

EPC Youth Ministry Mission and Vision



Mission Statement: To be transformed by Christ through teaching, fellowship, and mission.

Commitments:

- 1. Scripture Alone:** God's Word is the only absolute truth, authority, and guide for our lives. Thus, the Bible alone will be our only *ultimate* source of instruction for growing in the knowledge and love of God. Because of this, Biblical instruction will be the first priority for our youth. (2 Peter 1:16-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- 2. Gospel-Centered:** The core message of Scripture is the free gift of grace and life given to all those who are in Christ Jesus. Grace is not earned or deserved but freely given to us by God's mercy. Moreover, this grace is not surface level but should intimately and dramatically change the one who experiences this grace. This Gospel message will be the foundation of our teaching, discussion, and interaction. (1 Corinthians 15:1-5).
- 3. Sinners Gathered:** We desire to always keep in mind the truth that each of us are sinners, in need of God's grace. None of us are perfect and we should not expect ourselves or others to be sinless. Further, all of us experience genuine questions about God and Christianity. We desire everyone to feel they are in a loving community who will not be judged for sharing their experiences and questions. (Romans 3:9-11, 23; 1 John 1:8; 1 Corinthians 10:12).
- 4. Intentional Community:** We desire to cultivate a community of students to have meaningful relationships with one another, a welcoming attitude to newcomers, and a desire to spend time with one another. We do this through purposefully fostering student-to-student relationships as well as student-mentor relationships with staff/volunteers. (1 John 4:19-21; James 2:1-8).
- 5. Evangelism & Mission:** We desire our students to live out their Christian life in both word and deed. This means boldly proclaiming the truth of Christ in love to those that do not know Christ, and seeking to use their lives in service to their fellow man. Students have a unique opportunity to both speak and model the Christian faith to the world around them. (1 John 3:17-18; 1 Peter 3:15).

Vision:

- 1. Growth in Grace:** Our great desire is for the students to grow in their knowledge and love for the Lord where they are right now. This is not just something for them to do when they get older, but should be a part of their life presently. Along with this is the desire to prepare the students for life after high school. Sadly, many children leave the faith after their high school years. To prevent this, our teaching will intentionally deal with more difficult topics and how to respond to various challenges against the Christian faith. This is to prepare the student for the difficulties of engaging with a culture that is opposed to Christianity. (Hebrews 5:13-6:1a; John 15:18-21).
- 2. United Community:** We desire to be a community that genuinely loves one another in patience, kindness, forgiveness, and selflessness. Each student should feel welcomed, loved, and able to share their struggles and triumphs with a community that will both weep and rejoice with them. It is our hope that the students will be excited to come to youth, spend time together, and walk through all aspects of life together. The Christian life is not one that is lived in solitude but is designed to be lived in fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ. (Ephesians 4:1-3; Hebrews 10:23-25, Galatians 6:1-2).
- 3. Discipleship:** We desire to not only build bonds between the students but also between students and staff/volunteers. It is important for the students to have older, more experienced, wise, and mature Christians they can come to for advice and help. This will be done through consistent and intentional connections between students and staff/volunteers. It is our hope that the students will form friendships with their mentors and will be personally discipled during their time in youth and beyond. (Titus 2:2-8).
- 4. Assisting Parents:** We recognize that raising children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord is a responsibility of the church, but it is *primarily* the responsibility of the parents. We do not intend to rearrange these roles but will seek to assist the parents in any way we can to help them cultivate spiritual maturity in their children. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 2 Timothy 3:14-15; Psalm 78:1-7).

Expectations:

- 1.** We will learn to sacrifice and serve others. We will treat other's needs as more important than our own.
- 2.** We will treat everyone with the respect that an image bearer of God deserves, regardless of how we ourselves might be treated. This means there will be no profanity, no gossip, and no insults, even in jest. Words intended as merely a joke can still have damaging effects. (Ephesians 4:29-32; James 3:5-12).
- 3.** We will not disrupt the class with talking or other distractions. There will be times to talk and engage during lessons, but outside of those times it is expected that one will listen.
- 4.** We will not use our cell phones during the times of teaching and discussion in order to fully engage.