



STUDENTS AT THE MILL

new beginnings | real relationships



2022-2023 INFOZINE

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRIES OF CHURCH AT THE MILL

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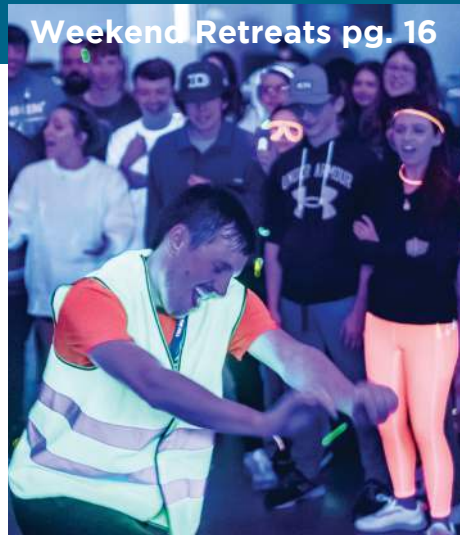
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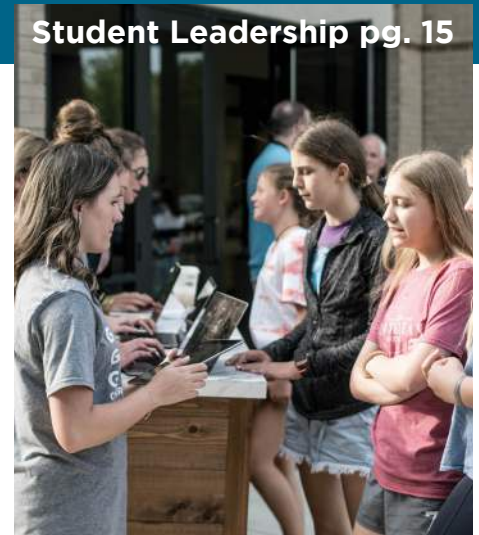
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A LETTER FROM PASTOR D.J.

Years ago, I read a book by George Barna, a respected Christian researcher, in which he effectively showed the church's greatest and most effective mission field is our children. He noted that almost all followers of Jesus decide to trust Him as Lord before their 14th birthday. This also speaks volumes about the absolute necessity of intentional and effective student ministry. As you flip through these pages, you're going to see that Church at The Mill believes students matter. I don't just mean they matter to us, I mean they matter to The Kingdom. If Barna is correct, and I believe he is, then our student ministry is the single largest disciple-making environment within our congregation. We have a small window of time between childhood and adulthood to love these students, ground them in the gospel, and build them up with the truths needed to live on mission for Christ.



Our team of leaders is incredible, our efforts are many, and our tools vary, but our goal is simple. We want to put every student we influence in the best possible position to love and follow The Lord Jesus with a deep, lifelong faith that makes His gospel known to all they encounter along their journey. I can think of no greater gift to give a young person than to help them form and grow a relationship with Jesus that will provide endless amounts of joy, peace, and purpose in a dark and challenging world. Student ministry is not just another program at Church at The Mill. It is our very future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D.J. Horton'.

Pastor D.J. Horton, Senior Pastor

A LETTER FROM PASTOR TRIPP

Thanks so much for checking out Student Ministry at Church at The Mill. I know there is a lot of information in the pages ahead that will give you a snapshot of who we are and what we offer your family at Church at The Mill. I hope that what you see and read will clearly communicate these three things you need to know:

1. We love your family!

In my 25 years of working with students and families, I have never seen a team more passionately love and serve families than the Student Ministry team at CATM. For each team member, ministry to students and their families is a calling. We love how God uniquely created each student and find great joy in helping them realize their value and identity through a relationship with Him.



Student Ministry (Students at The Mill) exists to help your family discover and live God's very best for your lives. Even if we have not met yet, know that you are loved. We cannot wait for the opportunities that we will have together to find new beginnings and real relationships.

2. We have a plan.

All loving parents want the very best for their children. In such a crazy world, we all desire that our children grow up to have a solid foundation to live life well. But how can we best ensure such a foundation? We have a plan. We have a plan to develop graduates who are grounded for life, based on biblical principles that help students experience identity, maturity, and responsibility God's way. While the plan encompasses each stage of a student's development, families can benefit from jumping in at any time. It's never too late!

You can read about our Grounded for Life plan on pages 8-9.

3. We are here for you.

As a parent myself of two high schoolers and a middle schooler, I understand just how difficult parenting is, and just how much encouragement and support we all need. Know that the Students at The Mill staff and our incredible team of Adult Leaders are committed to serve your family...not only through excellent programming and resources, but also personally. Please make note of our personal contact information provided in this Infozine, and don't hesitate to reach out at any time. Know that everything in the pages ahead is for you, and is designed to help your family discover and live God's very best!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tripp Atkinson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Tripp Atkinson, Senior Student Pastor
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We desire to be a people and a place of new beginnings and real relationships.

WHAT WE DO -

GATHER - WORSHIP & SMALL GROUPS

The church has always gathered for two reasons. Corporate worship and genuine fellowship. Gathering for worship nurtures our relationship with God as we bless Him and hear from His word. Gathering for fellowship in Small Groups connects us with each other for encouragement and partnership in the gospel.

GROW - QUIET TIME & DISCIPLESHIP

Spiritual growth is an expectation of walking with Christ. Two of the most powerful ways God grows us is through time with Him daily and time with others in discipleship.

GIVE - FINANCIALLY & THROUGH SERVING

Jesus made it clear, "It is more blessed to give than receive." We give in two ways as Christ-followers at Church at The Mill. We give our time as servants by doing ministry side by side, and we give our treasure (money/resources) as stewards of what God has so graciously provided in our life.

GO - LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

The gospel is not a "come see" religion. It is a "go tell" message of redemption! We are called to make disciples, and we do this primarily in two ways. We share our faith daily with those around us (locally), and we leave our daily life to engage those we don't normally encounter (internationally).

MEET OUR STUDENT TEAM



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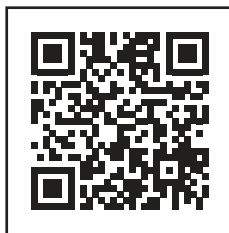
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A COMPREHENSIVE SPIRITUAL GROWTH PLAN FOR STUDENTS

All loving parents desire that their children grow up to be responsible, mature adults with a solid foundation to live life well. Not only do we want our children to have “deep roots,” we desire for them to be grounded for life: grounded for the duration of their life, as well as grounded to experience the abundant life offered through a personal relationship with

Jesus Christ. But how do we help students establish that kind of solid foundation in such a turbulent world?

We have a plan. Grounded for Life is Church at The Mill’s comprehensive plan for developing graduates who are followers of Christ into college and beyond. The plan is centered on nine Biblical principles that we feel are essential for students

to learn and for graduates to have ingrained in their lives. These principles speak truth in three key areas:

IDENTITY, MATURITY, RESPONSIBILITY.

Everything we teach students in weekly programming and at camp/retreats is centered around instilling these principles in their hearts and minds for life.

“They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.”

- Jeremiah 17:8

Identity // HEART CHANGE

Our identity not only affects how we see ourselves, but also our entire worldview. An identity grounded in Jesus Christ is necessary to experience abundant life.

SALVATION

God loves you and wants a **PERSONAL** relationship with you.

AUTHENTIC WORSHIP

God calls us to a life of authentic worship.

ACTIVE OBEDIENCE

God created us to live under authority.



Maturity // MIND CHANGE

Growth is obviously essential to life. We are called to continual growth in Christ, which produces “spiritual fruit.”

CONSISTENT GROWTH

To spiritually grow, you must be spiritually fed.

WISE CHOICES

Today's choices determine your future. **CHOOSE WISELY!**

GODLY RELATIONSHIPS

Your life will be significantly shaped by your relationships.



Responsibility // WORLD CHANGE

As a responsible follower of Jesus Christ, we must demonstrate faithful obedience to His commands.

SINCERE STEWARDSHIP

Everything you have is from the Lord; manage His resources accordingly.

SELFLESS SERVICE

God has uniquely gifted you to serve others.

MISSIONAL LIVING

True purpose is found in making disciples.





THE GREATEST GIFT: THE SENIOR EXPERIENCE & THE PLAN

The culmination of the Grounded for Life plan for students is the Senior Experience, which serves as a final preparation and launching pad for life beyond high school. The greatest gift CATM can give graduates is a Senior Experience that grounds them in their faith and produces an individualized plan to help them experience God's best in college and beyond.

At Church at The Mill, the culmination of our comprehensive spiritual growth plan for students (called Grounded for Life) is the Senior Experience. The Senior Experience serves as a final preparation and launching pad for life beyond high school. Through a co-ed Senior Small Group experience, students begin the first semester studying Revelation (its themes and promises are so appropriate for students preparing for an unknown future) and a student version of Financial Peace University (we get the most positive feedback from parents on this).

In their final semester of Small Group, students are led to write a practical and actual plan for how to succeed beyond high school. We've learned that most students don't plan to fail; most just don't plan not to. That is why we lead them in writing a plan that is based on our nine Grounded for Life biblical principles.

THE PLAN

Each student is given a customized Senior Experience journal where students take notes as each biblical principle is taught and Scripture is discussed in smaller groups. Young Adults are invited in to share their post-graduation experience and suggest practical steps to implement the principles in ways that will benefit their life beyond high school. Students develop personal action steps for each biblical principle identified in The Plan, and together as a group the students decide on the most practical and helpful action steps for each principle. At the end of the semester, we take their action steps and have them professionally printed into each class' unique version of The Plan as a physical reminder to carry with them into their next stage of life. We encourage students to keep The Plan somewhere they will see it often and review the wisdom and ideas they took time to craft into their plan.

THE FIVE

Before students graduate, we also encourage them to identify a circle of five people that can hold them accountable to their plan during their first year of college. A number of studies have shown that students who have accountable relationships with 3-5 adults while in college are significantly more

successful at thriving spiritually than those who do not. We suggest their “5” include a parent (or two), a senior adult, a past or current mentor (Small Group leaders), as well as a peer that they admire spiritually. These 5 have the ability to greatly impact and encourage a student’s successful transition to college. We connect these “5” to the student and the plan at a special celebration.

THE CELEBRATION

Another way we celebrate this period of transition is by making a big deal of High School graduation at CATM. We have a special Graduate Recognition Sunday where students are celebrated and encouraged by their church family. As a part of this special day, graduates invite their families, close friends, and their “5” to a special meal where they are further celebrated by our whole Student Ministry team. At this meal, graduates share The Plan booklets with their “5” and begin the process of receiving encouragement to thrive as they enter the post-high-school world. This event puts the exclamation point on our preparation of students to be Grounded For Life!

THE GIFT

On Graduate Sunday, students will be presented with special Challenge coins that are custom minted for the SATM graduating class. Challenge coins are a long-standing tradition in the military that serve as a



symbol of identity, a source of pride, and a reminder of the support that life: grounded has behind them. We will give these special gifts to our graduating class to serve as a constant reminder of their identity, values, and the army of support they have behind them in their church family. (Some students put these where they can see them daily and some carry them in their pocket when they are having a tough day.)

Through a special Senior Small Group, the writing of The Plan, the formation of accountability circles, the celebration and commissioning service, the banquet, and a special gift, the Senior Experience serves as not only a celebration, but also a launching pad for High School graduates. By making such a big deal of this important milestone, we encourage families, we further unite students to the church, and we empower students to be Grounded for Life! Our prayer is to give students a purpose, a plan, and the people to help them live God’s best for their lives!

We are honored and privileged to be a part of giving them what we believe is a pretty great gift!



MIDWEEK



Wednesday Night MIDWEEK is a fantastic way to get connected to Students at The Mill! A typical Wednesday Night MIDWEEK includes FREE food (Zaxby's or pizza), hang out time, fun activities, games, and lots of opportunities to meet other students. As fun as our hang-time activities are, the highlight of MIDWEEK is a meaningful time of worship and a relevant message from one of our student pastors that encourages and equips students to discover and live God's best for their lives. Midweek is from 6-8 PM on Wednesday nights. (See our What We Do calendar for more information.)



INVITE NIGHTS

Every semester, we plan multiple "Invite Nights" specifically designed to be the perfect environment to invite friends. They include such events as dodge ball tournaments, dance parties, costume contests, and glow-in-the-dark themed parties. They are always a blast!!

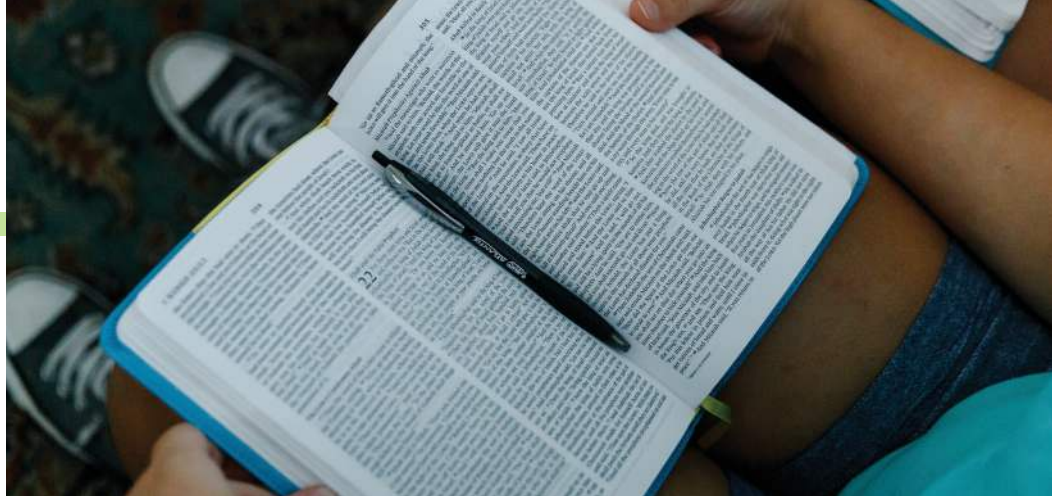


SMALL GROUPS

Small Groups are an essential part of our purpose to assist students in being “Grounded for Life.” Our mission is to create a safe place for students to connect with others, talk about God’s Word, have a great time, and learn truths that will equip them to live life well. Small groups are led by trusted adult leaders who care greatly about partnering with parents to encourage, teach, and meet the needs of their students.

Small groups meet on Sunday at 9:00 AM.

*To see what students will be studying in their Small Group every Sunday until they graduate, download our GFL Booklet PDF at churchatthemill.com/students.





CREATIVE ARTS

Church at The Mill is blessed to have some of the most amazing and talented creative artists. From musicians and actors to audio, video, and lighting technicians, we strongly encourage those who enjoy the arts to use their talents and passions for the glory of God.

We offer ongoing opportunities for students to be trained in using the arts to serve at CATM and beyond. Students can engage in practical training that includes leading worship, music, audio & visual arts, and drama. In addition, students have the opportunity to pour into Kids Ministry as they lead children to develop their gifts in the creative arts.

One opportunity to do this is through our Creative Arts Camp (CAC). CAC is a week-long experience for 1st-8th grade students full of fun, Bible study, and recreation, centered around preparing for an incredible performance. During CAC, students learn how to grow the gifts the Lord has given them so that they bring focus and honor to Him.

This ministry falls under our Creative Praise Ministry at Church at The Mill.
churchatthemill.com/creativepraise.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

"EVERYTHING RISES AND FALLS ON LEADERSHIP."
- JOHN MAXWELL

All of us are created with gifts and abilities to lead. We want to partner with students to help them discover their full potential as leaders, and create avenues for them to use those skills. We have developed a Student Leadership program to help 6th-12th grade students grow as leaders, take ownership in Student Ministry, be examples for other students, and receive resources and support to reach their full potential.

Student Leadership meets once a month on Sunday evenings for a time of training, accountability, planning, and encouragement. There are also extra Student Leadership activities and opportunities for those who meet the requirements to serve in this capacity.

For more information about Student Leadership, contact our team at joy@churchatthemill.com.



WHAT A POWERFUL NAME IS

THE WEEKEND RETREAT

There is something about getting out of your routine and into an environment where you're away from the normal distractions of life that allows you to focus on developing quality friendships and hearing the truth from God. We want to give students the opportunity to do this several times a year. One of those events is our annual Weekend Retreat. This event will be held on our Central Campus in Moore, South Carolina. We will have an opening Worship Session on Friday night and two other Worship Sessions on Saturday. Throughout the weekend, students will be divided into small groups based on grade and gender. They will spend the weekend playing games, developing friendships, eating great food, worshiping together, and hearing great teachings from God's Word. This will be one of the highlights of the year for students, so make sure to put January 20-22, 2023 on your calendar and register early!



This is a picture from our 2022 ONE Student Ministry Weekend where we challenged students to find their ONE friend they could reach with the gospel. Each color ping pong ball represents something special. Students wrote names of their friends who need Jesus. The white ping pong ball represents the first step, which is prayer. The blue ping pong ball represents the second step which is when the student has a gospel conversation with their friend. The pink ping pong ball represents the third step which is when the friend makes a profession of faith.



SUMMER CAMPS

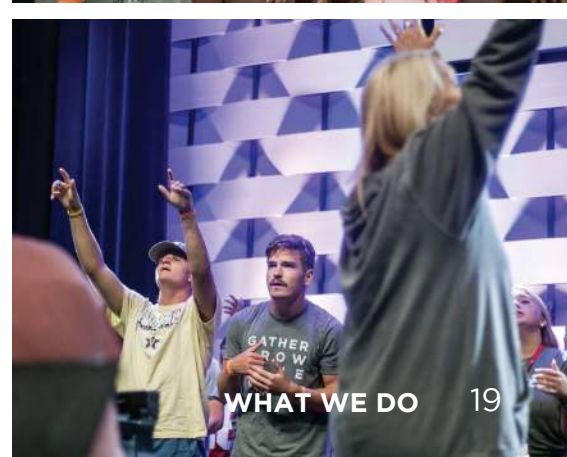
Our students rave about camp, and it's easy to see why. They have the opportunity to escape the distractions of everyday life and engage in powerful worship, practical teaching from God's Word, make new friends, and grow deeper with old friends, all while creating lifelong memories. Church at The Mill goes to great lengths to ensure students get a premier summer camp experience that is catered to the needs of our students. By doing our own student camps, we leverage the summer camp experience as an integral part of our overall discipleship plan for students.

Be sure to check our website for 2023 camp dates, details, and registration instructions.




"Middle School Camp 2022 was honestly one of the greatest camps I've ever experienced. From the worship and preaching, to the fun competitions, sharing our testimonies and stories around the campfire, Middle School Camp was a chance to worship God and fellowship with other Christ-centered people your age. Everything about middle school camp really was amazing."

Aidyn Smith







After falling away from my walk with Christ, this week at camp really opened my eyes to how much God truly loves me and cares about me. And also how important it is to stay rooted in the word and united as a church. I also grew so much closer with my small group and had the most fun with all the activities.

Noel Charping

At camp, the Lord did a lot in my relationships; with him and others. He reminded me in many ways to make **everything** about him AND to be joyful and thankful. My relationships with the people around me grew in cool ways!! The week was great and there were so many amazing memories made!

Angie Fisher

"I enjoyed camp because it was a time to fellowship with my friends and I got to see my friends worship and I got to worship with them."

Hayes Bowyer

CHECK-IN STATION



ADULT LEADERSHIP

Strong Adult Leaders are the backbone of Students at The Mill. It is vitally important to have leaders who are committed, genuine, and passionate about pouring into students. Our leaders love God, love students, and are excited to help students discover and live God's best for their lives.

There are currently over 60 caring adults serving in the Student Ministry at Church at The Mill. Each adult that works with students has completed a lengthy application process which includes an interview and extensive screening. We are grateful for all the time and effort our adults invest to make sure every student is safe and has a mentor to encourage them in Christ!



IS MY STUDENT SAFE AT CHURCH?

Why safety & security is our highest value for families



We have the most important message ever to share: God loves us so much that He provided a way through Jesus Christ to receive forgiveness of sin, inherit eternal life, and enjoy a personal relationship with Him that begins on earth and lasts through eternity! We are very intentional about how we share this message and how we combat obstacles that might keep anyone from hearing it loud and clear. This is why we place such a high priority on both the PHYSICAL and EMOTIONAL safety of students.

If students don't feel both physically and emotionally safe, it doesn't matter how wonderful the message is or how creatively it's presented, it won't be heard! If parents don't feel like our ministries are safe places, they won't even allow their students to be involved. We work hard to have the reputation that Church at The Mill is a safe environment for everyone. From our weekly programs to our in-town or out-of-town trips and camps, we want to be known as a place where kids and students are physically safe and emotionally secure.

To ensure safety and security in our ministries, we follow a security plan with practices that include:

- A team of security professionals, ministry professionals and reliable adult volunteer leaders
- The use of uniformed and/or plain-clothed security personnel
- Regular safety drills to ensure that everyone is prepared in case of emergency
- Policies that serve to protect the physical and emotional well-being of kids, students, and adults
- An electronic check-in process
- An extensive background and screening process for adult volunteer leaders

If you have any questions or concerns about the safety and security of your family, please contact our staff immediately at 404.989.8749.

STUDENT MISSIONS

We love to provide students with as many opportunities to grow and serve as we can. Students are given opportunities to serve within the Student Ministry, in other areas of CATM, and beyond.

We partner with our Missions department to facilitate service environments for students within our community, nationally, and internationally. CATM sponsored short-term mission trips offer unique experiences for students to be challenged in various environments while making an eternal difference.

Details of service and mission opportunities are discussed often at Student Leadership meetings, so students are encouraged not to miss out!

*For more information on upcoming mission trip opportunities for your family, check out churchatthemill.com/missions.



RAISED TO LIFE

BAPTISM

A SYMBOL OF LIFE CHANGE

There are many important events in a person's life that are life-defining. None are more significant than the baptism of a follower of Jesus. Baptism is a powerful symbol of life-change as one identifies with Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection. In baptism, a Christian displays obedience to Christ, identity with Christ and offers a public testimony about how their life has been changed by Christ.

Because baptism is such a special event, we want to do all we can to make it truly meaningful for students and their families. To ensure students and families understand the full significance of baptism, we host a number of "Baptism 101" classes throughout the year. These classes give students an opportunity to understand the "why" of baptism and ask any questions they may have. After a class, students can schedule a time to meet with one of our pastors to further discuss their spiritual story and the baptism process.

If you are interested in more information about baptism or our next class, contact Joy Lyle at joy@churchatthemill.com.





BRINGING IT HOME

Written by Tripp Atkinson

There is a jar that sits in my office that is filled with ping-pong balls, 168 to be exact. That is the number of hours in a week. 165 of the balls are white and 3 are orange. The white balls represent the average number of hours our students spend away from church. These are the hours spent doing the things students do. The three orange balls represent the average number of hours our students spend a week in our Student Ministry programs. (Realizing that while we may offer more, most students don't take advantage of everything offered.)

This jar sits in my office to remind me of two important realities. The first reminder is of just how little time we will spend with most students each week. This reminds me that our programming must be excellent. Every minute we have with students must count. We cannot afford to do anything halfway. Every time students are with us, they must be encouraged, loved, and challenged.

This also reminds me of the fact that I am not the primary spiritual influence in a student's life. That role still belongs to parents. Like it or not, parents have the awesome responsibility of spiritually training and making disciples of their children. My most important role, then, is to partner with parents and support them in this process. I can offer parents relevant biblical teaching for their students each week. I can offer small group settings for their student to build authentic

relationships with their peers under the mentorship of loving adults. I can offer numerous experiences monthly for their student to learn about and engage in worship, serving, and leadership.

Although our staff works tirelessly to ensure these things are offered with excellence, the impact of such opportunities falls short if the experiences and lessons learned are not directly tied back to the home. In order for these lessons to really "take root," they must be reinforced and practiced at home.

For this to happen effectively, we as a Student Ministry Staff must continue working intentionally to know families and be aware of their needs. Parents must work on continuously being aware of opportunities we offer students, as well as what happens at our programs and events (what is being taught, how students are being challenged, what commitment their students are making, etc.). As we partner and encourage one another, we can truly be teammates in fulfilling the most important responsibility we will ever have.

Such a partnership between a Student Ministry and families can be so effective in offering the best possible opportunities for students to grow in Christ and make a difference for Him. Please know that we are here for you and your family and want to be the best support we can be!

(Not So) Great Expectations

Written by Tripp Atkinson

GROWING ADOLESCENCE

The process of moving from childhood to adulthood in our culture seems to be taking longer and longer. According to *Simply Youth Culture* Newsletter, “In today’s world, the assumption that the adolescent years cease and a teen becomes an adult at the age of 18 is no longer valid. New discoveries regarding the human brain, along with a host of cultural forces, like later marriage, extended college education, massive debt, living at home, and delayed maturity have fueled things like extended adolescence and emerging adulthood...” These terms sound nice, but simply mean that our children are taking longer to grow up. I’ve even read where some think adolescence extends to the age of 30!

The concept of “adolescence” is a relatively new idea, only about a century old.

A study of the history of “adolescence” certainly lends great insight into the cultural expectations and generational mindset of today’s teen culture. Nowhere in pre-twentieth century history books will you find the term “teenager” and nowhere in the Bible exists the idea of adolescence. In ancient Jewish culture, a person was either a “child” or an “adult.” (Even today in Judaism, 13 year old boys and 12 year old girls become “Bar or Bat Mitzvah”, respectively, and often have a celebration to mark this moving from childhood to adulthood.) The concept of adolescence is widely contributed to psychologist Stanley Hall’s 1904 work in which he described a developmental stage he referred to as “adolescence”. Child labor laws and school reform laws of the early 1900s more clearly defined this concept culturally, as teens moved from being producers in society to (almost exclusively) consumers. Reader’s Digest seemed to solidify the recognition of this new sub-culture when it coined the phrase “teenager.”

The past 65 years has seen the evolution of “teenage” years and now “tween” years, that have settled between Childhood and Adulthood. With these new eras, have evolved new cultural expectations. Unfortunately, those expectations seem to be spiraling lower for each successive generation.

Although the need for an era of “adolescence” is well-debated in some fields of study (ie. Psychology), there is no doubt that the concept of adolescence has significantly affected the way society views “teenagers.”

EXPECTATIONS

The biggest problem with the evolution of the teenage era and the idea of extended adolescence is the fact that lower and lower expectations appear to be placed on students during “emerging adulthood”. While we have students study the lives of such great historical figures as George Washington (land surveyor for state of Virginia at 17, military major at 20) and Thomas Edison (published weekly newspaper at 15, invented light bulb), we often celebrate and reward such things as a made bed or a clean bedroom. We give shiny trophies for participation. There is much data to be read on how our culture has lowered expectations for children/young adults in the classroom, in the home, and even in the church. As a whole, this generation is known as having an “adolescent mindset.” In his work *Adolescent Culture - Where Are the Grown Ups?*, John Stonestreet suggests that the mark of a culture with a dominant adolescent mindset are precisely what we have come to expect from adolescents themselves. I readily see the six characteristics he lists of our adolescent culture:

1. Demand for immediate gratification.
2. Absence of long-term thinking about life and the world.
3. Motivated by feeling rather than truth.
4. Wanting grown-up things without growing up.
5. Expecting bailouts rather than accepting consequences.
6. Focusing on appearance rather than depth.

Although this adolescent mindset has certainly engulfed our culture, our children do not have to be (and certainly should not be) victims of such a hopelessly situated ideology.

RAISING THE BAR

There is much we can do to raise expectations in our homes and church. We can start by being ever mindful of the following:

1. Root identity in Jesus Christ

Students: Our culture is constantly telling you who you should be, what you should wear, and how you should think. Billions of advertising dollars are spent each year with the purpose of shaping YOUR identity. You can choose to listen to the world, with its constantly changing fads, trends, and ideologies, or you can root your identity in Jesus Christ who “is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8)

Parents: The most important thing we can give our children is an identity that is rooted in Jesus Christ. So many parents work so hard to give their children things that will be meaningless in a few years. Training our children to have an identity in Jesus Christ should be THE priority in our homes. There is nothing greater you can do as a parent. What ways are you making spiritual discipleship a priority in your home? How are you fostering a love for and commitment to the church of Jesus Christ?

2. Expect the best

Students: As a follower of Jesus Christ, you have the spirit of the almighty God living in you. Although God does give us the freedom to make our own choices (and face the consequences of bad choices), He wants the very best for us. We should be ever mindful that “I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.” (Philippians 4:13)

Parents: I agree with David Black, who in his book *The Myth of Adolescence* encourages parents to expect the best, not the worst from their children. “If we expect them to act like irresponsible children, they will,” Black states. “On the other hand, if we expect them to act like responsible adults, as people did for thousands of years, they will.”

3. Model High Expectations

Students: Raise your own bar. Remember the words of Paul to Timothy, “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12) You be the one that encourages and challenges your peers (and your generation) to rebel against low expectations. Don’t just meet the expectations your teachers, coaches, and parents have for you... shatter them and asked that they be raised.

Parents: Change starts with us. We are not accountable for how our society is raising children. We are accountable for how we raise ours. Raising expectations in the home does not always mean being stricter. A far more effective way of raising expectations is modeling great expectations. With students, it really is true that more is “caught” than just “taught.”

4. Dream Big

Students: Proverbs 29:18 states, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” So many students kill their future by having no vision, no dreams. Pray, and ask for a Godly vision for your life. When you have a vision, start TODAY to fulfill it. If you don’t have a clear vision for you life, put your best effort into staying in close fellowship with Christ (he will never lead you out of His will), and do all you can to prepare yourself spiritually, educationally, and physically for the time you realize that vision. Do all you can, where you are, with what you have, to fulfill what you know is his plan for your life... to make disciples. (Matthew 28:16-20)

Parents: I’ve heard many students describe their parents as “dream killers.” Never forget the power your words have with your children. Even if they are less than impressive in their work ethic and attitude now, God can take less than stellar students, and use them to change the world. Remember the rag-tag bunch of disciples that Jesus chose to start His church? Encourage your children to dream big, and constantly remind them “with God, all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26)

5. Don’t fear failure

Students: Fear of failure cripples most students (and adults too) from even trying to fulfill their dreams. However, failure is essential to success. Every time you look at a light bulb, remember that Edison failed 10,000 times before he got it right. Those who give the most to the world won’t be stopped by failure.

Parents: So many parents put their primary focus on protecting their children, and lose sight of the goal of preparing them to be disciples of Jesus Christ in this world.

A big part of the preparation is allowing children to learn from failure. If children are never allowed to fail while mom and dad are there helping them learn from it, the lessons will be tougher (and carry more consequences) when parents are not there. Raising expectations, even if our children don’t initially meet them, will continue to encourage them to be all God has created them to be.

CONCLUSION

In His last words on earth, Jesus called His followers to be world-changers. Ever since then, the enemy (Satan) has done all he can to make Jesus-followers think this is impossible. Let’s remember who we serve. Let’s remember that Jesus told his followers, “I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.” (John 14:12)

Let’s remember His words, “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.” (Luke 12:48b) Jesus has great expectations of us. Do we have great expectations for ourselves?

WHAT CHURCH AT THE MILL OFFERS YOUR FAMILY

KIDS MINISTRY

Our Kids at The Mill ministry strives to build biblical foundations for children so that they can one day accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior and develop a growing relationship with Him. We see that happen when our kids and families are gathering, growing, giving, and going.

Kids at The Mill are divided into three different age levels:

Preschool: Infants - K5

Elementary: 1st - 3rd Grades

Preteen: 4th - 5th Grades



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

We want to see every college-age, married, young professional and those couples with kids find a new beginning and real relationship with Christ. Our Young Adult ministry is for ages 18-29 years old. Through Small Groups, community opportunities, and missional opportunities we help our Young Adults feel:

1. Engaged over isolated
2. Equipped over inadequate
3. Empowered over ignored
4. Essential over invisible.



ADULT MINISTRY

Church at The Mill is a place of New Beginnings and Real Relationships and we believe this happens best in Small Groups. Small Groups are groups of people who meet weekly for community, bible study discussion, and prayer. They are a place where you can grow spiritually and connect with others.



SENIOR ADULTS MINISTRY

Senior Adults at The Mill is a group designed for adults 60 years of age or older. Our goal is to uniquely equip and care for our senior adults as they seek to Gather, Grow, Give, and Go. We want to live out the truth of Acts 20:24. Through Small Groups, fellowship, Bible studies and opportunities to serve, we help our Senior Adults find community, spiritual growth, support, and care.

ALL-ACCESS

We seek to partner with parents and existing ministries by equipping volunteers and discipling individuals with special needs and disabilities. We do this in an accessible and meaningful way to help them grow in their knowledge and love for God. The heart of our Special Needs Ministry is to meet every individual where he or she is. To do so, we offer a variety of services through our programming and family events. These programs allow individuals to mainstream into a classroom with their typically developing peers while providing an advanced level of security and assistance for them to thrive.



BIBLICAL COUNSELING

The Biblical Counseling Ministry exists to care for people who are hurting and to equip future counselors. Our Biblical Counseling team is made of committed, trained volunteers who walk alongside those who are suffering and struggling. We are a church-based counseling ministry and offer free Biblical Counseling to our members and regular attendees.

MISSIONS

We're serious about making disciples. We often compare Church at The Mill to an airport terminal. Our campus is a place where people leave and go to serve and share the Gospel with people who desperately need to hear it. Whether it's across town or across the world, we want to find a place for you to GO.



WORSHIP MINISTRY

Church at The Mill worship exists to guide people into an authentic encounter with God. Church at The Mill desires to worship the Lord in Spirit and in truth. Our goal as a ministry is to step onto the platform each week surrendered to His greatness, guided by His Word, empowered by His Spirit. We do this through three teams: The Worship Choir, the Vocal Team/Band, and the Technical Arts Team.



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