



Temple

STUDENTS

STUDENT MINISTRY HANDBOOK

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OUR MISSION:

The student ministry at Temple Baptist Church exists to glorify God by making student disciples who love the Gospel, grow in community, and live on mission.

“MAKING STUDENT DISCIPLES”

Deuteronomy 6:4-7, ⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Psalm 71:18, ¹⁸ So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

We believe that we are responsible to tell the next generation what God has done for us (evangelism) and to teach them how to live in relationship with Jesus (discipleship).

While parents bear the primary responsibility of evangelizing and discipling their children, we believe that the church can (and should) make student disciples by providing Bible-based teaching, Christ-centered fellowship activities, and opportunities to serve on mission for their teenagers.

“WHO LOVE THE GOSPEL”

1 Corinthians 15:3, ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,

Romans 10:14-15, ¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

We believe that the Gospel is the good news that God has forever secured forgiveness of sin through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus for all who will repent and believe in Him as Lord thereby transforming us and giving us new life.

We aim to faithfully share the Gospel with students hoping that by God's grace they would respond in faith to the Gospel, repent of sin, and follow Jesus.

“GROW IN COMMUNITY”

Romans 12:5, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Matthew 12:49-50, ⁴⁹ And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

We believe that spiritual growth best happens in a community of believers who love, encourage, and challenge one another to reach their full potential in Christ.

We want to see students grow in a Christian community that helps them discover who God has called them to be and how God has gifted them to serve His body.

“AND LIVE ON MISSION”

Matthew 5:16, ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 28:19-20, ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

We believe God has called us to live on mission with Him where we live, go to school, work, and play.

We want to send students into their neighborhoods, local communities, and throughout the world to share the Good News that God saves sinners, because there is no greater calling, purpose, or use of a student's time than to make Jesus known to the people around them and to help others follow Jesus every day!

OUR PHILOSOPHY OF STUDENT MINISTRY:

Ephesians 4:11-16, ¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Every student who passes through this ministry is going to leave. They will graduate from high school, go off to school or full-time jobs, and often onto new home churches.

The goal for this student ministry is to send well equipped high school graduates to be healthy members of healthy churches wherever they go next. By God's grace we hope to see them become adults with an active, consistent, and growing relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe the student ministry best accomplishes this goal by teaching God's Word and building discipling relationships with teenagers.

WE TEACH GOD'S WORD

2 Timothy 3:14-17, ¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

We believe that it is God working through His Word that changes the hearts of sinners and creates a people for Himself.

His word is our perfect, true, and relevant authority for life. It is everything we need to be who He calls us to be and to do what He calls us to do. Therefore, we faithfully and unapologetically teach God's Word even when it is countercultural.

In teaching God's Word, we aim to discover or expose the main point a biblical author makes in any given text, explain it to students, and then apply it to the context in which they live.

WE BUILD DISCIPLING RELATIONSHIPS

*Titus 2:1-6, . ¹But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. ²Older men are to be ...
³Older women likewise are to be ... ⁴and so train the young women ... ⁵to be ... ⁶Likewise,
urge the younger men to be ...*

In order to accomplish our goal of sending off graduates equipped by God's Word to serve local churches, we need to practice biblical discipleship.

Discipleship requires an active relationship between more mature and less mature believers that teaches the less mature disciple what it looks like to live life as a Christian.

In adolescence, it is the parents' primary responsibility to disciple their teenagers. As teenagers begin to take ownership of their faith, the church can partner with parents by providing other mature Christian examples to reinforce the discipleship happening in the home.

OUR METHOD OF STUDENT MINISTRY:

All of our student ministry events and services aim to teach God's Word and build discipling relationships, but we have a specific purpose in mind for each time we gather.

Students will benefit most by attending every student ministry gathering, but we realize that may not be a realistic option for every family. Therefore, we ask parents to prioritize the Sunday morning worship service.

WEEKLY EVENTS:

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

The purpose of Sunday morning worship is to gather together as the body of Christ to worship Jesus Christ as Lord. We sit under the preaching and teaching of God's Word, sing and pray together with the saints, and exercise the biblical ordinances of Baptism and Communion.

According to research at Southwestern Theological Seminary, the greatest indicator of whether or not a student will continue in the faith after graduation is whether or not they attend church worship services on Sunday morning with their parents.

Therefore, this should be the primary focus for every student's family.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The purpose of Sunday school is to gather in community for studying the Bible.

Each week students will be led through a particular passage of Scripture to discover what it says, what it means, and why it matters to teenagers today. Using "The Gospel Project" from LifeWay, students will be exposed to all 66 books of the Bible and 99 essential doctrines of the Christian faith every three years.

Sunday school will help students become familiar with the complete storyline of the Bible and gain skills necessary for them to read, understand, and apply Scripture in their own situation.

*Sunday school is open to all students in 7th - 12th grade.
Sunday school options are available for all children and adults.*

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

The purpose of Wednesday night is to gather in community to study and discuss a particular topic from a Christian worldview that is relevant to our teenagers.

We cover topics like: how to share and defend our faith; what do we believe; how does Scripture fit together as a whole; how to grow in our faith; and how our worldview speaks into current cultural issues.

*Wednesday Night is open to all students in 7th - 12th grade.
Wednesday night options are available for all children and adults.*

COMMUNITY GROUPS

The purpose of community group is to focus on building Christ-centered community among teenagers.

Students will share a meal, talk about how faith collides with what is going on in their lives, and work through a book or video study relevant to teenagers.

*Community Group is open to all students in 7th - 12th grade.
Community Group options are available for adults and some childcare is available.*

LARGE EVENTS:

DISCIPLE NOW WEEKEND

The purpose of Disciple Now is to see students grow as disciples of Christ through biblical teaching, Christ-centered fellowship, musical worship, and community service in partnership with local Gainesville churches.

Disciple Now is open to all students in 7th - 12th grade.

SUMMER CAMP

The purpose of camp is to get students out of their regular routines for a week of teaching, worship, and fun in community with other Christ-following teenagers, so they can return home better equipped and committed to living on mission.

We will work with Dwell camps to provide excellent teaching, training, worship, camp recreation activities, and late-night fellowship opportunities with other like-minded churches.

Summer camp is open to all students who have completed 7th - 12th grade.

MISSION TRIP

The purpose of mission trip is to provide students with the opportunity to use and discover the gifts God has given them to have a meaningful impact in a community and for God's Kingdom.

We want to bring students outside of their comfort zones in order to open their eyes to the physical and spiritual needs of the world around them. We desire to partner with churches and organizations for the long haul, because we want to know that students' work will be followed up on, and the people they minister to will continue to be cared for.

Mission Trip is by application for students who have completed 7th - 12th grade.

SMALL EVENTS:

All small events are a great opportunity for families to fellowship with one another with the purpose of seeing their students come to know, love, and serve Jesus.

FUN-FOCUSED EVENTS

The purpose of fun-focused events is to grow in community by getting to know students and "earn the right to speak into their lives."

These fun events might include visiting theme parks/venues, movie nights, video games, and sporting events.

TEACHING-FOCUSED EVENTS

The purpose of teaching-focused events is to give students and families the opportunity to hear from great teachers and pastors from all over the world.

Events like the Cross Conference and Secret Church open eyes to the wider world around us and show us opportunities we have to serve Jesus and the church.

All large and small events are open to students in the 7th - 12th grade, and some will be open to the entire family.

OUR ADULT VOLUNTEERS:

Adult volunteers are essential to success in student ministry. We are committed to finding appropriate serving opportunities for those who are interested and qualified to serve Temple Students.

VOLUNTEER QUALIFICATIONS

To provide a safe environment for teenagers, all student ministry adult volunteers must:

- be members of Temple Baptist Church in good standing.
- complete an annual background check.
- complete Ministry Safe training on recognizing and preventing sexual assault and abuse.
- affirm the Student Ministry Adult Volunteer Agreement.
- participate in adult volunteer training events (relevant to their volunteer position).
- desire to partner with parents and support discipleship that happens in the home.
- desire to build discipling relationships with teenagers and parents that may include difficult conversations or showing up during a crisis.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SMALL GROUP LEADERS

At the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year we plan to launch student ministry small groups. Small groups will potentially be divided by gender and age.

Small group leaders are expected to invest in the lives of a few students and their parents to ensure every student has a Christian adult who knows them and will encourage them to love the **Gospel**, grow in **community**, and live on **mission**.

We ask Small Group Leaders to accomplish this task through being present, safe, and wise.

BEING PRESENT:

Small Group Leaders (SGLs) are present by showing up (physically and mentally) each week in Sunday school or Wednesday nights ready to be with their students.

“Being present” requires that SGLs come to Sunday school and/or Wednesday nights to spend time with students, listen to the lesson, and know their students well enough to apply the lesson to an individual student’s context.

SGLs show up randomly for students and parents throughout the year by inviting them into the SGL’s homes and lives, going to extracurricular activities, providing fellowship opportunities, showing up during crises, and celebrating life events with families.

BEING SAFE:

SGLs are safe by giving students and parents a safe person to ask questions to and by giving students a safe place to express themselves.

Being a safe person means helping students and parents wrestle with Scriptures and the Christian worldview while also being honest that we don’t always have an answer.

SGLs create a safe space for students to express themselves and help them see and correct errors and then apply God’s Word to their own situations.

SGLs also support the ongoing active discipleship of parents by helping bridge the gap between church and home.

BEING WISE:

SGLs are wise by being mature and responsible adults that teenagers and parents can trust.

SGLs must be in open communication with the student ministry and parents about the lives of students, always informing others of pertinent information. SGLs must be on the lookout for grooming and abusive behavior in the lives of students from any and all sources. SGLs must also set appropriate boundaries with phone calls, texting, and social media use with teenagers.

LARGE AND SMALL EVENT VOLUNTEERS

Student Ministry events can require significant adult involvement including chaperones, providing meals, transportation, setup and tear down of physical spaces, and facilitating discussion. Often, many volunteers are needed for an event to be successful.

SMALL EVENT HOSTS

Sometimes events require large amounts of space for students to be physical and entertained, and other events require smaller, quieter, and distraction-free environments to listen, watch, or discuss things.

STUDENT MINISTRY ADULT VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

My purpose for these statements is to clearly outline the expectations I have for our Student Ministry volunteers. These expectations are in no way meant to judge any struggle you may or may not be experiencing. Instead, my goal is to draw attention to some areas of life that would detract or hinder your witness and growth in service to the Lord.

As Christians, we all struggle, but there are some situations where a break from volunteering is needed to allow people to focus on recovery instead of leading. If there is something here that you disagree with or are seeking help with, please schedule some time with me. I want you to succeed in your walk with the Lord first, then see you exercise your faith in leadership roles.

REGARDING A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

Ministry comes from the overflow of what God is doing in our own lives. We expect you to be in an active and growing relationship with Jesus and a member in good standing at our church. Serving in the church is a natural expression of our obedience to God's call on our lives to benefit other believers in the local church.

As Christians, we can respectfully disagree on doctrines that are not essential for salvation, but there are doctrines that we recognize as necessary. Therefore, if, for any reason, any of the following things happen, we ask that you would not serve in the student ministry at this time:

- If you are unsure of whether or not you have a personal relationship with Jesus.
- If you fundamentally disagree with the essential doctrines that the pastoral ministry is teaching at Temple Baptist Church.
- If you do not or no longer affirm what Scripture teaches.
- If you are not attending the Sunday morning church service at Temple Baptist Church.
- If you cannot explain what it means to follow Jesus, what it means to be saved, and how to begin a relationship with Jesus.
- If you are unwilling to live by the Great Commission by sharing the Gospel and making disciples.

REGARDING SEXUAL MORALITY BEHAVIORS

We believe God created sex as an expression of intimacy within the context of marriage between a husband and wife. Volunteers who embrace a lifestyle that contradicts this teaching will find themselves having to pretend to be something they're not and believe something they don't. We will ask you not to serve if any of the following statements are true about you:

- If you are involved in a sexual relationship and not married.
- If you are currently living with someone of the opposite sex and not married.
- If you are married and are currently involved in a sexual relationship outside of your marriage.
- If you are currently struggling with an addiction to pornography.
- If you are involved in a romantic relationship with a member of the same sex.

REGARDING SUBSTANCE ABUSE BEHAVIORS

If you have a *history* of alcohol or drug abuse, it could be something God uses positively to impact the future of the next generation. We'd love to talk with you further about your story and how you can use it in ministry. If for any reason, any of the following things happen, we ask that you would not serve in the student ministry at this time:

- If you have been arrested for or convicted of an alcohol or drug-related offense in the past twelve months.
- If you are currently being treated for alcohol or drug abuse.
- If you are currently struggling with an addiction to alcohol or drugs (prescription or illegal).
- If you have used any illegal substance or misused any legal substance in the past twelve months.

REGARDING SOCIAL AND PUBLIC BEHAVIORS

Because the students and parents of our student ministry will visit your social media accounts and run into you in public, please leverage your social media and public interactions positively. We ask you not to serve at this time if any of the following statements are true about you:

- If you have a habit of using inappropriate language online or in public.
- If you have a habit of gossiping or slandering others.
- If you post pictures of yourself in revealing or otherwise inappropriate clothing on social media.
- If you share inappropriate content or any content in an inappropriate way.
- If you are incapable of treating others with Christ-like love and forgiveness.

IF YOU CHOOSE TO SERVE IN OUR STUDENT MINISTRY, YOU AGREE TO UPHOLD THESE EXPECTATIONS. HOWEVER, IF YOU DO NOT MEET THESE EXPECTATIONS, PLEASE TALK TO ME TO HELP YOU GET THE SUPPORT AND RESOURCES YOU NEED.

