



RIVER VALLEY
STUDENTS

Student Ministry

PARENT HANDOUT

OUR MINISTRY

River Valley Student Ministry exists to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus who love one another and impact the world with the gospel.

With that in mind our goal any time we gather is to engage with students in a way that leads them to glorify God with their life, to live as a disciple of Jesus, and to equip them to impact the lives of others with the Gospel.

We see this happening in three ways.

First, we want students to go beyond just knowing things about God; we want them to personally know God, trust Him, and follow Him.

Second, teenagers desperately want to belong and will often sacrifice faithfulness to Christ and their faith in order to be a part of a community. We want to show them what it looks like to belong to a loving, God-glorifying community that encourages them in their faith.

Third, young people tend to think that mission and the outward impact of the church is handled by the grownups. This is far from the truth! As students grow in their relationship with Jesus, we want to empower them to see the countless opportunities that surround them in daily life to live out their faith and impact others with the gospel; helping friends, family, and even strangers experience the love of Christ.

EVENTS

STUDENT MIDWEEK

Wednesdays 6:30-8:30pm

Doors open to hang out at 6pm

This is a place for your student to have fun, connect with friends in Gospel Community, and be formed as a disciple of Jesus Christ through worship and the preaching of God's Word.

Parent Night: August 28

Fall DNOW: November 8-10

Spring DNOW: February 21-23, 2025

Summer Camp: July 2025

YOUR ROLE

At River Valley Church we believe that the parent should be the primary discipler in lives of their students and the home. We want to partner with you in the discipleship of your student, beyond your role in their lives at home. Below are some ways that you can partner with us.

Make Wednesday and Sunday a Priority

This is a great way to model for your students the importance of church. Each Wednesday evening, we gather from 6:30-8:30pm in the Delta for a time of fun, worship, preaching from God's Word, and Gospel-Centered discipleship. Consistently being a part of these gatherings is an important way for your students to learn what it means to be a part of the body of Christ.

It is also important that your students learn what it looks like to be a part of the church as a whole. That is why we have made the Sunday Morning Worship Service our Student Ministry Gathering for Sundays. We have two opportunities each week for you and your students to join us in corporate worship at 9am and 11am.

Model Worship for Your Student on Sunday Morning and Throughout the Week

Students need to see what it looks like to be a follower of Christ and to worship Him with our entire lives. And you as the parent are the primary person they will be looking to for that example. That means that singing and praising God as we sing on Sundays, taking notes and following along intent as Pastor Mark teaches, and consistent prayer and Bible reading throughout the week are key ways that parents can model what it looks like to be a follower of Christ.

Engage with Your Student

There are a few keyways that you can engage with your student as you disciple them.

Share your testimony with your student.

You'll be surprised how well they will respond to you opening up, being vulnerable, and telling them what the Lord has done in your life.

Learn more about your student's interests and hobbies.

It will mean so much to them that you care about and are interested in the things they care about and are interested in. Get excited about what excites them!

Talk about biblical teachings.

Whether it's after Sunday service or Student MIDWEEK, ask intentional questions about the portion of God's Word they just heard preached. Here are three questions that can be used to follow-up:

1. What did the sermon teach you about the character and nature of God?
2. How did the sermon point to the Gospel and/or to salvation through Jesus?
3. In what areas did the sermon cause you to think about the way that you are living as a follower of Jesus?

Serve with your student.

Model healthy church membership together as you serve the body of Christ alongside one another. Need help finding ways to serve? Contact Pastor Gavin, ghutchison@rivervalley.net.

Don't be afraid of hard questions.

Doubt is a normal part of growing and learning. So, don't be afraid to ask tough questions and to have tough conversations about questions your students may have.

Pray and read the Bible with your student.

Praying with your student and studying God's Word together will not only help them to see the importance of this for the Christian life, but it will help them to grow and to begin to understand how to do these things on their own. This is a great way to help your student to grow and to develop as a follower of Christ.

Know Your Students Community Group Leader

It's important for you to know your student's Community Group Leader(s) so that we can make sure we're on the same page about the spiritual life of your student. Need help connecting with your student's Community Group Leader? Contact Pastor Gavin for help, ghutchison@rivervalley.net.

Get Involved

We have various opportunities for you to be involved in our ministry: helping with check-in, helping with special events, leading or co-leading a Community Group, etc. Want to learn more about how you can get involved serving with an amazing group of students? Contact Pastor Gavin, ghutchison@rivervalley.net.



Contact Info:
Gavin Hutchison
Pastor of Student Ministry
ghutchison@rivervalley.net
574.286.7175 (cell)



River Valley Students

