



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS *COVID-19, Staff Transitions, and More*

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GENERAL

- **What will middle school and high school ministries look like for the rest of this semester?**

There are varying answers to this question in light of COVID-19 being designated as a pandemic and the impact on our community:

- *DURING pandemic: student ministries has decided to focus on two objectives: 1) champion parents and 2) facilitate vertical (with God) and horizontal (with others) connections. Please refer to the section below titled "Pandemic Season" for details.*
- *BEYOND pandemic: While we aren't sure when this pandemic will pass, below are some details:*
 - *Execute the calendar already in place: this includes weekly gatherings (MIX, Merge, Lobby Connections) & Overtime events through the end of the school year.*
 - *Announce Summer plans by May 1: We are delaying our commitment to any summer plan until May 1.*
 - *Announce Fall plans by June 1: We want to give families plenty of notice on our plans for the upcoming school year. These will be announced by June 1.*

- **What is the plan for middle school and high school ministries in the summer and fall?**

We will announce plans for the Summer by May 1, and plans for the Fall by June 1.

PANDEMICS AND STAFF TRANSITIONS

- **How does COVID-19 impact student ministries?**

There are two main objectives for our ministry to middle school students, high school students, and their families in this season: 1) champion parents and 2) facilitate vertical (with God) and horizontal (with others) connections.

We are administering a progressive plan that begins with multiple interactions throughout the week. At this time, we're asking students, parents/guardians, and adult leaders to check regularly on our Instagram site or the student page on our church website for opportunities to these connections, including:

- *Weekend Follow Up, Mondays: A student devotional that follows up on the weekend service. This student devotional*

champions parents by using the weekend experience as a common ground for a spiritual conversation. It also facilitates connection with God (by engaging in the devotional) and others (by encouraging comments and interactions on Instagram).

- *Student Vodcast Live, Wednesdays: A video produced as a podcast where students are interviewed on the impact of COVID-19 in their lives and the God truths in these stories. These interviews facilitate connection with God (finding the God truths in our challenges) and others (sharing our experiences with others and encouraging comments and interactions on YouTube).*
- *Student Vodcast Follow Up, Thursdays: A student devotional that follows up on the Student Vodcast. This student devotional facilitates connection with God (by engaging in the devotional) and others (by encouraging comments and interactions on Instagram).*
- *Weekend Preview, Fridays: A student devotional that previews the weekend service. This student devotional champions parents by using the weekend experience as a common ground for a spiritual conversation. It also facilitates connection with God (by engaging in the devotional) and others (by encouraging comments and interactions on Instagram).*

- **What is the plan for the vacancy on staff as a result of our Middle School Director's transition?**

At this time, we are still in prayerful consideration for how to steward this vacancy and the resources required for it, and a search process will begin soon. We are convinced to continue prioritizing the pursuit of a more integrated approach to our practice of middle school and high school ministry. Simply put, we want our middle school and high school ministry staff to champion a more integrated approach in their practice of student ministries while still valuing the unique developmental stages of middle school and high school.

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

- **My student(s) are under strict restrictions regarding social media/online interactions. What is the best way to keep my student engaged in this season?**

Due to social distancing guidelines implemented throughout various levels of government, online interaction is the BEST way we know to pursue the primary goals of championing parents and facilitating connection (vertically and horizontally).

Additionally, we are aware that our parent/guardian community consists of a variety of viewpoints and philosophies

concerning student engagement in online activity. It is this variety that has led us to implement the following guidelines:

- *Our Instagram feed has been embedded on the student page of our church website. Additionally, our Instagram page is publicly listed so anyone can access the content without creating an account.*
- *Our Student Vodcast Live will be distributed on YouTube as a public listing. This allows anyone to access the content without creating an account.*

While we're doing our best to maximize accessibility to our content, any interactions (comments, likes, personal expressions) on these online platforms will require the creation of an account on these platforms. Additionally, students can email our team directly: students@foundationschurch.org

As far as we can tell, there are three major categories concerning parenting philosophies and online activity:

- *My student is STRICTLY RESTRICTED from engaging online: in this case we're asking parents to access our student website or Instagram page, and facilitate as communicators of information we are publishing. Please contact us so we can assist you uniquely throughout our partnership in this season.*
 - *My student can engage online they cannot create any accounts: students should be able to access our content without creating any accounts. Currently, we post on our church website/Instagram and a weekly video on YouTube. Additionally, we are looking to incorporate Zoom software for online small groups.*
 - *My student can engage online and create accounts for online engagement: we're asking parents in this parenting philosophy to remain connected with us on the church website or Instagram so you can stay informed.*
- **What is the best way for parents to engage in student ministries in this season?**

We are asking parents to partner with us in 3 ways during this pandemic season:

- *Set expectations for their students concerning the creation of online accounts on Instagram and YouTube.*
- *Follow up on the distribution of Instagram student devotionals (Weekend Follow Up, Vodcast Follow Up, Weekend Preview) and YouTube weekly show (Student Vodcast Live). The content on these platforms will be informative to the end of facilitating at home conversations in this season.*
 - *If creating online accounts is NOT PERMITTED in a home, we're asking parents to have a follow up conversation on these devotionals. A great question to always ask is "what did you answer in question #4?" This question will always ask a student to summarize their devotional into a "note/prayer to Jesus."*

- *If creating online account is PERMITTED in a home, we're asking parent to encourage online interaction (comments, likes, expressions) with other students/adult leaders on the content in Instagram and YouTube. Additionally, we are encouraging follow up conversations on the devotionals. A great question to always ask is "what did you answer in question #4?" This question will always ask a student to summarize their devotional into a "note/prayer to Jesus."*
- *Download "CIY Convos" app, available on most mobile phone app stores. Christ in Youth (CIY) is an organization we partner with for summer camps, and they've created an app that facilitates a fun, engaging, spiritual conversation for families and small groups.*

STUDENT MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

- **Can I still volunteer in middle school or high school ministry?**
Student ministries volunteers are encouraged to remain in their role through the end of the school year and will be invited to commit to future serving opportunities with student ministries. Generally, the month of August serves as a great transition opportunity for volunteers to step into or out of a role in student ministries.

- **What is the best way for adult volunteers to engage in student ministries in this season?**

We are asking adult volunteers to partner with us on 3 items in this season:

- *Engage in Social Media: create an account on Instagram and YouTube and follow us! We need to generate engagement on the different posts, and if we had all 30+ of our adult leaders engage with each post, students will feel more welcome to interact with us online.*
- *Respond to student contributions on Instagram and YouTube: there are three ways to respond to a student. You can like their post, reply with a comment, or forward a post to our staff (abusive or negative comments) so they can follow up on this user. Ultimately, we want EVERY student to have several responses waiting for them anytime they courageously decide to contribute with a comment.*
- *Consider leading an online small group: as this season of social distancing could last into an unknown duration, we will be launching some online groups. These groups will meet for 30 minutes during the week, and will consist of a check-in and fun. We'd need adult leaders to set aside 45 minutes/week to make this work. If interested, email our team: students@foundationschurch.org*

- **Will all student ministries interactions throughout the pandemic take place over social media?**

Due to social distancing guidelines implemented throughout various levels of government, online interaction is the BEST way we know to pursue the primary goals of championing parents and facilitating connection (vertically and

horizontally).

*Additionally, please be aware that our parent/guardian community consists of a variety of viewpoints and philosophies concerning student engagement in online activity. **Our job as student ministry leaders is to support our parents regardless of where they land on this issue.** In the end, if online interaction, specifically the creation of online accounts, is not permitted by a parent, we want to make sure they have access to the content being distributed on our platforms so they can administer it to their students.*