accountability • Students shall report any violation of the Student Discipleship Code of Conduct or actions deemed unsafe for the student and others to a Student Discipleship leader. Students who fail to report violations or unsafe actions may receive the same consequences as the offending student.

Pranks • Pranks are defined as any mischievous action that involves another person's property and/or their physical person. Pranks will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Profanity • Profanity is any inappropriate word or euphemism for an inappropriate word. Profanity may not be used at any Student Discipleship program or event.

Public or Private Displays of Affection (P.D.A) • P.D.A. is defined as excessive or inappropriate physical contact between two people. P.D.A. is not limited to students in romantic relationships or students of the opposite gender.

P.D.A. includes — but is not limited to — lying or lounging on each other, kissing, caressing, sitting on laps, full frontal hugs, and excessive physical contact.

Students who engage in P.D.A. may be separated from each other for the remainder of the program or event.

Sexual Misconduct • Sexual misconduct is defined as any action that is sexual in nature. Sexual misconduct goes beyond P.D.A. to include any physical contact with another person's body that is normally covered by clothes or any touching underneath clothes, showing any portion of the body normally covered by clothes, viewing any material of a pornographic nature, or any form of self-gratification. Sexual misconduct will not be tolerated.

All decisions regarding the degree of a behavior (P.D.A. or Sexual Misconduct) shall be determined by the Student Discipleship leader who witnesses the act in consultation with the Lead Pastor.

Theft • Theft is defined as taking or borrowing any item without permission of the owner.

In addition to standard consequences, students will be required to return, replace, or repay any items taken.

Students are advised against bringing expensive items to any program or event. Student Discipleship will not be responsible for any lost or missing items.

Vandalism • Vandalism is defined as intentionally damaging another person's or organization's property.

Students caught vandalizing any property shall be responsible for restoring the property to its original condition or paying to restore the property.

Weapons • A weapon is defined as any object created or intended for harm of others. Weapons include — but are not limited to — blades over three inches in length, guns, explosive devices, or martial arts equipment. Students are strictly forbidden from being in possession of any weapon at any Student Discipleship program or event.

Weapons will be confiscated, and the appropriate authorities may be contacted at the discretion of the Student Discipleship leader.

Policy & Procedures for Student Dismissal

Sending a student home from a program or event is a last resort. The purpose of sending a student home is not punishment, but safety and trust. A student may be sent home from an event for use of an illegal substance, sexual misconduct, engaging in any behavior that imposes a safety hazard, or consistent insubordination.

If a student needs to be sent home, the parents shall be notified by a Student Discipleship leader. The parents shall arrange for transportation home using the quickest travel method. Students shall be placed under the supervision of a Student Discipleship leader of the same gender until their departure.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Student Discipleship maintains emergency management procedures to ensure the safety of our students. The following outlines basic procedures for natural disasters, medical incidents, fire, and intruders

Natural Disasters

Natural disasters include earthquakes, hurricanes, severe storms, and tornados. The procedures for natural disasters shall include (1) canceling programs or events ahead of time, if possible; (2) monitoring the weather; (3) securing or evacuating students to a safe place; and (4) contacting parents to provide information regarding the situation and any instructions regarding picking up their students.

Medical

Medical emergencies are divided into two categories: major and minor. Minor medical incidents do not require professional medical assistance while major medical incidents do require professional medical assistance. The highest medically trained leader shall assess the injury and determine the category in consultation with the parents if possible. The procedures for medical emergencies shall include (1) assessing the injury; (2) treating or stabilizing the injury; (3) monitoring and maintaining care of the injury for the remainder of the program or event, and (4) contacting the parents to provide information regarding the medical incident.

Fire

The procedures for a fire shall include (1) evacuating all students out of the building to a safe place; (2) calling 9-1-1 to report the fire; (3) counting students to ensure all individuals are safely outside the building; and (4) contacting parents with information regarding the situation. If a fire occurs at Fellowship Baptist Church, students will be evacuated to the Northeast corner of the parking lot and may be picked up at that location.

Intruders

The procedures for an intruder include (1) securing and confining students to a safe location; (2) confronting the unauthorized person and requesting that he or she leave the premises; (3) contacting the proper authorities if necessary.

If an intruder becomes violent or intends harm, the students will be directed to (1) get out and evacuate to a safe location, if possible; (2) lock down in a safe area if evacuation is not possible; or (3) if evacuation and lock down are not possible, students may use any means necessary to disrupt the intruder in order to escape to a safer location. Parents shall be notified as soon as possible with information regarding the situation as well as instructions for retrieving their child.