



February 2021



This is one of my favorite pictures from ministry the past few months. This is our high school youth group after a message as they broke into small groups. I love doing youth ministry, but even more so, I really enjoy seeing other adults pour into the lives of teenagers. I love to be able to build into and equip these leaders and to be in the trenches alongside them. As I look at this picture, I see several incredible volunteer leaders digging into the Word and shepherding these students. I'm super thankful for the amazing volunteers I get to lead and serve alongside as we get to shape the lives of middle school and high school students for eternity.

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## Cole & Noah

As the year has gone on, I've been getting more comfortable in my key roles and that has opened up some more free time in my schedule. Because of that, I felt convicted to start reaching out to and discipling more college students. After talking with some other staff and praying about who to reach out to, I felt convicted to reach out to Noah. Noah is a freshman

that jumped right into serving on our First Impressions Team, attending our church regularly, and being involved in a life group. Noah and I met up at a coffee shop and I got to know him on a deeper level as I asked him questions about his life. As he was sharing about his faith background, I realized he continued hinting at the fact that he really wanted to grow in his faith but was having trouble doing so. He said that he tries to read his Bible because he knows he should but doesn't really know how to read it and doesn't get anything out of it when he does.

I asked him if he would be interested in meeting up with me so that I could help him learn how to study the Bible... he was ecstatic that I offered!! He couldn't believe I'd be willing to take the time to invest in him. The next time we met up, I shared SOAP with him, a basic technique for studying the Bible, and walked through a chapter of Romans with him. He was amazed that he could actually get something out of reading the Bible and asked if we could meet up regularly to continue to study the Bible! Praise God! Needless to say, we are going to continue meeting in order to do so.

Cole is another student that I started discipling a couple of weeks ago. He reached out to our staff team with a desire to meet with a staff member regularly to help him grow in his faith. I gladly jumped at the opportunity. Cole came to know the Lord through our church a year ago and just recently developed a strong desire to grow in his faith and to become a leader in our church. Cole didn't grow up in the church and has so many questions about what it means to follow Jesus and to live for Him. He's doing everything he can to grow in his faith and to become a more solid guy. Each week he comes to me with a journal chalked-full of questions that he rattles off as we hang out. He is super passionate, and it is evident that God is doing some incredible work in his life. I'm blown away by the fact that God would use me to play a part in that.

I'm super thankful for the ways that God has helped me find more college students to disciple and am grateful to be able to influence Cole & Noah's lives. I couldn't do that without you and your incredible generosity. Thank you for continuing to support me and to partner with me in reaching students like Cole & Noah with the Gospel.

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## **PRAY**

Your prayers are so important. I truly believe that prayer is powerful and would greatly appreciate you spending some time in prayer for one or all of the things on this list! Also, if there are ways I can be praying for you, please let me know!

- For Noah to understand what he is reading in his Bible and to grow closer to the Lord as he does so.
- For Cole to grow and mature to the point where he can be a leader in the church
- For BG city schools as they go back in person for the first time starting next week. Specifically, that doors for more discipleship open & safety for students and staff.
- Wisdom on how to best navigate youth ministry during this season and as we prep for the upcoming summer season (which can look way different in youth ministry).

Thanks for taking the time to read this and pray for these things! Your support means a ton to me! I hope you are doing well.

- Tom



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