

Ground Zero

PARENTS' GUIDE

2013-14

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GROUND ZERO STAFF INFORMATION



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STAY CONNECTED

651.429.9227 | ebcgroundzero.com

Ground Zero's Facebook page is where parents can find updated information about Ground Zero. *(Per Facebook's policy, we do not endorse students under 13 using this page.)* facebook.com/ebcgroundzero

To SIGN UP to receive weekly text message updates go to ebcgroundzero.com.

blog.ebcgroundzero.com

FAMILY MINISTRIES STAFF

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Ground Zero is a ministry of Eagle Brook Church; therefore, everything we do at Ground Zero is based on the vision culture pyramid. This is the DNA of EBC, and we attempt to reflect that DNA in all that we do.





Where we are going



How we do it



Empowered by God to reach
others for Christ



Why we exist: Relationships



Groups, Gifts, Grace,
Growth, Generosity



The core of our faith

GROUND ZERO MISSION & GOAL

OUR MISSION

To reach students for Christ.

OUR GOAL

To prepare students to be lifelong followers of Jesus.

HOW WILL WE DO THIS?

Through relationships and environments.

GROUND ZERO WINS

1. STUDENTS MAKE A DECISION TO FOLLOW JESUS
2. STUDENTS ARE KNOWN
3. STUDENTS SERVE

THE GROUND ZERO ETHOS:

ENVIRONMENTS

- Large group worship
- Retreats & Trips
- Hang time
- Teaching
- Student service
- Special events

RELATIONSHIPS

- Small groups
- Off-site connecting with adult leaders
- Hang-time
- Small group learning
- Sharing and praying
- Serving together

4. STUDENTS LOVE CHURCH AND INVITE FRIENDS

5. VOLUNTEERS LOVE SERVING

PROGRAM FLOW

GROUND ZERO

SMALL GROUPS

6:15-7 PM (check-in begins at 6:10 PM)

LARGE GROUP WORSHIP

7-7:45 PM (check-in begins at 6:45 PM)

HANG-TIME

7:45-8 PM

PICK-UP TIME

8 PM

REVOLUTION

SMALL GROUPS

7-8 PM (check-in begins at 6:45 PM)

LARGE GROUP WORSHIP

8-9:15 PM (check-in begins at 7:45 PM)

PICK-UP TIME

9:15 PM



ENVIRONMENTS

LARGE GROUP WORSHIP



ENGAGE

PARKING LOT TO LOBBY

The parking/drop-off area is safe for students and parents, marked with cones and other appropriate signage. Check-in stations are set up as the first access point into the lobby. VIP experience is set up for new students, recognizable and easy to access. Energetic lighting and music are used during pre-service in lobby. Countdown clearly marks when large group is starting.

MUSIC OPENER & WELCOME

The opening song is clearly recognizable to an unchurched student. The welcome is engaging and recognizes new students.

SINGING & WORSHIP

This is a time of singing songs to and about God and learning what it means to worship.

INVOLVE

PRAYER | STAGE GAME | ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer is done at this time and teaches students how to pray. Students play a stage game which is fun to play and interesting to watch. Announcements are given on what is coming up in Student Ministries. Slides are used to highlight announcements and bring excitement to this spot.

CHALLENGE

MESSAGE | CLOSING

The message directly challenges middle school students to grow in their relationship with God.

POST

AUDITORIUM | LOBBY | CAFÉ | HANG TIME

The hang time environment, for 15 minutes following large group, has three types of environments: A) Coffee shop type of feel (quieter corners, tables, lounge areas, darker); B) School cafeteria type of environment (food to buy, busier, tables, chairs, louder); C) Arcade type of environment (video games, flashy lights, games, fun).

RETREATS & TRIPS


Once or twice a year, we design a weekend experience for students to retreat and grow closer to God. The Ground Zero Spring Retreat is a weekend your student should not miss. It is the highlight of the year. We go all out for these things. It is one of the few times of the year where we gather for an extended period of time to actively discover what it means to grow in our faith. Everything about a retreat environment is designed for students to grow in their relationship with Christ.

HANG TIME

The hang time environment occurs after large group worship at Ground Zero. We create this environment to be a space of 15-20 minutes where students simply get to hang out and be middle school students. There are three environments to incorporate all types of interests: The high-energy-fun-zone, complete with video games and loud music; the cafe, complete with pizza, soda and candy for purchase, and tables to gather and chat; and the coffee shop, complete with quiet conversations, low lights and couches. All of these environments are created for relationships to develop between peers and/or adults.

TEACHING

Everything we do at Ground Zero is created so students will begin a relationship with Jesus or learn how to grow in their relationship with Jesus. We do not hide this fact. Therefore, the teaching portion of the night is central to conveying truths about Jesus. Throughout the Ground Zero ministry year, we dive into 7-8 different series, covering a wide range



of topics. All the messages are prepared weeks in advance, having been edited and critiqued by several different people, to make them as relevant and excellent as possible. Every message is founded on what the Bible says and translated into what it means to be a Christian as a middle school student.

STUDENT SERVICE

For students who regularly attend small and large group, we offer a way for them to serve this church and ministry. This is a next level leadership opportunity for students. It is not for everyone. These students can serve as VIP hosts, greeters or set up/take down volunteers at Ground Zero. We also promote opportunities for them to serve in our kids' ministry areas during the weekend services as small group leaders or tech volunteers. This is a great way for students to learn how to serve and be involved in the local church. We provide opportunities to sign up every month during Ground Zero.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Three to four times a year, we go all out for a special event. Whether it's a kickoff event, a Christmas Party or Spring-A-Palooza, we up the ante and create a much bigger, crazier environment at Ground Zero than usual. We do this for two reasons: First, we ask regular attenders to invite their friends to this fun, outreach special event so they learn how to evangelize their friends and reach their peers for Christ. Second, we believe middle school students just need to have fun! When these special events come up, make sure your student is attending and inviting his/her friends!

RELATIONSHIPS

SMALL GROUP GATHERING



ENGAGE

VOLUNTEER LEADER MEETING | ROOM SET UP | GETTING STARTED

Small group leaders will create a space for relational connection by beginning with a fun and interesting discussion or activity.

INVOLVE


RECAP | TEACHING POINTS/DISCUSSION | APPLICATION

Small group leaders will begin by reading and discussing the recap of the previous week's message. This will be followed by a time of discussion, further cementing the previous week's message and application and give time for students to grow in their knowledge of the Bible. Students will be strongly encouraged to read from their own Bibles. With 5-10 minutes to go, they will land on the specific application from the previous week's message with a purposeful, clear, direct challenge to act.

CHALLENGE

SUMMARY | UPCOMING MESSAGE | PRAY | DISMISS

Small group leaders will summarize the discussion and main teaching points and clearly hammer home the application. In the final five minutes they will introduce the upcoming message topic and ask 1-2 generic questions to get students thinking about the topic. During the last two minutes small group leaders will ask for prayer requests, challenge students to pray for each other, to pray out loud and close the prayer before dismissing students to large group.



Small groups are a gathering of 8-20 same-gender students with 1-2 adult leaders of the same gender. At Ground Zero, small groups meet 45 minutes before large group and attendance is optional. Small groups are the primary way in which a student grows in his or her relationship with Jesus. Outside of a parent-child relationship, we believe there is no more important relationship than the one a student will develop with an adult small group leader. Our leaders are adult volunteers who have been thoroughly trained and empowered to help students grow in their faith. In order for this to happen, a relationship of trust must develop. Our adult leaders take the time to get to know the student on his or her terms. Sometimes this means showing up at student games and activities or gathering at a leader's home. Please take the time to get to know your student's small group leader as it will become one of the most important relationships in their life.

OFF-SITE GATHERINGS

We train our small group leaders to develop relationships with students outside of Ground Zero. It is hardly enough time to grow in a relationship with a student during the time at Ground Zero once a week. Therefore, we ask our leaders to plan 2-3 gatherings outside of a Ground Zero night with their students each semester. When this happens, it will always be in a group and they will always inform you that this is happening. It is an incredible opportunity for relationships to grow deeper.

SMALL GROUP COMMUNAL LEARNING

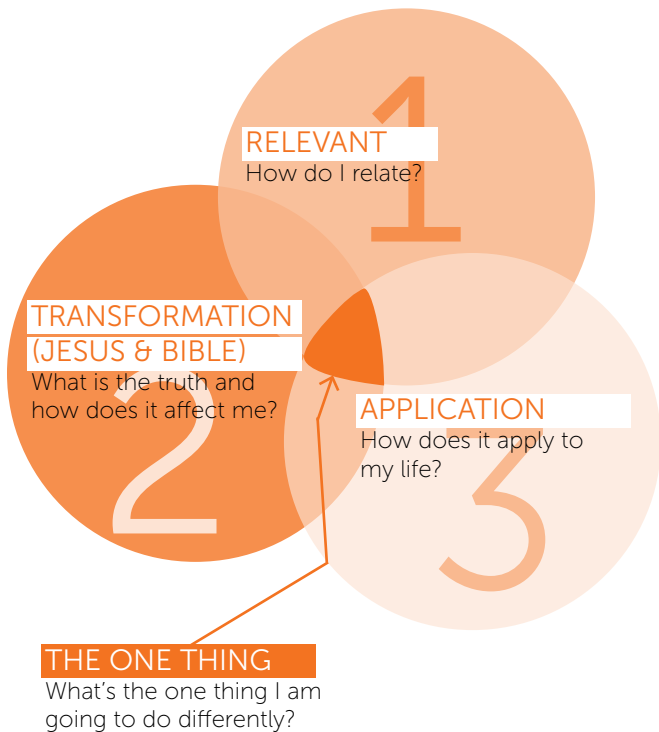
Small groups are about more than just relationships. In fact, we want learning and discipleship to occur in small groups. Every week, leaders will take students through a series of questions to unpack the previous week's message and dive into the series at Ground Zero in a deeper way. However, we design these questions to have a spirit of communal learning. That means students will teach other students and students will often teach the adults. Included in this packet is an example of a small group leader's discussion guide.

SMALL GROUP PRAYING & SHARING

Aside from gathering and learning, small groups are designed for students to learn how to pray individually, pray together and pray for one another. Furthermore, small groups are a safe place for students to share the deeper parts of their lives. Relationships will grow stronger as students begin to share their lives.



TEACHING PHILOSOPHY



For a detailed explanation of the theological beliefs and values of Eagle Brook Church, which we teach at Ground Zero, please go to eaglebrookchurch.com



GROUND ZERO CALENDAR DATES

Ground Zero takes place weekly on Wednesday nights at Blaine, Lino Lakes, Spring Lake Park and White Bear Lake & Sunday nights at Woodbury.

Below is a schedule of big events happening at Ground Zero, as well as nights that Ground Zero will not take place.

SEPT 18 & 22

GZ starts

Oct 16 & 20

No GZ (MEA)

Nov 27 & Dec 1

No GZ (Thanksgiving)

Dec 18

GZ/Rev Christmas Party
(including Woodbury)

Dec 22

No GZ at Woodbury

Dec 25/29

No GZ (Christmas)

Jan 1/5

No GZ (New Year's)

Feb 2

No GZ at Woodbury

Feb 12/16

2014 Reasons to Party

March 12/16

No GZ (Spring Break)

April 4-6/11-13

GZ Spring Retreat

April 16/20

No GZ (Easter)

MAY 14/18

Spring-A-Palooza and
last night of GZ



WHEN AND WHERE EACH CAMPUS MEETS

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

SMALL GROUPS 6:15-7 PM

* Small group check-in
at 6:10 PM

LARGE GROUP 7-7:45 PM

* Large group check-in
at 6:45 PM

HANG TIME 7:45-8 PM

PICK-UP 8 PM

SPRING LAKE PARK CAMPUS

8498 Sunset Road
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432

LINO LAKES CAMPUS

7775 20th Avenue N
Lino Lakes, MN 55038

BLAINE CAMPUS

3603 95th Avenue NE
Blaine, MN 55449

WHITE BEAR LAKE CAMPUS

2401 East Buffalo Street & Hwy 61
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

SUNDAY NIGHTS

SMALL GROUPS 6:15-7 PM

* Small group check-in
at 6:10 PM

LARGE GROUP 7-7:45 PM

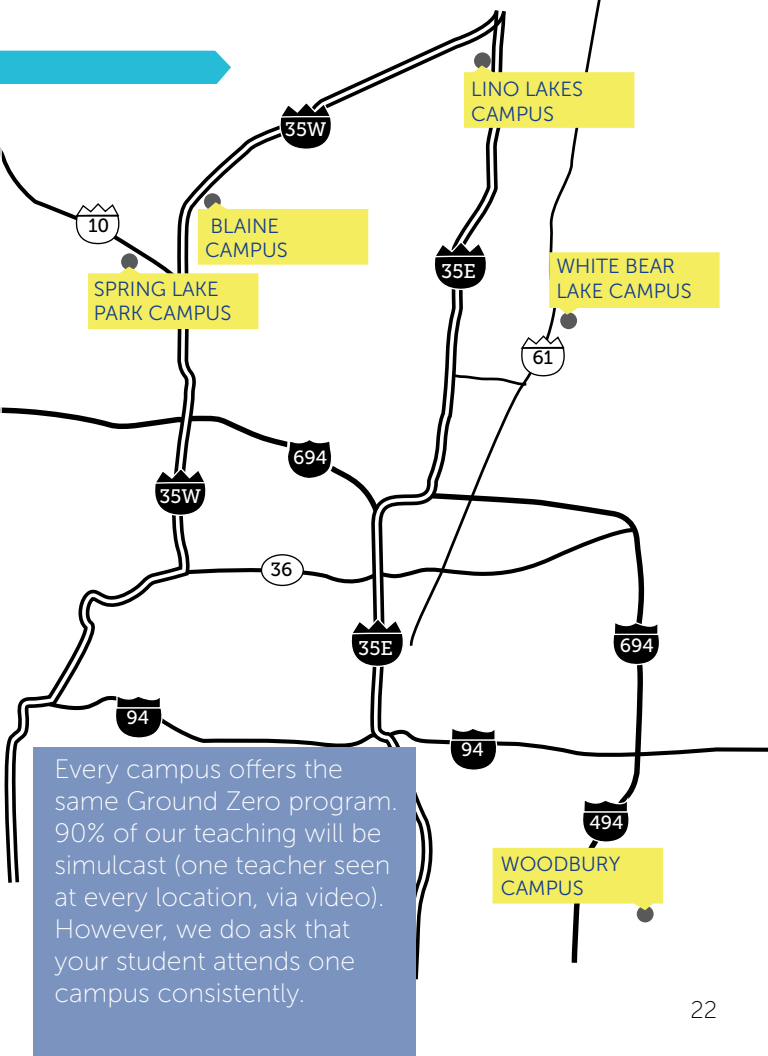
* Large group check-in
at 6:45 PM

HANG TIME 7:45-8 PM

PICK-UP 8 PM

WOODBURY CAMPUS

East Ridge High School
4200 Pioneer Drive
Woodbury, MN 55125



LINO LAKES
CAMPUS

BLAINE
CAMPUS

SPRING LAKE
PARK CAMPUS

WHITE BEAR
LAKE CAMPUS

WOODBURY
CAMPUS

Every campus offers the same Ground Zero program. 90% of our teaching will be simulcast (one teacher seen at every location, via video). However, we do ask that your student attends one campus consistently.

HOW TO REGISTER

Registration is free and a student can register at any time during the year. Simply come to Ground Zero. We'll mail you the paperwork after your first time attending. Or, you can go online and register at ebcgroundzero.com

HOW TO BRING A FRIEND

Students can bring a friend at any time. After attending once or twice, we do ask the student to register. They will be sent a packet of information on how to do so.

HOW TO JOIN A SMALL GROUP

The best way for your student to join a small group is to simply show up at 6:15 and express their interest. We will ask them to fill out a card at the Student Info table, and they will be directed by an adult leader on which group to join based on their grade and gender. We do everything we can to put students in groups with their friends. Once they've attended their small group for a few weeks, they will be given the choice of whether or not to commit to staying with the group for the rest of the year. If they do commit to stay with the group, we expect the student to attend as often as possible during the year.

SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

DATE: / /

WELCOME & ICE BREAKER

RECAP OF SERIES & LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE [\(READ OUT LOUD\)](#)

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS THE MESSAGE

LAST WEEK'S

BOTTOM LINE

CHALLENGE

CEMENT THE BOTTOM LINE & CHALLENGE

WHAT'S HAPPENING TONIGHT?

ASK THESE 7 QUESTIONS

SUMMARIZE, CLOSE & PRAY

WAYS TO SPIRITUALLY ENGAGE YOUR STUDENT

Parents often ask us, "What is happening to my child?" Here's the best advice we can give: Ask them. Seriously! It might seem like your child is an alien, but they aren't. Beneath their hormonal and physical changes lies the child you have raised!

THE BEST WAYS TO UTILIZE GROUND ZERO AND HELP YOUR STUDENT GO DEEPER IN HIS OR HER FAITH?

- * Talk to them about who their small group leader is
- * Get to know your student's small group leader
- * Ask questions about what they are learning in small group
- * Ask questions about what they are struggling with
- * Watch the GZ messages online
- * Ask your student about what they learned each week
- * Suggest doing a devotional together
- * Challenge them to take notes during GZ
- * Pray together. Pray for them.
- * Make treats for your student to share at small group
- * Get to know the pastor of Student Ministries at your campus

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED AS A PARENT

Honestly, there is no better way to share the GZ connection than to volunteer, yourself. If you'd like to get involved, we are always looking for adults to step up and passionately lead this ministry. At Ground Zero, you can serve either two times a month or every week.



EXAMPLES OF VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

- * Small Group Leader
- * Check-In
- * Parking
- * Security
- * Tech
- * Cafe 5000
- * Set-up/Take down
- * Child Care
- * Greeter
- * Connector

Rest assured, if your child is worried about you being there, (stay out of my business, Dad!), many of these positions are ways to serve behind the scenes. Either way, we find that most kids get over it really fast and actually find it cool to see their parents serving at the ministry they attend.

To get involved, email serve@eaglebrookchurch.com or contact the pastor of Student Ministries at your campus.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS: WHO ARE WE DEALING WITH?

ADOLESCENCE

On average, this begins at 11 years old. In other words, adolescence has generally begun by the time they enter middle school and Ground Zero.

PUBERTY: THE BEAUTIFULLY GROSS YEARS!

This is an awkward phase for middle school students. As parents, in all cases, we need to seek to normalize their experience. For instance, if you hear a voice crack, don't laugh, mock, or point it out. Instead, act as if it hasn't happened. Be prepared to normalize their experience and have real conversations.

BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

The brains of middle school students are way behind in development and are going through a crazy and speedy transition. The frontal lobe (aka The Decision Making Center) is way behind. Therefore, understand that it is generally more difficult to make decisions—let alone good ones. The temporal lobe (aka The Emotional Interpretation Center) is also way behind. Why do middle school girls cry so much? Why do middle school boys have moods that shift like the weather? They're figuring out how to interpret their chaotic emotions.

AN EMOTIONAL, PHYSICAL AND RELATIONAL ROLLER COASTER

In other words, middle school is a roller coaster for a majority of young people. Your role is to stabilize and normalize their experiences.

THE THREE BIG ADOLESCENT TASKS

Like all human beings, middle school students are seeking to find their place and way in the world. However, this is a unique period of time where questions of identity, autonomy and affinity are being addressed.

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

For the first time since early childhood, their worlds are being reformulated. Prior to puberty, kids appeared to have the world figured out. In the early stages of puberty, this assurance of identity changes rapidly. As parents and adults in their lives, we need to provide support as they figure out their identities as unique individuals. As Christians, we also need to point them to their identity as sons and daughters of Jesus Christ.

AUTONOMY: HOW AM I UNIQUE? WHAT CAN I CONTROL?

Before puberty, kids understand their uniqueness and that they can generally control the world around them. However, in the early stages of puberty, young people begin re-establishing their freedoms, uniqueness and gain a new grip on the world around them. Our job as parents is to help them identify their unique

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characteristics, grow them and provide boundaries that point them to the right freedoms to pursue. They may perceive boundaries as restrictive, but the freedom we point to is ultimately the most liberating thing in this world.

AFFINITY: TO WHOM AND WHERE DO I BELONG?

Why do middle school students go from being a preppy athlete to a gothic punk to a straight-laced student? They are desperately trying to find out where they fit in. As parents, we need to reinforce the idea that their church is a great community to belong to. They belong to Christ, to the body of the Church and to their families.

CHRIST FOLLOWERS


Statistics ultimately point to the fact that a majority of Christians make a decision to follow Christ prior to age 13. You have the opportunity to make ALL the difference by creating a strong desire in them to be a part of the Ground Zero community.

PROBLEM: Youth feel disconnected and isolated.

SOLUTION: They are looking for a place to belong and feel a part of a family or community.

PROBLEM: Youth are feeling the pressure of a busy and stressful world.

SOLUTION: They are looking for a greater sense of balance and ways to handle challenges.



PROBLEM: Youth sense the shallowness and superficiality in encounters with others.

SOLUTION: They are looking for genuine relationships.

PROBLEM: Youth are feeling empty and drained from striving to meet their desires through school, material possessions and entertainment.

SOLUTION: They are looking for spiritual answers to their unfulfilled hunger.

PROBLEM: Youth are feeling overwhelmed by the pace of change in every aspect of the world.

SOLUTION: They are looking for stability and help through hard transitions.

PROBLEM: Youth are feeling discouraged or apathetic towards the decay and corruption of our society.

SOLUTION: They need help in maintaining a sense of Christian values at home, school and in their community.

PROBLEM: Youth can feel used, sensing they are valued for only what they can contribute.


SOLUTION: They need a caring Christian community that loves them unconditionally.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Each year, we have some students who are in serious crisis. As a parent, if you find yourself without answers to the crisis your child is facing, we have an incredible recover program called *The Landing*.

The Landing is a part of Quest 180° (EBC's addiction recovery program). However, it's specifically for teenagers dealing with issues like self-injury, eating disorders, suicidal thoughts and/or substance abuse.

"The Landing is a year-long program that helps teenagers travel the path to freedom, healing, and wholeness. This dynamic resource mirrors the content presented in the successful Celebrate Recovery program. The lessons deliver hope-filled truths and real-life strategies for giving young people the tools for making wise choices and developing healthy patterns for living."



As mentioned, The Landing meets when Quest 180° meets, but then branches off before the teaching and small group time so teenagers are in groups with teenagers, not with other adults.

The Landing

Thursdays

Eagle Brook Church, White Bear Lake campus

6-8:30 pm

If you have any questions about The Landing,

PLEASE CONTACT

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Ground Zero—Eagle Brook Church
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