

Dear Parents of Jr. High,

I hope you have had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to getting back into the routine of fall. I wanted to write you this letter to let you know the plans and decisions that have been made for our church's Jr. High program. I am so thankful for those of you that read the letter I sent out in June & provided your feedback on it. It was good to hear the different perspectives that are out there.

As I stated in the June letter, I was taking the month of July to pray and seek God's wisdom & leading for our Jr. Highs at FGCC. There were many times I felt God directing me through scripture, discussions with people, and through a simple sense of peace as I made decisions.

So what will our fall program for Jr. High's look like?

First of all, all our events will continue to be fun, energetic, and geared towards Jr. Highs. This age is one where friends become very important and we will be working with that fact to help instill healthy friendships among peers and the leaders that attend our events.

Secondly, we will be continuing to challenge our Jr. Highs to go deeper in their faith and think about God in new & exciting ways. Jr. High is a time where youth need to put "handles" on the information that they have gathered over their formative years, in hopes that they will take it into their everyday life now and in the future.

A typical Friday night will include fun games, time with friends, and a challenge to move one step closer in their relationship with God. However, we will be rotating through four different types of events each month in order to provide a different focus for each night's activities. The events will be called: Fusion; Dive In; Dive Out; and Dive Live.

Fusion: The focus of Fusion is to gather all Jr. Highs together for a big night of fun games and activities. Each Fusion will be a great night to invite friends that have never been to church, as it will be mostly focused on a social atmosphere, with a short time of challenging their faith.

Dive In: The purpose of our Dive In night is to unite the Jr. Highs in healthy friendships, where they can connect on a deeper level and discuss topics that are important to their faith. While we will still have some big group fun on these nights, the main focus will be our Dive Groups, where the youth will have fun and discussion in a smaller setting.

Dive Out: Our Dive Out nights will be similar to Fusion, but with an outward focus. Each Dive Group will be challenged to work together in a fun event that will "win" something for others rather than themselves.

Dive Live: This night will be our "Jr. High style" worship night. Along with some fun activities, there will be an extended time of singing fun & worshipful songs together and an opportunity to share what God is doing in their lives.

As I stated in my June letter, we are looking for parent involvement in our program in the area of snacks. A parent is needed to co-ordinate who brings the snacks each Friday, as well as parents that are willing to take a turn shopping for, setting up, and serving the snack (all purchases are reimbursed by the church). If you are interested in helping in either of these areas, please let me know.

On Sunday mornings we will be offering a Jr. High LIFETIME class at 10 a.m. in Room 213, where we will be discussing biblical topics together. This will be a drop-in class for any Jr. Highs that attend LIFETIME. Jr. Highs serving in Kidstuf and are free to come when they are able.

I hope this gives you a good understanding of what to expect this fall. I will be mailing out a fall schedule within the next week of all the Jr. High events from September – November. There could be more modifications throughout the year as we continue to evaluate these changes and create a program that is effective at reaching our Jr. High youth and providing them with opportunities for spiritual transformation.

Please feel free to contact me with any comments or questions you might have regarding our Jr. High program.

Thanks,

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