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2017

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**Adams**  
**Student**  
**Ministry**  
**Parent**  
**Packet**

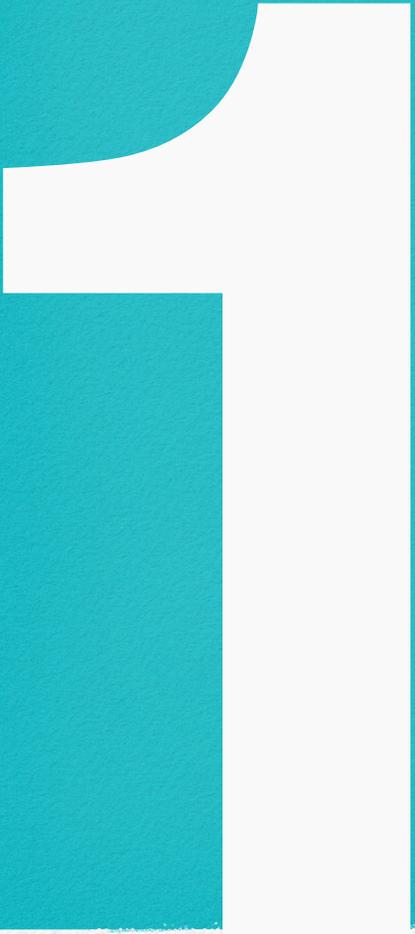
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Helping teens develop a faith that lasts

# Welcome

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Hi!



# Dear Parent,

## Welcome to ASM!

First, know that we couldn't be more thrilled that your teenager is joining us in the exciting journey of following Christ. The years of Jr. High and High School are a whirlwind of change, discovery, and life-directing choices, and we consider it a blessing to get to be a part of that with every single one of our students. However, we know that the amount of time your teen spends with us is incredibly small compared to the time they spend elsewhere. Because of this, we hope you'll consider us a partner in the spiritual development of your teenager, not a replacement. After all, no matter how hard we work or how good we are, we'll never be half as awesome at influencing your teen's faith as you already are!

## Why we're here:

We believe that Jesus is really good news for every single person and that following him is the best decision anyone ever

makes. We also know that the years after high school can be a tough time for Jesus followers. In fact, around 50% of teenagers who participate in youth groups leave the faith after high school. But we are driven to keep your teen from becoming just another statistic.

**Every single thing we do is focused on helping our students develop a faith that lasts beyond high school.**

That goal is the fire in our bellies that influences everything we do. It drives what we teach and how we teach it. It influences the trips we take. It informs our discipleship process, our events, and everything else we do. As we partner with you, know that any time we plan something for your teen or your family, we're doing it with this goal in mind: helping our teens develop a faith that lasts. We'll do everything we can to help them, we'll try to equip you to do the same, and we'll trust in the power of God to do the rest.

So what do you say? Can we work together? If you say yes, we think these teenage years are going to be an awesome time of physical, mental, and spiritual development for your teen and your family. It might just even be fun!

Blessings.

- Aaron Kirkpatrick

# Vision and Process

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**This will be quick.**



# Love. Share. Serve.

## Simple Discipleship

1. Love God
2. Love Others
3. Share Jesus
4. Share Life
5. Serve Inside the Church
6. Serve Outside the Church

## Our Vision

We don't consider our teens second-class citizens at Adams Blvd. We want each of them to be fully participating members of our congregation. Because of this, our youth ministry reflects the vision of our church as a whole:

**We want every single person to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.**

It's really that simple.

## Our Process

Just because it's simple doesn't mean it's easy. We all need checkpoints to know if we're on the right path, and our church expresses these checkpoints in the words Love. Share. Serve. You can see how we break that down on the left.

We call our teens (and everyone else) into ever-deeper discipleship, and we believe that if we lean into Jesus' call to love, share, and serve, we will find ourselves becoming more and more like him.

All of our youth group activities will be focused on some aspect of this vision and process.

# Who are all these old people?

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And should you let your teenager hang out with them?

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# It's not easy being a volunteer.

## 5:1

In the book “Sticky Faith,” the researchers from Fuller Youth Institute discovered something surprising: teenagers who remain engaged in their faith in college usually have at least 5 Christian adults in their lives that they can talk to and learn from. In a perfect world mom and dad would be the two of those people, but even then that's still three more adults your teen needs in his or her life. That's where we come in. We have a lot of adults involved as volunteers in our ministry because we want to help our students develop those crucial inter-generational friendships. But we also want to make sure you're comfortable with your teenager being around a bunch of adults you may not know. Here are some of the people your teens will regularly interact with at ASM.

## The Youth Minister

Aaron Kirkpatrick is our youth minister. He has a heart for seeing teens grow in faith and more than a decade of youth ministry experience. He organizes, plans, and leads our youth ministry, and he recruits, vets, and trains our volunteers. If you have a question, concern, idea, or if you want to get involved, he's the guy to talk to. He's also one of the people your teen will see most frequently.

## The Home Group Leaders

Our Home Groups are the front door of our youth ministry (more on that later). Because of that, your teenager will spend a lot of time with our volunteer Home Group leaders, and they may even be in these adults' homes. Some of these adults are college students, some are young parents, some have teens in the ministry, and some are empty nesters, but every single one of them has been background-checked and is continually being trained by Aaron. And every single one of them are awesome! Your teen is going to love them.

## The Event Volunteers

We do a lot of stuff at ASM, and it takes a lot of great volunteers to make it happen. These volunteers play wide variety of roles

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in our ministry. Your teen may see them cooking at a 5th Quarter, driving a bus to Mission Trip, greeting them on Sunday morning, or shooting them with a laser tag gun at an all-nighter in Tulsa. These volunteers are often parents just like you, and we'd love to have you volunteer in the future. As with our Home Group Leaders, we background-check our event volunteers and hold them to a high code of conduct.

# What to expect

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**This section makes  
introverts happy.**

**4**

# Where is my teen going to be?

## **Come as you are, wherever we are.**

Our normal ministry rhythm revolves around three programs. This section will walk you through what to expect at each.

## **Home Groups: fun. friendly. focused.**

Home Groups are the front door of our youth ministry. These groups meet all over town in the homes of our group leaders. There are currently three groups - one for Jr. High and two for High School. They run from 6:45 to 8:00 each Wednesday night. Teens can be dropped off directly at the Home Group location, or they can catch a ride with a friend at the church building.

Home Groups are intentionally kept small (8-12 students), and the relaxed atmosphere is a great place for new students to plug in. The first Wednesday of the month is HOUSE PARTY night, which is always a blast. The other three weeks are focused on practical Bible study and application.

## **ASM**

ASM is our Sunday morning youth ministry event. Ok, honestly it's just Bible class, but that sounds way lamer than it actually is. We eat, we study, we play games, we pray, we meditate, we experience, we laugh, and we grow. It's a lot of fun.

ASM starts at 9:00 on Sunday mornings. Food is served at 8:45. We wouldn't recommend coming in your pjs, but you don't need to "dress up" for church either. On second thought, that pjs idea sounds pretty cool too...

## **Events**

We plan several big events and trips each year. The specific events change from year to year, but each is an opportunity for our teens to grow in friendship with one another and with God. We know how busy our families are, so we promise that we won't schedule events just to be doing something. If it's on the calendar, we believe it's a valuable opportunity.

Information on each specific event can be found on our website: [adamseyouth.weebly.com](http://adamseyouth.weebly.com)

# Boring stuff you **NEED** to know

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We had to get here  
eventually.

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# This is the page you hang on the fridge.

## Include:

- ☑ **youth website:** [adamsyouth.weebly.com](http://adamsyouth.weebly.com)
- ☑ **calendar:** [adamsyouth.weebly.com/calendar](http://adamsyouth.weebly.com/calendar)
- ☑ **church website:** [adamsblvd.org](http://adamsblvd.org)
- ☑ **email addresses:**
  - ☑ Aaron: [aaron@adamsblvd.org](mailto:aaron@adamsblvd.org)
  - ☑ Office: [churchofchrist@adamsblvd.org](mailto:churchofchrist@adamsblvd.org)
- ☑ **important phone numbers:**
  - ☑ Aaron: 918.914.9759
  - ☑ Office: 918.333.9712
- ☑ **facebook:** search “adams blvd church of Christ”

## When in doubt, check the website.

## When STILL in doubt, ask Aaron.

Our website is our info hub. If we have events coming up it will show you departure info, price, and medical release info. It also houses our Google calendar so you can look ahead at what's coming.

We always want you to have as much info as you need, but we also know that we may miss some info you want to know. Aaron's door is always open, and he loves helping out. You are welcome to contact him via call, text, email, facebook message, tweet, skype, facetime, snail mail, or carrier pigeon.

Seriously.

Especially the pigeon part. That would be awesome.

**Boring stuff you  
WANT to know**

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Yay.

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# The last thing in the packet is also the most important.

## Feel good with your teens at ASM.

Hopefully this packet has helped you get a peek at our values and our vision for how we minister to teens. But on top of knowing why and how we help our students develop a faith that lasts, we also want you to know that we work hard to make our youth ministry a safe place. We know that being trusted with your teens is a huge blessing and a huge responsibility, and we take that seriously. The final thing in this packet is a copy of our Child Protection Policy. We train every single one of our volunteers on this policy, and we follow it religiously. After reading through it, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

We look forward to partnering with you as we minister to your teenager. May God bless our time together!

At Adams Student Ministry (ASM), we place the highest possible priority on providing a safe environment for our students and volunteers. ASM volunteers are expected to know and adhere to the guidelines listed below to ensure we do everything in our power to protect our students from harm. Following these guidelines protects our kids from predators, protects both our volunteers and teens from the appearance of evil, and protects our volunteers from false accusation.

1. Child Abuse Prevention:

- a. Each ASM volunteer must submit to a criminal background check. While we believe in and practice grace and forgiveness, no one with a history of sexual misconduct with minors will be permitted to work in our youth ministry. We will, however, work with that person to help them find a different ministry in which they can flourish.

- b. We will take every allegation of abuse seriously.

- c. We will handle the situation in a straightforward manner, with respect for people's privacy and confidentiality.

- d. Volunteers will report any signs or accusations of abuse, sexual, physical, or emotional, to the youth minister, who will then evaluate and contact the parents and proper authorities.

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- e. Volunteers will report to the youth minister any signs or allegations that a student is harmful to him/herself or to others. The youth minister will then determine which authorities need to be informed.
  - f. We will make sure the victim knows that he/she is not being held responsible in any way.
  - g. We will not confront the accused until the safety of the child is secured.
  - h. We will not prejudge the situation, but we will take the allegations seriously.
  - i. We will treat the accused person with dignity and respect. If a volunteer or staff person is accused, they will be immediately removed from all responsibilities and contact with students until appropriate actions can be determined.

## 2. Discipleship Guidelines

- a. Before meeting with students one-on-one, volunteers should inform and ask permission from parents.
- b. No adult should ever be alone with a teenager in a secluded place. Relational ministry and discipleship often happen in a one-on-one setting, but there is never any reason for this to be done in seclusion. When meeting with a teenager, choose a location where other people are present like a restaurant, mall, or even a house with other people around.
- c. This rule also applies to driving. When possible, have the teen meet you and have parents pick them up. Where driving them is unavoidable, it is better to have more than one kid in the car with you. If you must drive a teen one-on-one, always get parental permission first, and go directly to your stated destination(s). If possible, find ways to record when you get to each location (ie, have teen text their parents as you leave to take them home).
- d. In our relationships with teens, our overarching principles should be avoiding the appearance of evil and living righteously. If you come upon a specific situation that is not addressed, keep these principles in mind.

## 3. Confidentiality Policy:

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a. Our teens have a right to confidentiality in most circumstances. When dealing with serious sin or deep issues, our ultimate goal is always helping teens get to a place where they can invite their parents into the situation. But at all times, our teens need to know they can safely open up to ASM volunteers. With that in mind, no minister/volunteer shall ever consider the following confidential:

- i. Knowledge or reasonable suspicion of child abuse, current or past
- ii. Knowledge of a youth's intention to inflict injury upon him/herself or upon someone else
- iii. Knowledge of a risk of suicide

1. If a teen reveals any of these things (or if there is good reason for suspicion), the volunteer will immediately inform the youth minister, who will then determine which authorities need to be informed.

b. All concerns will be brought to the youth minister, who will advise on next steps.

i. If the youth minister is unavailable or the person feels uncomfortable taking the issue to the youth minister, then the concern should be taken to a youth deacon or shepherd.

4. Traveling:

a. When traveling with teenagers in personal vehicles:

- i. All students and adults will be required to use seat belts.
- ii. Follow all posted speed limits. This both protects our teens and sets a good example.

iii. Under no circumstances should you text while driving. If it is important, either pull over to send the text or have a teenager send it for you.

iv. Do not talk on your cell phone without the use of a hands-free device.

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b. On trips, no single adult will stay in a room with minors, no single teen will stay in a room with multiple adults, and no teen will stay in a hotel room by himself/herself.

c. We will always seek to have at least one male and one female sponsor on mixed-gender trips of any length.

d. There will always be at least one male and one female sponsor on mixed-gender overnight trips, or the trip will not happen.

## 5. Inappropriate Relationships

a. If we become aware of inappropriate attraction (ex: a teenage boy confesses a strong attraction or crush on a female volunteer) we will do the following things:

i. Make the volunteer aware of the situation so that he/she may act in wisdom

ii. Counsel the student and help him/her find appropriate outlets of affection

iii. Limit personal contact between that volunteer and student

b. If we become aware of inappropriate (non-abusive) attraction, attention, contact, or action from an adult toward a student, we will:

i. Remove the adult from all youth ministry responsibilities and activities.

ii. Refer him/her to a counselor who can help the adult work through the unhealthy attraction/behavior.

iii. Hold the adult accountable a no contact agreement. If the agreement is broken, the child's parents will be informed and confidentiality will not be considered to have been broken.

## 6. Digital Communication Guidelines

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a. When possible, we always want to foster and encourage face-to-face, relational communication. However, because so much communication now happens digitally, the following guidelines will be used:

i. When communicating in a public forum like Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, avoid the use of private messages. If you are unable to post something publicly, don't post it at all.

ii. No ASM volunteer will use Snapchat or similar service (where no record is kept of what was sent) to communicate with a student.

b. When texting, we will observe the following guidelines:

i. Texting is good for communicating quick bits of information, but it is a poor tool for important communication. If a teen wants to engage in a longer conversation, find a way to do that face to face.

ii. Never delete any part of a text stream.

iii. In the event that you need to delete old text message streams (for instance, if your phone is running out of storage space), back up your old messages before you delete them. This will ensure that you have proof of what was said in your texts.