

WEFC Student Ministries Vision Statement

At WEFC, our vision is to see families faithfully following Jesus together. Student Ministries at WEFC, therefore, exist *to foster families to be faithful followers of Jesus*. Each of those words is important:

Foster – walk alongside and equip: *it's what we do*

Families – students and parents: *it's who we serve*

Faithful – godly character: *it's what we aim for*

Followers of Jesus – the lordship of Jesus: *it's who we submit to*

Our guiding principles for Student Ministries are these:

1) Parental responsibility

God has established parents as the primary disciplers of their children. Fathers and mothers, therefore, have both the God-given *responsibility* and *authority* to instruct and discipline their children in the way of Jesus. (Deut. 6:4-9; Eph. 6:1-4)

2) Church partnership

God has established the church to be a community of care, support, and instruction to followers of Jesus. Its responsibility, therefore, is to come alongside and *partner* with parents in the spiritual care of their children, not to replace them. Student ministry flows out of this partnership. (Ps. 71:17-18; Eph. 4:11-12)

3) Word-based ministry

Ministry in the Bible is fundamentally the Spirit-filled *proclamation* and *practice* of the word of God. Thus, as the supreme focus of the word, the good news of Jesus is the supreme message and model for ministry, even to students. (1 Cor. 2:1-5; 15:1-4)

4) Persevering faith

God's desire is for believers to persevere in faith, becoming mature in Christ. The goal of ministry, therefore, is *a faith that lasts*. Student ministry, likewise, cannot be short-sighted but must play the long game. It should strive to cultivate in students a deep and stable trust in the Lord Jesus and to equip them for a life of fruitful service to him. (Eph. 4:11-16; Col. 1:28-29)

Our core values for Student Ministries are these:

1) Jesus is all

As a community of students, parents, and leaders, we desire to make much of Jesus. As the beginning and end of student ministries, he is above, below, before, and behind all that we do. We, therefore, commit to keeping our eyes fixed on him and what he's doing among us, while forsaking all other rival distractions and pursuits.

2) Spirit-filled character

As a community of students, parents, and leaders, we desire to see God form the character of Jesus in each of us by his Spirit. We, therefore, commit to encouraging the virtues of faith,

hope, love, and humility in one another, while discouraging and repenting of their sinful counterparts.

3) Relationships of love and trust

As a community of students, parents, and leaders, we desire to see relationships of love and trust formed. For without these communities tear each other apart. We, therefore, commit to do all we can to encourage love and trust among us, while discouraging anything that would harm their development.

4) Deep and Wide

As a community of students, parents, and leaders, we desire to go deep and wide. Deep into Jesus. Deep into Scripture. Deep into fellowship with one another. But wide in our welcome to saints, sufferers, and sinners. We, therefore, commit to being intentional and mature about spiritual matters, while cultivating an inviting atmosphere where all can meet Jesus.