

Understanding the Purpose and Planned Values of

Purpose/ Mission Statement:

Our youth ministry exists to reach **out, up, around, in** and then **back out** again, to teenagers and their families; helping them discover and live a VERTICAL "ly" focused, God-centered life.

We will:

- **Reach out** to students who don't have a relationship with Jesus Christ or the church in real, relevant & teen-friendly ways, **sharing** the good news that God wants to give them a purpose now & an eternity soon, through His son Jesus. (evangelism)
- **Reach up** in worship and connection to Christ (Luke 10:38-42). We will model & teach youth to **honor** and **love** God with their lives and encourage them to connect with Him both corporately and privately. Our goal will be to live, model and teach VERTICAL living. In other words, a life that focuses on and revolves around God being at the center of everything we do. (worship)
- **Reach around** them to help them **connect** with other Christian believers in meaningful relationships and friendships. We will be **intentional** in how we go about this with **purposeful programming and follow-up**. Our goal will be to establish a reputation that the Vertical youth ministry is a place where EVERY teen feels like they matter and make a difference. (fellowship)
- **Reach in** to the hearts and minds of students, **teaching** them God's word, its application to their lives and its power to change them. (discipleship)
Our goal will be to help them mature as Christian young people and to **grow** them in their faith, while challenging them too....
- **Reach back out again** to others as together we seek to discover their ministry and the plan God has for their lives based on the way He's wired them, their experiences, spiritual gifts and passions so that they can be used by Him for the greater good of His kingdom. (ministry)

REACH:

OUT	UP	AROUND	IN	BACK OUT AGAIN
"Go and make disciples" EVANGELISM	"Love the Lord your God" WORSHIP FELLOWSHIP	"Baptize them" DISCIPLESHIP	"Teach them to do" MINISTRY	"Love your neighbor"

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:37-40

THE GREAT COMMISSION

"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."

Matthew 28:19-20

Program	Purpose	Target
1. Friendgism	(Evangelism)	Community
2. Hot night events	(Evangelism)	Community
3. Youth worship services	(Worship. Disc. Evang.)	Crowd/Comm.
4. Newbies Training	(Fellowship. Discipleship)	Crowd → Congregation
5. Dinner and the Pastor	(Fellowship)	Crowd
6. Ministry Teams	(Ministry/ Fellowship)	Crowd → Congregation
7. Bridge Events	(Fellowship/ Disc.)	Crowd → Congregation
8. Life Groups	(Fellowship/ Disc.)	Congregation
9. InStep	(Discipleship)	Committed
10. Missions	(Ministry/ Fellowship)	Congregation → Committed
11. Bible Study Groups	(Discipleship)	Committed
12. Student Ministry Leader	(Ministry)	Core →
13. Student Leadership	(Ministry)	Core
14. Student Leadership U.	(Discipleship/ Evan.)	Core

****Bold faced type indicates primary program. Regular type indicates secondary program.**

*****In all efforts, programming and planning, we acknowledge the family unit as the primary tool God has put in place for the purposes of evangelism and discipleship of children. To that end, our youth ministry will seek in every way possible, to be a resource to parents and a support to the entire family for the growth and development of Christian teenagers.*****

Commit to a program

We don't ask for and frankly don't want you to feel like you are signing your life away to work in this youth ministry. It is unhealthy for you and for our ministry if you are spread too thin. We do however, believe that commitment to a task is essential to both your development as a leader of youth and in your own personal faith development. It is equally important to the growth and smooth operations of this FBJB student ministry.

The VERTICAL JOURNEY

1. Friendgelism

(Acts 1:8 "....You will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere....")

This is not a program, it's a process. A process communicated and taught to Vertical student's to model his or her transformed life to someone in need of God's grace. It's also not an option. It's a non-negotiable. We will be evangelistic.

- i. Develop an evangelistic attitude (in our ministry and students)
 - Teach Friendgelism yearly at the beginning of the school year as part of the "On Purpose" series or on it's own. Students are encouraged to take "baby steps" in this process and are celebrated by assigned staff members all along the way with each victory (especially as friends come to into a relationship with God)
 - a. **Step 1: Tell your friend you are a Christian**
 - b. **Step 2: Invite your friend to an appropriate program**
 - c. **Step 3: Tell your friend why you're a Christian**
 - d. **Step 4: Tell your friend how you became a Christian**
 - e. **Step 5: Ask your friend if he or she would like to become a Christian**

- Maintain friendgelism emphasis all year long with the Friendgelism Challenge “HIT” list.
 - a. Students are given a small business card with the 5 steps on one side and spots for 5 unsaved friend’s names they will commit to pray for all year long.
 - b. Adult leaders informally/ continually ask them about their HIT list if they have taken up the challenge.
- Model evangelism through the personal lives of the staff and hold kids accountable to the names they put on their “HIT” list
- Celebrate victories as kids take each step and lives are changed as friends come to Christ
- ii. Continually challenge students to be evangelistic (Sunday morning services as well as home teams. To accomplish this, adult staff must model and teach this need to continually “take a walk.”
- iii. Develop a worship service to which students are proud to bring their friends.
 - Inviting and welcoming atmosphere
 - Teen friendly youth area
 - Relevant messages, music and presentation
- iv. Provide specific outreach events designed to encourage regular Vertical students to bring their lost friends (hot night events).

2. Hot Night Events

Designed to complement “friendgelism.” Strategic events hosted on nights where teens are looking for a place to go such as 5th Quarters after big football games, Graduation night, Halloween, or even New Year’s Eve, etc. (check out the latest calendar to note upcoming “Hot Night Events”

3. Worship Services

HS: Sunday nights- 5:30-7pm

MS: Wednesday nights- 6:30-8pm

This is our large-group meeting that is designed to have a friendly, fun, challenging and exciting atmosphere. This program is designed to shatter the “church is boring” stereotype and provide students a comfortable environment to get acquainted with our ministry. For students who come regularly, these services are designed to provide them a place that they are proud to invite their friends to. Videos, games, food, kickin’ music, singing, drama and relevant messages that move students towards spiritual maturity are all characteristics of this service. Numerous tasks go into making our FBJB youth services a success. We will not simply point you at the kids and say, “go get ‘em.” From coordinating greeters, to the follow-up team, there is a bunch that needs doing. Sound and

lights, video, food, “zone” adults, attendance, clean up...and the list goes on. We ask each of our adult staff to think about what fits them best, and then do it with excellence and passion to make their small piece, work towards making the whole thing an awesome experience for the kids each week. Mark will share with you the numerous options available and help you find a job that fits you.

4. Newbies Training

A one-on-one mentoring adventure whereby we connect teens who've just made a decision to trust Christ as their savior. Our goal is two fold: 1) Answer many of the questions of “now what?” that fills the mind of these new believers as we ground them in the basics of the decision they've just made (topics such as eternal security, baptism, next steps to growth, Bible study and more are covered). The material is in a self-study format with the help and accountability of a caring adult leader to encourage and provide direction/ answers as needed. 2) Work to immediately connect the student to the body in a greater degree

5. Dinner and the Pastor

We invite crowd students who are visiting or feel unconnected to church for dinner with Pastor Mark. We eat, tell stories and try to help the unconnected...connect. The only thing overtly spiritual about the evening is the prayer for the meal.

6. Ministry Teams

Any student can join a ministry team at any time. Each is overseen by an adult coordinator and possibly a student leader. Teams include but are not limited to:

- i. Drama
- ii. Video
- iii. Greeters
- iv. Worship band
- v. Worship singers
- vi. Worship back-up singers
- vii. Audio/ lights
- viii. Design/ production
- ix. Set-up and tear down
 - Other examples might include art/ design, camping, paintball, digital scrapbooking, prayer, photography, etc.

These teams offer a fun and easy way to get students involved and connected.

7. Bridge Events

These are events designed for fun, connection and a bit of learning. They will help “bridge” the gap between a crowd student and a congregation student by facilitating connections through fun activities. These may include but are not limited to:

- D-Now trips
- Beach outings
- Met Games
- Trips to the mall/ movies/ Tropical Smoothie/ etc.
- Pool parties
- Theme parks
- Rafting/ canoeing/ tubing, etc.

8. Life Groups

Life groups meet every Sunday morning upstairs in The Attic youth area from 9:15- 10:30am. Everyone meets together as a whole at this time for a time of

Hanging out, food and weekly announcements. At approximately 9:30am the groups break up and go to their specific classes. This is a key program to making our big group, small. At this time we break into small groups for closer interaction, relational development and group discussion as we dig into God’s Bible. This time is geared towards building a sense of community amongst the youth and helping develop them as disciples with a next step towards biblical comprehension.

9. InStep

Our main goal of discipling students will be to push them towards and attitude of ownership concerning their spiritual growth. We want students to grow “on their own.” To get them to this point, we will hold their hand, help them gain the skills necessary to grow with coaching and provide a significant reward for their diligence. Simply put, we will help students become like Christ by providing them a system by which they are helped to create the consistent habits associated with spiritual growth as they systematically study God’s word:

- Hang time with God (consistent prayer and bible reading)
- Accountability (close relationship with another believer)
- Bible memorization
- Involvement/ service with the church body (not just the youth group)
- Tithing commitment (understand it and participate)
- Study of scripture (on their own)

The process starts when a student asks to get involved with InStep

- \$50 Deposit to start***

- 13 week devotional provided
- Devotional Procedures:
- Weekly synopsis (found at the beginning of each week)
 - Memory verse to study (optional but highly encouraged)
 - Live the Word challenge (NOT optional/ will vary week to week/ a service component of the program)
 - Outline of the week's study
- Student has 7 days to complete 5 lessons
 - Each week runs Monday to Sunday
 - MS and HS students are both required to answer all questions.
 - HS students are also required to fill out the "key verses" and "journaling" sections that follow the questions in order to receive credit for completing the week. For MS students, these 2 sections are optional but again, HIGHLY recommended.
 - **KEY VERSES:** simply underline/ highlight verses in your Bible that stand out in the reading for the day and tell me why they were meaningful to you. If none are, write that down.
 - **JOURNAL SECTION:** this is a spot to record your thoughts, questions, prayers and/ or spiritual insights.
 - It's highly encouraged that students do these lessons daily. Waiting until the last day of the week and "shotgunning" through 5 lessons in one hasty evening, does NOT create the spiritual habit of bible study and does NOT promote spiritual growth.
- End of the Week Report (Students)
 - Upon completion of the week's study, students fill out the top portion of the report.
 - Verse(s) memorized: Y/N and what it was.
 - Summary for the week: a few quick sentences of summary for all that they read (additional space is provided on the back if needed)
 - Service: where they served and when (children's church, youth band, Awana, clean-up crew, A/V booth, etc.) All students are required to serve somewhere on a weekly basis and during quarterly Java Nights (Fridays 7-9pm)
 - Service notes: do they have the notes from youth or church services that were attended during the course of the week? If not, an honest reason why MUST be provided.
 - Questions or prayer needs: this is a communication piece for them to inform myself and our youth staff of anything.
 - Live the Word: tell me how you accomplished this task, how you felt, how it made others feel or how God used you to bless others.

- Student then signs and dates the report attesting to the truthfulness of their efforts for the week.
- End of the Week Report (parents)
 - Parents meet with their teen: sit down each week and take a couple of minutes to review their work, ask them questions about what they thought, answer any questions they may have (if you don't know the answer, just tell them so and that you'll find it out...then do just that and get back to them), listen to them say their memory verse if they did it and absolutely, positively, whole-heartedly PRAY with them and for them.
 - Summary: your thoughts, questions, and prayer needs in the next section. This is your communication piece to myself and our youth staff (if you have confidential concerns, call me 334-2202 or email me at markhubbard@fjb.com)
 - Sign and date
- Reports are due by the Wednesday following the completion of each week (due dates for each report are provided at the top of each individual sheet)
 - Turn in filled out reports along with all service notes in the InStep mailbox in the youth room, to a Life Group leader, Pastor Mark or the office no later than due dates on the report.
 - Exceptions to the above rule would be in cases of vacation, sickness, family crises or inclement weather issues. Please make me aware of these extenuating circumstances in the actual report once you are able to turn them in.
- Credit:***
 - If reports/ notes are turned in late or incomplete, no credit will be given (the goal is to get students into a regular habit of spending time in God's word so they must show punctuality and consistency).
 - Scholarships are awarded to both summer camp+ D-Now weekends. Scholarships are assessed on a fair and equitable percentage scale applied to every participant so once again, consistency and commitment are keys to them receiving these rewards.

10. Mission Teams

2 mission trips a year (summer/ spring break)
 Local missions work each summer (local body of FJB)
 Samaritan's Purse (Christmas shoeboxes)

11. Bible Study Groups

Provide committed students with more in-depth biblical knowledge. Meet weekly at various spots around town or at leaders homes.

1. Exogetical Bible studies
2. Apologetics
3. Theology
4. InStep material review
5. Accountability

12. Student Ministry Leader (core students)

After showing consistent spiritual growth, commitment to church/ youth group and interviewing with Pastor Mark, students can start a ministry or lead an existing one. They become an “apprentice” leader to the adult leader of that ministry serving to make sure the team functions well, is performing its designed purpose and task effectively and that the members of that team are being cared for. At the proper time and with the approval of the adult ministry leader and Pastor Mark, that student is given the opportunity to solo lead their area of ministry with the goal being that they work into an even deeper level of commitment and take on the task of developing as a leader through Student Leadership training

13. Student Leadership (core students)

- i. **High level of commitment/ accountability**
- ii. **Completed minimum of 2 years of InStep/ connected to a Life Group**
- iii. **Minimum of 1 year of service on an existing ministry team**
- iv. **Committed to Friendgelism**
- v. **Committed to a Bible Study group**
- vi. **Committed to student leadership training meetings once a month**
- vii. **Committed to a Campus LG as an apprentice during their Junior year and leading a campus LG as a Senior on their HS campus.**

14. Student Leadership University

This is the last step in the process and one that we hope all student leaders may take advantage of. Each year, scholarships will be offered to the top students of our ministry to take on the task on intensive conference training at SLU in Orlando, FL. We will also press students to grow “in house” so to speak as we will help them to write a life mission statement and challenge them to commit to Friendgelism. They are also asked to commit to attending an extended mission trip offered during the year as well as the local mission work of the summer. Additionally we introduce

them to the concept of Campus Life Groups and ask them to commit to being in one with the goal that during their senior year, they lead one.

***many other job titles and tasks are available. This is just a short list of some of the possibilities of areas that you may get involved in and how we do student ministry.

Planned Values

Planned values are descriptive words that reflect our values, attitudes, styles and beliefs that “influence” our purpose. We try to incorporate these key elements into our programs and our lives. It is all built on RELATIONSHIPS.

R.E.L.A.T.I.O.N.S.H.I.P.S.

Relational approach (friendships are high on a teen’s priority list so they will be with ours)

Encouragement and excellence (1 Thes. 5:11 “So encourage one another and build each other up..”)

Laughter & celebration

Acceptance (not tolerance), Accountability (not judgement)

Transparency (being real)

Involvement of students (we will develop leaders)

Outreach oriented (not optional)

Numerical growth

Spiritual growth (the verse says to “go and make disciples..” not just converts)

Home-Teams/ home like atmosphere

Intimacy with God and each other/get past the surface

Parental involvement (we’re family-based and family supportive (period)!

Strategic follow-up