

Hello middle school volunteers! These are the volunteer announcements for the week of Wednesday, January 22, 2025.

The theme this Wednesday is sweet and sour night. So there will be some sweet and sour foods that you and the students will be able to taste test on your way in at the beginning of the night.

For game time, girls will be in the gym for dodgeball, and the boys are going to be out in the cafe with a game involving numbers.

Reminder that the east side of the gym is off limits for one more week for this Wednesday night. We should be back to having full use of the gym starting next Wednesday, January 29.

Warren Erickson is going to teach week two of our series on cheat codes.

And happy Winter Blast week, everybody! For those of you who are signed up to go, we will send a separate communication via email with all the information that you need to know. Thank you to those of you who are going above and beyond and spending the weekend investing in students at Hidden Acres.

Something else to just put on your radar things coming up for those of you who are new to middle school ministry, every year in the month of February we do a series on love sex dating and relationships because God designed all of those things and we think it's important for students to know God's perspective on those topics.

If we don't address those things in church, that sends a message that God doesn't care about that stuff, but he really does. And love, sex, dating, and relationships start to become a more important topic, more influential in students' lives. So starting with the first Wednesday in February, we will have our series that we call Heart to Heart, and we're going to be real. We're going to be honest. We're going to be discerning and age appropriate. But it's always a very interesting month, and it's an important month. So just to prepare you for that coming up starting in February.

For the leader tip this week, I want to bring your attention back to those impact questions, which you can reference on the Volunteer Info webpage where those are listed. Those are questions that we invite everybody at Valley Church to be asking about themselves.

Jodi and I talked about those at Volunteer Kickoff on January 8th. And these are questions that you can ask of yourself to help you gauge how you're doing in your own relationship as a follower of Jesus.

It's also a question that you can ask to help you gauge where the students in your small group are at.

So my specific challenge for you this week is to pick one student in your small group and pick one of the impact questions.

And as you're interacting with that student this Wednesday night, have that impact question in mind and try to answer for that student where you think they are at in regards to that specific question.

Or you could even outright ask that student that question.

You know, you could say something like, "Hey, I'm trying to go around asking students to kind of think about where they're at in your faith. And one way to think about it is, you know, by asking how's my relationship with Christ deepening on a daily basis," or whatever the question is.

And you could just ask it to that student and then listen.

And, you know, there's no judgment. There's no right or wrong answer. just a way for us to get a gauge of where kids are at.

So pick one student and one question and as you interact with that student have that question in mind this Wednesday night. It's a good way for you to know where the kids in your small group are at which helps you be more effective and more strategic in how you're approaching and pouring into students.

That's all we got for this week.

Thanks for checking in!

We'll see you Wednesday night.