

High School Ministry | Guide to Small Groups

Vision

As the people of Hope we exist to encourage all people to know the love of Christ. HSM aims to be a place for all high schoolers to grow in and know His love that is to be shared with others.

Heart of the Ministry

We desire to anchor the hearts and minds of our students in Christ as they prepare for their next steps into adulthood after graduation for a lifelong faith. We pray that HSM becomes a Christian community that roots itself in His Word, meaningful conversations, and uplifting prayer.

In HSM, our hope is that every student feels “known by name.” As a guide, you play a vital role in making that a reality. Your calling is to build meaningful relationships and walk alongside students on their faith journey — building bridges from Baptism through Baccalaureate.

Weekly Format

Our weekly format comes with some flexibility based on the needs of your group!

7:15-7:45pm | Small Group or Hangout Time

Many 9th-grade groups may choose to meet for small group first to allow for an earlier parent pick-up.

Ultimately, it's up to you to decide what works best for your group!

7:45-8:30pm | Large Group

This includes announcements, worship and a message.

8:30-9:30pm | Small Group or Hangout Time

Groups that didn't meet earlier can use this time for small group until finished or until closing.

Students who had small group earlier are welcome to hang out and enjoy fellowship time until they have a ride or until closing. **The building closes at 9:30 PM.*

Campus Specific Locations:

- North Campus meets in the basement for hangout time, small group, and large group
- South Campus meets in the Sanctuary for large group, Discovery Center for hangout time and may spread throughout the church as rooms are available for small group (no assigned location)
- West Campus meets in the Sanctuary for large group and room 103 for hangout. Small groups may utilize the building, as available.

Curriculum

Curriculum for High School Ministry follows the “Hope Lectionary,” as utilized throughout youth ministry and our Deeply Rooted groups. It has also been developed to work on either side of large group depending on your group's preference. Each student and leader will be provided with a “HSM Weekly Journal” each semester, which includes the small group content and space for reflection. While no formal preparation is needed on your part; reading through the text for the week and/or listening to our Deeply Rooted podcast may help enrichen your conversations.



fargohope.org/highschool

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Katie Van Dame, Youth Director HSM & Youth Worship

North Campus Coordinator, HSM: Jake Himle

South Campus Coordinators, HSM: Katie Oster & Katy Johnson

West Campus Coordinator, HSM: Nolan Carlson

Attendance

We ask that all small group guides take attendance each week. For our 9th graders, this helps us track their progress toward Confirmation requirements. It also allows us to follow up with students who have been absent for a few weeks and offer support and encouragement.

Grow in Faith, Community & Service

From our annual FUEL Retreat at Camp House each summer to our monthly worship and prayer nights, we love giving students opportunities to grow deeper in their faith and get connected to a community that goes beyond Wednesday nights. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements on how your group can get involved—and be sure to encourage your students to take part!

Service is an important part of living out our faith! Students love opportunities to make a difference, and we'd love to encourage each small group to plan at least one service opportunity together each semester—whether in the church or out in the community. Feel free to use a Wednesday night for a service night and still count attendance for your 9th graders. If you'd like help brainstorming ideas or need connections to service opportunities, our staff is happy to help!

Confirmation

Confirmation is the rite of passage where students confirm who they say Jesus is and become adult members of God's Church, following four years of focused Christian instruction spanning sixth to ninth grade. At Confirmation held each May, eligible students confirm their faith in Jesus Christ, fulfilling the baptismal promises that parents, grandparents, godparents, and guides had been keeping for them until now. Please visit fargohope.org/confirmation to review the handbook for Confirmation requirements.

Youth Volunteer Resources

We have a website just for you! Visit: fargohope.org/youthvolunteers for digital copies of the curriculum, our Youth Programming Calendar and additional resources from attendance taking tutorials to weekly devotionals.

Our Deeply Rooted Podcast can be found on various platforms linked through:
<https://deeplyrootedbiblestudy.podbean.com>

Guide & Student Support

Please don't hesitate to let our staff know how we can support you and your students each week! If you have any concerns about a student being harmed, expressing thoughts of self-harm, or harming others, report them immediately to a staff member. For spiritual care needs, such as guidance through loss or grief, please reach out to the director or a pastor.