



Student Ministries Grades 9 - 12

Cultivating Space Where God Transforms Students

FPCC Student Ministries

Culturally speaking, the students we are currently ministering to are part of the busiest generation that has ever lived. There are more opportunities for them to be engaged athletically, academically, culturally and socially than at any other time in history. Every time that we ask students to add an additional event **onto** their already busy schedule we end up fighting for a share of their limited free time. Creating events that add **into** their life allows for extended periods of time where spiritual and relational growth can become a naturally occurring byproduct of healthy community. Homegroups **exist to cultivate space where God transforms students in a way that adds into their life and not onto it.**

Each grade (9-12) will have their own homegroup hosted by a family within our church.

Host Family qualifications

- Love of God
- Gift of Hospitality
- Stable home environment
- Stable family relationships

Host families will provide:

- Relational ministry centered around a committed relationship with Christ
- Space for students to gather an average of two times per month during the school year
- Oversight of bi-monthly gatherings

Forest Park Covenant Church will provide:

- Structure and training for homegroup leaders
- Devotional Material for homegroup use
- Financial, logistic and planning support
- Communication tools

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Sample Month

January 2012

Theme: Trust

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Each month will have a theme upon which all homegroups and corporate gatherings will be based. This will be communicated through invitations made by the student ministries department. Students will be invited to 2 homegroup events, 1 corporate worship event and 1 whole group gathering for relationship building.

Week One

Meet in homegroups for 2 hours

- Relational Connectedness (1 hour)
 - o Each homegroup's time of connecting will look slightly different depending on the host family, facility and group makeup. Suggestions for games and activities will be provided by the student ministries department.
- Spiritual Engagement (30 minutes)
 - o Devotionals will be written by the student ministries department which can be distributed by the host family or designated volunteer. These devotionals will be built around the theme of the month. Students will work through the simple devotional provided and respond through an entry in their prayer journal. (see below for prayer journal description)
- Sharing of Food (30 minutes)
 - o Menus can vary from group to group. (FPCC can provide financial assistance where necessary)

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Week Two

Meet for whole group relational event

- These events will be planned and promoted by the student ministries department in partnership with each homegroup on a rotational basis. Student leaders from each grade will work with church staff on these events. For example, this month the junior class could be in charge of our fun event. Their group has decided that we should have an afternoon of sledding and hot chocolate. Student ministry staff will work with them on logistics but the entire junior class would be the hosts for the event.

Week Three

Meet in homegroups for 2 hours

- Same schedule as week one

Week Four

Meet for corporate worship

- Theme based evening built around Trust
- Worship experience (singing, prayer, scripture...)
- Teaching Time

As with Week Three this event will be planned and hosted on a rotational basis by the various homegroups. The student ministry staff will provide oversight and logistical support but the bones of the event will be planned in conjunction with whatever grade has been assigned this month.

FPCC Student Ministries

Sample 12th Grade Homegroup

Doug and Shari Hughes' Home

Sunday January 8 from 6:00-8:00

6:00-Relational Engagement

Take this time to welcome each student making sure that any new students are introduced to one of the student leaders. Let students help with the food preparation.

6:30-Food

Tonight is potluck night. Student leaders and ministry volunteers have agreed to each bring a dish to pass.

7:00-Trust Devotional

As students finish cleaning up after dinner, invite them to gather in the area you have designated for spiritual engagement. This could be any room in the house, but it should be set aside as sacred space so that students feel begin to understand that when they transition into that room, they should expect to do business with God. Devotionals will be self-paced and will always have an opportunity for response in their prayer journals. These journals will be left at their homegroups every week and will only be read by the volunteers who write a prayer response back to the students. Privacy is important so keep these in a safe place. Although we have only slated 30 minutes for this time, cultivate an environment in which students know that they are allowed to stay in the sacred space as long as they need to each week. Volunteers and homegroup group families will be trained to respond to students who may need a little extra care during this time.

7:30-Relational Engagement

We will always try to have multiple options for students during the relational engagement time. If your group is meeting during an especially busy time of the year for school work, you could even have an evening where students are allowed to bring homework during this time. This evening we will be offering two options: Upstairs will be a board game and downstairs will be video games.

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Host Family Groups

Freshmen: Chad and Carrie Tiesma

6671 Winter Creek

798-3885

Sophomore: Dave and Sandi Hirvo

1172 Briarwood Court

798-3587

Junior: Troy and Lisa Recknagel

1144. Briarwood Court

798-1632

Senior: Doug and Shari Hughes

1414 Forest Park Road

FPCC Student Ministries

780-2915

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