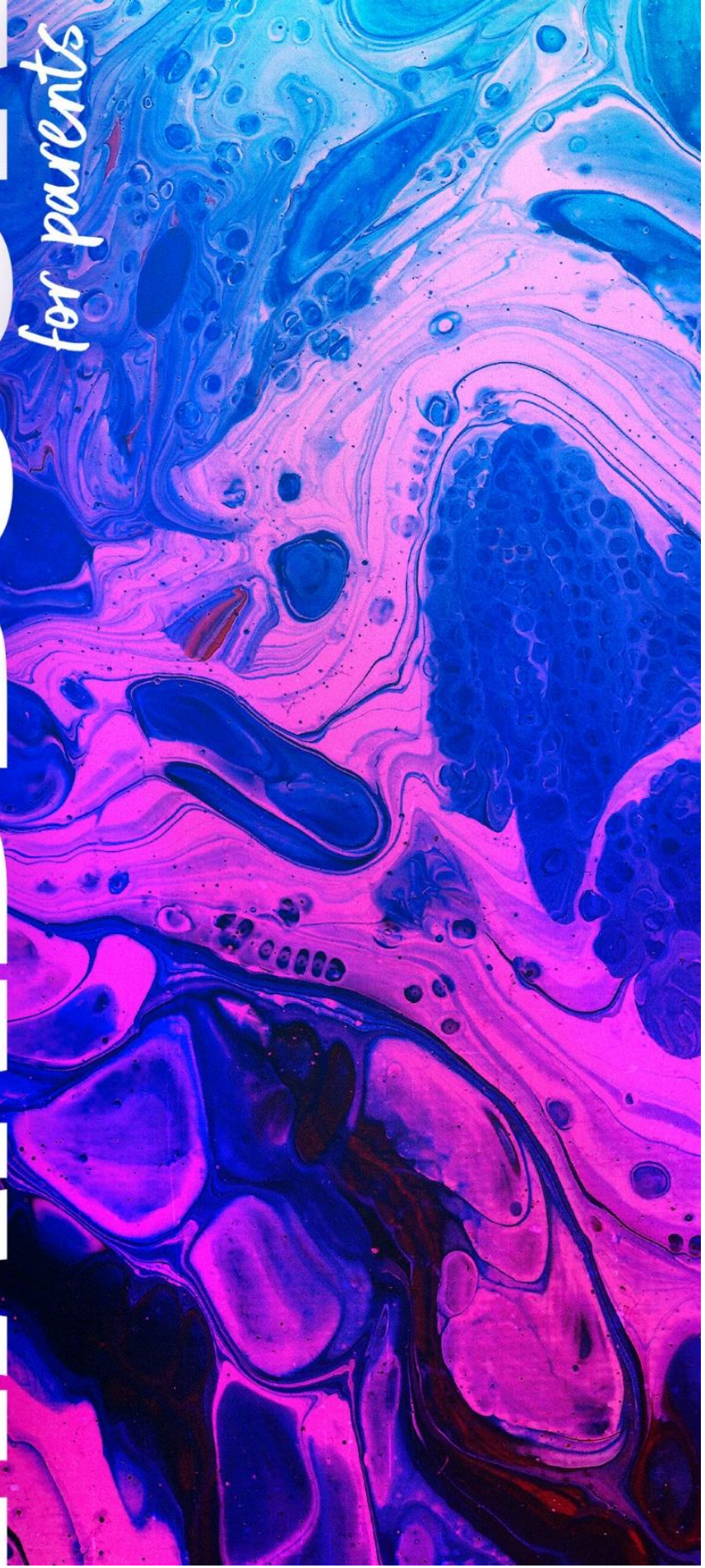


HANDBOOK

for parents







HEY THERE!

So, you're the parent of a student, huh? Congratulations! You have one of the most important (and sometimes the most difficult) jobs on the planet.

We know your job isn't always easy, but here's what we want you to know: we're here to help, in any way we can. Sure, we're a "student" ministry, but students aren't the only people we care about. We care about you too.

No matter how connected (or not connected) you are with our church, this Parent Handbook will show you some of the ways we're trying to care for your student and serve you at the same time.

Thanks for letting us be another voice in the life of your teenager. Your trust and partnership means a lot to us.

We can't wait to see what this year has in store!

Sincerely,
Dylan Johnson
Student Pastor
Covenant Church



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THE BASICS

OUR TEAM

STUDENT PASTOR

DYLAN JOHNSON

859-519-0814

DYLAN@COVENANTCHURCHHOUMA.COM

6TH GRADE GUYS LEADERS

- DYLAN JOHNSON – 859-519-0814
- DANIEL HWANG – 985-688-2434
- GRIFFIN BLANCHARD – 985-870-6084

7TH & 8TH GRADE GUYS LEADERS

- DAVID COOK – 985-852-7344
- BRAD DONNES – 985-688-2135

HIGH SCHOOL GUYS LEADERS

- BB LAU – 985-688-8101
- SUNNY BACH – 985-860-4906
- BRADLEY GIROIR – 985-856-8884
- CONAN SHERLIN – 865-356-8473

EXTRA LEADERS

- RYAN BEGERON (IMPACT SERVICE)



OUR TEAM

STUDENT PASTOR

DYLAN JOHNSON

859-519-0814

DYLAN@COVENANTCHURCHHOUMA.COM

6TH GRADE GIRLS LEADER

- **DEBBIE COOK – 985-804-5163**
- **BERNADETTE BACH – 985-860-5391**

7TH & 8TH GRADE GIRLS LEADERS

- **ELIZABETH JOHNSON – 859-361-8128**

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS LEADERS

- **SHELBY LAU – 985-860-6630**
- **MORGAN LUTHER – 985-856-9282**
- **CHRISTY SHERLIN – 865-356-8472**

GIRL STUDENT LEADERS

- **ABIGAIL QUAVE (6TH GIRLS)**
- **AVERY GIROIR (7TH & 8TH GIRLS)**

EXTRA LEADERS

- **JANA HEAD (IMPACT SERVICE)**

So that's us! Let us know if there's anything you ever need. We're here to help!



OUR MINISTRY

OUR WEEKLY PROGRAMS

IMPACT GROUPS | SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM

Our Impact Groups (6th-12th grade) meet every Sunday for small group time together to hangout, share life together, study the Bible, and pray.

IMPACT SERVICE | WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30PM

Our Impact Service (6th-12th grade) meets every Wednesday for fun, worship, teaching, and small groups.

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS | DEPENDS ON THE GROUP

Our Discipleship Groups (9th-12th grade) meet throughout the week for accountability, deeper Bible study, and prayer.

OUR ENVIRONMENTS

There are three environments for your student(s) in our ministry. Each one is designed to strategically invite your student(s) on a journey into deeper relationships with their peers, leaders, and Jesus. Each environment is designed with every student in mind - the student who's grown up in church and the first-time visitor too.

EVENTS: Throughout the year, we'll host several big events designed to help your student(s) connect with their peers and small group leaders. Events are often the environment where students will walk into our ministry for the very first time.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS: Our weekly programs happen every single week. They're designed to help your student(s) grow in eight key areas. (We'll get to those in a minute).

SMALL GROUP: Small groups are the most important part of what we do. They happen every week in our programs, but the relationships built in small groups extend outside the walls of our church. They're designed to connect your student(s) with a consistent trustworthy adult and community of their peers.



STUDENTS SERVING

STUDENTS SERVING

We want to see your student(s) consistently spending time in God's Word, growing in their faith, and living on mission. We want to see your student(s) be an important part of the church by prioritizing being in worship services on Sunday and serving in areas at the church they've been gifted in. We want to see your student(s) understand that they all have been called into ministry while some have been called to ministry leadership. We want to you're your student(s) plenty of opportunities to do this and be on mission by offering ministry opportunities locally and mission trips throughout Louisiana, the United States, and other countries.

SERVING IN THE CHURCH

We believe your student(s) plays an important part in the church, so we encourage every student to serve in some way at the church. Your Student(s) can serve in the following areas:

- Preschool
- coKIDS
- Impact Student Ministry
- Worship Team
- Technology Team
- Welcome Team

Your student(s) can serve this often:

- 6th-8th grade – once a month
- 9th-12th grade – up to twice a month
- No one serves the first Sunday of each month

Your student(s) are required to attend one service on the day they are scheduled to serve.

SERVING OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

We believe your student(s) plays an important part in our community, state, country, and world, so we encourage your student(s) to be involved in service opportunities locally and mission trips. Each year there will be opportunities for students to serve locally, go in mission trips in the United States, and go on international mission trips.

OUR BIG WIN

It's hard sometimes to know when you're winning with students, you know? Like, is anything we're teaching actually sinking in? Are students really growing in their faith? That's why we decided to go ahead and define the big win for our ministry. It's the one thing that we, as a student ministry team, want to achieve. It's the goal we want to keep in mind at all times. And it's what motivates and guides everything we do. It goes like this...

WE WIN WHEN YOUR STUDENT TAKES A STEP TOWARDS OWNING THEIR FAITH.

TAKING A STEP

Now, we say "takes a step" for a reason. It's because there's no finish line or certificate of completion when it comes to spiritual growth. Instead, spiritual growth is a journey (a life-long journey), and no two journeys are identical. That's why our big win doesn't have anything to do with a specific skill or achievement. Instead, we win anytime we see your student(s) take a single step closer to owning their faith.

OWNING THEIR FAITH

What, exactly, does it look like for your student(s) to own their faith? Well, we believe there are eight things that both lead to, and are a result of, spiritual growth. We call these our eight spiritual habits.

OUR BIG WIN

1. **BIBLE ENGAGEMENT/SPENDING TIME WITH GOD**

Taking a step in this direction can be seen when your student(s) starts spending time with God on their own. It means opening the Bible on their own, having conversations with God on their own, and discovering how they best connect with God through worship on their own.

2. **OBEYING GOD AND DENYING SELF**

Discipleship is the process of obedience to one who is in authority over you. Taking a step in this direction can be seen when your student(s) progressively sets aside earthly delights for kingdom priorities.

3. **SERVING GOD AND OTHERS**

Taking a step in this direction is evident when your student's personal needs and even dreams are set aside for the needs they see in others.

4. **SHARING CHRIST**

Even with the need to live out the effects of the gospel, maturing believers know that speaking about the message is a necessity. Taking a step in this direction is evident when your student(s) talks about Christ and the message of the gospel.

5. **EXERCISING FAITH**

Taking a step in this direction is seen in your student(s) when risk aversion is set aside, and the student's life is being characterized by faithful obedience to God's will.

6. **SEEKING GOD**

Taking a step in this direction is seen when a student's desire is to know God more deeply and experience His work more fully.

7. **BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS**

Our faith is personal, but it is not intended to be private. Our horizontal relationships should develop just as our vertical relationship with God does. Taking a step in this direction occurs when relational maturity is evident in your student's life.

8. **UNASHAMED**

Taking a step in this direction is evident when your student(s) is transparent and unashamed in presenting their own life as being aligned with Christ.

We count it as a win every time your student takes a step toward owning their faith by practicing one, or maybe even all eight, of these spiritual habits.

DISCIPLING STUDENTS

Do you know the last thing that Jesus said to His followers while he was on earth? Some people call it The Great Commission: “Go and make disciples.” Duplicate yourselves. Go and make more of you. Take your faith and pass it on to someone else. When we talk about helping students begin to own their faith, we’re really just talking about discipleship. So, what is discipleship? Here are three thoughts . . .

DISCIPLESHIP IS ABOUT LIVING, NOT JUST LEARNING

Rather than asking, “What can we teach your student(s) about God?” we ask, “How can we help your student(s) live out their faith?” It’s not just about teaching them about Jesus - it’s about modeling what faith in Jesus looks like. That’s why our small groups spend time together outside of church. Because discipleship isn’t taught in a classroom - it’s modeled in everyday life.

DISCIPLESHIP HAPPENS IN COMMUNITY

In the Gospels, you don’t really see Jesus doing one-on-one discipleship. That’s because discipleship happens best in a community of people. That’s why we focus so much energy on getting your student(s) plugged into consistent small groups, why we emphasize the role of parents and families, and why we surround your student(s) with tons of Jesus followers. Because discipleship takes all of us!

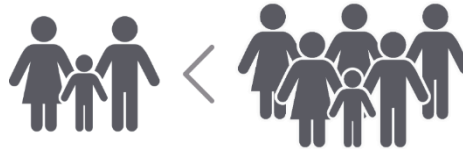
DISCIPLESHIP IS A PROCESS

Discipleship is never really complete because learning to live out our faith is a life-long process. Because we know discipleship takes time, we want to put people in the lives of your student(s) who are in it for the long-haul. That’s why our small group leaders don’t bail on the students after a few months, but stick with them for multiple years usually - because it’s a process.

ENGAGING WITH SMALL GROUP LEADERS

As a parent, you are making a huge impact in your student's life. The impact you're making is far more significant than any impact we, their church, could ever hope to make. You are the most important voice in your student's life, both now and for a lifetime.

But in all of our time caring for students, we've learned something really important. (We drew a picture to help you remember it.) We believe that, in every student's life, this is true: your best chance at influencing your student's faith and future is to recruit other Christian adults to influence them with you.



Dr. Kara E. Powell and Dr. Chap Clark, authors of *Sticky Faith*, encourage parents to “develop a sticky web of relationships” for their students. We love that idea!

Especially during the teenage years, when your student is beginning to pull away from you in their search for independence, we want to come alongside you by creating a pool of trustworthy, Christian adults who can help you influence your student.

That's why our ministry is so committed to small groups. Small groups are about more than just good discussions. Small groups exist to connect your student with a Christian adult you can trust so you can better influence their faith and future.

So, this year, engage with your student's small group leader. They can be a powerful ally for you and your family!

THE FINE PRINT

SAFETY GUIDELINES

The safety of your student(s) is a priority for our ministry, so we wanted to get you in the loop on how we plan to care for and protect them.

WE SCREEN VOLUNTEERS

Before any volunteer is permitted to serve with us, they undergo a rigorous application and interview process, including a criminal background check.

WE SET BOUNDARIES

We have set a number of guidelines for our student ministry volunteers. As a parent, you can help us make sure your student is well-cared for by helping us maintain these boundaries.

- Physical boundaries (side hugs, high fives, and similar things are acceptable. We try our best to avoid extended frontal hugs and other extended physical touch).
- Never be alone with a student behind closed doors.
- Verbal boundaries (we are careful in the comments that we make towards students)
- Conversations via text, social media, or internet
 - Social media is a great tool for ministry, but we're very cautious.
 - We're cautious in initiating messages or DM's on social media.
 - We're cautious in initiating messages through text.
 - We do our best to be "followed" by students on social media instead of initiating a "follow."
 - We try to lead by example on social media. Posting inappropriate content, cuss words, drinking, or smoking on your feed is not leading well.
 - We do our best to never delete any messages or DMs from students from our phone or social media.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

WE REQUIRE PERMISSION SLIPS

We will ask for your consent in order for your student(s) to attend any overnight event, retreat, or gathering outside of our regular weekly program.

WE REPORT DANGEROUS SITUATIONS

Every staff member and volunteer in our ministry is a mandated reporter, which means we are legally required to report any dangerous or potentially dangerous situations immediately, including...

- If your student is being harmed, neglected, or abused.
- If your student is harming or abusing someone else.
- If your student is harming or at risk of harming themselves.

WE ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE

If you ever have a concern about your student's care or safety, please reach out to us. We're just a phone call or email away!

CONTACT US

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

This year, we'd love to stay in conversation with you. Here are a few ways we're hoping we can keep the lines of communication open!

EMAIL

We send a weekly updates through email just for parents every week. It's packed with information on our ministry and on how to be a more awesome parent of a student! If you don't receive our weekly email updates, you can subscribe at <https://linktr.ee/impactstudentministry>.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We post photos, videos, and updates from our ministry each week. Follow along at . . .

FACEBOOK: <https://linktr.ee/impactstudentministry>

INSTAGRAM: <https://linktr.ee/impactstudentministry>

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Throughout the year, we'll host a Discussion Group or two for parents. If you'd like an invitation, let us know by going to this link:

<https://linktr.ee/impactstudentministry>.