

Grace Church Jr. High Student Ministry



**Adult
Leader
Packet/
Application**

What Students Need From Adults

Changing the student world happens one student at a time. Students do not connect to programs; they connect to people. The most effective way to influence students is through significant relationships with key people in their lives. Our goal is to develop leaders who minister to students.

Students desperately need adults who will . . .

- love God and live for Him
- be interested in their lives
- take initiative and spend time with them
- pray for them
- be real
- say encouraging words
- believe in them
- laugh
- go to "their world"
- remember their names and care for them
- share God's love through personal experience
- be consistent to the programs
- be patient
- enjoy life

How to Be Involved in Students Lives

We will explain the application process, but first it is important for you to understand what commitment we ask from our adult leaders. For effective ministry with students, you need to . . .

1. **Be an adult leader who has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ**—Students don't need our clever ideas and great programming. They need adult leaders who are confident, not in their own abilities, but in their God who works in and through them to accomplish His purposes.
2. **Be an adult leader who is an example of Godliness**—Students don't need to see perfection. They need a living model of an adult who is actively living out their faith in ups/downs, good/bad, and joy/sorrow of their life.
3. **Be an adult leader who will develop relationships with students** - Students don't need someone to tell them what to do or how to live. They need caring adults who are willing and available to go through experiences in life together with them.

4. **Be an adult leader who is committed to a ministry program** - Students don't need someone to stand on the sidelines. They need adults who will participate consistently in one or several programs.
5. **Be an adult leader who understands our purpose**—Students don't need someone confused about where they are leading them. They need an adult who knows where they are going and why it is important to get there.

Why Do We Do What We Do?

KEY VERSE: Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has *crossed over* from death to life (John 5:24).

The **MISSION** of Grace Church student ministry is to challenge students to . . .

1. **LOVE Unconditionally** (Mt. 22:37-39; *John 13:34-35) - This purpose is to gain the attention and respect of students in everyday experiences through relationships based on love, met needs, exemplifying Christian character/unity, and showing genuine compassion for others. This purpose is completed when a student's genuine relational, emotional, or physical need has been met.
2. **LOOK to Christ** (Jn. 6:40) – This purpose is to provide non-believing students an opportunity to hear the gospel. This purpose is completed when a student responds by putting their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior.
3. **LEARN Biblically** (Phil. 1:6; 1 Pet. 2:2) - This purpose is to provide students with an opportunity to develop into mature followers of Christ through study of God's Word, prayer, and accountability. This purpose is completed when a student is personally motivated to relate with God.
4. **LIVE Sacrificially** (Mt. 20:25-28; *John 13:14; Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-31; Eph. 4:11-13; 1 Pt. 4:10, 11; 1 Jn. 3:16) – This purpose is to provide students the opportunity to discover and use their spiritual gifts, talents, and abilities in order to minister to others in accordance with obedience to God's will for their life. This purpose is completed when a student has identified his/her calling to ministry and is using it to multiply God's kingdom.

The **VISION/GOAL** of Grace Church Student ministry is to disciple servant followers who are equipped to . . .

1. Relate with God on a daily basis
2. Make choices based on Biblical convictions and God's will
3. Identify and meet the needs of peers and others
4. Serve peers and others using their spiritual gifts, talents, and abilities
5. Communicate the gospel and defend their faith

Commit to a Ministry Program

180° Jr. High Ministry Programs

Sunday School (Sunday, 9:00-10:15 a.m.) - This is our main Bible teaching time designed to introduce students to Biblical principles that apply directly to their everyday experiences in life. **ADULT LEADER ROLE:** We need adults to teach, substitute teach, greet, learn names, discipline, and help create an environment conducive for learning and spiritual growth.

Worship/Activity Night (Sundays 6:30-8:00 p.m.) - This is an interactive evening designed for experiential learning and relationship building. The evening will include a variety of experiences from Bible Study, small group discussion, prayer time, service projects, group building, and fun. **ADULT LEADER ROLE:** We need adults who can drive a van/minibus, interact with Jr. Highers (even be a little silly at times), lead small group discussion, ask thought provoking questions, discipline, provide food and create an environment where Jr. Highers feel loved and accepted

Chaperone Off-Site Trips (Various dates/times) - Throughout the year we will take several off-site trips to conferences, conventions, retreats, camps, or just fun activities (i.e. New Year's Eve Mobile Mania, Great Oaks Fall Retreat, mission trips, service projects, Timberlee winter retreat). **ADULT LEADER ROLE:** We need adults who are willing to drive a church van/minibus, hang out with students, spend the night with students (often up late), participate in activities, discipline, and help keep the trip safe and our group organized.

Chaperone On-Site Events (Various dates/times) - Throughout the year we will host special on-site events for the purpose of outreach, evangelism, or just to have some fun (i.e. game nights, lock-ins, parties, etc). **ADULT LEADER ROLE:** We need adults to interact with students, organize and lead activities, serve food, and overall supervise whatever is going on.

Support Staff - There are "odd jobs" that come up throughout the year that require extra adult help. These jobs include making phone calls, food preparation, host home, and fill-in worship/activity night sponsor. **ADULT LEADER ROLE:** We need adults to step in on short notice and provide assistance when needed.

What Am I Committing to?

Consistent attendance at a program—we ask that you arrive at least 15 minutes early and stay 15 minutes late (unless otherwise notified). These extra minutes become key relational times with students.

Relational ministry with students during the week—make contact with students through phone calls, notes, and intentionally look them up at other church events and activities.

Spiritual growth as a minister

Our goal is to help leaders move from program-directed ministry (dependent on the program) to self-directed ministry (independent minister).

A few key ways to help you develop as a minister are . . .

Time: Be patient, feeling comfortable and connecting with students takes time.

Participation: Going on special events and trips will help intensify and solidify your relationship with students.

Initiative: The more you invest, the more you will get out of it. Your relationships will grow deeper as you invest your time.

How to Become an Adult Leader

1. Express Interest

You may be interested in serving God by loving students but are unsure as to where you can help. We will help you with this. Some of the most “unlikely people” make the greatest adult leaders, so take the next step as you prayerfully consider student ministry!

2. Receive Adult Leader Material

This packet gives you the basic information that will help you make decisions about your ministry. We have tried to explain as much as we can, but the clear picture happens when you observe a ministry program.

3. Observe Ministry Programs

Before you fill out the application, we encourage you to observe a program. This is a good opportunity to get a better feel for the ministry without having expectations or responsibilities placed on you. You will have a chance to meet students and think of questions you might have.

4. Complete Application Packet

This packet was developed to obtain information for our screening process. Please fill out the packet in full.

5. Interview With Pastor

This is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts from your observations, describe your spiritual journey, and communicate your gifts, desires, and calling for work in student ministry. We will also discuss a more detailed job description that fits your interests.

6. Prayerfully Consider Commitment

We want you to take time to pray and think through this commitment. We also encourage you to seek the counsel of family and/or friends regarding your commitment.

7. Return Signed Commitment Sheet

After you have decided you want to make a commitment, sign the commitment sheet and return it to us.

8. Complete Child Protection Training

Adults who work with minors must complete the child protection training set in place by Grace Church.

9. Begin Ministry!!

We will discuss the beginning date when you turn in the commitment sheet. This date may vary depending on your intended commitment..

What You Can Expect From Our Church

Structure and Leadership

Encouraging words

Support in decisions

Training and learning opportunities

Letters of support and direction

Prayer and accountability

Challenge to develop your ministry

Congratulations, you have almost made it through this packet. I know it seems like a lot of material, but through this "process" you will learn valuable information to make your transition into our student ministry much easier. If you have any further question please contact David Gross at (309)452-5076 or david@gracenormal.org

David E. Gross



Student Ministry Adult Leader Application



General Information:

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: () _____ - _____

Birth date: _____? _____? _____

Occupation: _____

Work Phone () _____ - _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Personal History:

Marital Status: ___ Single ___ Married ___ Divorced

How long have you attended G.C.? _____ Member?: ___ Yes ___ No

What is your view of the use of illegal drugs or other controlled substances?

Explain:

What is your view of alcohol or tobacco consumption? Ex-

plain: _____

What is your view of pre-marital/extra-marital sex and cohabitation?: Explain:

What is your view of media consumption (ie movies, pornography)? Explain:

How will you exhibit appropriate restraint in these areas in order not to cause the students with which you are ministering to to stumble?

Student Ministry Experience:

List any ministry work you have done involving Jr./Sr. High Students:

Spiritual History:

Briefly describe your spiritual journey (when/how you became a Christian, significant events that impacted you, and your current relationship with Christ):

What efforts are you currently making to be a growing disciple of Jesus?:

Describe your calling to minister to students at Grace Church?:

The information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the information in this application will be held confidential by the leadership staff. Should my application be accepted, I agree that my leadership position can be removed by participation in unscriptural behavior or beliefs and I am under the leadership of Grace Church and will comply with all leadership decisions concerning my ministry.



2008-2009

Student Ministry

Adult Leader Commitment



After observing the ministry, spending time in prayer, and discussing with my family the commitment involved with being an adult leader, I choose to commit to the following:

- ☐ I acknowledge the lordship of Jesus Christ in my life and have a personal relationship with Him.
- ☐ I am committed toward growing and maturing in my relationship with God through quiet times, active attendance in worship, and involvement in accountable relationships.
- ☐ I am committed to choices and lifestyle that are both Godly and "above reproach", knowing that my lifestyle is an example to students.
- ☐ I am making a commitment to the student ministry for at least the full school year and summer (Sept. '08 through Aug. '09).
- ☐ I will attend any required leadership training meetings.
- ☐ I will make a committed attempt to help find at least one other adult leader for our growing need in the student ministry.
- ☐ I understand the four purposes of the student ministry and commit to help fulfill the purposes and care for the students God brings into my ministry.
- ☐ Because I am making a significant commitment and my presence is important, I agree to be consistent and on-time to the program(s) I commit myself to.

I am making a commitment to the following programs:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Signature _____

_____ Date