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October 26, 2017

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your interest in the student ministry here at Faithbridge. As the Family Pastor, it is such a joy to be part of a church family who loves Jesus and seeks to make him known throughout the world. Our ministry team is incredibly grateful to be able to serve with such an amazing group of students and families. As I've stated many times, our 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 have added more information this year, which I believe provides a good picture of where we're heading as a church. You will also find details regarding our Wednesday Night Worship Service, upcoming major events, and our LEAD Team for selected high school students. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Branum".

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.

STUDENT MINISTRY STRATEGIES

Middle School Strategy: Teaching students to understand what God expects of them as followers of Jesus.

Celebrate – God wants me to worship him alone.

Connect – God wants me to grow in my relationship with other believers.

Cultivate – God wants me to grow in my relationship with Jesus.

Contribute – God wants me to serve my church.

Care – God wants me to share Jesus with others.

High School Strategy: Leading students to embody and embrace Christian values as they become fully devoted followers of Jesus.

Celebrate – We value worship as a response to the Person of God.

Connect – We value the church as the community of God.

Cultivate – We value growing in Christ by the Spirit of God.

Contribute – We value serving in the church in the power of God.

Care – We value every believer living out the mission of God.

“LETTERS FROM JAIL” TEACHING CALENDAR

Purpose: To help students understand the implications of the gospel for everyday life by exploring the four books of the New Testament known as the “Prison Epistles.”

FALL SEMESTER

August 30	Ephesians 1:1–14	Who Am I?
September 6	Ephesians 1:15–23	I Am a Saint
September 13	NO SERVICES	
September 20	Ephesians 2:1–10	I Am Saved
September 27	SEE YOU AT THE POLE	
October 4	Ephesians 2:11–22	I Am Reconciled
October 11	Ephesians 3:1–13	I Am Sent
October 18	Ephesians 3:14–21	I Am Powerful
October 25	Ephesians 4:1–16	I Am Gifted
November 1	Ephesians 4:17–32	I Am Made New
November 8	Ephesians 5:1–21	I Am Loved
November 15	Ephesians 5:22–6:9	I Am Connected
November 22	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
November 29	Ephesians 6:10–24	I Am Victorious
December 6	Philippians 1:1–11	Where Can I Find Joy?
December 13	Philippians 1:12–18	Joy in Adversity
December 20	Philippians 1:19–30	Joy in Trials

SPRING SEMESTER

January 10	Philippians 2:1–11	Joy in Humility
January 17	Philippians 2:12–30	Joy in Faithfulness
January 24	Philippians 3:1–11	Joy in Conflict
January 31	FAMILY EVENT	
February 7	Philippians 3:12–4:1	Joy in Perseverance
February 14	Philippians 4:2–9	Joy in Unity
February 21	Philippians 4:10–23	Joy in Contentment
February 28	Colossians 1:1–14	What Does It Mean to Be Free?
March 7	Colossians 1:15–23	Freedom in Worship
March 14	Colossians 1:24–2:5	Freedom in Ministry
March 21	SPRING BREAK	
March 28	Colossians 2:6–15	Freedom in Forgiveness
April 4	Colossians 2:16–23	Freedom in Religion
April 11	Colossians 3:1–17	Freedom in Character
April 18	Colossians 3:18–4:1	Freedom in Relationships
April 25	Colossians 4:2–6	Freedom in Mission
May 2	Colossians 4:7–18	Freedom in Community
May 9	Philemon 1–7	Freedom to Care for One Another
May 16	Philemon 8–16	Freedom to Accept One Another
May 23	Philemon 17–25	Freedom to Fight for One Another

MAJOR 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 27, 2017

Come join us for a powerful night of worship, personal testimonies, and prayer with special guest, Summer Frost Jones.

GIRLS' NIGHT IN

October 20, 2017

Teenage girls live incredibly busy lives, often weighed down by the stress of school, athletics, friends, family issues, insecurities, and numerous other things. Girls' Night In is a time for teenage girls to stop, put down the craziness of their lives, and be refreshed in the Lord. Hosted from **6:00–9:00 PM** in the Refuge by our student ministry leaders, the cost is only **\$10.00** per person to cover food and supplies.

DNOW WEEKEND

February 16–18, 2018

During this excited weekend retreat, students will learn how Jesus, our flawless Savior, took the flaws of humanity to the cross, exchanging his life for ours. Registration begins **January 7, 2018**. Payment is due in full at the time of registration. Early registration fee (by January 28) is **\$50**. Regular price is **\$60**.

HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP (SPRING BREAK)

March 16–23, 2018

Mission team will be working with a NAMB church plant in Miami. More information coming soon.

GRADUATE COMMISSIONING SERVICE

June 3, 2018

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

STUDENT LIFE CAMP

June 4–8, 2018

Hosted by Stetson University in DeLand, FL. Engaging worship led by Local Sound and sound biblical teaching by Jeff Wallace. Total cost is **\$325**. Registration and deposits of **\$100** are due by **March 4, 2017**.

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 high school leadership pipeline at Faithbridge. We already recognize our students as being a vital part of the church. By being a part of the LEAD Team, students will be given opportunities to develop even further and deepen in their walk with Christ as they lead within the student ministry.

WHY THIS TEAM?

Helping students grow as followers 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 others 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.

Our discipleship strategy is best described using the acronym LEAD:

Launch: Begin the process by taking steps in your capacity and commitment.

Evaluate: Assess your spiritual gifts and unleash your passion for ministry.

Accelerate: Deepen in your walk with Christ through intentional discipleship processes.

Disciple: Invest in younger believers to create a scalable discipleship pipeline.

This strategy will help us establish the link between biblical leadership and discipleship. Jesus did not command us to “Go, therefore, and make leaders.” He commanded us to make disciples because before you can ever be a leader, you must first be a follower.

New Student → **Connection Group** → **LEAD Team** → **LEAD Team Captain**

“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).

EQUIPPING PARENTS

Purpose: To help parents embrace their God-given privilege of being the ones to evangelize and disciple their children.

CELEBRATE

_____ I am interested in worship nights for parents and/or families to celebrate together.

_____ I am interested in helping with the student band. Please contact me.

CONNECT

_____ I would like ways to connect with other parents on a regular basis.

_____ I would like to connect with other parents to pray for our children and church.

_____ I would like to be connected with an older couple who can mentor me in my parenting.

CULTIVATE

_____ I would like a list of resources to assist me in parenting/discipling my children.

_____ I would be interested in Bible studies related to parenting teenagers.

_____ I would be interested in parenting workshops on the following issues:

CONTRIBUTE

_____ I would like to serve in the student ministry. Please follow up with me.

_____ I would like to train students in how they can serve the church.

_____ I am willing to give financially to sponsor students for major events.

CARE

_____ I am interested in helping with student mission projects.

_____ I am interested in following up with students who visit our weekly programs.