

Higher Ground Student Ministry



THE STUDENT UPDATE

What lies ahead?



It is a question that evokes many different feelings. For some it is fear, helplessness, anxiety and yet for others it is expectation, excitement, and adrenaline. We have graduated a big senior class full of dedicated students to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Now, we are faced with the question, "What lies ahead?" The answer is not up to student ministry leaders or even myself. The answer lies with you.

If you are a parent or guardian reading this, you may be thinking, "Why me? I thought that is why you are here." While you may think that, the truth of the matter is, I can only do so much. These younger students spend at best two and 1/2 hours out of 168 total hours a week with us. The rest of the time is split up between school, jobs and being at home. The example you all set will instill in these students what is most important.

We have much planned and much going on at H.G. Students, but if you as their spiritual leaders in the home don't make student ministry a priority for your children then this ministry will not be anything more than a boat floating without any

oars. If your children do not come and get involved it is because you did not make them. I find it fascinating that we make our children attend school whether they want to or not but we make church optional. We must do better.

If you are a student reading this, it is time for you to step up. What is most important to you? Is it friends, parties, school, sports, rebelling? Where is your desire to grow in your faith in Christ? When is the last time you took a chance and invited someone to Wednesday's Student Service or talked about how Jesus has changed your life?

Who are you going to be for Christ?

New Events

I see this being a year of searching for our students. Figuring out who they are in Christ and what their gifts and talents can do in His kingdom. With that being said, I have looked to do some new events that will encourage more fellowship and discussion and ways to

unplug from everything going on and find themselves. Here are some new events:

Hearts on Fire:

This is a weekend conference going on in Sevierville in November. The conference takes no

more than a day but we will be staying the night to have some fellowship time together and return Sunday morning.

Bonfire Nights:

Intimate worship and prayer on the hill during Wednesday Nights.

Get Connected

- **TEXT HGSTUDENTS TO 40650 (ALL CAPS, NO SPACES)**
- **LIKE OUR NEW FACEBOOK PAGE HGSTUDENTS**
- **FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM WITH THE HANDLE @HGSTUDENTS**
- **PODCASTS COMING SOON!**

Events to Budget For

- **Hearts on Fire (\$70)**
- **UT vs Southern Miss (TBA)**
- **Hornets Game (\$40)**
- **Student Spring Getaway (TBA)**
- **Impact (\$35 and up)**

HGStudents 2017-2018 Line-Up

SEPTEMBER:

WEDNESDAY SERIES: BONFIRE NIGHTS (WILL MEET EVERY WEDNESDAY ON THE BACK HILL, WEATHER PERMITTING)

SEPTEMBER 26TH: SEE YOU AT THE POLE EVENT @ PREACHING CHRIST CHURCH

OCTOBER:

OCT. 5TH: BRING YOUR BIBLE TO SCHOOL DAY

OCT. 20: \$35 DEPOSIT FOR HEARTS ON FIRE

OCT. 20-21 AND 27-28: JUDGMENT NIGHT

NOVEMBER:

NOV. 4: UT VS. SOUTHERN MISS

NOV. 8: \$35 REMAINING BALANCE FOR HEARTS ON FIRE

NOV. 17- 18: HEARTS ON FIRE CONFERENCE

NOV. 29: I AM SECOND NIGHT

DECEMBER:

DEC. 6 & 13: HOME AND HOME W/ PCC

DEC. 15: ANGEL TREE DELIVERY

DEC. 20: HGS CHRISTMAS PARTY

JANUARY:

JAN. 3: \$40 DUE FOR HORNETS GAME

JAN. 13: HORNETS GAME (BACK LATE)

FEBRUARY:

TBA: IMPACT

APRIL:

APR. 27-28: STUDENT RETREAT @ CAMP JUBILEE

SUMMER DATES:

JULY 9-14: CAMP

JULY 15-21: PHILLY MISSION TRIP



You, Your Children and Social Media

During this meeting we will be discussing a big concern developing in the lives of our students and the student culture around the world. Social media has become the biggest way students communicate and while social media is not inherently bad in its philosophy, how it is used can have damaging effects. I am going to list some different platforms under the headings of Good, Bad and Ugly.

Before I do this, I want you the parent to know something. THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH MONITORING YOUR CHILD'S SOCIAL MEDIA. You are their parents. You pay the bills. They live in your home. Many parents believe I have a magic delete button that can remove anything a student posts, but I don't, you do. Also, remember that kids have all types of new lingo. If you see something and want to know what it is or means, ask another student or myself. We will tell you.

Without further ado, let's unveil our Good, Bad and Ugly List...

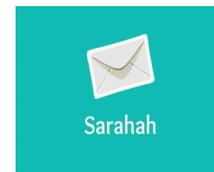
Good (Easily Managed)



Bad (Cannot Be Managed)



Ugly (Delete, Delete!)



Facebook, Instagram and Twitter have been around for a long time. These platforms have plenty of traffic and are NORMALLY good apps.

*Be on the lookout for Fake Instagrams called FINSTAS. An easy way to see if your child has one is to open their phone and see if they have multiple accounts or ask other students if they have one.

First, I myself have Snapchat. Many parents do. The problem with Snapchat is the ease with which ANY type of pics can be sent. Students can use this app to send nude pictures which will disappear within 10 seconds. I would caution allowing your students to use this app unless you completely trust them using a proverbial "loaded gun".

These apps are under my recommendation a no-no for students. **Sarahah** is an app where you post anonymous messages to people where ANYTHING can be said. **Yellow** is a dating app for teens, unfortunately grown adults have bios on this app as well. *Other apps to remove are **Tinder** (dating app) and any type of additional **calculator%** apps (stores pics privately)*

A Note to Parents Who "Trust Their Children"

My mother trusted me over and above most parents trusted their children. I did my best to not break that trust but as an IMPERFECT CHILD, I messed up sometimes. Know that it is not wrong to trust your children, but please remember they are children. If your child freaks out at your request to use their phone, there is probably a reason. If your child will not give you their passcode, there is probably a reason. Your children love you, but they are also human. As you are their parent and pay the bills, take an interest in what your child may or may not be doing on these phones.

Parental Accountability goes a very long way!

Stay Connected! Be informed!

EXCITING THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO!

Ministry Staff Connections:

Josh Shearer:

Cell: 423-863-1739

Email:

jshearer@higherground.org



Soon our Wednesday Night series will be available in Podcast and Sound Cloud formats so even if your student misses a message or wants you to hear the message you will be able to on your phone!



Beginning Monday, I will post a devotion every day @ 7:00am for your children to read a devotion before school or for you all to do as a family. Let me know if you have any ideas for topics!



Currently, we are doing some remodeling and renovations in the student building. I am on the lookout for a stand up arcade game (Pac-Man, Galaga, etc...) and am looking into the possibility of building a deck out front. Let me know what you think and if you have any other suggestions!

Be in Prayer for:

Camp Jubilee

Philly Mission Trip

Breaking Free (Coming 2018)

Check out the church website @ higherground.org and the new church Facebook page: Search Higher Ground Baptist Church and look for the logo!

