

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Grace Baptist Church Youth Ministry. It is our strong belief that proper ministry to youth begins in the home, and that you are the best role model and teacher that your kids could possibly have. It is our desire to be a Christ-like extension of the home and to assist you in your child's spiritual growth and maturity. It is my prayer that the youth ministry will greatly strengthen your family and help produce Christ-like lifestyles in your children.

Too often when teaching teens in today's culture, churches focus more on entertainment and holding their attention than on the presentation of strong, biblical truth and application. Our goal in the youth ministry is to develop wholesome, mature, Christ-like young people. To accomplish this, there are six areas of the young person's Christian life that we will continually emphasize:

1. **Salvation** (*II Timothy 3:15*) – Our primary focus is to preach the gospel of Christ. Only new creatures in Christ can be trained for God and only born-again Christians can respond properly to God's truth.
2. **Scripture Study** (*III John 4*) – To grow properly in the Christian life, scripture must be at the center. Teens will be encouraged to study and memorize scripture and to use those bible principles as a pattern for their lives.
3. **Separation** (*I Timothy 4:12*) – Young people will learn principles of separation by developing a proper view of God and His holiness. Separation from ungodliness and worldliness and unto God's holiness as a way of life is God's will for all believers.
4. **Surrender** (*Psalms 71:5*) – Teens will learn that dedicating one's life to God and letting Christ control every aspect of their life is essential for finding God's will for their life. Because Christ so willingly gave His life for us, how much more should we desire to present our bodies a living sacrifice for Him.
5. **Soul-winning** (*Psalms 119:9*) – Conforming to the image of Christ should be the goal of every Christian. The compassion and zeal Christ had for the lost is an example that will not only be preached, but also practiced by our youth ministry.
6. **Servanthood** (*I John 3:18*) – If a teen has the right view of themselves as a servant, then they are going to start reaching and affecting other people's lives. We will give our young people many opportunities to serve in our church and in our community.

As a 17 year old boy, God used David to defeat the giant Goliath. When no other man would stand against the Philistine, God chose to use a young man to honor His name and defend the nation of Israel. In I Samuel 17:29, David says "*is there not a cause*" to live and honor the Lord with my life. David realized that even though he was "*but a youth,*" God could use anyone if fully surrendered to Him. David was willing to honor God with his life regardless of the outcome or circumstances. Our goal and my prayer is that God will raise up a group of young people that will exercise the kind of faith David displayed against Goliath and that God will produce Christ-like young men and women fully surrendered to Him. Thank you for allowing us to partner with you in preparing your children to be everything that God wants them to be. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (302) 690-0335.

Because of Christ,

Michael Downs, Youth Director
I Cor. 15:10