

Dear Parents of Middle and High School Students,

Our weather might not know it, but the month of May is just days away! Check out what's planned for Student Ministry this month, learn more about a few specific needs we have for this summer, and check out some recommended parent resources of the month that were highlighted at last Sunday's Parent Night, "Practicing Discernment in the Digital Age."

### **Student Equip: Theology of Salvation**

In [Ligonier's 2025 State of Theology survey](#), here's what they discovered about evangelicals. When asked to respond to the following statements, here is how they answered.

Statement #15: *"Everyone is born innocent in the eyes of God."* 64% agreed with that statement, while only 31% disagreed.

Statement #12: *"Everyone sins a little, but most people are good by nature."* 53% agreed, while 44% disagreed.

Statement #6: *"God loves all people the same way."* 94% agreed with that statement, and only 5% disagreed.

Now, it is true that God "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matt. 5:45). The Bible also teaches that there is a unique love that God has for His people, whom He has made His children through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:3-14).

Encourage your student to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM as we think deeply about the doctrine of salvation. Here is what's planned for the month of May:

- May 3 | Theology of Salvation (Session 1: Death Through Sin)
- May 10 | No Student Equip (Mother's Day)
- May 17 | Theology of Salvation (Session 2: God's Choice)
- May 24 | Theology of Salvation (Session 3: Who's Made Right?)
- May 31 | Theology of Salvation (Session 4: The Power of Grace)

### **May Highlight Schedule**

On Sunday nights at Highlight, we are continuing our study through the book of 1 Peter and will, Lord willing, arrive at the end of the letter in mid-May. Here is what's planned for Sunday nights this month:

- May 3 | Highlight (Pizza Night; 1 Peter 5:1-5)
- May 10 | No Highlight (Mother's Day)
- May 17 | Highlight (Worship Night; 1 Peter 5:6-14)
- May 24 | Outdoor Game Night (Memorial Day Weekend)

- May 31 | Highlight (S'mores & More; Stand-alone Message)

### **Summer Programming: Help Needed!**

I'm excited to report that our Summer Camp sign-ups are coming in strong—we have already filled 50% of our allotted spots. If your student is not yet signed up, please do so as soon as possible by visiting [centrevillebaptist.org/summerretreat](http://centrevillebaptist.org/summerretreat). If you need financial assistance, please send me an email at [justin.lorig@centrevillebaptist.org](mailto:justin.lorig@centrevillebaptist.org).

I also want to share that I am actively recruiting parent volunteers who are members of the church for two specific opportunities this summer. I am in need of a few more parent leaders for Summer Camp (June 28–July 2), as well as parent chaperones for our Toronto Mission Trip (July 20–27). If the Lord places it on your heart to serve in either of these opportunities, please send me an email. I trust that God will provide the right people in His timing.

### **Recommended Resources of the Month**

I enjoyed seeing so many of you last Sunday night at our Parent Night, where we focused on the topic, *"Practicing Discernment in the Digital Age."* If you missed it, here is a short recap of what we talked about.

Our lesson outline was simple: we started with time in the Word to build a foundation, considered our context by examining current trends, and concluded with a time of thinking through how to apply the Word to our context.

We looked at three passages (Proverbs 4:20–27, Luke 6:44–45, and Philippians 4:6–9), all of which teach that those who follow the Lord stay alert to how their hearts are being shaped and wisely guard what they take in.

The trends we examined could be summarized by this quote from Samuel James in *Digital Liturgies*: "It is entirely possible ... to faithfully avoid vulgar or explicit content on the web while simultaneously being shaped by it in a profoundly sub-Christian way." In other words, it's not just the content of the internet that can be dangerous—the very form of the internet is shaping and discipling us as well. We discussed the addictive nature of scrolling, the reality of AI chatbots feeding us what we want to hear rather than what we need to hear, and statistics showing that anxiety and exhaustion are on the rise.

The lesson concluded with a few recommendations: prioritize embodied relationships (God has made us both body and soul and has given us the gift of the local church to be shaped and formed as disciples of Christ); recognize that boundaries, safeguards, and limits are helpful, not harmful (Paul said that all things were lawful for him, but not all things were helpful); and use digital media with an intended purpose in mind. Before logging on, ask: "Do I know why I'm logging on right now? Is it to find something, share something, or accomplish a task? Or am I merely seeking distraction?"

I love the following quote from Brett McCracken. He writes, "You were not created to be a predictably programmed series of increasingly addicted responses to the stimuli of digital dopamine delivery systems." You were created for much more—to glorify God.

I recommend the following resources to help us think more carefully about this topic together:

- [Digital Liturgies](#) by Samuel James
- [Scrolling Ourselves to Death](#) by Brett McCracken
- [12 Ways Your Phone Is Changing You](#) by Tony Reinke
- [What Do I Say When...?](#) by Andrew Walker
- [The Anxious Generation](#) by Jonathan Haidt
- [The Tech-Wise Family](#) by Andy Crouch

As always, if there are any ways I can be praying for you or your family, please do not hesitate to reach out.

By God's grace and for his glory!

Justin Lorig

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Lorig". The script is cursive and elegant, with the first letters of "Justin" and "Lorig" being capitalized and prominent.