

Dear Parents of Middle and High School Students,

The new year is here, and Student Ministry programming will soon be back in full swing! In this month's parent letter, you'll find important details about when and where we'll be meeting, overviews of the new studies we'll be starting, and recommended resources to support you as a parent.

New Study Starting Up at Student Equip

On January 4, Student Equip will start back up again. Students are invited to join us upstairs during the 9:00 AM equip hour for a study on the six major covenants of Scripture. Some might describe this study as more "theological," but theology always has a practical element to it. Understanding the covenants helps us see how our Bibles fit together and how the Old Testament and New Testament tell one unified story that climaxes in Christ. Studying the biblical covenants will help our teens become better students and readers of God's Word and better understand the faithful and merciful character of our God!

Below is a breakdown of what we will be studying over the next several weeks at 9:00 AM.

- January 4 | The Adamic Covenant
- January 11 | The Noahic Covenant
- January 18 | The Abrahamic Covenant
- January 25 | The Mosaic Covenant
- February 1 | The Davidic Covenant
- February 8 | No Student Equip (Winter Retreat)
- February 15 | The New Covenant in Christ

Upcoming Highlight Semester

Highlight will relaunch for the new year on January 18. I am excited to announce that this winter semester we will be starting a new series in the book of 1 Peter titled *Hope and Holiness in a Hostile Culture*. As we gather together on Sunday nights for food, fun, friends, and fellowship, we will also open God's Word to see how we can maintain hope and live holy lives in a world that is often hostile to the Christian message. Please make it a priority for your student to be there. I am eager to see what the Lord will do through the study of his Word.

Below is the Highlight schedule for the month of January.

- January 4 | No Highlight Gathering (Christmas and New Year's Break)
- January 11 | [Prayer and Praise Night in the Chapel](#)
- January 18 | Highlight (1 Peter 1:1-12)
- January 25 | Highlight (1 Peter 1:13-2:3)

Week of Prayer & Fasting

I want to invite and encourage your family to [sign up](#) for our upcoming Week of Prayer and Fasting. From Monday, January 12, through Sunday, January 18, our church will be intentional about hungering for the Lord and covering the new year in prayer. When you [register](#) for the Week of Prayer and Fasting, you will receive a confirmation email with prayer requests specific to each day.

If you choose to participate as a family, your children, or perhaps even you, may have questions about fasting. I would like to pass along a helpful resource from Don Whitney, author of *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. In this six-minute video, he explains the purpose of fasting. I would recommend watching it together as a family.

What is the purpose of fasting? by Don Whitney

<https://equip.sbts.edu/video/what-is-the-purpose-of-fasting/>

Another question that may arise is, if God is sovereign, why do we pray? I would also like to recommend the following article from John Piper. I appreciate the way he thoughtfully addresses this question.

If God is sovereign, are my prayers pointless? by John Piper

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/if-god-is-sovereign-are-my-prayers-pointless>

Winter Retreat Deadline

The deadline to sign up for the Winter Retreat is quickly approaching. The final day to register and turn in forms and payment is **January 23**. During the Winter Retreat weekend, we will spend time singing worship songs, studying the book of 2 Peter, and enjoying plenty of fun activities. If you have any questions about the Winter Retreat, please do not hesitate to email me directly at justin.lorig@centrevillebaptist.org.

Recommended Resource of the Month

Looking to start the discipline of family worship in the new year? The following resource could be a great help for your family. Consider the book *10 Questions About Salvation* by Champ Thornton. This 30-day devotional is designed for kids, teens, and their families to explore important questions related to salvation.

Questions include: Is Jesus the only way to salvation? Why doesn't God just save everybody? How can I be sure that I am a Christian? What does it mean to truly believe? Can I ever lose my salvation? Each night, families are encouraged to explore biblical answers to questions like these together, perhaps around the dinner table.

[10 Questions About Salvation](#) is available for \$10.99 on [Amazon](#).

As always, please let me know if there are any ways I can be praying for you or your family.

By God's grace and for his glory!

Justin Lorig

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Justin Lorig". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Justin" and "Lorig" being capitalized and prominent. The signature is positioned below the printed name.