

Youth Ministry Report 2022

High School Sunday School (*approx. 12-15 youth*) – Our focus in Sunday School is primarily on exegesis and application. Our goal there has been to help our students learn to wrestle with the word on their own, exegete it, and apply it to their lives. This year we worked through Tim Keller’s book, *Galatians for You*. It was very well received, and we just started 1 John.

Small Group Discipleship (*approx. 12-15 youth ea.*) – Both Guys and Girls Discipleship met Wednesday afternoons, primarily addressing current events/difficult topics from a Christian perspective, including abortion, homosexuality, transgender issues, sex, dating, marriage, accountability, politics, etc. Mike, Evan, and Lindsay led additional small groups for more in-depth discipleship.

Wednesday Night Youth Group (*approx. 45 youth*) – 2022 saw several adjustments to how Youth Group is run: we have moved from a youth ministry model that relies only on one person, to an adult leadership team approach with several capable volunteer leaders and a student leadership. Pastor Gutiérrez oversees both ministries and is most directly involved with the Senior High Youth Group. We are so thankful to have these adult volunteers helping disciple and care for our youth:

Adult Leadership Team:

Senior High Youth

- Mike Funches
- Lindsay Funches
- Evan Kvale
- Jonathan Pfefferle
- Emma St. John

Junior High Youth

- Pedro Moura
- Marina Moura
- Erika Skrivan
- Rane Clapp (*when available*)

Our adult Leadership Team enables us to give more focused and intentional attention to students and gives us greater bandwidth in reaching more students.

In addition to the adult leadership, in the fall we implemented a new initiative called Youth Ministry Teams (YMT), giving students an opportunity to test their gifting in different areas of service, instilling in them a need to serve the church and one another.

The students are encouraged to join one of four teams:

1. Welcoming/Hospitality Team: welcoming visitors, prepping/cleaning snack
2. Ministry of Music team: coordinating music, musicians, prepping handouts
3. Event Team: prepping and leading games, and other activities
4. Communications Team: giving announcements, leading prayer petitions, coordinating student testimonies

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With the introduction of these teams, we have also begun to implement a more solid structure to our gatherings, including a worship time (led by the Ministry of Music team) which combines both Senior High and Junior High Youth Groups, giving the Jr. High students an opportunity to observe their older “brothers and sisters” model maturity and love for Jesus. It is our hope and prayer that this will help the Jr. High students long for the same.

We have also begun the research and development of a four-year curriculum plan/strategy for Senior High Youth Group. The hope is to ensure that our youth are hearing the whole counsel of God and that we are revisiting the core teachings throughout their four years with us.

The year saw a number of special events, including Snow Retreat (which broke the attendance record at 107 registered attendees), Sacred Road (26 total – ten more than last year), YXL (5 students), a special donated evening cruise on The Curtis (28 total), a donated Rainier’s baseball game (47 total), and Christmas Party (60-70 total).

By God’s grace, throughout the year we have seen consistent attendance and participation in all our youth ministries. We have provided deeper discipleship through our adult volunteers, and an overall enhanced youth group due to the hard work of our students in our youth leadership teams. As leaders, we are so thankful for our students and for the way in which they engage with our teaching and mentoring in meaningful ways. We are also very thankful for the way in which the church has supported our youth work through prayers and financial backing.

A special thank you to our youth leaders, to the parents who work hard to accommodate our scheduling, and for all the notes and comments of encouragement and support. We have had a great 2022, and look forward to seeing what the Lord will do in and through us in 2022.