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**2016-2017 Sunday Night Series Overview Plan**

**Sunday, August 28:  Kick Off Night**

We’ll start off with some extra fun in the Cafe during snack supper.  We’ll have pizza for snack supper to make it easy, but then we’ll also have free Sonic ice cream and a photo booth for the students to enjoy.  Our time in the Tabernacle will be cut a little short to allow enough time for students to enjoy everything in the Cafe.  In the Tabernacle we have a fun “Welcome Back” theme called “Starting Line” with videos, games, worship, teaching and LOTS of fun door prizes to give away!

**Sunday, September 11, 18, and 25:  Own It**

We’ll cover three different aspects of owning one’s walk with Christ over these three weeks:  Faith, Bible, Worship.  Week 1, "Own My Faith” We not only want to challenge students to believe in God, but to own their relationship with God too (you’ll work on your small group covenant on this night too!).  Week 2, "Own My Bible” We will challenge students to own the time they spend in their Bible and how to better use and understand it.  Week 3, "Own My Worship” We’ll challenge our students to better understand what it means to worship God and what it can do for their faith journey.  On Week 3, September 25, during the normal Leader Meeting time, small group leaders will gather (7th-9th in Haney Hall 5-5:20 p.m. and 10th-12th in the Pit 6:10-6:30 p.m.) for the parents of your students to have the opportunity to meet you!

**Sunday, October 2:  Love in Deed Night**

On this night we’ll participate in a missions project through the Missions and Outreach Department’s Love in Deed Campaign.  7th-9th time in the Tabernacle will be filled with fun and games; 10th-12th time in the Tabernacle will be filled with worship, communion, and a brief message.  Both will be followed by an opportunity for each student to assemble and pack Health Kits for UMCOR in Haney Hall.  7th-8th won’t meet in their specific small groups on this night as it’s Merge Fall Retreat weekend; 9th-12th will still have time to gather and connect in small groups.

**Sunday, October 16, 23, 30:  Do You Know the Stories?  *And what in the world do they mean for us today?***

There are so many great stories throughout the Old and New Testament.  We’ll choose three of the lesser known stories from scripture that still pack a powerful message for teenagers today to unpack, better understand, and apply to our lives.

**Sunday, November 6, 13, 20:  Forgotten God**

We hear more talk about God the Father and about Jesus Christ, but often the Holy Spirit is the Forgotten God.  We’ll spend 3 weeks exploring the nature and role of the Holy Spirit as found in scripture and as evidence in a our lives and world today.

**Sunday, November 27:  Youth Advent Concerts**

We will not meet in small groups on this night.  The Youth Choirs perform Advent and Christmas music, typically with 3 showings at 3:30, 5, and 7 p.m. in the Narthex

**Sunday, December 4:  Progressive Dinner**

A fun jam-packed night of service, fellowship, food, and lots of fun with your small group!  Students are encouraged to bring a teenage-appropriate gift donation for the Graceworks' Manger.    We gather at BUMC before visiting a home-centered or elderly member of our congregation, travel to grade-level appetizers, then small group dinners, followed by desserts back at the Church!

**Sunday, January 8, 15, 22, and 29:  Half-Truths:  *God helps those who help themselves and other things the Bible doesn’t say***

They are simple phrases. They sound Christian—like something you might find in the Bible. We’ve all heard these words. Maybe we’ve said them. They capture some element of truth, yet they miss the point in important ways.  We’ll teach from Adam Hamilton’s book “Half Truths" in searching for the whole truth by comparing common Christian clichés to the message and ministry of Jesus.

**Sunday, February 12, 19, and 26:  Rest**

We’re all in need of it, but we almost never get enough rest.  Even the God of the universe rested as God made creation.  Maybe our creator took a day of rest just to give us the example of how we need to live our lives!  We’ll help our busy, over-sheduled, and often stressed teenagers learn what it means to take Sabbath and rest in God.

**Sunday, March 5:  Share the Spirit**

We will not meet in small groups on this night.  The youth choirs will lead a night of worship and we ask that all youth attend as it serves as a night of worship AND a fundraiser for summer tours and mission trips.

**Sunday, March 12:  Revelation**

This past year some of our students asked about the book of Revelation:  What does it say?  What do we take literally?  What is meant to be understood metaphorically.  Depending on where our students are at this spring, we might take a night and explore this book and many of the common questions we have about it.

**Sunday, March 26, April 2 & 9:  John: *the gospel of light***

The Gospel of John is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels. It includes some of the loftiest and most loved verses in all the Bible: “And the Word became flesh…,” “For God so loved the world…,” “You who are without sin cast the first stone…,” “I am the resurrection and the life…,” “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” The writing is filled with rich images and profound truths, but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that his readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they “may have life in his name.”  We’ll teach from Adam Hamilton’s Youth Study book “John” and explore the major themes from the gospel of John.

**Sunday, April 23 and 30:  open**

We might continue to John study to be 5 weeks, or we’ll fill in these last two weeks with something else!  We like to leave some holes in our Spring semester planning as we listen to what our students are going through and what they have questions about.

**Sunday, May 7:  LAST night of small groups!**

You will have more time with your group on this night to plan something special to end the year in a night of celebration!