

**NORTH RALEIGH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH YOUTH GROUP**  
**JUNIORS AND SENIORS FAITH AND LIFE FORUM**

Dear Parents of Juniors and Seniors,

Last Fall during one of our Youth Group Fellowship evenings, I found myself sitting at a table with a group of Juniors and Seniors and listening to them discuss and ask complex questions about identity, morality, ethics, choices, faith, and church. As a pastor, it was one of those moments I think back on often because it was a sacred moment, both fragile and energetic, where it felt like heaven and earth were touching each other.

What came out of that conversation among your students was interest in having specific time set aside to talk about, question, and explore what it means to make choices and live a life *as a Christian*. Really, the questions your students were asking boiled down to, "What does being a follower of Jesus mean for the things I do and do not do in my life?" These are wonderful questions for young people to ask, especially those contemplating life outside their parent(s)' home(s), life on a college campus, and the complexities of a work life.

To that end, the Christian Education Committee has decided to offer such an opportunity for your students. I will facilitate these discussions. We are going to cover topics like sexuality, sex, identity, money, alcohol and drugs, and media consumption. Through all these topics we will ask the question, "What is God's word to us?"

Part of the purpose of this letter is to let you know how I will approach this opportunity with your students. I want you to be informed before this opportunity begins.

First, my approach will not be prescriptive. My goal is not to go through a list of topics like sex, alcohol, and social media and say, "It's okay to do this. It's not okay to do that." My approach comes from a place of understanding that being a disciple is not about a checklist of dos and don'ts but an entire framework of existence that centers on following Jesus Christ in the world in real time.

Second, my approach will be based on the person and work of Jesus Christ. The fundamental question for every topic we cover will be, "What does Jesus have to say about it?" Our students hear a plethora of messages every single day, and I hope our conversations together will help them hear God's alternative word to the voices they hear in their day-to-day lives.

Here's the logistics. We will meet Sunday afternoons from 3:00p-4:15p, leading right up to Youth Group from 4:30-6p. We will meet most weeks in the Faith Ministries Building. The dates for our conversations are tentatively February 9, February 23, March 1, March 15, March 22, March 29, April 5, and April 19. Please know that friends of your students are welcome to attend, but we do want to keep the demographic of Juniors and Seniors in high school.

As always, if there are any concerns or questions, please call me at 919-848-9529 or email me at [brandonmelton@nraleighpc.org](mailto:brandonmelton@nraleighpc.org).

Peace of Christ,  
Brandon  
Associate Pastor