

# Leader Announcements

## February 4

Hi, middle school volunteers. These are the volunteer announcements for the week of Wednesday, February 4, 2026.

### **Heart To Heart series**

This is our first week of our Heart to Heart series about God's design for love, sex, dating, and relationships. Stay tuned to the end of these announcements for some leader tips about how to lead students well as we enter this series. Week one, we'll start real mild and just talk about friendship before moving into deeper topics in the following weeks of the series.

### **New Format**

This Wednesday is also going to be our first night of launching our new experiment with a different format on Wednesday nights. Each grade will be separated out into a different area of the VCC. And as a grade, you will do teaching, announcements, game, and small groups all in a specific area of the building. And then we will all come together, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade at the end of the night for worship through music. One group will be in the new Bridges room. One group will be in the gym. And another group will be in the cafe. And you can look at the attached schedule for more information about that.

### **Night To Shine**

Night to Shine is Friday, February 13. It's a prom night experience for adults and teenagers with special needs. There's plenty of opportunities for you to serve if you would like to. And we are specifically asking middle school students to serve as dance buddies. As a dance buddy, they would meet me at the community center at 7 p.m. And from 7 to 9, we'll just be out on the dance floor. Dancing, helping to bring some energy and hype and excitement to make the dance more fun for the guests. So students can

sign up for that on the church events page. There's a special middle school event for middle schoolers to serve at night to shine and sign up that way.

### **Formal Night**

We're going to have a formal night on Wednesday, February 18. This is just for fun. If people want to dress up in formal wear to our Wednesday night program, you may do so.

### **Baptism**

And then we have baptism Sunday on February 22.

### **Leader Tip: How Lead Students During Heart To Heart Series**

All right, so wrap up these announcements. This is your leader tip. It's a little bit longer because we are entering a really important series. Heart to Heart is about love, sex, dating, and relationships. And I want to make sure that we handle this sensitive content well as we lead students. So here's eight ways that you can be a great leader during the Heart to Heart series.

1. Number one, I want you to know why we are doing this. Why are we talking about love, sex, dating, and relationships in church? We are doing this because God is the inventor of all of these things, and he cares about these things. If we do not address them in church, it sends a message that we can't talk about them, or that it's wrong to talk about these topics, or that God does not care about them. But he does deeply care about them, and we want students to know what God thinks of these topics.
2. Number two, the overall message that I want students to get, and I want you to receive as we go through this series, is that love, sex, dating, and relationships are good, beautiful gifts that God has designed, and they are most beautifully enjoyed by us, and they are experienced in the most beautiful way when we use them in the way that God designed for them to be used.

3. Number three, when you're having discussions with students, please lean toward sharing God's opinion and God's thoughts about these things, and not just your own opinion. Use scripture as much as possible.
4. Number four, be prepared for this topic to bring up tough stuff with kids. Sometimes they might share about a friend or a family member who's gay or transgender. Sometimes it can bring up instances where students have been abused. So don't be caught off guard if this series brings up tough stuff. If a student shares that they've been abused, that especially is a time for you to listen and to ask lots of questions, and then that would be something to pass along to Rachel or myself.
5. Number five, it's okay to say, I don't know, when a student asks you a question. It's also okay to say, I'm not comfortable discussing that with you. That's one you're going to have to talk about with your parents. You don't have to say those things to all of the questions students ask, but it is okay if there's a question that's just a little too far in your opinion.
6. Number six, I do encourage you to encourage students to talk to their parents. Especially if you know their parents and you know the parents are coming from a biblical perspective, you can help students win and you can help parents win by encouraging students to have conversations with their parents.
7. Number seven, use discernment. And you've got to find a right balance in discerning, sharing enough information with students, but not sharing too much information. Remember, these are 11, 12, 13, and 14-year-olds. These are not five-year-olds, but these are also not 25-year-olds. So you don't have to be fake and superficial, but you also don't want to share as if you were sharing with your best friend or your adult life group. Especially when you're sharing from your own life. You're welcome to share from your own life if you are

comfortable. But again, please use discernment. And remember, these are only 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. They can handle some information. They cannot handle all information.

8. Finally, number eight. If there is something that you think Rachel and I might need to know, if you're on the edge of deciding, should I share about this piece of information I learned or should I pass along this conversation I had with a student to Joe or Rachel, if you're on the fence at all, please lean towards sharing with us. And we can walk through with you if any next steps need to be taken. We want to help you, we want to support you, and we want to make sure our students are supported. So there's eight tips to help you lead effectively through Heart to Heart.

Thanks for checking in. It's going to be a great month in Middle School Ministry!