



MASTER CURRICULUM PLAN

We are intentional about what we want students to know in our ministry, and we have an intentional plan for what we teach in our large group programs and discuss in our small groups on Sunday nights.

There are several different types of teaching series that we do throughout the year:

- Beginning Points - designed to invite people to commit to a lifelong relationship with Christ.
- Next Steps - designed to help our students step more deeply into their faith in Christ.
- Real-Life Issues - designed to help students navigate through real-life situations and circumstances.
- Using Your Gifts - designed to help students understand God's call on their lives as Christians, their spiritual gifts, and how to use them in the world around them.
- Vision and Mission - designed to help students re-focus on the purpose of the church and the student ministry.
- All-Church Focus – designed so that all church members, from children to youth to adults, are focusing on the same topics in worship, small groups, and Sunday school.

Below is a chart that outlines some of the topics addressed within these series:

Beginning Points	Next Steps in Faith	Real-Life Issues	Using Your Gifts	Vision and Mission
Basic Questions of Faith	Who is God? Basic Christian Theology	Real-Life problems and issues that students face	Serving/Mission and Ministry of all Christians in the World	Vision/Purpose of Student Ministry and Church
Hot Topics that students find interesting	Who is Jesus? What does it mean to follow him?	Relationships - dating, friendships, etc.	Discovering purpose, gifts, and calling	Growing Disciples of Christ who know him, love him, and serve him
Opportunities for decision to follow Christ	Spiritual Disciplines/Growth; The Bible - major characters, themes, and books		Christian Ethics - applying Christian principles to real life	

This is an example of the layout of a typical year using our curriculum plan:

SEASON	TYPE OF SERIES	TOPICS/THEOLOGY
Fall Kickoff	Beginning Points	Hot Topics/Questions (Student Input)
Early Fall	Next Steps	Following Jesus
Mid-Fall	Real-Life Issues	Real-Life Issues
Late Fall	Using Your Gifts	Discovering Gifts/Purpose/Calling
Advent	All-Church Focus	Church-wide Advent focus
New Year	Beginning Points	Hot Topics/Questions (Student Input)
Lent	Next Steps	Who is God? (Basic Christian Theology)
Early Spring	Real-Life Issues	Relationships/Sex/Dating
Late Spring	Using Your Gifts	Mission/Serving in the World
Early Summer	Open	No-prep lessons for Summer
Late Summer	Vision and Mission	Purpose/Vision of the Church/Ministry

Fall 2012 Series:

Weird Series September 9 - 30

Normal people are stressed, overwhelmed, and exhausted. Their relationships are out of whack. Guilt and shame are more common than purity. The majority of people believe in God, but very few live out the teachings of scripture in their everyday lives. Normal isn't working. The truth is, Jesus never asked his followers to be normal. Followers of Jesus should be different than everybody else. They should be weird.

Roots series October 7 – 14

When it comes it to the health of a tree, there's more than meets the eye. If you remove that tree from its roots or if you stop paying attention to what happens underground, bad things happen. The tree begins to die. That truth applies to us, too. In John 15:5-6, Jesus says, *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned."* When we disconnect from God, we begin to dry out, to suffer, to move closer toward spiritual decay. What happens below the surface dictates the kind of life we lead and the kind of impact we have. We must build a root system that will help us grow—even in the middle of all the messy, disappointing, chaotic, stressful moments of life.

Challenge Series October 28 – November 25

Let's just be honest: following Jesus has always been a challenge. Trying to follow Jesus in the 21st century often feels like an even bigger challenge. How do Jesus' words apply to my life now? What do I do with the most challenging things Jesus said? This series will look at some of the most challenging things Jesus ever said and will challenge us to live them out now.