

Dear Parents,

We all know what a difficult time the teenage years are. Self-worth, popularity, sports teams, school grades, bullying, social media. The list, as you know, could go on and on.

At some point, your teenager will ask, "What is the *purpose* of my life?"

Unfortunately, so many young people have asked this question and sought their purposes in unhealthy relationships. Even things that are good can be overused. Think, for example, of a teen who finds his purpose in sports and centers his whole identity in how well he performs in his athletic competitions. While it is good to excel at sports, this is not where his identity or purpose in life should rest in.

Why should you send your teenager to our youth group? Why should you add *one more thing* to their already busy schedule? Allow me to use an analogy of a bike wheel.

The bike wheel itself is our personal relationship with God. The various spokes of the wheel are how we live out that relationship: school, sports, dance, family, friends, youth group, and other extracurriculars.

**Teenagers need relationship, identity, and mission.**

The good thing is we already have the answers: our relationship is with our loving God, our identity is as beloved children of our Father, and our mission is to set the world on fire with the love that God has for each one of us.

Where does our part come in? To help our teenagers understand these truths. The purpose of our youth group is to give teenagers the resources and help they need to achieve all of their goals. Youth ministry is not just about helping teens to fall in love with God. It is also about helping them understand who they are so they can become better students, athletes, children, siblings, and friends. In short, youth ministry is about developing the whole person of a teenager.

I would like to invite you to consider sending your teens to our youth group. Our youth group is open to all students (and their friends) in 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades. We meet on Sunday evenings from 7 – 8PM and our meetings consist of prayer, service projects, and fellowship. Please scan the QR code below to view our calendar and to sign up for message communications.

It is my great honor and pleasure to be able to assist you with your teens during these crucial and formative years of their lives. Please contact me with any questions and comments. I hope to see you at one of our future meetings!

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