Dear Parents,

I pray that this reaches you well and that you have had a great start to 2017.

If you missed Sunday’s Parent Meeting, I have attached the info we have covered.

**2017 Student Ministry Events** – This covers the major activities that we will hold for Middle School and High School. Some of the College Events are also included.

EVERY event is in place to focus on at least one of the following ideas:

Relationship Building – To introduce and build relationships.

Evangelism – To introduce and provide an opportunity for people to know who Christ is and to begin a personal relationship with Him.

Discipleship – To provide options for people to grow in knowledge, understanding and application of what God says.

Missions/Service – To provide opportunities for people to serve people outside of themselves.

Worship – To provide avenues for people to remember who God is, to remember what God has done and then to personally respond.

**Turn Your Campus** – Workshop and Artist Listing. THIS Saturday, we will head off to Biola University to interact with over 40 sessions (This is beneficial for Middle School, High School, College students, educators, parents and volunteers.) The cost is $20 per person. You can find details at TurnYourCampus.com (Adult and Student Forms are attached.) We will meet at FBCD at 7 am and plan to return by 5 pm (College students will be meeting at 6 pm for Ice Skating that night.)

**Student Ministries Vision: To raise up 300 leaders by the end of 2019.**

                In the general ‘roster’ for Middle School, High School and College, there are roughly 150 on the list. If everyone committed to bringing 1 friend regularly, we could end up with 300. If the process repeats in 2018, we’ll have 600. IF we repeat that again in 2019, we could have 1200. In order to effectively minister to 1200, we would need a leadership team of at least 300. Ephesians 4 talks about our call to EQUIP. Christ talks about the importance of being faithful in little before we will be given more. (Luke 16:10)

My hope and prayer is that we would take care of those we have. (This is why every student is assigned a small group with adult and student leaders.)

Our Church’s focus is to **Connect with God, Connect with Others and Connect in Service**. As Student Ministries, part of how we want to accomplish that is to set up opportunities so that *EVERY PARTICIPANT has the opportunity to be PRAYED FOR, PRAYED WITH, LOVED and DISCIPLED.*

*We may or may not reach this goal. YES. This goal is a little crazy. But my hope is that God would move us forward. Regardless if we only grow by 10% or if God blessed us with 500% growth, that’s up to God. I believe that OUR responsibility is to do OUR part. – To Be Intentional.*

That takes us to …

**Metamorphosis**

2017 will be a year of change and adjustment.

This Year our Church Theme is *ROOTED*. Pastor Danny will be addressing this more in the future, but as we look at options as a church, as families and as a student ministry, our focus will be about learning, growing and applying options to help us to be more ROOTED in our knowledge, understanding and application of what God says so that we can become more like Christ. For Student Ministries, we will be taking some time to focus on the idea of Metamorphosis. To be changed and transformed. We will be taking 40 days to look at some spiritual concepts and disciplines. I encourage you as a family to pray about participating as a family. As we talk about the importance of family growth and development, You as a parent have the most and best potential to make a difference in the life of your child. The Overview sheet is attached. For a copy of the handbook, you can pick up a copy Wednesday night (Our Kick off night) or you can email me and I can email you a digital copy.)

The format of each day boils down to this:

A reading from the Bible

Questions to engage scripture

A set of practical applications and prayer.

**Notes from this past Sunday**

If you have not been connecting with your child(ren). Every Sunday and Wednesday they receive a handout.

The hand out covers several things:

Notes from the night.     (As a parent, you can use this for your own information. You can also use this as a point of accountability.)

Small group Discussion Questions.

Announcements for the future.

Digging deeper questions. These could be used as family devotions, an option for a family gathering, or even as daily devotions.

There is also space for them to write down prayer requests from their small group.

**2017 Med Form**

Please complete and turn this in. The master med form covers all events for 2017. Please also use this for the friends that you bring.

**Communication Helps**

In order to better help in our communication, here are the ways that we will focus in communicating this year:

                Student Handouts (Sunday and Wednesday)

                Church Website: The main Site is [www.FBCDowney.com](http://www.FBCDowney.com)  The Direct Link to the Student page is [www.FBCDowneyStudents.com](http://www.FBCDowneyStudents.com)

                Facebook: [www.facebook.com/1BCDowneyYouth](http://www.facebook.com/1BCDowneyYouth) (Student Page) [www.facebook.com/1stBCDowneyParents/](http://www.facebook.com/1stBCDowneyParents/) We will be posting on these later this month.

                Twitter/Instagram: @fbcdowneyyouth

                Text Messaging System**:** (Please sign up for these to help us to streamline our communications and to decrease having your inbox blow up due to too many people replying back.) 

                                For **Middle School** Info Text JHS to 33733

                                For **High School** Info Text HSGROUP to 33733

                                For **College** info Text FBCA to 33733

                                For **Parents** Text PARENTS to 33733

                Parent Letters: My goal this year is to send out at least one letter a month. (Praying over sending more so that the letters are shorter.) I will be sending them by email.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Eager to see what God will do,

Jackson

Jackson Fong

Student Ministries and College Pastor

First Baptist Church of Downey