

Dear Parents,

As you know, our event is just around the corner. I wanted to take a moment and fill you in our theme for this year, and to also ask you to begin to pray for us as we head into this meaningful time in the life of our youth ministry.

People who study this generation of teenagers and young adults note a craving for realness. The buzzword "authentic" is a buzzword for a reason. Teenagers want the things that matter to them to be real. They want authenticity in their relationships as well as the brands they follow. They want the experiences and encounters they have to be what they are supposed to be.

But are they asking the same questions of their faith? Are they willing to ask what an authentic relationship with Christ looks like? We believe they are, and our upcoming event is going to focus on helping them answer this question.

Our theme will be "Follower: Living An Authentic Faith." Through it, your teenager will be:

- Introduced to the concept of "following" as the true foundation for their faith-relationship with Christ.
- Define what it means to practically follow Jesus in their day-to-day lives.
- Reminded that following Jesus is not without its cost.
- Encouraged as they commit to pursuing an authentic faith with Christ.
- Empowered to make real change in their lives.

Soon you'll receive a follow-up from me that will equip you with two key pieces of content:

- 1. A guide to inform you of the topics we'll be covering in our Small Group sessions
- Some questions for you to utilize in following-up with your child, reinforcing what he or she will have studied

Studies show that you are the most influential force in your child's life as it pertains to shaping his or her spiritual identity. My goal in these updates is to equip you to help continue and build on the process we will have started during our event.

Please be praying for our ministry, your child, and your child's friends as we challenge them with this relevant, timely message from the Bible.