



# STUDENT MINISTRY

## MISSION OF THE STUDENT MINISTRY

We want all of our students to love, worship and enjoy God through a personal, real relationship with Jesus. By fostering Student Groups, equipping healthy families, and incorporating students into the life of the church, we seek to make authentic disciples of Jesus who live for the glory of God and the good of our world.

## WEEKEND CHURCH WORSHIP GATHERING

Students attend our normal weekend worship gathering. We want to encourage families to worship and to grow together. If a student does not have family who attend church, we want to include them in the life of our church family. Students are encouraged to engage in worship as an adult would, and we hope that students will join serve teams to serve alongside adults in our ministry. We want students to learn to enjoy church and to fully engage in church life.

## PARTNERING WITH PARENTS

God calls the family to play a vital role in discipling the next generation. Our hope is to partner with parents to help them disciple their children into a deep and satisfying relationship with Jesus Christ. We encourage you to use the language of time, moments, and milestones as a framework for family discipleship:

- Time - build intentional time into your schedule and routines for talking about God, the gospel, and life.
- Moments - Capture and leverage teachable moments in the course of everyday life to talk about the gospel.
- Milestones - Mark and make occasions to celebrate and commemorate spiritual milestones and life passages.

We welcome parent involvement in our ministry, whether it's regular volunteering or other opportunities. If you are interested in serving, hosting, or getting involved in Student Ministry, please let us know.

## GROUPS – HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL

Gospel-centered community is the context for discipleship, and groups help us flesh this community out. Led by trained adult leaders, our groups will likely meet at 5 p.m. every Sunday during the school year, except the first Sunday of the month (Student Excursions), to foster community, accountability and friendships.

## STUDENT EXCURSIONS

Once a month or so, our students will gather together for an excursion, which will bring all of our groups together for a different event to enjoy together. This may be a game night at a local home, a bonfire and worship night, a time of service at a city project, a social outing somewhere fun, a speaker brought in to speak about a particular topic, or some other event. There may be some costs involved with these events, but we will try to provide scholarships for those who need them.

## SUMMER PROGRAMMING

As the rhythms of life change for students during the summer, we will likely take a break from weekly group meetings. If we do so, we will have other events such as those described above to serve our students.

## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

### ANNUAL EVENTS

We anticipate that a normal rhythm of annual events will emerge as our ministry begins to take shape. These will take time (likely, a few years) to develop. We include them here to give you a vision of the kind of ministry we hope to build over time. Some ideas we will consider down the road may include:

- Back-to-School Event (welcome new students) – August
- Weekend Retreat – Fall or Winter
- Go:Local - Local or Regional Mission Project – Summer
- Go:Trips - International Mission Trips – Summer
- Camp – Summer

## **PARENTING ROUND TABLES**

We desire to host periodic round tables to equip parents for the task of building healthy families. At each round table, guest speakers share wisdom and personal experiences on important topics such as dating, discipleship in the home, technology and social media, discipline and parent-child relationships. Our hope is that parents would connect with other parents who are wrestling with these topics, receive practical instruction, and have time to discuss these topics.

## **LEADERSHIP**

### **LEADERSHIP COMMITMENTS**

Three of our core commitments as a church are team-based ministry, shape-based service, and equipping people to do great ministry:

- Team-based Ministry - We structure leadership around teams rather than personalities, individuals, or titles. Teams are healthy and more effective in the long run.
- Shape-based service - SHAPE is Spiritual gifts, Heart's passion, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences. We attempt to position people according to their ministry shape.
- Equipping - We want to invite people to try new things, to be trained, to be released to serve Jesus in the church.

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

You can serve our student ministry in many different ways with different levels of involvement.

#### **Leadership Team (Serve on Weekly Basis)**

This team will "own" the ministry and responsibility for our discipleship of students, under the leadership of pastoral staff. They will serve on a weekly basis with regular roles/responsibilities, attend planning meetings, and participate in group life. Roles that we need to fill on this team include:

- Point Leader(s) (1-2)
- Group Leaders (4)
- Greeters/Connectors (1-2)
- Administration / Organization (1)
- Host Homes (1-2)

#### **Service Roles (Serve 1-2 times a month)**

- Assistant
- Event Team
- Hosts and Helpers
- Resource Partners
- Prayer Partners

### **FUTURE STUDENT PASTOR**

We do anticipate hiring a student pastor in the future, but we don't anticipate that will happen in the immediate future. As the church grows and our student ministry grows in the days ahead, we will consider when the appropriate time to consider adding this significant staff member. Until then, we are confident that God will provide great people who love our church, love our students, and love our city to lead this ministry. Even when we hire a student pastor, we will continue to empower volunteers and develop teams to lead.

### **SAFETY**

Your student's safety is important to Redemption Church. If you ever have a concern or question, please let us know. We will be implementing safety policies and procedures for student ministry involvement. Staff and volunteers who work with students on a personal and/or regular basis will complete a background check, complete a sexual abuse awareness course, and complete an application that is reviewed by a pastor. A communications and social media policy will be in place for all staff and volunteers.