



Parent Connect

August 2010

PLAN

I would like to introduce you to our newest program: PLAN. As a Student Discipleship Ministry we have always wanted to get students and parents involved in the planning process. We have sought to do this through our iTeams and Student Discipleship Council over the last 2 years with some limited success. We have also tried to plan a year at a time but this has proved difficult with schedules and life always changing.

In order to better involve parents and reduce confusion in the schedule will be launching PLAN in August. We will limit our planning to a semester at a time having only 3 PLAN meetings each year (Fall, Spring and Summer). All parents and students are invited to each PLAN meeting to map out the programs, schedules and activities for the next semester. Each PLAN meeting will consist of 2 aspects. A large group session on the vision and goals for the semester. Then parents and students will divide up into individual planning teams to plan events, girl's ministry, missions, activities and more. The first PLAN meeting will be **Sunday, August 1 at 4:00 p.m. in the Youth Room**. Hope to see you there.

Parent Connect

Beginning September 2010 you will notice a change in the Parent Connect Newsletter. We will be cutting back the printed newsletter to one each Semester. Everyone will receive a mailed Parent Connect Newsletter for each Fall, Spring and Summer semester. It will have the basic information that the current newsletter has: articles for parents, program information and calendar.

On top of the semester newsletter, I also want to get you the same information that you have been receiving in the monthly newsletter. Beginning in September there will be a shorter monthly newsletter that will include various articles, articles related to current music and movies and the monthly activities. It will be available only on the website or through e-mail. If you would like to receive the monthly Parent Connect by e-mail, please e-mail me at ed@fellowshipstudents.org. I would also like to invite you to go to the website, www.fellowshipstudents.org, and then click on the family connect link to view information and resources for you.



Transitions

Transitions is a specific ministry designed for students moving from the Children's Ministry into the Student Discipleship Ministry. Transitions is designed to help new students and their parents feel comfortable in the Student Ministry, get to know other families, and become familiar with the strategy and process of the SDM.

August 4	Visitation Night (6:00-8:00)
August 8	Student Discipleship Orientation
August 15	Transitions Event (Barn Swings)
August 18	Game Night
August 25	Pizza Party w/Ed (In-Coming 7th Graders Only)
September 1	Promotion Date

Up Coming Events

August 1	PLAN Meeting 4:00-6:00 p.m. In Youth Room
August 8	Student Discipleship Ministry Orientation 5:30-7:00 p.m. In Fellowship Hall
August 15	Transitions Event 12-6 p.m. \$10 (for Current Students)
September 5	Promotion Sunday

Emphasize the Value of Strong Friendships

A teenager's world often seems to revolve around his or her friends. For young people learning to be independent, peers become more important than parents. In our digital age, some kids claim hundreds of "friends." But in the area of friendships, quality is more important than quantity.



When Group Magazine conducted a "State of Youth Ministry" survey last year, a clear thread running through the responses of almost 700 youth pastors was their admiration for kids' strong friendships. In fact, many youth pastors said they envied the devoted relationships that so many of their kids have. "Adults have more 'acquaintances' than real friendships," one respondent noted.

Friendship isn't all smooth sailing for teenagers, however. Cliques and bullying can lead to exclusion, hurt feelings, and even violence. Without enough self-confidence, kids may try to seek approval by joining the wrong crowd or acting out against others. Some kids don't yet have the skills to make and keep friends. So it's important to teach (and model) active listening, affirming other people, selflessness, and servanthood. Conflict-resolution skills are also vital for the inevitable problems that arise among friends and peers.

Read on to learn more about how you can encourage your teenagers to make good friends—and to be a good friend.

Great Questions to Ask Your Kids

Find out more about your teenagers and their friendships by asking them these questions:

1. What qualities are most important to you in a friend? What compromises are you willing and unwilling to make when choosing a friend?
2. How good of a friend are you, and why? What could you do to be a better friend?
3. How have your friendships changed as you've grown up?
4. How do you handle conflicts with friends? Have conflicts ever made your friendships stronger? Explain.



Focus on Prayer

PRAY THAT:

1. God will provide Christian friends for your teenagers and they'll be positive influences on one another.
2. Your teenagers will learn about the importance of trust, commitment, and communication within their friendships.
3. You can model healthy friendships, extending grace, patience, and unselfishness to your own friends.



These statistics provide some insight into teenage friendships:

- Including friends on social-networking sites, teenagers claim to have an average of 75 friends. (Harris Interactive Poll)
- In a survey of almost 30,000 Christian teenagers, 88% agreed with this statement: "My friends are incredibly loyal to me." (Group Magazine)
- A study of more than 11,000 teenagers found that kids are more likely to have "good" friends (ones who don't fight and who plan to attend college, for example) if they have a warm relationship with their parents. (Ohio State University)
- In a national survey of sixth- through 10th-graders, 13% of kids reported bullying others, 11% reported being the target of bullies, and 6% said they fall in both categories. (safeyouth.org)



MUSIC SPOTLIGHT



Mainstream Artist

Background: Drake, a 23-year-old Canadian, was Jimmy Brooks on the TV show *Degrassi: The Next Generation*. His first album debuted at No. 1 in June. Thanks to his earlier collaborations and demo, Drake already has a Grammy nomination and two Junos (the Canadian equivalent).

Albums: *Thank Me Later* (2010), *So Far Gone* (EP) (2009)

What Parents Should Know: Drake grew up in a rich suburban neighborhood, so instead of singing about drugs, gangs, and poverty, he addresses love, relationships, and the weight of success. Although Drake's songs aren't steeped in misogyny, he uses foul language and refers to weed and alcohol.

What Drake Says: He wants to be like an honest friend to his listeners. "But some people are scared to do that...some of their images are built off façade.... But we've all seen what happens when you slip up, and that's a stressful life."

Discussion Questions: Describe a time when something you wanted hidden was revealed. Why did you try to hide it, and how did it feel to come clean? Does the truth always come out? Read aloud Joshua 7. What were the effects of Achan's secret actions? How can you avoid similar trouble?



Christian Artist

Background: Andrew Peterson, who started playing music in 1996, got his break when he was asked to open for Caedmon's Call. He has released several acclaimed albums and also writes young-adult fiction. Peterson's latest album, *Counting Stars*, releases at the end of July.

Albums: *Resurrection Letters: Volume Two* (2008), *Love and Thunder* (2003), *Carried Along* (2000)

What Parents Should Know: Few musicians paint word pictures like Peterson can. He goes right for the heart and shows a love for the fantastical and mysterious aspects of faith.

What Peterson Says: "My biggest spiritual struggle is forgetting who I am in Christ. I'm bad about believing praise.... There's nothing wrong with compliments, but the problem is that when you believe it when you do well, you will also believe it when you don't do well."

Discussion Questions: How's your self-esteem? Why is it so easy to tear down others and ourselves? Have you ever thought about how you look in God's eyes? If so, explain. Read aloud Psalm 30. How might these verses affect your self-esteem? What happens when we base our self-esteem on God's view of us, not the world's?

FILMWATCH

Movie: *The Other Guys* (releases August 6)

Genre: Action-Comedy

Rating: Not yet rated

Synopsis: After an embarrassing shooting incident, a New York detective (Mark Wahlberg) is teamed with a forensic accountant (Will Ferrell). They admire another team of cops (Samuel L. Jackson and Dwayne Johnson) and try to be like them, with comedic results.

Discussion Questions: Think of a time you've compared yourself to others: How did that make you feel about yourself? How do comparisons affect our view of God and his sovereignty? Read aloud 2 Corinthians 10:10-17. What are the dangers of comparing ourselves with others? Do these verses mean we shouldn't strive to be like other people or look up to anyone? Why or why not? How can we strive to be better and keep improving ourselves without making comparisons?



August 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>Bible Study 9:15-10:20 Fellowship Baptist Church</p> <p>PLAN Meeting 4:00-6:00 p.m.</p>	2	3	<p>4</p> <p>TRANSITIONS</p> <p>Visitation Night 6:00-8:00 p.m.</p>	5	6	7
<p>8</p> <p>Bible Study 9:15-10:20 Fellowship Baptist Church</p> <p>SDM Orientation 5:30-7:00 p.m.</p>	9	10	<p>11</p> <p>JOURNEY 6:00-8:00 Fellowship Baptist Church</p>	12	13	14
<p>15</p> <p>Bible Study 9:15-10:20 Fellowship Baptist Church</p> <p>Transitions Event 12:00-6:00 p.m.</p>	16	17	<p>18</p> <p>TRANSITIONS</p> <p>Game Night 6:00-8:00 p.m.</p>	19	20	21
<p>22</p> <p>Bible Study 9:15-10:20 Fellowship Baptist Church</p> <p>Fellowship After Fellowship</p>	23	24	<p>25</p> <p>JOURNEY 6:00-8:00 Fellowship Baptist Church</p>	26	27	28
<p>29</p> <p>Bible Study 9:15-10:20 Fellowship Baptist Church</p> <p>Community Carnival 4:00-7:00 p.m.</p>	30	31				