

## Jr. High and High School Ministries



### a note from the Youth Ministry Team...

Have you ever wondered what a youth ministry is all about? This booklet will introduce you to the youth ministry here at Cornerstone Community Church. We hope that you will find the next few pages helpful as you get to know us a little better.

Our primary purpose is to show and teach young people God's love and encourage them to respond to that love through developing passion for God and compassion for people. This is at the heart of the Great Commandment in Mark 12:28-31.

Here at Cornerstone, we call our youth ministry C3. C3 can stand for Cornerstone Community Church; but we want to add to that three words that are key in following Jesus:

- **Commitment:** Jesus loves us deeply, and He has shown that through the sacrifice that He has made so that we can have life. All we have to do is accept His gift, and make a commitment to follow Him with our lives.
- **Character:** One of the key components in following Jesus is a transformation of our character. We are called to embody love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Once Jesus gets a-hold of our heart, he wants to transform our character.
- **Calling:** Finally, each one of us has a calling to the work of ministry (Revelation 1:5-6). We are called to serve one another. Jesus has a special calling on the life of each teenager—a calling to fall head-over-heels in love with Jesus. Our prayer is that God would use us to bring this kind of glory to Himself.

Our mission statement as a youth ministry is "to lead students toward passion for God and compassion for people as we help them meet Christ, follow Him, serve Him, and lead others to do the same." Our strategy is to design specific ministries that draw in teenagers, and help accomplish these things in their lives.

That means that each of our ministries or activities has a defined purpose, and is designed for a specific type of person. This is key to

understanding our ministry. In the following pages you will find a more thorough explanation of this vision we share for ministry.

In addition to carefully laying out the purpose behind our youth ministry program, we have included a list of things that you can expect from our youth ministry program here at Cornerstone Community Church. Included in this are summer camps, youth conferences, mission trips, and National Youth Convention. Make sure and check this section out!

Paul writes, "Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what He wants from you, and quickly respond to it" (Romans 12:2, Message).

It is our prayer, as the Youth Ministry Team, to help teenagers understand the incredible love that God has for us, the sacrifice that Jesus has paid for our sins, and that we need to respond to Him in obedience. One day, Jesus is coming again, and it is our heart-beat to see your teenager(s) be ready for that AWESOME Day! Will you join us in praying for this reality?

If you have any questions about anything in this booklet, or the youth ministry here at Cornerstone, please check with someone on the Youth Ministry Team, or Pastor Dave.

May the LORD bless you!

Sincerely,

Pastor Dave and the Youth Ministry Team

**Check out our website: [www.youth.cornerstonetopeka.com](http://www.youth.cornerstonetopeka.com)**

**Youth Ministry Team:** An important component to youth ministry is the adult sponsors. Here at Cornerstone, we have an awesome group of adult leaders. Currently, the team consists of: Owen & Judy Faul, Kimberly Colcher, Judy Graber, Scott & Staci Petersen, Kim & Karen Friesen, Chester & Ruby Berg, and Dave & Emily Buller. While not all of these adults will necessarily serve as "sponsors", attending the youth events, they are committed to supporting and praying for our youth ministry at Cornerstone.



## the purpose

Jesus was one passionate individual. His words were backed by a heart on fire to do the will of God. In fact, we believe that His words were the very words of God! Jesus himself declares, "I and the Father are One" (John 10:30).

Since Jesus is One with Almighty God, we believe that we should listen to, and do, what He says. There are two key passages in Scripture that gather together and summarize the teachings of Jesus. These passages exemplify what we believe is the purpose for our youth ministry.

### **Mark 12:28-31**

*One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."*

### **Matthew 28:19-20**

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

**"Passion for God and  
Compassion for people**

**As we help them meet  
Jesus, follow Jesus, serve  
Jesus, and lead others to  
do the same."**

Great Commandment  
Mark 12:28-31

Great Commission  
Matthew 28:19-20

The youth program will be designed to help achieve the following in the life of your teenager(s):

- **Meet:** To help the disinterested student meet Christ and begin a relationship with Him.
- **Follow:** To help the believing student grow in their relationship with Christ.
- **Serve:** To help the committed student develop a lifestyle of serving others.
- **Lead:** To help the fully devoted student partner with God in His mission of making disciples.

The next section will describe “how” we set out to achieve these purposes.



## how we do it (programs and events)

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# high school

**C3: Youth Sunday school:** Our Sunday school hour begins at 9:30am with a time of worship (junior high and high school together). Then we study the Bible together. Many times a member of our youth ministry team brings something delicious to snack on (not a substitute for breakfast ☺).

It is our intent to make the Bible practical for students in today’s world, so we address current pressures and temptations. We also talk about the depth of God’s love for us, and how God desires to bless us so that we can be a blessing to others (see Genesis 12:2-3, Psalm 67 for this theme in Scripture). We do all of this so that God would be glorified.



**C3: JOURNEY** (high school youth group):

Each Wednesday night during the school year, we get together at Cornerstone to memorize Scripture, study the Bible, and just have fun! JOURNEY is open to young people from 9<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and begins at 6:30pm. Come at 5:30pm on Wednesdays and join us for supper. (JOURNEY does not meet during the summer).

Holidays and other special events are times that we encourage your teenagers to spend time at home with their family. During the summertime, we don’t meet every week, but we frequently schedule times to get together, get into the Bible, and sometimes just have fun!

There are three main types of youth meetings. (Just “hanging out” is

included with all youth meetings ☺).

- **Bring your friends!** Everyone is encouraged to bring their friends to all youth events. However, there are “special” events that we organize specifically for the purpose of bringing in non-believers. In fact, we schedule at least one special event like this a month! These events are focused on fun and building relationships. This is a great time for teenagers to bring their un-churched friends. One of the purposes of these events is so that members of our Youth Ministry Team can get to know these “new” teens, and so that we can be praying for them.
- **Discipleship:** One of the key purposes of C3 (youth group) is to help students grow in their relationship with Jesus, and to help them develop the kind of character and behavior that Jesus wants us to have. At these meetings, students will be taught from the Scriptures, and then time will be spent on applying the Scriptures to everyday, contemporary culture. We will be asking the question: “So how does this apply to me and the cultural pressures that I face as a teenager seeking to follow Christ?” Students may then discuss these insights in small groups, encourage each other, and pray for each other.
- **Service:** A key to following Jesus is service. Periodically, service projects will be planned. We might go to the Topeka Rescue Mission and help in their distribution warehouse or serve a meal there. We also might help an elderly person with yard work. We want to help students understand that following Jesus means serving each other and those in our community.

**C3: Individualized Interactions:** It is important to our Youth Ministry Team that we get to know your teenager. One of the ways we do this is through “individualized interactions”. An individualized interaction is taking your teenager out for a soda or ice cream, etc. These kinds of interactions help to develop relationships with these adult leaders who can help mentor your teenager, and also help us to understand how we can be praying for your teen.

It is important to note that boundaries will be maintained—a male sponsor/youth pastor will not meet individually with a female student and vice-versa. Instead, a third party will be present or female sponsors will meet with female students; and male sponsors will meet with male students. These measures are taken to avoid suspicious and potentially

compromising situations.

**C3: Youth Input Meetings:** (high school) It is important for the youth to have opportunities to provide feedback and input regarding the youth program. At least four times a year, a youth input meeting will be scheduled providing the students who attend with this opportunity. This meeting is open to all youth at the high school level. An announcement for every youth input meeting will appear in the bulletin at least two Sunday mornings prior to the meeting. Members from the Youth Ministry Team will also be present. Not every idea presented warrants action, but we will value and respond respectfully to all feedback and input.

**C3: Parent Meetings:** We have four parent meetings a year. The purpose of these meetings is to provide a venue where the following items may be discussed.

- Identify events, plans, and objectives for the next quarter and future.
- Provide an opportunity for parents to express encouragement to the youth sponsors and pastoral staff.
- Present parenting tips pertaining to youth culture and maybe a forum to discuss difficulties or pray for each other.
- Present appropriate methods and venues for dealing with concerns (the meeting itself may not be an appropriate venue for this).
- Pray for the parents, youth, our program, sponsors, and the youth pastor.

**C3: Major Events Overview:** (high school) Each high school student has the opportunity to participate in the following events throughout their high school career. More information on these events is given below.

- 4 years of Southern District Summer Camp.
- 4 years of Southern District Youth Conference.
- Participate in one Mission Trip (such as Chicago).
- Participate in one National Youth Convention (Estes, Colorado or Anaheim, California). Held once every four years.
- 4 years of possibility: self-initiated mission trip with para-church organization.

**C3: Mission Trips:** (high school) It is our goal that each high school student that is a part of our youth ministry gets the chance to participate in at least one mission trip during their high school career. In 2004, we went to Chicago, Illinois to help the urban poor and serve them through

an organization called "DOOR" (see [www.citymissions.org](http://www.citymissions.org) for more information).

Your teen is encouraged to participate in mission trips with para-church organizations (such as Young Life, Youth Mission International, or Youth With a Mission). Information regarding alternatives will be provided for the "off-years". Students participating in these para-church mission trips will be responsible for raising their own support. Another option which may be offered by our church in the years when no mission trip is scheduled may include a weekend event (seminar-type event or service-oriented event).

**C3: National Youth Convention:** (high school) National Youth Convention 2007 will be the next big trip. Every four years we go to National Youth Convention. A few years ago, it was held in Estes Park, Colorado. The next one will be in Anaheim, California (across the street from Disney Land)! Students must be in high school to attend National Youth Convention.

**C3: Senior High Camp:** (high school) Each year we have an awesome high school camp near Buena Vista, Colorado. We join about 300 other high schoolers in the Rocky Mountains at beautiful Silver Cliff Ranch. The worship is inspiring, and always a high-light. Each day there are sessions that cover teen issues and help develop their Christian walk. Camp is consistently one of the places where key faith commitments are made in the lives of teenagers.

Activities at senior high camp include: high and low ropes courses, basketball, volleyball, foosball and pool tournaments; hot springs pool, hiking, white-water rafting, mountain-biking, Coffee House with Live Entertainment, an Elegant Diving Contest, and more!

The cost to attend camp is about \$200, but each year we offer scholarships to students to help offset the costs of camp.

# junior high

**C3: Youth Sunday school:** (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades) Our Sunday school hour begins at 9:30am with a time of worship (junior high and high school together). Then we study the Bible together. Many times a member of our youth ministry team brings something delicious to snack on (not a substitute for breakfast ☺).

It is our intent to make the Bible practical for students in today's world, so we address current pressures and temptations. We also talk about the depth of God's love for us, and how God desires to bless us so that we can be a blessing to others (see Genesis 12:2-3, Psalm 67 for this theme in Scripture). We do all of this so that God would be glorified.

**C3: Parent Meetings:** We have four parent meetings a year. The purpose of these meetings is to provide a venue where the following items may be discussed.

- Identify events, plans, and objectives for the next quarter and future.
- Provide an opportunity for parents to express encouragement to the youth sponsors and pastoral staff.
- Present parenting tips pertaining to youth culture and maybe a forum to discuss difficulties or pray for each other.
- Present appropriate methods and venues for dealing with concerns (the meeting itself may not be an appropriate venue for this).
- Pray for the parents, youth, our program, sponsors, and the youth pastor.

**C3: Junior High Camp:** (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) Each year we have an awesome junior high camp near Siloam Springs, Arkansas. We join a host of other junior high school students at beautiful New Life Ranch. The worship is inspiring, and always a high-light. Each day there are sessions that cover youth issues and help develop their Christian walk. Camp is consistently one of the places where key faith commitments are made in the lives of our students.

Activities at junior high camp include: mountain bikes, archery, ropes, canoes, drama, journalism, computer, horseback riding, trap shoot, The Big Swing, Waterfront and Pool, Late Nite, the Huge Slide, and Bill's Polar Swim.

The cost to attend camp is about \$175, but each year we offer scholarships to students to help offset the costs of camp.



**C3: TREK:** (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) Each Wednesday night, a group of students meet at Cornerstone to memorize Scripture, study the Bible, and just have fun! TREK is open to young people from 7<sup>th</sup> grade to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and begins at 6:30pm. Come at 5:30pm on Wednesdays and join us for supper. (TREK does not meet during the summer).



## resources

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Looking for some help in working with teenagers? Below are some books and web-resources that you might find helpful:

### books on parenting

#### **Boundaries With Teens: When to Say Yes, How to Say No**

Dr. John Townsend. Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 2006.  
ISBN: 0310259576

The teen years can be challenging and even scary for parents and those involved with youth. Attitudes and behaviors of the adolescent can be unhealthy for him and for the family. However, good boundaries are the bedrock of not only better relationships, but also maturity, safety, and growth—especially for teens and their parents. In order to help teenagers grow into healthy adults, we as parents and youth workers need to help them experience how to take responsibility for their behaviors, their values, and their lives.

Dr. John Townsend, coauthor of the Gold Medallion Award-winning book Boundaries, is a parent of two teenagers. With wisdom and empathy, he applies his biblically based principles to bear on the challenging task of the teen years, showing parents:

- How to deal with disrespectful attitudes and irresponsible behaviors
- How to set healthy limits and realistic consequences
- How to be loving and caring while establishing rules
- How to determine specific strategies to deal with problems both big and small

The book begins by giving parents a way to look at adolescence itself, so they can better understand how a teen thinks, feels, and relates to others. Then it provides the nuts and bolts of what boundaries are all about and how to apply them. There are many topically based chapters devoted to specific problems, from moodiness to school problems to aggression. Finally, Townsend addresses the attitudes, conflicts, and difficulties of parents themselves, helping them resolve their own personal obstacles to being an effective maturing force for the teen.

#### **Parenting Today's Adolescent: Helping Your Child Avoid The Traps Of The Pre-teen And Early Teen Years**

Dennis Rainey, Barbara Rainey, Bruce Nygren. Nelson Books, 1998.  
ISBN: 0785270841

Normally confident moms and dads grow weak-kneed when their children enter--gasp!--puberty. Barbara and Dennis Rainey, parents of six teenage or older children, map out the unfamiliar, demanding landscape of both pre-adolescence

(ages 10-12), as well as the teen years that follow. "Preadolescence is when convictions are shaped; adolescence is when convictions are tested," they advise parents. In *Parenting Today's Adolescent* the Rainey's help children and parents build a satisfying relationship while forging a vision for a productive, God-honoring life—before, during, and after adolescence.

**So You're About to Be a Teenager: Godly Advice for Preteens on Friends, Love, Sex, Faith and Other Life Issues**

Dennis Rainey, Rebecca Rainey, Barbara Rainey, Samuel Rainey. Nelson Books, 2003.

Samuel and Rebecca Rainey, preteens themselves not many years ago, add their perspective as young adults who vividly recall their own successes and failures as teenagers. Covering such topics as friends, peer pressure, boundaries, dating, and sex, the Rainey's address the most common traps of adolescence and teach young people how to avoid making poor choices. Short, concise chapters are filled with engaging illustrations and practical applications. This book is essential reading for preteens.

**online resources**

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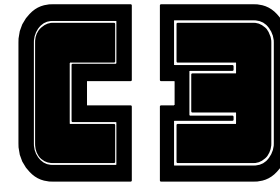
**<http://www.pluggedinonline.com/>**

*Plugged-In* is a great resource for parents and kids. It provides reviews on movies and music, both Christian and secular. It also has some helpful articles on dealing with peer-pressure.

**<http://www.troubledwith.com/parenting-teens.htm>**

For parents and teens alike, adolescence poses many challenges: braces and bulimia, attitude and alcohol, dating and drugs, pimples and porn. No one said it would be easy, and in a culture so full of potholes that can undermine a promising young life, it's even tougher.

During adolescence, a teen's physical appearance changes rapidly, self-esteem can bottom out and peer acceptance becomes an obsession. To further complicate the process, this is the crucial time for parents to start "letting go." For those apprehensive about their growing teen, visit this website for helpful information and advice.



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**E-mail**

**Associate/Youth Pastor**

David Buller

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**Youth Website**

youth.cornerstonetopeka.com

**Weekly Schedule**

**Sunday:**

9:30 a.m. Fun, Worship, and Study  
10:45 a.m. Morning Worship Service

**Wednesday: (September – May)**

6:30 p.m. TREK – Jr. High Youth Group  
Journey – High School

*Please call the church office for more information  
concerning all areas of ministry offered at Cornerstone.*