



Youth Parents,

This week in Sunday School we'll begin *Forward Motion*, a 3 week study where we'll learn that the Christian life is more about the small steps we take towards obedience, not the leaps. Below you'll find info regarding what we'll be teaching each week & suggestions of how you can connect with your teen about each lesson.



[Click here](#) for a map/directions for the location of each party

Parents, please respect the home that is hosting your teen's group & pick up your teen soon after the game ends.

If you would like to help with food please contact the following:

7th grade - [Margaret Waller](#)
 8th grade - [Reta Haire](#)
 9th grade - [Jennifer Altman](#)
 10th grade - [Jackie Gunn](#)
 11th grade - [Carol Bryant](#)
 12th grade - [Sherri Russell](#)

Forward Motion

Series Overview

We've all made resolutions and set goals, but too often we fall short of what we expected to accomplish. Unfortunately it's often the same when we try to become the Christian we really believe God has called us to be. We fall short of the goal and become increasingly discouraged. In this series, your student will learn that following Christ is more about the small steps we make every day, not about the huge leaps of faith that we think we need to make. They will set a goal, determine the first step and then make it. The series will end with a celebration!

Week One (January 29)

So many times we look at our lives with great expectations, thinking we should be leaps from where we are. We expect perfection. We expect to arrive at some level. The reality is that following Christ isn't about leaping to instant perfection. We're walking with Him daily--a walk that involves steps, not leaps. Following Jesus Christ is about the small steps we make every day, steps of obedience, steps in relationship with Him. Sometimes those steps are small, sometimes they are big--but they are all still steps, moving us forward.

Session One Parent Cue: Following Christ is about steps, not leaps. This week your students will be introduced to the myth: that Christianity is all about taking big leaps of faith. They will encounter some of Scripture's most daunting verses, and wrestle with what it means to have a life of consistent spiritual growth. Each student will set a goal for himself or herself, and the next few weeks they will revisit their goals. Discuss with them what you think may be some unrealistic goals you have for yourself.

Session Two (February 5)

The goal of every Christian is to become more like Jesus. But the problem comes when we think we're going to achieve that today. It's a lifelong journey, a process, a walk. Following

Jr. High Fall Retreat

Date: August 24-26

Location: TBA

Grades: 7th-9th

Cost: \$125 (estimate)

Speaker: [Gary Permenter](#)

Worship Leader: Jennifer Smith

Student Worship

Wednesday's @ 6:30; Jennifer Smith leads our worship band & a message by Mike or Neil

Sunday School Snacks

Our Sunday School Food Team is asking parents to help provide snacks during Sunday School every other Sunday. If you would

Jesus is about the steps we take every day, and as Christians, we have divine help in taking those steps--the Holy Spirit. What is the step God is asking to take? What's holding you back from taking it?

Session Two Parent Cue: The way you get from where you are to where you want to be is one step at a time. This may sound ridiculously obvious, but we all forget it. We want to go to the gym one time and look like a model; we want to make one smart comment at work and be promoted right to the top. But we know deep down that isn't the way things work. The good news is that in our spiritual development, God has not left us alone to work out the mess. He has sent His Spirit to guide us. This week, students will look at the power of the Holy Spirit to guide their paths, and they will make a plan for beginning to take the first step toward their goals. What is an obtainable goal that you can work on achieving this week?

Session Three (February 12)

What if you acknowledged the steps you took every day in your own "walk" with God? What if you realized that even though you may not be where you want to be, you may be exactly where God wants you to be, learning the things you need to know one step at a time? It brings a lot of freedom, doesn't it? But not only that, what if we started celebrating not only the steps we take every day, but the steps those around us do as well? Because what may not be a big deal for you, may be huge for someone else. And all that celebration begins to turn into one big party.

Session Three Parent Cue: Celebrate the steps you take in your relationship with God, and celebrate the steps others take as well. It's all about celebration, not the cheap kind of celebration that comes from making a big deal out of nothing, but the real party that comes naturally when we know that we have made even the slightest move in the right direction. Your students will talk this week about what it looks like to encourage each other and celebrate with each other whenever they make progress toward one of their goals. What are some specific areas of growth you have seen in your teen in the last couple of weeks, months or even year?

Moving Your Teen Forward

Many of you crave forward motion in your family. You know what you want your children to be. You want them to be kind, respectful, responsible, intelligent, creative individuals. You want them to be able to succeed when they grow up and leave your home. But sometimes you look at them and you think that it may never happen.

This month, think about helping your student make one step. Think of one new thing that you would love for your child to do. Maybe it's to improve his or her science grade, learn how to do laundry, cook a meal or change the oil in the car. Once you have decided on one goal for your child, communicate your

like to help please [email Becky Stevens](#).

Stay Connected



Weekly Schedule

Sunday School

9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Worship 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Elevate & Cornerstone

Choirs 4:45 p.m.

Evening Worship Sunday @

6:00 p.m. (Mike is preaching this week)

Student Worship Wednesdays @

6:30

Summer Camp 2012

June 25-29

Panama City Beach, FL

For more info visit [BigStuf.com](#)



Parenting Resources

[Heart Connex](#) - family devotionals by Richard Ross
Center for Parent & Youth Understanding

[Plugged In](#) - movie & music reviews

[Focus on the Family](#)

Book Recommendations

[Parenting Beyond Your Capacity](#)
by Reggie Joiner

[Sticky Faith: Everyday Ideas to Build Lasting Faith in Your Kids](#) by Kara Powell & Chap Clark

[Understanding Your Young Teen](#)
by Mark Oestreicher

[Generation iY](#) by Tim Elmore

Contact Info

[Taylor Alber](#), Student Ministry

desire to teach this skill and let your child know why it is important to learn it. Then spend time during the month helping teach your child how to accomplish the goal.

If you want your student to improve his or her science grade, sit with him and study flash cards. If you want them to know how to do laundry, do a load or two together until he or she gets the hang of it. **By communicating to your child why you want him or her to know or do a certain thing, you communicate respect. By spending time helping them learn, you are letting him or her know of their importance to you.** You will also alleviate your child's fear of disappointing you if they get it wrong.

The most important thing that fuels forward motion is celebration. Make sure that you celebrate your child's step! Tell him or her that you are proud of them for working so hard or for learning something new. When your child knows that they can make you proud, they will be much more motivated to continue working on their new goal.

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Get connected to a wider community of parents at www.orangeparents.org.

In Christ,

Mike Brister
Student Pastor
FBC Jackson

Neil Tullos
Associate Student Pastor
FBC Jackson

[Forward email](#)



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