

Germantown Youth Ministry Welcome Packet

Welcome to the Germantown Church of Christ Youth Group. The elders and I are very glad to have your family as a part of the youth ministry. Our mission as a youth ministry is to bring glory to God by developing mature Christians through the teaching of God's Word. We hope to be an encouragement and asset to youth and their families as they strive to grow spiritually.

Proverbs 22:6 - "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

The **Germantown Youth Group** is a group of teenagers from the Memphis area who are trying to live a life for Christ each day. We know that Jesus Christ died for us. He wants us to have salvation. He wants us to love God and to love others. He wants us to share His message with others. We want to seek God first and strive to live for Him each day. We want to know God and to make Him known. The GYG is full of imperfect people who are trying to show God's love and grow closer to Him each day. We're glad that you and your teenager are a part of the church at Germantown and hope that you'll get plugged into the Germantown Youth Group.

What's in this packet? Inside this welcome packet you will find out a little bit about what the Germantown Youth Ministry is all about. Hopefully, you will find some ways in which you and your family can get involved. You will also get some insight into what we teach in Bible classes and details about our youth group activities. At the end of this packet, there is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts in the parent and teen questionnaires.

The GYG is a place where there is an opportunity to **build lasting relationships**. We are a group of over 100 teenagers who enjoy spending time together. There are plenty of ways to get plugged in and connected. Whether it's a devotional, a retreat, or a service project - there are many opportunities for your teenager to find his/her place in the youth group. Spending time with other teens talking and thinking about spiritual things leads to deep, meaningful relationships.

We have in-depth Bible classes on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. There are over 20 adults who teach in the youth program. This allows for the students to be exposed to multiple teaching styles and connect with different adults who love to see students grow. Students are also challenged through retreats, camps, Lads to Leaders, and other events. We try to encourage each student to **grow closer to God**. We want them to be ready and able to defend their faith. The hope is that they have the knowledge and the skills to not only know what they believe and why they believe it, but that they are able to share their faith with those around them.

Find opportunities to serve with the GYG. For teenagers, there are service projects, mission trips, and teen led worship services. We also have many opportunities for parents who want to help out. Come sit in on a class, provide food at a devotional, help serve at a youth rally, drive a bus, teach, chaperone an event, or just spend time building relationships with the students. The students love having relationships with different adults and parents who care about them!

Our hope is that when your teenager graduates from high school they are **prepared for a lifetime of faithful living**. Being a Christian is difficult. It's tough facing the pressures of an everyday life in a selfish world. We want to help families prepare students in Jr. High and Sr. High to live a life for Christ each day. We want them to enjoy being a part of the church and see the value in being an active part of a Christian community.

Are you looking for **ways to get involved** now? For parents, one area that we are always looking for help in are Sunday night devotionals. At a devo you (along with 1-3 other families) would prepare the food (pizza, lasagna, hot dogs, chili, baked potatoes, pasta, tacos, grilled cheese, etc), serve, and clean up. We typically charge \$2 per student to go towards the cost of the meal. There is a notebook above the sink in the youth room that helps with this responsibility. The best way to get your teenager involved quickly is to send them on an overnight event (a retreat, Uplift, etc.). An overnight event allows students to build relationships with each other in a unique and different setting.

I'm glad that you're family is a part of the Germantown church family and the Germantown Youth Ministry. I hope that you and your teenager enjoy making lasting friendships, studying God's word, and finding opportunities to serve with the GYG.

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Germantown Youth Ministry Six Year Sunday Morning Curriculum

Year	Fall Quarter (Sep, Oct, Nov)	Winter Quarter (Dec, Jan, Feb)	Spring Quarter (Mar, Apr, May)	Summer Quarter (Jun, Jul, Aug)
2010-2011	The Inescapable God (Exodus, Psalms)	Assuring Hope (Isaiah, Matthew, Mark)	We Worship God (Matthew, Mark, Philippians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Jude, Revelation)	God Instructs His People (Joshua, Judges, Ruth)
2011-2012	Tradition and Wisdom (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Matthew)	God Establishes a Faithful People (Genesis, Exodus, Luke, Galatians)	God's Creative Word (John)	God Calls for Justice (Pentateuch, History, Psalms, Prophets)
2012-2013	A Living Faith (Psalms, Acts, 1 Corinthians, Hebrews)	Jesus is Lord (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians)	Beyond the Present Time (Daniel, Luke, Acts, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Peter)	God's People Worship (Isaiah, Ezra, Nehemiah)
2013-2014	First Things (Genesis, Exodus, Psalms)	Jesus and the Just Reign of God (Luke, James)	Jesus' Fulfillment of Scripture (Deuteronomy, Zechariah, Malachi, Matthew)	The People of God Set Priorities (Haggai, 1 & 2 Corinthians)
2014-2015	Sustaining Hope (Job, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Habakkuk)	Acts of Worship (Psalms, Daniel, Gospels, Ephesians, Hebrews, James)	Work of the Spirit (Mark, John, Acts, 1 Corinthians, 1, 2, & 3 John)	God's Prophets Demand Justice (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos, Micah, Zechariah, Malachi)
2015-2016	The Community of Believers Comes Alive (Matthew, John, 1 John)	Traditions of Israel (Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)	The Gift of Faith (Mark, Luke)	Toward a New Creation (Genesis, Psalms, Zephaniah, Romans)

In our Sunday morning Bible classes we use the *Standard Lesson Commentary*.

Germantown Youth Ministry Six Year Wednesday Night Curriculum

Junior High	Year 1	What we believe and why we believe it. The Parables of Jesus Spiritual Habits Fruits of the Spirit
	Year 2	Respect (for parents, authority, each other, and God) The Case for Christ Worship Jr. High Issues/Struggles/Challenges
	Year 3	Relationships (Family life, Friends, Dangerous People) Christian Community/The Church Life of Christ The Tough Sayings of Jesus Serving/Stewardship
Senior High	Year 1	Evangelism Other Religions Proverbs (Wise Choices) The Law and the Prophets
	Year 2	Leadership - Characteristics of a leader Apologetics/Christian Evidences Life after High School/Lifelong faith Worship Sr. High Issues/Struggles/Challenges
	Year 3	Healthy Relationships Christian Community The Early Church/Restoration Movement Chase the Lion - Making the most of opportunities

Each year represents a school year. Year 1 will be in the fall of 2011.

Split Classes	Purity Sex/Dating The Power of Words/Gossip Male/Female Leadership in the Church
Special Classes	Teen Leadership Challenge Lads to Leaders (Guard, Gift, Pearls) Elisha Summit Classes

Germantown Youth Ministry

Youth Group Activity Descriptions

Year Round	Bible Class	There are Bible classes on Sunday mornings @ 9:30am and Wednesday nights @ 7:00pm. Sunday classes are split up by grades (7th & 8th, 9th & 10th, 11th & 12th). Wednesday night classes are either combined or split (Jr./Sr. High or Guy/Girl).
	Sunday Night Devotional	During the school year we typically have two devotionals a month. At a devotional we'll have 50-60 teens. We eat together, visit, and have a lesson from God's Word. Parents provide the meal, serve it, and clean up. During the summer we have a devotional every Sunday night after worship.
	Teen Led Service	On most fifth Sundays of the month throughout the year, the young men lead the evening worship service. We typically have two Lads to Leaders sunday evening worship services in the spring. If your teenager is interested in being a part of this service, let Andrew know.
	Youth & Family Potluck	Once a quarter we have a potluck in the fellowship hall for all families with 7th-12th graders. We eat together, have a devotional, and go over youth ministry information.

School Year	Home Bible Studies	Every other Tuesday from 7-8PM throughout the school year students meet at the Howell's home for a Bible study. We've studied James, Romans, and Revelation together. There are typically anywhere from 8-18 students that attend. Home Bible studies are a great opportunity to spend an hour with other teenagers as we visit together and study God's Word.
	Fall & Spring Retreats	Retreats are a great way for students to break away from their ordinary schedules and find themselves at a camp site with 40-50 students. If you are looking for a way to get plugged into the youth group - a retreat is a great way to get connected.
	This Or That	One Saturday a month from 7-10PM, we have a time at the building where the kids can get together and choose from a couple different options of things to do - this or that. Sometimes we might watch a movie, play games, or have a photo scavenger hunt. There's always snacks and it's always a great opportunity to connect with other students.
	Make Their Day	It's easy to get caught up in the things that we want for ourselves. We spend a lot of days focused on ourselves. This service activity is an opportunity to make someone else's day. Whether we are visiting some of the widows or doing yard work for others - the point is to be doing something for someone else. To make their day.
	RUSH @ FHU	RUSH is a weekend at Freed Hardeman University in September where the students have an opportunity to discover dynamic lessons, meaningful worship, and memorable classes. Students will also have a chance to meet new people as they join more than 1,500 students who are interested in living their life for Christ. Reach Unlimited Spiritual Heights.
	Chili Bowl	At the end of September, Rosemark Church of Christ hosts the Chili Bowl at their building. It is a Saturday filled with thought-provoking classes and speakers, a flag football tournament, and chili for dinner.
	3D Night	The three "D's" are dinner, devo, and dodgeball. Usually once a semester on a Friday or Saturday night we'll meet at our building and drive to another church's gym for an evening of fellowship, worship, and fun!
	Shopping & Caroling	One Saturday before Christmas break the teens meet at the building as we go shopping together at the Collierville mall for any last minute Christmas gifts. Then, we head over to the Germantown Plantation retirement home to sing Christmas carols. Afterwards, we go out to eat together and drink hot chocolate.
	Merry Mug Mixup	This is a GYG holiday favorite. On a Sunday night in December we get together in the youth room after the PM service. We eat together and then play a game of Merry Mug Mixup. Everyone brings a clean, wrapped mug as we play a game of mug swap. Afterwards, we drink hot chocolate with our new mugs.
	Singing in the New Year	On December 31st, the students get together in the youth room for an evening of games, snacks, and a devotional. Parents join us at 11:30PM as we sing in the New Year together.

School Year	Memphis Area Wide	In February, we host an Area Wide for the Mid South churches of Christ. We'll meet on a Sunday evening from 6-8PM in the fellowship hall. It's a great time as we eat and worship together. For an event like this we need a lot of parent help with serving food, set up, clean up, and spending time with the teens.
	Evangelism University	EU is not a youth rally, but is designed specifically for High School students who are spiritually ready to begin sharing the Gospel with those around them. It is an intense weekend of practical evangelism training. Classes will equip students with skills to share the Good News. EU takes place on Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend in Savannah, TN.
	Sweetheart's Banquet	Every February, the youth group hosts a banquet for all of our members who are 70+ years old. Parent help is needed to decorate and prepare the food. The teenagers serve the food and help with the entertainment. This is a great opportunity to show appreciation for our senior members.
	Adventure Camp	This is a great camp that we have attended for many years in Eastern TN. We spend the week in the mountains right on the Ocoee river. There is a high ropes course, a challenge course, a rafting trip, paintball, and horseback riding. In 2011, we will move Adventure Camp back to spring break.

Summer	T.A.G.	Tuesdays At Germantown (T.A.G.) happen every Tuesday from 10AM-1PM. We'll do something fun at the building and then grab something to eat. Bring cash for lunch.
	F.N.S.	Friday Night Stuff (F.N.S.) happens every Friday night throughout the summer from 7-10PM at the building. We'll do different "stuff" each week. We might stay at the building and play some games or we might take the buses somewhere fun. Whatever we do, you don't want to miss out on this stuff!
	Ultimate Youth Rally	The Ultimate Youth Rally is the kick-off to the summer event. It is a weekend full of challenging speakers and thought-provoking discussion. There is an ultimate frisbee tournament and entertainment as well. We need a lot of parent help and involve in order for this to continue to be an ultimate success. www.ultimateyouthrally.com
	GO! Camp @ FHU	GO! is about action. It's a resource. It's a camp. GO! camp is a week at Freed Hardeman University intended to inspire and empower young people into meaningful service and stewardship in their communities. Let's go!
	Memphis Work Camp	Memphis Work Camp is a service project held every summer in which teenagers and adults paint houses for people who cannot afford to do it themselves. A crew of about fifteen people from all different churches and cities work together to scrape and paint one house in four days. Each evening we meet together at the White Station church for dinner and worship.
	Uplift @ Harding	This is one of the highlights of the year for students. They spend a week on Harding's campus as they experience dynamic classes, engaging speakers, and group devotional times that will leave a lasting impact. We'll have 45-60 students attend the second session of Uplift. Something your teenager won't want to miss!
	Elisha Summit	Elisha Summit is a leadership training experience for students in the Sr. High. Teens will have classes leading up to the Summit trip that help prepare them for this leadership week. If you would like more information contact Bryan Turner or Andrew Howell.
	Mission Trip	Each summer we plan on taking a mission trip to help a church with a need. Whether it's a VBS or an outreach to teenagers - we'll spend a week trying to make an impact on another congregation...and we'll have a great time while doing it!
	Back To School Week	As we end the summer and head into the new school year, it's important to start fresh with a spiritual focus. We'll spend the week before summer meeting at the building each night to study God's word. That weekend, we'll have Scripture Splash (memorize scripture to dunk a youth leader in a dunk tank) on Saturday night and an end of summer devotional on Sunday.

