



THE *Parent*
connect ////////////////
////////////////////// **HANDBOOK**



**PARTNERING WITH
PARENTS TO
HELP WIN AT
WHAT MATTERS**





TABLE OF CONTENTS



LETTER FROM BRANDON 4

THE BASICS 6

+ The Ministry 7

+ Our Big Win 8

+ Discipling Teenagers 9

+ Engaging With Small Group Leaders 11

THE FINE PRINT 13

+ Safety Guidelines 14

+ Serve With Us 15



WELCOME TO YOUTH

So you're the parent or guardian of a teenager? Congratulations! You have one of the most important (and sometimes most difficult) jobs on the planet.

We realize your job isn't always easy, but here's what we want you to know: we're here to help in any way we can. Sure, we're a "youth" ministry, but teenagers aren't the only people we care about. We care about you, too. Collective YTH exists to equip students to live and love like Jesus. We strive to show every student that they matter to God, to us, and to His mission.

No matter how connected you are with our church, this Parent Handbook will show you some of the ways we're trying to care for your teenager and serve you at the same time.

Thanks for letting us be another voice in the life of your teenager. Your trust and partnership mean a lot to us.

We can't wait to see what God has in store!

/// BRANDON HAIR / YOUTH PASTOR



WE EXIST TO EQUIP STUDENTS

TO LIVE AND LOVE LIKE

JESUS BY SHOWING THEM

THAT THEY MATTER TO GOD,

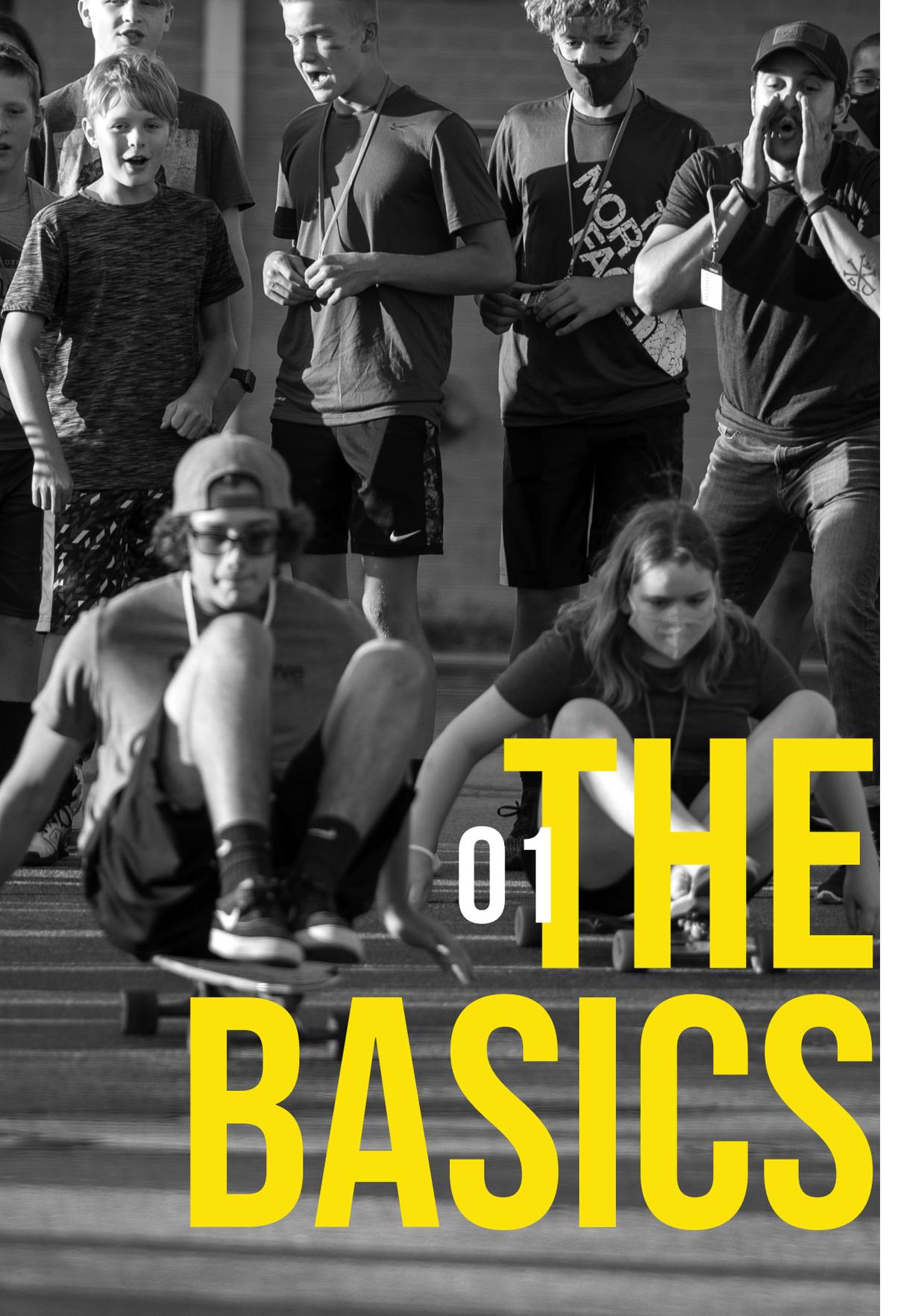
THEY MATTER TO US,

AND THEY MATTER TO HIS MISSION.



WHAT IS COLLECTIVE YTH?

Collective YTH is the Youth Ministry of
Calvary Christian Church (Grades 6-12)



01 THE
BASICS

THE MINISTRY

OUR ENVIRONMENTS

We strategically designed our ministry's three main environments to be inviting to students, whether they've grown up in church or it's their first time visiting. We want them to have a safe place to build and deepen relationships with friends, leaders, and Jesus.

WEEKLY SMALL GROUPS

Small groups are the most important part of what we do. They happen every week, but the relationships built in small groups extend beyond the walls of our church. They're designed to connect every teenager with a consistent and trustworthy adult and help him or her form a community of healthy friends.

MS Small Groups: Sundays at 9:15am at every campus

HS Small groups: Contact your Campus Youth Pastor for details

COLLECTIVE YTH

Wednesday Nights from 6:30-7:45

Every Wednesday Night we gather with our students for amazing worship, inspiring talks, and group discussion. It is a place where students can hang out, have fun, and connect with other students and coaches who will help them navigate and own their faith.



EVENTS

Throughout the year we host and attend several events such as CIY Move and Summer Fusion summer camps, WNTR Escape, and our monthly launch nights. Often it's at these events that our students connect with us for the first time. We want to help them make connections with other students their age and small group leaders.

OUR BIG WIN

It's hard sometimes to know when you're winning with teenagers, you know? Like, is anything we're teaching actually sinking in? Are teenagers really growing in their faith? That's why we have defined the big win for our ministry. It's the one thing that we, as a ministry, want to achieve. It's the goal we want to keep in mind at all times. And it's what motivates and guides everything we do. It goes like this...

WE WIN WHEN STUDENTS HAVE MEANINGFUL INTERACTIONS DURING GROUPS THAT INFLUENCE THEIR FAITH IN JESUS AND DEEPEN THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS.

When this happens, students feel known, valued, and cared for. This win leads our students to take steps toward owning their faith.

TAKING A STEP

Now, we say "takes a step" for a reason. It's because there's no finish line or certificate of completion when it comes to spiritual growth. Instead, spiritual growth is a journey (a life-long journey) and no two journeys are identical. That's why our big win doesn't have anything to do with a specific skill or achievement. Instead, we win anytime we see a teenager take a single step closer to owning his or her own faith.

OWNING THEIR FAITH

What, exactly, does it look like for teenagers to own their faith? Well, we believe there are four things that both lead to, and are a result of, spiritual growth. We call these four things our core commitments:

- + Gather Together
- + Grow Together
- + Give Together
- + Go Together

DISCIPLING TEENAGERS

DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS

Disciple simply means, “follower.” Discipleship is helping teenagers become like Jesus (intentional imitation). Discipleship begins with building solid, trusting relationships. Relationships are key to helping teenagers become more like Jesus. Relational discipleship is a “Follow me, as I follow Christ” approach. The goal isn’t to make teenagers become like us; it’s to help them become like Jesus. The end result of discipleship is not just knowledge, but also obedience.

DISCIPLESHIP IS ABOUT LIVING, NOT JUST LEARNING

It’s not just about teaching teenagers about Jesus; it’s about modeling what faith in Jesus looks like. We want to help them live out their faith. That’s why our small groups are encouraged to spend time together outside of church. Discipleship isn’t just taught in a classroom; it’s modeled in everyday life.

DISCIPLESHIP HAPPENS IN RELATIONSHIP

In the Gospels, you don’t really see Jesus doing one-on-one discipleship. That’s because discipleship happens best in groups. That’s why we focus so much energy on getting teenagers plugged into consistent small groups, why we emphasize the role of parents and families, and why we surround teenagers with lots of people who love Jesus.

DISCIPLESHIP IS NOT A PROGRAM—IT’S A PROCESS

Discipleship is a lifelong process of learning to live out our faith. Because we know it takes time, we place dedicated small group leaders in the lives of teenagers. The goal is that they stay with them for several years. Our discipleship process mirrors the core commitments of Calvary Christian Church.

+ GATHER TOGETHER

To align our hearts to God and our lives to His mission.

+ GROW TOGETHER

To help one another live a Christ-centered life.

+ GIVE TOGETHER

To advance God's purpose in our lives and throughout our world.

+ GO TOGETHER

To share the hope that has been shared with us.

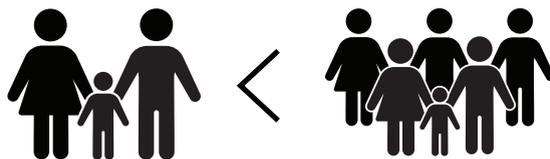
We count it as a win whenever a student takes a step toward owning his or her faith by practicing one, or maybe even all four of these spiritual habits.

WE WANT STUDENTS TO LEAD THE CHARGE OF INVITING OTHER STUDENTS TO COME AND SEE.



ENGAGING WITH SMALL GROUP LEADERS

As a parent, you have the greatest effect on your teenager's life. Your voice is by far the most important, but we hope you'll also take the opportunity to recruit other adults to help influence your teenager's faith and future.



Dr. Kara E. Powell and Dr. Chap Clark, authors of *Sticky Faith*, encourage parents to “develop a sticky web of relationships” for their kids. We love this idea!

Especially during times when teenagers might begin to pull away in their search for independence, we want to come alongside you by creating a pool of trustworthy adults to help you influence your teenager in positive ways.

That's why we are not a ministry WITH small groups, we are a ministry OF small groups. SMALL groups are a BIG deal. Small groups are about more than just good discussions. They exist to connect your teenager with adults you can trust.

WE WANT OUR SMALL GROUP LEADERS TO BE THE PRIMARY

CHAMPIONS OF MENTORSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP.

SMALL GROUPS PROVIDE TEENAGERS WITH THE FOLLOWING:

A PERSON

Teenagers need a person who cares, believes, and invests in them.

A PLACE

Teenagers need more than a place to make friends and hang out; they need a safe place to process their doubts and questions. They need to talk about what's happening in their lives.

A PARTNERSHIP

Parents and guardians are the biggest influencers in a teenager's life. We would love to partner with you to make sure we're saying the same things and are on the same page. We're far more likely to make an impact if we influence them in the same direction.

A PROCESS

Everyone is at a different stage in his or her walk with God, but God always has a next step. We want to help your teenager identify that next step and encourage him or her to take it. Whether it is beginning a relationship with Christ, getting baptized, going on a mission trip, serving in the church, or simply stopping a bad habit and getting rid of some baggage, our goal is to help your teenager take that next step. We hope you'll engage with your teenager's small group leader. He or she can be a powerful ally for you and your family!

02

THE FINE PRINT



SAFETY GUIDELINES

Students' safety is a priority for our ministry. We want to keep you in the loop on how we plan to care for and protect them.

WE SCREEN VOLUNTEERS

Before volunteers are permitted to serve with us, they undergo a rigorous application and interview process, including a criminal background check.

WE SET BOUNDARIES

We have guidelines set for our youth ministry staff and volunteers. As a parent, you can help us make sure your teenager is well cared for by helping us maintain these boundaries.

- No staff member or volunteer should initiate a one-on-one meeting with a teenager without the knowledge and consent of his or her parent or guardian.
- All staff members and volunteers must maintain appropriate physical boundaries with teenagers at all times.

WE REQUIRE PERMISSION SLIPS

We will ask for your consent in order for your teenager to attend any event, retreat, or gathering outside of our regular weekly program.

WE REPORT DANGEROUS SITUATIONS

Every staff member and volunteer in our ministry is a mandated reporter, which means we are legally required to report any dangerous or potentially dangerous situations immediately, including:

- If a student is being harmed, neglected, or abused.
- If a student is harming or abusing someone else.
- If a student is harming or at risk of harming him or herself.

WE ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE

If you ever have a concern about your teenager's care or safety, please reach out to us. We're just a phone call or email away!



SERVE WITH US



Parents can make a difference in student ministry by serving on The Collective Team—the very team your students call home. Whether you feel called to invest in students regularly or during special events—as a small group leader or in another support role (greeter, registration helper, snack bar helper, etc.)—there is a place for you! To sign up and serve with us, visit calvary.ch/serve and click the Sign Up link in the Students section. You can also email our campus staff at youth@calvary.ch for more information.





 **collective**
YTH