



September 18, 2020

Dear Parents,

Our fall kickoff is within reach and we are so excited to welcome our middle and high school students on the 23rd! This is a unique kickoff event because of the lingering pandemic, but I know that challenges also provide opportunities to explore new and creative ways to fellowship.

Speaking of which, I hope you and your son or daughter have enjoyed the daily trivia scavenger hunts! Since Tuesday, we've had two winners of three \$25 gift cards! If you've not participated in the hunt yet, I would highly encourage you to get in the race this afternoon when the first clue is sent at 5:30PM. The trivia is more demanding today, which of course means the final prize will be that much better! It all begins with our Remind text messages. If you're not getting them, text the phrase **@student77** to the number **81010**.

I'm really anxious to unveil the ministry plan to our students next Wednesday during our kickoff event. What I'd like you parents to know is that the new vision and strategy of Bible study for our students has been labored over with much prayer. This year we begin a 5-year sequential study of God's word. For the 30-weeks of Wednesday meetings from fall through spring, each grade group will be intently focused on God's word as it speaks to a specific aspect of our students' growth and understanding. **I've attached a scope and sequence that has been created as a foundation for this type of purposeful learning through Bible study.**

We're filling in some gaps this year.

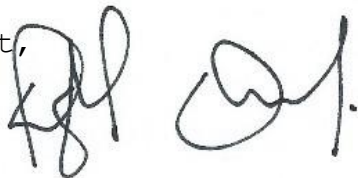
- We aim to provide our students with a more complete understanding of God's word from beginning (6th grade) to their departure in which they realize their role in living on mission (11th and 12th grade).

- We're providing opportunities for our high school students to learn and apply discipleship principles within their own Wednesday Bible study groups. For this reason, our 9th/10th and 11th/12th grade groups remain in the same study for 2 years. They are learning, then sharing.
- The final gap we're filling is a commitment to first priorities. Wednesday ministry will be preserved for purposeful Bible study and spiritual growth. Activities and other types of socialization are critical, and we will provide times for such ministry periodically on Sunday evenings throughout the season!

I hope your student will join us on the 23rd from 6-9PM! We will hand out prizes to winners of this week's trivia hunts! And we still have the Beats Wireless Headphones to raffle as a part of our summer Bible challenge!

Your students will have an opportunity to meet their Bible study group leaders for the year, and I will give a very short devotional based on our year's scriptural theme, 1 Samuel 2:26! We'll be serving pizza and canned soda, and giving out our 2020-21 Student Ministries T-shirt. All this will take place outside in the parking lot where we will be showing the movie "Breakthrough" on a large inflatable screen! This will be a great time of fellowship, so please consider joining us on the 23rd, and sticking with us throughout the year as we grow in Christ together!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Greg Dowell, Jr.', written over the 'In Christ,' text.

D. Greg Dowell, Jr.
SMBC Director of Student Ministries