

Middle School Ministry

● 6th-8th Grade Small Group Mentor ●

A Small Group Mentor is a caring person who loves God and who is willing to help disciple 5 to 7 young people for the duration of their MSM years and maybe beyond. Small Group Mentors commit themselves to learning, playing, and promoting a discipleship lifestyle with and among students and others both on and off their turf as they lead them into the body of Christ. Those serving as MSM Mentors are asked to make the following commitments:

1. **Attend Mentor Training (1 launch, 3 gatherings):** These training sessions throughout the year provide the essentials to nurturing your faith, helpful information to further sharpen the mentoring dynamics for youth ministry, scheduling specifics, along with a delicious dinner. If you decide to be a Small Group Mentor, it is essential to attend these meetings. Sunday, September 7th from 4:00-7:30 p.m. is our Leadership Launch. The three Mentor Meetings will take place on these Wednesday nights from 5:15-6:45 p.m.: *November 5th, February 4th, March 11th.*
2. **Attend Team Huddles (6:30-6:50 on Wednesdays):** These 20 minutes prior to students arriving on Wednesday nights are crucial to help prepare mentally, physically, and spiritually for what that particular night has in store. Meet with all the other leaders in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. sharp for God praises, team building, evening announcements, and specific team prayers.
3. **Meet with your small group on scheduled Wednesdays:** You will be leading a small group Bible study, using materials provided by the MSM staff, trusting the Holy Spirit to use the curriculum and the relationships built to disciple students towards Christ. If you are unable to attend a Wednesday night, we ask that you contact a parent of one of your students to lead the small group for that night at least a week or two in advance. Notify a staff member who your sub will be. If a student is absent, it is vital that you contact that student and/or parent within a few days to let them know they were missed. Take attendance each week. If a student is gone for more than two Wednesdays in a row, find out why. We ask that you sit in the middle of your discipleship group during large group worship with the understanding that you're there to help them focus and grow in their relationship with Christ. You will have 45 minutes in your small groups.
4. **Participate in Service Events (4 times per year):** You will assist your small group in signing up for service projects. Each Service Event should include a time for your small group to check-in, pray, and reflect following the event. There will be various Service Events set up ahead of time on a first-come first-serve sign up basis. Additional Service Events will need to be scheduled with the MSM Associate at least two weeks prior to the date of service.
5. **Attend a few of the Connect Events:** We offer six event opportunities throughout the year called 'Connect Events,' that we encourage you to attend with your small group. We ask that you attend IGNITE on *Friday, January 16th* with your small group at Hosanna Church, and even more importantly the AWAKEN DRAMA on *April 3rd or 4th.* Your involvement and presence at these events is vital to building a deeper, more meaningful relationship as a mentor. Specific leader information is listed in the red Connect registration forms regarding these events. Have fun!
6. **Build relationships outside of scheduled events:** You are the primary relational connection between Prince of Peace and these students and their parents. Meet students on their turf at least once. We also need your help to communicate programming information via email and periodic phone calls to parents and their students throughout the year.
7. **Strive to Plant, Take Root, Grow, and Bear Fruit:** As you are on the journey in the seasons of Discipleship, you are asked to plant seeds of the Gospel by building genuine friendships with people who don't yet believe in Jesus. Taking root is helping others come to faith in Christ as "the Way, the Truth, & the Life". Growing as a committed disciple takes shape when you are investing in small group ministries while pursuing a deeper knowledge in the Lord. Bearing fruit is loving others in a way that builds God's Kingdom so that others would plant, take root, grow, and take part in the fruit bearing process. This is the framework at Prince of Peace for disciples to be active in the world.

A Small Group Mentor IS. . .

- ❖ Committed to supporting the decisions and various policies made by the MSM Leadership Team.
- ❖ Willing to grow spiritually through a discipleship pursuit. Growth that can come from: spending time with the Lord in daily prayer; worshiping the Savior regularly both in community and alone; reading God's Word, being willing to serve in and outside of the walls of the church; building relationships that bring glory to God; giving generously and selflessly of one's financial resources as the Lord leads.
- ❖ The group's youth minister. As their mentor, you are responsible for setting the boundaries of discipline. As their youth minister, you must hold them accountable for their actions, being a mentor and leader first, and their friend second.
- ❖ Able to facilitate conversation among students. This may include intentionally drawing some members in and not allowing others to dominate the conversation.
- ❖ Prepared for the weekly lessons prior to Wednesdays with materials that are provided.
- ❖ An adult who loves Jesus by leading young students towards a relationship with Christ.
- ❖ A person willing to invest in the lives of a few students for God's Kingdom.

A Small Group Mentor IS NOT. . .

- ❖ Just a teacher imparting knowledge, or a warm body hanging out with young people.
- ❖ Expected to be an authority or think you're such on Christian spiritual doctrine.
- ❖ Overly self-conscious. (*Allow the Lord to just lead through you, don't worry!*)
- ❖ Someone who wants to "fix out-of-control young people".
- ❖ Someone who wants to be the "favorite" or "buddy" of your students.
- ❖ Someone who showers students with gifts and treats. Students are looking for genuine care and concern—for someone to pray for them and support them. Often gifts and treats can lead to hard feelings and uncomfortable situations, both within your small group and for members of other groups with different leaders.

MSM Wednesday Night Calendar 2008-2009

| | | <u>Lessons:</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| September 17 | Family CONNECT Night (with Parents) | |
| September 24 | MSM Large & Small Groups | <i>Pizza, Pop, Praise</i> |
| September 27/28 | 6th Grade KTP Bibles (during Worship hours) | |
| October 1 | MSM Large & Small Groups | <i>Disciple - Covenants</i> |
| October 8 | MSM Large & Small Groups | <i>The Power of Prayer</i> |
| October 15 | NO MSM – MEA | |
| October 22 | MSM Large & Small Groups | <i>Living in Worship</i> |
| October 29 | <i>Service Projects – all 3 grades</i> | |
| November 5 | MSM Large & Small Groups | <i>God’s Mighty Word</i> |
| November 12 | MSM Large & Small Groups | <i>Fruits of the Spirit</i> |
| November 19 | MSM Large & Small Groups | <i>Serving Others</i> |
| November 26 | NO MSM – Thanksgiving Break | |
| December 3 | MSM Large & Small Groups | <i>Gifts and Giving</i> |
| December 10 | <i>Service Projects – all 3 grades</i> | |
| December 17 | Small Group Christmas parties | |
| December 24 | NO MSM – Christmas | |
| December 31 | NO MSM – Christmas | |
| January 7 | <i>MSM Groups w/Senior High Wild Night ‘09</i> | |
| January 14 | MSM Large & Small Groups | <i>Trusting God vs. Self</i> |
| January 21 | Family CONNECT Night (with Parents) | |
| January 28 | <i>Service Projects (Feed My Starving Children week)</i> | |
| February 4 | MSM Large & Small Groups | <i>God’s Commandments</i> |
| February 11 | MSM Large & Small Groups | <i>Loving the Lord</i> |
| February 18 | MSM Large & Small Groups | <i>Loving your Neighbor</i> |
| February 25 | MSM Large Group | <i>Ash Wed. Family Worship</i> |
| March 4 | MSM Large & Small Groups | <i>Moral Decisions</i> |
| March 11 | MSM Large & Small Groups | <i>Drugs and Alcohol</i> |
| March 18 | MSM Large & Small Groups - 7 th /8 th | <i>Sexual Integrity</i> |
| March 25 | NO MSM – Spring Break | |
| April 1 | Small groups Rotational themes | <i>Venues of Faith</i> |
| April 8 | MSM Large & Small Groups | <i>Crucifixion/Resurrection</i> |
| April 15 | MSM Large & Small Groups | <i>Heaven and Hell</i> |
| April 22 | <i>Service Projects – all 3 grades</i> | |
| April 29 | MSM Large & Small Groups | <i>Prayer Stations</i> |
| May 6 | Year-end Small Group Parties (on and off-site) | |
| May 13 | 8 th Grade Banquet (with parents), 6:00-8:15 p.m. | |

MSM Connect Events

Middle School CONNECT Events are an opportunity to connect in multiple ways: teens can invite their friends to church and welcome them into this community; teens can meet other teens from Prince of Peace and expand their own faith community beyond their small group and into their school and beyond; teens can connect with their small group leaders and other adults and staff who care deeply for them; parents, small group leaders and staff can connect with teens and their friends in an environment that stirs the energy, excitement, and interests of teens. Download a form online at www.msmpop.org.

Paintball.....Saturday, October 25, 2008
All-Night Lockout.....Friday, December 19, 2008
Ignite.....Friday, January 16, 2009

Lutsen Family Ski Trip.....Thu.-Sun, Jan. 29-Feb 1, 2009
Spring Recharge at Camp Okoboji ...Fri-Sun, March 13-15, 2009
Awaken Drama.....Friday, April 3; Saturday, April 4, 2009