

Hey Valley Middle School Ministry volunteers, this is Jackson here with this week's leader announcements for Wednesday, the 23rd.

This week, 6th grade groups, you will have more time in small groups since you don't have to be told what group you're in, so you guys will have more time. And 8th grade groups in the Sky Venue will have more time because they don't have to wait for the 6th graders to leave.

Fall Retreat is just around the corner, October 2nd through 4th at Hidden Acres. Sign-up deadline for Early Bird was last Wednesday. The total sign-up deadline for everybody is the 27th, so a week from this Sunday. So, the 27th that's when the deadline is to sign up.

Now, leaders, this is a personal note from me. If you are going on Fall Retreat, please sign up as soon as you can. We have the Fall Retreat Games again this year, which we are so excited for, and I'm doing a bunch of prep behind the scenes for that. But I need to know what leaders are going so I can formulate the teams together, so I can pick team captains, and know, you know, who's going to be in leader support roles in those groups. So, if you are going, please sign up so I can figure those numbers out. And if you have students in your group who are like saying they're going to sign up and they haven't yet, please encourage them to sign up.

Another thing is, Middle School merch still exists. I say it often because we believe in repetition here at Middle School Ministry. It makes sure people notice the things that we're saying. So, by the time you watch this video, the Fall Retreat merch will have already come and gone, so hopefully you got that. If you wanted it and didn't get it in time, I can place an order for you; I just cannot promise it'll be here before Fall Retreat happens. So, if you're interested in that, let me know.

Another thing to be aware of, just as you know, busy calendars: Blitz is on our calendar. November 13th will be Blitz, which is our all-night event. So, we'll start pushing that event heavily with middle schoolers after Fall Retreat. But just for you leaders who might need to take work off or just to put it in your schedule, that is coming up.

Your leader tip for this week is: you guys probably got in your small groups and they felt very jittery, very distracted. Don't worry—first night of small groups. Now, if you're an 8th grade group, maybe be worried, but 7th and 6th grade groups, don't worry. 6th grade groups, they just are getting to know everybody, they want to talk a lot. We give you a lot of small group time because we know that's going to happen. 7th grade groups, 7th graders are still in that squirmy stage. I lead 7th graders; they are stupid at times, but we love them, and they still, you know, give important things to conversation, even if I'm having to tell a kid to move when the curtain's falling from the gym ceiling because he wants to sit under it. So, 7th graders are random. 8th graders, there, you know—you guys know—the conversations there are getting deeper, they're growing. And we will not be able to see all the fruits of the ministry while they're in middle school, but someday, either you will see it, or you'll hear about it from someone, or you might never know, but you'll just know that you did everything you could to make an impact.

So, thank you guys so much for serving, and we'll see you this Wednesday.