
Midweek Opportunities & The *golove* Life

Fall means a lot of different things to everyone. One thing that it means around Church at the Crossing is our midweek opportunities ramp back up. Besides our normal weekly programming of SNO (golove.org/sno) and Sunday XP (golove.org/xp), we offer Midweek Opportunities during the Fall and Spring Semesters. These midweek opportunities fit into the overall goal we have to help youth become everything God has created them to be. Epic and Jr High are encouraged to be a part of the Youth Mentoring Youth program and Sr High Small Groups will meet during the week.

Here at Church at the Crossing, we want to encourage everyone to live “The *golove* Life.” Each program we have is strategically created to help develop our youth in each area of The *golove* Life: Connect, Devote and Engage. These midweek opportunities are essential as we Devote to the Word and to prayer. YMY offers opportunities for Sr Highers to also serve as mentors! For more information about Youth midweek opportunities, please visit golove.org/youthmidweek. For more information about The *golove* Life, please visit golove.org/golovelifeyouth.



It's that time of year again! School has started, the weather is getting cooler (at least should be soon), football is on the weekends and for the Youth at the Crossing family, it also means registration for Indiana State Youth Convention (SYC). SYC is a time each year where youth ministries from all over the state get together downtown, stay in hotels over the weekend and are a part of different services and sessions filled with awesome worship, amazing teaching

and life changing moments. SYC is an experience we want every student to be a part of, whether it's their first or 6th time. If there is anything keeping your youth from being a part of this (including finances), please let us know. Below are a few key details for the weekend.

Date: November 4, 5 and 6

Cost: In by September 28th: \$130.00 : In by October 26th: \$145.00 : In after October 26th: \$160.00

Steps to take: 1) Head to golove.org/syc for more info and to register.

2) Head to golove.org/youthmedicalrelease to fill out the 2011/2012 waiver.

3) Pick up a SYC waiver (for the State Office) from the Youth Center or under the Forms tab at golove.org/youth and place it in the box.

4) Turn in a non-refundable \$75 deposit into “The Box” inside the Youth Center (rest of the balance being due by Nov 1st).

Finding More Grace as a Parent

Posted by Carey Nieuwhof

Photo by Reggie Joiner

Everyone thinks grace is a great idea. Who doesn't want unconditional love? You long for it in your marriage, your kids long for it from their parents. But living it out? Well, that's another thing entirely, isn't it?

So, how do you become more grace filled? How do you ensure your patience isn't exhausted before breakfast, that your kindness extends to all situations and that you continue to believe the best about the people you love the most?

For me, grace doesn't come naturally. I need to work at it. Here's how I tried to exhibit more grace daily:

I prayed about it.

I read my Bible more.

I tried harder.

I made New Year's resolutions.

I found accountability partners.

I apologized to my wife and kids when I lacked grace.

And all of that helped a little. But none of it really changed the game for me.

Then, a few years ago, I stumbled on the one factor that in my experience, makes the biggest difference in my mood, my disposition, and my ability to sustain a grace-filled spirit:

Margin

What's margin? Margin is the white space in your life. It's the down time when no one is making demands of you. It's space to breathe. It's eight hours of sleep. It's down time in my calendar and taking a day off. It's living at the pace we were created to live at.

When I have margin in my life, I'm more grace-filled. I'm less edgy, I'm more sympathetic, I'm kinder. I'm more generous. I laugh more. I love more deeply. I have to work at margin. If I'm not careful, I'll cheat sleep, fill up all the white space in my calendar with more meetings and more commitments. And when I do that, I suffer. When I have margin in my life, I display more *grace*. It is the single biggest influencer on my mood and disposition.

That's my secret.

I'm not going to suggest that this will work for everyone, but I'm curious. Between work, driving the kids to every commitment on the planet, an active social calendar, homework, cooking and housework, how much margin do you actually have in your family? Would scheduling some white space in your calendar increase or decrease your stress? All I know is what it does for me.

I'd love to hear from you today. Has margin helped you? What did you cut out? How has that helped you live a more grace-filled life? Or, do you have another secret?



www.orangeparents.org

The Youth Ambassadors is our youth led welcoming team. This team makes a huge difference in how guests experience their time with us. Our next training will be Saturday, September 17th from 5:15 - 6:45 p.m. For more information or if your youth is interested in joining the team, visit golove.org/youthambassadors.



YMY Mentor Training

On September 10th, from 4 - 6 p.m., there will be a training meeting for all YMY mentors and those interested in being mentors in the Youth Center. Dinner will be provided.

Jr High and Sr High Overnights

Due to SYC being moved up a few weeks, we will not have a Fall Retreat this year. In its place, we will hold separate overnights for Jr High and Sr High. These will be great opportunities to have a great time, build relationships and memories along with having some special and challenging times together. For the Sr High, this time will fall on the night of October 7th ending on the morning of the 8th. The Jr High will get their chance the next weekend, starting on the night of October 14th and ending on the 15th. Cost will be \$10 per person and you can register from the Youth event tab at the bottom of golove.org/youth.

The 2012 International Youth Convention (IYC) is coming up this next summer in Denver, CO. IYC is for graduating 9-12 graders and is one of those life-changing experiences we don't want any youth to miss. These only happen every two years, so each youth only gets a chance to attend two of these. We encourage doing whatever needs to be done to allow your youth to go. Our exact dates and plans are still tentative, but will fall between the dates of June 30 through July 9. We will be opening up registration for the early bird discount by December and that opportunity will end mid-January which will raise costs slightly. Check out iyc2012.org for more info on IYC!



all PARENT meeting OCTOBER 1/2

Parents of 7-12 graders will have a fall parent meeting to discuss the many opportunities over the fall: the weekly ones and the special events. You will have two opportunities to attend this meeting: Saturday, October 1st (8- 8:40 p.m.) or Sunday, Oct 2nd (12:30-1:15 p.m.).



important.info.

Improv Workshop

(September 10)

Our very own Andrew Gale will be leading the 2nd Improv Workshop in the Youth Center on Saturday, September 10th from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Living Christmas Tress 2011

(October 1)

It's not too late to be a part of LCT for this year if you are interested! There are roles for every level of experience. Please contact Ian and Katie McDaniel at ikmcdaniel@mac.com as soon as possible so they can connect you in the right place. First Saturday rehearsal is October 1st.

Fall Fest

(October 29)

On Friday, October 29th, you'll want to be a part of the Church at the Crossing Fall Fest. Check golove.org for more information as the time approaches.

The Race

(September 18)

August kicked the Race off, but continues through September. Check out golove.org/therace for more information on the schedule and what is going on with The Race! Oh, and don't forget about The Racies on September 18th from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.!

Dodgeball and Discussion – EPIC/7-8 grade

(October 8)

Come to a fun evening of Dodgeball, snacks and chit-chat as we bridge the gap between middle school and Jr High. This takes place in the gym on Saturday, October 8th from 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Important Dates

- 9/10 YMY Mentor Training
- 9/10 Improv Workshop
- 9/17 Youth Ambassadors Training
- 9/18 The Racies
- 10/1 First LCT rehearsal
- 10/1-2 Parent Meeting (7-12 grade)
- 10/7-8 Sr High overnighter
- 10/8 Dodgeball Discussion (EPIC/7-8 grade)
- 10/14-15 Jr High overnighter
- 10/29 Fall Fest
- 11/4-6 Indiana State Youth Convention

SNO Dates

- 9/3 Cook-out
- 9/10 TBA
- 9/17 Hearing from Mable
- 9/24 Missions at the Crossing
- 10/1 Round Table
- 10/8 EPIC/Jr High Dodgeball and Discussion
Sr High Game Night
- 10/15 TBA
- 10/22 Clasen in Africa
- 10/29 Fall Fest