



— BEREAN —  
YOUTH

2019-  
2020

Parent  
Handbook



# HEY THERE!

So you're the parent of a teenager, huh? Congratulations! You have one of the most important (and sometimes the most difficult) jobs on the planet.

We know your job isn't always easy, but here's what we want you to know: we're here to help, in any way we can. Sure, we're a "youth" ministry, but teenagers aren't the only people we care about. We care about you too.

No matter how connected (or not connected) you are with our church, this Parent Handbook will show you some of the ways we're trying to care for your kid and serve you at the same time.

Thanks for letting us be another voice in the life of your teenager. Your trust and partnership means a lot to us.

We can't wait to see what this year has in store!

**- Berean Youth Staff**



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# OUR APPROACH

## VISION

To see gospel transformation in the lives of students through a partnership with the church and home.

## STRATEGY

We strive to reach our vision by living out the Gospel through the four Gs our church holds to: Gather, Grow, Give, Go

Current research indicates that between 69% and 94% of church youth walk away from the church after high school. We believe that we can raise up a generation of devoted followers of Jesus who stay connected to the local church by helping them know the Gospel, own the Gospel and ultimately make their faith known. While we firmly believe Parents are the main spiritual influence in a student's life, we offer students the following opportunities in order to help parent's in this journey:

**GATHER** in healthy Christian relationships

**GROW** in faith through knowledge

**GIVE** through leadership and servanthood

**GO** serve God domestically and abroad



# OUR APPROACH (continued)

## GATHER

We want to start by helping students connect to Christ and each other by **GATHERING** in healthy Christian relationships.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT UNITE | Burnsville Campus 6:30-8:15pm

This is our weekly Wednesday Night youth program where students unite as one group for a time of worship, a Biblical message, and a relational small group time. This is a great starting point for new students.

### FALL RETREAT | OCTOBER

This is a four-day retreat that takes place at Big Sandy Camp. It is a great time for students to get away from their normal routines and connect with God and other students in a camp setting.

### ONE-TIME YEARLY EVENTS

These are events that happen through-out the year and are great entry points for new students. They include things like corn maze trips, amusement park trips, days at the park, BBQ's, and house parties.

## GROW

We want students to **GROW** in their faith through knowledge of God's word and the Gospel.

### SUNDAY MORNING ESSENTIALS | Burnsville 9:30am, Lakeville 9:00am

This is our weekly Sunday morning youth program where students dig into the Bible and learn the Essentials of the faith. This is a great place for students ready to grow in their faith.

### SPOTLIGHT CLASSES

A once a semester class where students can dig deeper into topics such as theology, vocational ministry, world religions, apologetics, and more.



# OUR APPROACH (continued)

## **GIVE**

As students are growing in their faith, we desire to see them put their faith in action and **GIVE** through leadership and servanthood.

## **BY LEAD**

This is our youth leadership program where students are given a chance to learn about Biblical servanthood and grow as a student leader. This is a great place for students ready to put their faith into action.

## **ONE-TIME SERVE DAYS**

Throughout the year we offer students the opportunity to serve locally in a single day project. These can be working at Berean to partnering with local ministry partners of Berean

## **GO**

Finally, we want to provide students opportunities to live out the great commission and **GO** serve God both domestically and abroad.

## **MISSION TRIPS**

We regularly offer trips for both middle school and high school students to live out the Gospel by serving on mission trips. These trips have been to places such as downtown Minneapolis, Chicago, New York, Germany and the Dominican Republic.

## **ONE-TIME SERVE DAYS**

Throughout the year we offer students the opportunity to serve locally in a single day project. These can be working at Berean to partnering with local ministry partners of Berean.



# OUR WIN

It can be hard to know when we are being successful in youth ministry. Too often an evening goes by and the only thing we accomplished was..... goofing off. Or we try to have a real conversation, and no one says anything. Other times it feels like you say something twenty times and they still haven't heard anything you said. We get it, that's why we went ahead and helped define what a win looks like in Berean Youth.

## THE BIG WIN

### **WE WIN WHEN STUDENTS EXPERIENCE LIFE CHANGE THROUGH GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION.**

We know you just rolled your eyes at how non-specific that was, not to mention how hard it can be to actually see this in other people. That's why we outlined what that looks like. Students experience life change through gospel transformation when they...

- Hear the gospel
- Respond to the gospel
- Prioritize their relationship with God
- Invest in building Biblical relationships with others
- Use their gifts and talents to serve others
- Share their story

It's as simple(ish), as that. As a ministry we want to commit ourselves to doing everything we can to facilitate this win, and we ask that you do the same. This win is why all our curriculum and messages are gospel-centered, why we always seek to make what they learn applicable to their lives, why we love small groups and small group leaders, and why we want to involve students in ministry, not just minister to them.

It's also why we believe strongly in partnering with parents....





# It's a Partnership

## **FAMILIES vs CHURCH**

The math just doesn't add up. Think about it. If we assume that every student who walks through our doors will attend every program and every event we will get about 2-3 hours a week with them. Over the course of a year that is about 100-150 hours a year.... out of 8760 hours. It's even worse when you realize that our time is split between several students and the assumption that everyone will be here every week is unrealistic.

The good news, is that there are adults who have much more time and influence in the lives of the students in our ministry. And that is you....the parent. We don't want to minimize our role as a youth ministry in the lives of the students, but we do want to put it in perspective. Studies show, and we believe, that the church/youth ministry does not have the greatest influence over students, their families do.

## **FAMILIES & CHURCH**

So what does that mean for us? Well we believe that God calls us as a ministry to partner with you in providing resources and serving as a second voice of God's truth and love.

## **RESOURCE**

We know as a parents, you are busy and don't have all the time in the world to figure out how to disciple your children. And that's were we want to step in. This is why we have developed the Family Ministry Milestones, offer a resource center in the café, host parenting classes and strive to communicate as much as possible.

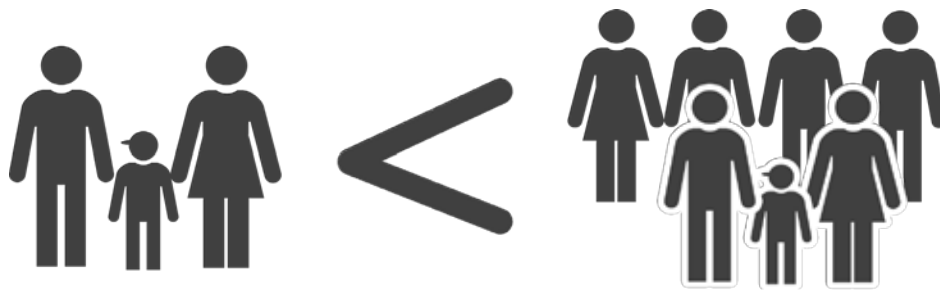


# It's a Partnership (Continued)

## Second Voice

As a parent, you are making a huge impact in your teenager's life. The impact you're making is far more significant than any impact we, their church, could ever hope to make. You are the most important voice in your kid's life, both now and for a lifetime.

But in all of our time caring for teenagers, we've learned something really important. (We drew a picture to help you remember it.) We believe that, in every teenager's life, this is true: your best chance at influencing your teenager's faith and future is to recruit other adults to influence them with you.



Dr. Kara E. Powell and Dr. Chap Clark, authors of *Sticky Faith*, encourage parents to “develop a sticky web of relationships” for their kids. We love that idea!

Especially during the teenage years, when your kid is beginning to pull away from you in their search for independence, we want to come alongside you by creating a pool of trustworthy adults who can help you influence your teenager.



# The Fine Print

## Safety Guidelines

The safety of your teenager is a priority for our ministry, so we wanted to get you in the loop on how we plan to care for and protect them.

### We Screen Volunteers

Before any volunteer is permitted to serve with us, they undergo a rigorous application and interview process, including a criminal background check.

### We Set Boundaries

We have set a number of guidelines for our youth ministry staff and volunteers. As a parent, you can help us make sure your child is well-cared for by helping us maintain these boundaries.

- No staff member or volunteer should initiate a one-on-one meeting with a teenager without the knowledge and consent of you, their parents.
- No staff member or volunteer should transport a teenager of the opposite sex in a vehicle alone.
- All staff members and volunteers must maintain appropriate physical boundaries with teenagers at all times.

### We Require Permission Slips

We will ask for your consent in order for your teenager to attend any event, retreat, or gathering outside of our regular weekly program.

### We Report Dangerous Situations

Every staff member and volunteer in our ministry is a mandated reporter, which means we are legally required to report any dangerous or potentially dangerous situations immediately, including...

- If a student is being harmed, neglected, or abused.
- If a student is harming or abusing someone else.
- If a student is harming or at risk of harming themselves.

### We Are Always Available

If you ever have a concern about your teenager's care or safety, please reach out to us. We're just a phone call or email away!



# The Fine Print (Continued)

## Communication Guide

We know that the family calendar with a teenager in the house can be overwhelming. That's why we want to make sure we keep you up to date and informed of all we do in Berean Youth. We often say that we would rather strive to over communicate than under communicate. Because of this, we have some strategic ways to get you the info you need.

### Monthly Parent Email Newsletter

This is a once a month newsletter we send via email. Included in the email will be info on upcoming events, info on our current Wednesday Night Unite message series, Our current Sunday Morning Essentials topics, a link to a parenting tip video, as well as other resources.

### Seasonal Calendars

This is a seasonal calendar that will be sent to each family via snail-mail. Each calendar will have all Berean Youth events and programs listed in a calendar format as well as a few highlights of coming events. The calendar can always be accessed on our website.

### Text Updates

Text updates are a great way to get reminders of events through out the year. We will also send out occasional encouraging texts to help you in your job as a parent. To sign up, text @bbyparent to 81010.

### Website

One of the best sources for info about Berean Youth is our church website [bereanbaptist.com](http://bereanbaptist.com)







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