

Parenting Tools:

Church's Role in Discipling My Child



HOME
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Parenting Tools:

*What is the Student Ministry's Role in
Discipling my Child?*

The church exists to glorify God through the gathering of believers who study God's Word, pray for the fellowship and the lost, and seek to make Christ known to the ends of the earth. The church is not a replacement for the family but a strategic partner with the family. If ever the church takes the place of the family, we have missed it. The same applies to our students in the student ministry. The information below will help paint a better picture of our philosophy of student ministry and the student ministry's place in discipling your child.

Our Mission

To partner with parents and adult volunteers in leading students to be and to build reproducing disciples of Christ who worship God, connect with others, grow in His Word, and go take the Gospel to our world.

Primary Environments

Our ministry to students and their families takes place in the following environments:

- Rector First Baptist Church main campus
- Homes—We expect individual families to be discipling their own children. In addition, approved homes of church and community members will be used to host Bible studies and other events.
- School campuses—Events may take place at various school campuses throughout North East Arkansas.
- Local community—Events may take place at various locations such as parks, community ministries, places of business, etc.

- National/international locations—Students may travel to various locations periodically for mission trips.

Non-Negotiables

- Authority of Scripture—The Bible is the infallible Word of God. It was written by divinely inspired men and is God’s revelation of Himself to man. It is of supreme and final authority.
- Primacy of parents—God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The family is composed of people related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. We value the family as the primary institution for passing on the love and truth of God from generation to generation. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle examples and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth.
- Sound doctrine—Scripture is the sole authority that defines truth, our beliefs, and our behaviors. The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 best reflects the doctrinal views of Immanuel Baptist Church.
- Reproducing disciples—Christ commanded that His people “go and make disciples of all nations.” Everything that our student ministry does is examined through the lens of making reproducing disciples.
Strategies
 - Equip—Equip parents and adult volunteers to effectively disciple students through the teaching of God’s Word
 - Create—Create multiple relational environments in which students are exposed to Christ, connected with other peers, and equipped to make reproducing disciples of unbelieving and believing students
 - Develop—Develop student leaders who become local missionaries and ministers NOW—in their families, their schools, their sports teams, the church, etc.
 - Mission Trips—Provide opportunities for students, parents, and adults to take the Gospel to the least reached places—locally, nationally, and internationally
 - Celebrate—Celebrate what God has done through times of corporate worship and prayer

Common Terms

- Communication Tools—Communication to students and parents takes place through email, social networking (Facebook/Twitter/Instagram), the church website, text messages, phone calls, and mailouts.
- DNow (also known as Disciple Now)—DNow is one of the largest events that our student ministry does. The purpose of DNow is to provide students an opportunity to engage their lost peers while also growing deeper in God’s Word and with other believers. Students will be lodged in the homes of trusted church members who have passed background checks. Students will participate in small group Bible studies led by guest leaders, corporate worship services, recreational activities, and mission projects around the city. DNow also requires a massive amount of adult volunteers. Parents and adults can volunteer in many different ways from hosting a group in their home, to providing transportation, to helping organize mission projects, registration, and more.
- The Student HQ—The Student HQ is the large worship room in up the stairs at the end of the Life Center. Student worship services and other large group gatherings will also take place in this room.
- Student Worship Services—Each week during the school year, the student ministry offers student worship services for High School students. The purpose of these services includes discipleship, evangelism, worship, fellowship, and leadership development. Adults are encouraged to attend and participate as often as they can.
- The Gathering—Approximately every 6–8 weeks during the school year, high schoolers and parents are invited to join together in a unique worship experience unlike others offered on Sundays and Wednesdays.
- Sunday School—Sunday school is both an evangelism and discipleship ministry of the student ministry. Sunday school is a great way to link up with other students and dive further into God’s Word. Junior High school students will be in age/gender specific

classes while Senior high school students will be in age specific/coed classes. Classes are offered during hour, 9:00 a.m. Sunday school is a non-threatening environment that gives students the chance to dive deeper into faith and friendships. Each group is led by 1-2 caring adults who create an inviting atmosphere of Bible-teaching community and connection.

•Mission Trips— Rector First Student Ministry partners with the Mission Ministry of Rector First to provide opportunities for students and families to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. These projects will often include backyard Bible clubs, social ministry, and needs-based ministry coordinated by our ministry partner. A number of adults are needed to volunteer as chaperones for student mission trips. Students and families may also attend other non-student ministry mission trips offered by the First Mission Ministry of the church.

Parents—Pearls of Great Price

“Parents are the primary Christian educators in the church, and the family is the God-ordained institution for building faith in young people and for passing faith on from one generation to the next.”

—The Family-Friendly Church, Ben Freudenburg and Rick Lawrence

“Young people say their number one source for spiritual truth is mom and dad—not the church, not the youth pastor, nor anyone else.”

—“It’s Almost Too Late,” New Man Magazine, Josh McDowell

“A major study revealed that while youth go to each other first for advice, they tend not to trust the advice they receive. The youth surveyed said overwhelmingly that they would prefer to go to their parents or other adults first, but they do not believe they have a

relationship with them that allows them to talk openly about their problems.”

—Reclaiming Our Prodigal Sons and Daughters, Scott Larson and Larry Brendtro

“Religious practices in the home virtually double the probability of a congregation’s youth entering into the life and mission of Christ’s church.”

—Reclaiming Our Prodigal Sons and Daughters, Scott Larson and Larry Brendtro

“Where we think that two out of three aren’t bad results in child rearing, those in the Hebrew culture knew that two out of three meant that generations would be left without a spiritual heritage.”

—reThink, Steve Wright