

Faithbridge Church
13720 McCormick Road
Jacksonville, FL 32225
(904) 220-2727

August 25, 2016

Dear Parents,

My family and I are beyond thankful to be part of God's church at Faithbridge. It is such a joy to be part of a church family who loves Jesus and seeks to make him known throughout the world. We are also thankful to be able to serve with such an amazing group of students. As I stated last night, my desire is to partner with families in raising the next generation to bring glory to God by making disciples of all nations.

In the information below, you will find an overview of our comprehensive family ministry plan. We are still in the beginning stages of crafting this plan, but I believe that the information listed below provides a solid foundation from which to build. Over the next few months, we will be presenting the completed plan in its entirety. You will also find details regarding our Wednesday Night Worship Service, upcoming major events, and our new LEAD Team for selected high school students. All of these programs will flow naturally from our comprehensive plan.

As we begin this new ministry year, if I can ever be of any assistance to you or your family, please do not hesitate to contact me. Moreover, I would love the opportunity to sit down with you and dream together about God's desires for your family. Thank you again for the opportunity to partner with you for the sake of the gospel. It is truly a privilege to serve Jesus with you at Faithbridge Church.

For the joy of all peoples,



Josh Branum, Ph.D.
Family Pastor

COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY MINISTRY PLAN

Vision: To partner with families in raising the next generation to bring glory to God by making disciples of all nations.

Faithbridge Church believes in the next generation. Through the leadership of our pastoral staff and ministry teams, we desire to partner with families in raising a generation of young people who will turn the world upside down for Jesus Christ. We believe this vision best reflects the purpose for which we were all created.

“Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!” (Psalm 127:4–5).

To fulfill their intended purpose, arrows must be:

- Shaped – “bring glory to God”
- Aimed – “by making disciples”
- Released – “of all nations”

Our ministries are designed to help parents shape, aim, and ultimately release their children well. In partnering together with families, our goal is to develop a generation of young people who fulfill their God-given purpose in Jesus Christ. The following methods help us ensure that children are well-rounded in their discipleship.

Mission: To make disciples who love Jesus with their heads, hearts, and hands.

Head (Orthodoxy) – We will affirm and guard the fundamental teaching of Scripture.

Heart (Orthopathy) – We will express a deep love for God and other people.

Hands (Orthopraxy) – We will demonstrate our faith effectively in how we live.

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your *heart (orthopathy)* and with all your *soul (orthodoxy)* and with all your *might (orthopraxy)*. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall ***teach them diligently to your children***, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise” (Deuteronomy 6:4–7).

“*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching (orthodoxy)* and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. *And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need (orthopraxy)*. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, *they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people (orthopathy)*. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved” (Acts 2:42–47).

With this method in place, our discipleship process for children progresses through intentional, age-appropriate ministries. Each ministry builds upon the former ones, striving to develop well-rounded disciples ready to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"SOMETHING GREATER" TEACHING CALENDAR

Purpose: To help students understand their part in God's story by exploring the major events of the first five books of the Old Testament.

FALL SEMESTER

August 24	Genesis 1–2	Creation
August 31	Genesis 3	Fall
September 7	Genesis 4	Rebellion
September 14	Genesis 6:9–9:17	Flood
September 21	Genesis 11:1–9	Babel
September 28	SEE YOU AT THE POLE	
October 5	Genesis 12:1–3; 15:1–6	Promise
October 12	Genesis 16	Hagar & Ishmael
October 19	Genesis 19:1–29	Sodom & Gomorrah
October 26	Genesis 22	Sacrifice
November 2	Genesis 25:19–34	Jacob & Esau
November 9	Genesis 27	Stolen Blessing
November 16	Genesis 29	Sisters
November 23	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
November 30	Genesis 32	Wrestling with God
December 7	Genesis 37–41	Dreams
December 14	Genesis 42–50	Brothers
December 21	CHRISTMAS PARTY	

SPRING SEMESTER

January 11	Exodus 3	Burning Bush
January 18	Exodus 4:29–6:9	Bricks without Straw
January 25	Exodus 7–10	Plagues
February 1	Exodus 11–13	Passover
February 8	Exodus 14	Crossing the Red Sea
February 15	Exodus 16:1–17:7	Manna
February 22	Exodus 20:1–17	Ten Commandments
March 1	Exodus 32	Golden Calf
March 8	Exodus 33	Presence
March 15	Exodus 34	Covenant
March 22	SPRING BREAK	
March 29	Leviticus 10:1–3	Strange Fire
April 5	Leviticus 16	Atonement
April 12	Numbers 6:22–27	Blessing
April 19	Numbers 12	Jealousy
April 26	Numbers 13–14	Spies
May 3	Numbers 21:4–9	Bronze Serpent
May 10	Numbers 22–24	Balaam
May 17	Deuteronomy 6:1–9	Shema
May 24	Deuteronomy 18:15–19	Prophet
May 31	Deuteronomy 34	Waiting

EVENTS CALENDAR

Purpose: To reinforce the mission and vision of our Comprehensive Family Ministry Plan, while also providing exciting activities for middle and high school students.

SEE YOU AT THE POLE RALLY

September 28, 2016

Come join us for a powerful night of worship, personal testimonies, and prayer.

ZOO AFTER DARK – MIDDLE SCHOOL

November 4–5, 2016

Safari Sleepover at the Jacksonville Zoo, complete with one-of-a-kind Animal Encounters and a special behind the scenes tour. Limited to the first 32 students. Registration and fee of \$50 due by October 16, 2016.

FALL OVERNIGHTER – HIGH SCHOOL

November 4–5, 2016

All night shenanigans at TBD. Registration and fee of \$50 due by October 16, 2016.

DNOW WEEKEND

January 13–15, 2017

Weekend retreat with exciting worship and in-home Bible study. Registration begins December 4, 2016. Payment is due in full at the time of registration. Early registration fee (by December 18) is \$40. Regular price is \$50.

CONNECTION GROUP SUPER BOWL PARTIES

February 5, 2017

Student connection groups will be hosting parties across the area for a time of food, fun, and football.

SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIP

March 2017

Mission team will be working with a NAMB church plant in Indianapolis, IN. Tentative cost is TBD. Deposit of \$100 is due no later than November 13, 2016.

GRADUATE COMMISSIONING SERVICE

June 4, 2017

Graduates are invited to a special breakfast in their honor on Sunday morning and will be commissioned during all three worship services.

STUDENT LIFE CAMP

June 5–9, 2017

Hosted by Southeastern University in Lakeland, FL. Engaging worship led by Iron City Worship and sound biblical teaching by Jason Cook. Total cost is \$325. Registration and deposits of \$100 are due by March 5, 2017.

AT-HOME MISSION TRIP

Summer 2017

Students will be serving with other students from around the country for a missions experience right here in our own backyard. Tentative cost is TBD.

DRESS GUIDELINES

Purpose: To help students understand the importance of modesty, ensuring that there be no contradiction between our gospel message and the clothes we wear.

“The gospel message is the motivation for modest dress...We have a gospel mission: not only to preach Christ but to live in a way consistent with our profession of faith...Make this your aim: that there be no contradiction between your gospel message and the clothes you wear. May your modest dress be a humble witness to the One who gave himself as a ransom for all” (C. J. Mahaney).

Consider the following Dress Code Policy for Duval County Public School System:

- Shoes must be worn. However, bedroom shoes or slippers shall not be worn.
- Halter-tops, tank tops, backless tops, tops with thin or no straps, or tops that show midriff or expose the body are prohibited.
- See-through or mesh garments shall not be worn without appropriate undergarments.
- Form-fitting or overly tight clothing shall not be worn without appropriate outer garments.
- Properly hemmed outer garments such as shorts, divided skirts, and dresses may be worn, provided they are not disruptive or distracting, as determined by the school administration. Garments including, but not limited to, such items as boxer shorts, traditionally designed as undergarments, may not be worn as outer garments.
- Clothing and accessories shall not be worn if they display profanity, violence, lewd and obscene messages, sexually suggestive phrases, or advertisements, phrases or symbols of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs or other symbols phrases or advertisements that would be offensive to common propriety or decency.
- Head coverings, including, but not limited to, caps, hats, bandannas, hair curlers, and/or sunglasses, shall not be worn on school property, unless required by a physician or authorized by school personnel.
- Students are prohibited from wearing clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent or vulgar manner or that disrupts the orderly learning environment. The waistband of shorts, slacks, skirts, and similar garments shall not be worn below the hips. Clothing which is not worn appropriately, is not properly fastened, is suggestive, or has tears that reveal or expose body parts, has printing with words or pictures that have a sexual connotation will not be permitted. All trousers, including oversized or low-hanging trousers, must be worn and secured at waist level. Underwear, midriff and back may not be exposed. If belts, suspenders, and straps are worn, they shall be worn in place and fastened.
- Any articles of clothing or jewelry that may cause injury to oneself or to other students are not allowed.

If a public school is concerned with modesty, how much more so should those who seek to do everything as unto the Lord Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:23)? Interestingly enough, the guidelines above actually serve as good standards for us to follow. More than just arbitrary rules, they should serve as godly boundaries for our dress so that our witness to the world is both harmless and blameless (Philippians 2:15). In some cases, an event or mission trip may require a more stringent dress code to follow for that particular situation. The overall goal is for our students to be decent and modest (1 Timothy 2:9), making no contradiction between the gospel message and the clothes we wear.

HIGH SCHOOL LEAD TEAM

Purpose: To prepare the next generation of Christian leaders to love Jesus, serve his church, and fulfill the Great Commission.

The LEAD Team is the new high school leadership team at Faithbridge. Your adult leaders already recognize you as being a vital part of the church, but by being a part of the LEAD Team, you will be given opportunities to develop even further and deepen in your walk with Christ as you lead within the student ministry.

WHY THIS TEAM?

Having students grow as a follower of Christ is important to us! Our goal is to provide students with the resources and guidance needed to be remarkable for Jesus. We want them to bring new life to the ministry, utilizing their gifts, talents, and abilities to glorify God and reach other for Jesus Christ.

“For we are his workmanship, *created in Christ Jesus for good works*, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).

HOW WILL WE ACCOMPLISH OUR GOALS?

Students will engage in leadership activities and events designed to take their faith one step further, causing them to reflect on their lives in light of the cross. Cultivate Groups will be provided specifically for LEAD students, as well as monthly gatherings for training and encouragement. Most importantly, students will lead through humble, Christ-like service.

“And Jesus called them to him and said to them, ‘You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. *For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many*’” (Mark 10:42–45).

SCHEDULE

Meetings will be held on the second Sunday night of each month, **starting October 9, at 5:00 PM**. Other activities, such as Cultivate Groups, will be announced at a later date.

*A Vision Meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 11 at 5:00 PM** in the Refuge for those students invited to participate in the LEAD Team for the 2016-17 school year. Parents are also encouraged to attend.*