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NEXT INFORMATION PACKET

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY



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OUR FOUNDATION



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THE FOUNDATION

Every church is different. Not only are the cultures around each church unique, but their goals and people are different, as well. However, what every church and ministry have in common is the foundation on which they build. Jesus said that foundations, if built on the right things, are what sustain us (Matthew 7:24-27). Paul echoes this in 1 Corinthians 3:11,

For no one can lay any foundation than the one we already have—Jesus Christ

Things at Next will change in the next month, year, and decade. One thing that will never change is who we do this for; Jesus! His grace-giving, loving act of dying on the cross for our sins will ALWAYS be the foundation that holds up what Next is about!

If we think about this as a home, the Gospel message is our foundation that sustains all that we build on top of it. It is a strong and indestructible foundation that will never give way. What we choose to build on top of it should be inspired from that Gospel message.

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MISSION STATEMENT

A mission statement is meant to express the reason why this ministry exists. What is the purpose of this organization? So, the mission statement for Next Student Ministry is as follows:

To share God's Love by Any Means Necessary.

Next's purpose is to share God's love with all students! However, the mission statement also answers the "how?" question. We will share God's love through any possible way. If it means going to their games, we'll do it. If it means talking to them in small group, we'll do it. If it means playing basketball and having fun together, we'll do it. We'll do whatever it takes to show God's love to students.

VISION STATEMENT

A vision statement, unlike the mission statement, is answering the question "what results should we see if the mission is fulfilled completely?" So, the vision statement of Next Student Ministry is as follows:

Every student is cared for and growing in Gospel-Centered Community.

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If we're able to accomplish our mission, as we intend to, we should see every single student that is a part of the Next family being cared for by someone. That does not mean that every student is cared for by ONE person, but that every student has at least ONE person that is a part of the Next team that cares for them in a personal way. The question we need to ask ourselves is "will I be that ONE?"

Not only should students be cared for, but they should be growing. The way they'll primarily do that is through Gospel-Centered community. What's the purpose of putting the term "Gospel-Centered" in that phrase? The reason is because students have plenty of community in their life. Whether that be friend groups, clubs/teams, family, or even church. However, we want to provide them with Gospel-Centered community. This is community that pushes and helps each student grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus. The primary Gospel-Centered community we offer is small groups. Regardless if a student is in a small group or not, we want to provide them some type of community that will help them develop and own their faith.

FAMILY VALUES

The phrase "family values" can be interchangeable with what is considered core values. If you think about this as a road trip, the mission is the vehicle we're in, the vision is the destination itself, and the core values are the roads that keep us on track. So, what are the values that will mark Next? There are three core values for Next and they are as follows:

1. Showing Visible Love

Simply saying "I love you" is not enough to convince people of love. Today's culture has overused the word "love". They've turned it into a word with little to no commitment or meaning. At Next, we want to be a family that does not simply say "I love you", but a family that shows love to one another.

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The theme of showing love screams throughout the Bible. Look at Jesus' life. He did not just tell people he cared for them, but he showed love through the way He lived. In fact, Jesus says that people will know we are Christians by one thing, how we love one another (John 13:35). We are a family that loves in a visible manner!

2. Pursue Uncommon Unity

In the family of God, we all are unique. There truly is no one in the world just like you. However, other than the command to love one another, there is no more important command given to us by God than to be unified. A quick distinction: unity does not equate to all of us looking the same, acting the same, or believing all the same things. However, we should be unified and on the same page, as a family.

Paul pushes for this same point in Ephesians 4:3,

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

We are all unified by the Gospel message. We all should have the same mission and mindset: to love others with the love of God and help others grow in their faith. Notice the phrase Paul uses "make every effort". This means that if there is an issue between us or students, we should make every effort to keep short accounts. Meaning, we should not let issues sit for long periods of time, but rather, address them soon after they happen in a loving and peaceful manner.

The word "uncommon" is in this family value because Next is a family that looks different. When you look at the landscape of our students and team you should see people you would not think should get along but do because they are unified by the blood of Jesus Christ.

3. Make Bold Moves

The last of our family values is make bold moves. We want to be a family that is marked by making bold moves in faith. Some of the goals and things we should reach for may seem unrealistic to those around us. However, all great men and women of the Bible and in the history of our faith made bold moves.

There is a difference between bold and brash. Bold moves are faith moves that seek to spread the love and message of God to others more effectively. Brash moves are random, have no real purpose, and could hurt others. We know a move is bold if it lines up with what the Bible calls us to do.

There is also a difference between bold and calculated. Bold moves are giant steps of faith that we take trusting God's promises to honor us. Calculated moves are steps we take AFTER we get everything figured out ahead of time or once we see certain things work out ahead of time.

Did Noah wait to see a big storm come before telling people about the flood and gather up the animals? Did Moses wait until God gave him a detailed plan from beginning to end of how he would get the Israelites out of Egypt and into the promise land before he went and told Pharaoh to let God's people go? Did the apostles wait until they found a town where no one would want to kill them before choosing to preach the Gospel? No, they all made bold moves because they trusted in God's promises.

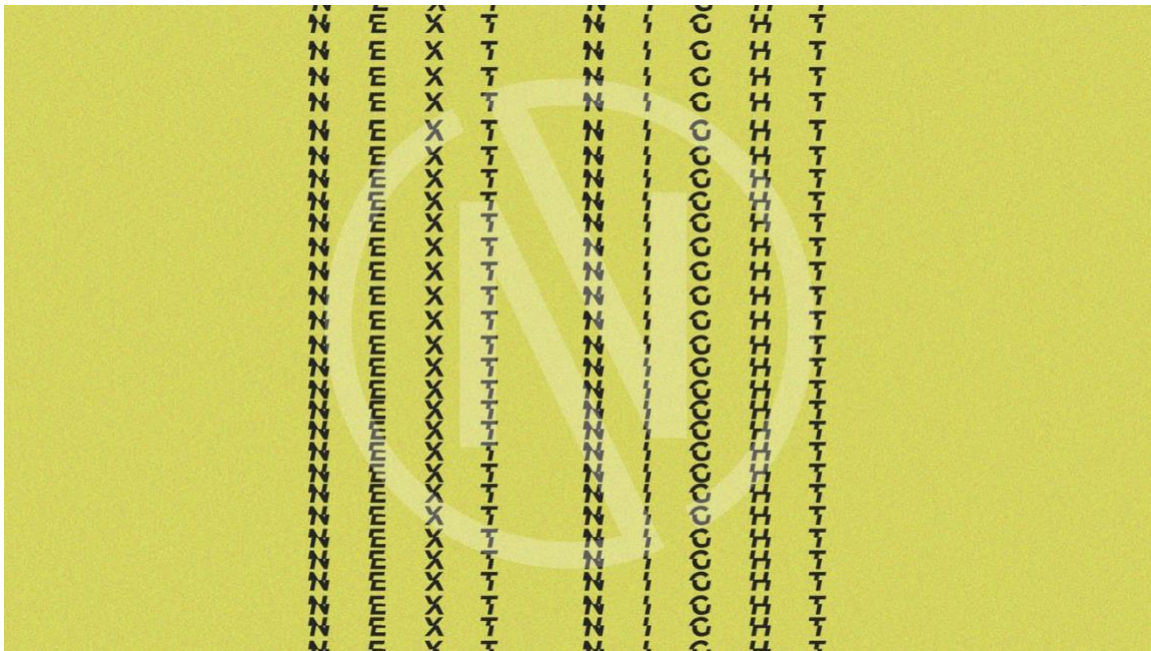
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At Next, we are a family that takes bold moves because we trust in the promises of God. He will protect us, He will bless us, and He will be with us wherever we go!

Going back to the analogy of building a house. The foundation of Next is the Gospel message of Jesus. However, what we put on top of the foundation is our mission, vision, and core values. They may not be the foundation, but they certainly help hold up all that we do. If we removed them, things would get much more difficult.

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OUR PROGRAMS



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OUTREACH

When we look at the life and ministry of Jesus, we see that He had both a public and private ministry. On many occasions, Jesus did public ministry; He went into towns, did miracles and taught to the crowds. However, Jesus also spent a considerable amount of time doing private ministry: having personal meals, teachings, moments, and fellowship with the twelve disciples.

The public ministry of Next, that which we do to reach the masses, is broken up into three main categories: Next Nights, Schools, and Community.

Next Nights

Next Nights are the big gatherings for students of all backgrounds. At Next Nights, there is a variety of activities that go into its makeup. There is a check-in process at the beginning, followed by a creative worship experience. First time guests will receive a gift such as Next merchandise and will be allowed into the VIP room where there will be special treats to welcome them into the family.

After the worship experience, students will be allowed to go and participate in some fun games and activities prepared for them. Students are free to hangout and fellowship until the end of the service.

Next Nights take place the first & third Sundays of every month at Forest Park Church and last from 5-7pm.

These meetings allow for a time to come together and invite new people into the family. The goal is for connection and unity. Since Next Nights are only twice a month, it's important our students connect with one another, as well as, be united by participating together in worship.

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Schools

Campus ministry is, to many, the main avenue of outreach for student ministry. Next is no different. Again, look at Jesus. He went to where people were, He didn't wait for them to come to Him. If Next is going to reach students, we must go to where they are. Where do students spend the majority of their time during a week? School!

Here are just some ways in which Next will minister to the schools and the students in them:

Meals for Staff: Next will provide breakfast for a school once a month. This allows the student pastor and volunteers to serve the staff that is entrusted with teaching the students on a daily basis. It will be followed by a short 5-minute encouraging devotional.

Meals with Students: The Next Team will do their best to have lunch with students at their schools as much as possible. The student pastor will do their best to go to one school for lunch with students at least once a week, if possible.

Serving at Events: The Next Team will serve at events. Running concessions, giving tickets, cleaning up after, or in whatever way possible.

FCA: The student pastor will try and speak at FCA at a school once every other week, if possible. FCA is a great way to speak into the lives of teenagers as they get ready for their day at school.

Occasional Events: This can vary depending on what and when an event is possible. They do not have to be serious but can be fun events. Ex: flag football tournament on practice field after school.

The goal of ministering to the schools is recognition & relationships. It's about exposure to students so they know Next. Yet, it's also about building healthy relationships with the schools so they trust we are for them, as well. We do this by serving them, in any way possible.

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Community

The final way Next reaches out to those is by serving our communities. Jesus did not simply serve the people He ran into during His ministry, He also served their towns and the places they lived.

One of the main ways in which Next will serve the community is through the Love Thy City event. This will be an event where Next students and adults all gather together to serve and help the communities in which they live. This can include cleaning up, repairing things that are broken, and other avenues as well.

Throughout the year Next will look for opportunities that come their way to step up and serve the community. If students or Next Team members know of any opportunities to serve the community, they should make the Student Pastor aware so that they can make plans accordingly.

SMALL GROUPS

While outreach is important to the growth of a ministry the following question of “how do students grow once they are part of the family?” still exists. Small groups are the primary way in which students will not only grow at Next, but also how they will be cared for. Here is some of what small groups will look like at Next:

Purpose

The purpose of small groups is to help students grow in their faith and create a sense of community with team members and with each other. Small groups are going to be a place where students feel the most love and feel the safest.

In the book of Acts it tells us that, in what was considered small groups at the time, the people took care of each other so no one had any need among them (Acts 2:44-46)

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Structure

Small groups will be structured by Jr. & Sr. high and also by gender. When and where the small groups meet will be up to the discretion of the group and the group leader. We know that each group is different, and each leader's schedule varies on what they have going on. Here are two points that each leader is REQUIRED to do with their small group:

Meet Twice a Month: Next night is twice a month, so in order to build relationships with students we need to make connections with them at least two more times during the month. These two small group gatherings should not be during the same week.

Material: In order to ensure that our students are learning the same content, the material that is given to each small group leader will be designed on the level of that group, as well as, around the topic/series in what is taught at Next Nights. The student pastor will provide material and questions to the leaders.

However, the following structure is up to the decision of the group and group leader:

Place: The group can decide where they would like to have group. Possible options are at the leader's home, before or after the worship service on Next Nights, or somewhere in the community like local parks or coffee shops.

Time: The group and leader can decide how long they want small groups to last. For some, a couple of hours are great. For others, an hour is the maximum time needed. It is encouraged that there is equal time given to hangout/fellowship/fun as is given to discussion and learning.

Small groups should be something that students and leaders look forward to each week. It should be a time of fun and growth.

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OUR TEAM



VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are a key part of our Next Team. They contribute not only in what they do, but also ideas and relationships with students.

Areas of Service

Here are the following areas of service that one may volunteer in at Next:

1. Next Impressions

- a. Check-In: The check-in team is responsible for:
 - Ensuring every student is accounted for by checking them in at Next Nights and giving them wristbands.
 - Keeping track of who is a first-time guest and giving them the appropriate wristband.
 - Making notes of any student that may have missed two or more Next Nights on the spreadsheet.
 - Setting up and tear down check-in area before/after service.
- b. Hospitality Team: The hospitality team is responsible for:
 - Greeting every student at check-in as they enter.
 - Conversing with students before and after the worship service.
 - Hanging out in the VIP Room and getting to know first-time guests.
 - Providing first-time guests with a free gift (Next Merch).
 - Controlling crowds during the worship experience.
 - Assisting the check-in team with setting up and tearing down their area before/after events.
 - Sending connect card to students that visited (either first-time or have missed 2+ Next Nights in a row).

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2. Next Café

- a. Next Café: The Next Café team will be responsible for:
- Getting in orders of food that may be placed for the day of the event.
 - Setting up café area and serving food/beverages to students.
 - Cleaning up any big mess that may be made.
 - Helping any student that may want to purchase Next Merch and take their payment.
 - Setting up and cleaning the area before/after event.

3. Next Creative

- a. Next Media Team: The media team will be responsible for:
- Running audio/visual aspects of the worship service.
 - Taking any photos and/or videos during the event and side projects for Next that go on social media.
 - Accessing our social media platforms to upload content there.
 - Setting up and cleaning area before/after event.
- b. Next Worship: The worship team will be responsible for:
- Selecting the set list for service.
 - Scheduling the team in advance.
 - Running worship during the experience.
 - Setting up and cleaning the area before/after service.
- c. Next Games: The game team will be responsible for:
- Setting up and running all games/activities either in service or after service.
 - Alerting Student Pastor of any needs for games they may need.
 - Picking up any/all materials needed for games.
 - Promoting safety in any and every game/activity.

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4. Next Safety

- a. Next Security: The security team will be responsible for:
 - Being on alert of who is supposed to be at events.
 - Reminding those without a wristband to check in properly, or escorting people off campus that should not be there.
 - Putting out any security threats that would put safety of students at risk (ex: fights).
- b. Next Medical: The medical team will be responsible for:
 - Being present at events.
 - Assisting with any games/activities.
 - Providing medical treatment to any person that may be injured.

5. Next Groups

- a. Small Group Leader: SG leaders are responsible for:
 - Deciding the setting, date, and time of small group meeting.
 - Meeting twice a month for SG.
 - Leading discussion and questions for SG.
 - Reaching out and connecting with each small group member once a week.
 - Communicating with the Student Pastor with any issue/concern.
 - Attending student's recitals, games, events, etc.
- b. Small Group Host: SG host are responsible for:
 - Opening up their homes for SGs.
 - Providing space for fun and discussion.
 - Providing food/beverages for the SG.
 - Assisting SG leader in any way possible.

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Expectations

Here are expectations for ALL leaders in ALL areas of Next:

1. Have a love for students.
2. Be open and willing to work through personal issues.
3. Communicate through any issue/question/concern they have about Next.
4. Be responsible for their area(s) such as set up, cleaning, and tearing down.
5. Be creative.
6. Be accountable to one person on the Next team.
7. Be present at Next Nights and on time for Next Nights.

Training

In many ministries there is a lot asked of volunteers and not much given to them. In the Next Family, we may ask what seems like a lot from you, but we will also be giving a lot to you, as well. Here are three ways in which we will provide training/support:

1. Recover Nights: These will take place once a quarter, or 4 times a year. Recover nights are for all leaders. These nights are meant to relax and have fun as a family. We will meet at FPC or a leader's home and have a family night with games, food, fellowship, and quick devotion.
2. Shadowing: The Next Team will occasionally take trips to other churches and their student ministries. This provides a time where we can break out of our "bubble" and see how other effective student ministries run. This provides opportunities to be inspired and get creative.
3. Conferences: Once a year the Next Team will go to one conference for leadership training. This provides professional training opportunities for our leaders to learn and grow.

STUDENT LEADERS

Our volunteers make up a large portion of our Next Team; however, there is a need for student leaders at Next. We believe in training up students while they're still a part of Next. The way we do this is through the 12 Deep program.

This program is a 6-month long program for senior high students. 12 Deep takes up to 12 students at a time. The Student Pastor will lead 12 Deep and choose curriculum for it.

In order to participate in 12 Deep students must agree to the following:

- Be on time to every meeting and attend 75% of all meetings in the 6-month period.
- Be prepared. The students must complete assignments on time and be ready to discuss at meetings.
- Be aware. Don't use "status" of being in 12 Deep as an opportunity to gloat or rub in other students faces.
- Help in some way at Next Nights/events.
- Be an example. Strive to be a positive example to other students.
- Once the 6-month period is over students can NOT join 12 Deep again; it is a one-time experience for students.

CONTACT INFORMATION

TITLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
Student Pastor	Preston Waller	(919)627-2220	preston@fplive.org
Next Impressions Director	Vacant	NA	NA
Next Café Director	Heather Ambrose	(252)333-2825	hairbyheatherrps@gmail.com
Next Creative Director	Vacant	NA	NA
Next Safety Director	Vacant	NA	NA
Next Groups Director	Vacant	NA	NA