

THE CORE

6th Grade Ministry

Ministry
Handbook

**EVERYONE WHO COMES TO
ME AND HEARS MY WORDS AND DOES
THEM, I WILL SHOW YOU WHAT HE IS
LIKE: HE IS LIKE A MAN BUILDING A
HOUSE, WHO DUG DEEP AND LAID THE
FOUNDATION ON THE ROCK. AND
WHEN A FLOOD AROSE, THE STREAM
BROKE AGAINST THAT HOUSE AND
COULD NOT SHAKE IT, BECAUSE IT
HAD BEEN WELL BUILT.**

LUKE 6:47-48

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About: The CORE

What is "The CORE"?

The CORE is the 6th Grade Student Ministry at Cypress Baptist Church. This ministry exists to specifically target 6th grade students before they enter into the youth ministry here at Cypress.

Why do we need to solely target 6th graders?

Students who are entering their 6th grade year are at a pivotal stage of development in their lives. Their bodies are going through physical changes. Their minds are beginning to function differently. They are beginning to form their own individual identities. They are, in many ways, at a different stage of development than the older students at our church. For this reason, we have designed a very specific ministry that can strategically engage these students directly where they are. We want to develop a strong CORE in our students to prepare them for greater spiritual growth when they enter into the youth group.

What role will The CORE play for us?

Here at The CORE, we strongly believe that discipleship is primarily the responsibility of the family. Therefore, we do not want to hijack your students from you. Rather, we want to come along side you in your efforts to train and develop your students. We exist to serve you and your students, so we want to hear from you, and we want you to be involved in our ministry as well. We want to strengthen family bonds as we strengthen the spiritual foundations of your 6th graders.

Why "The CORE"?

The key to having a healthy spiritual life is having a solid core. Students are developing their intellectual cores at schools. They are developing their physical cores at home by what they eat and what they choose to do. In the same way, we want to develop a strong spiritual core in your 6th graders that will support their future spiritual development.

In attempting to define what a strong spiritual core looks like, we have designated four core areas (CORE) that we wish to develop in your 6th grade students as they progress through our ministry (see next page):



C: Christ

Above all else, we want students to leave our ministry with a deeper passion to serve Jesus. Jesus made us (Col. 1:16), saved us (Rom. 8:1), and remade us (2 Cor. 5:17) for the purpose of serving Him (Titus 2:11-14). Of all the relationships in our lives, our relationship with Jesus is the most important.



O: Others

According to Jesus, the first greatest command is to love God. He said the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. Our church's motto is "Love God, Love People," which comes from these two commands of Jesus. Therefore, our second core area is loving others.



R: Resist

The first two areas focus on how we relate to God and, consequently, how we treat others. The final two areas focus on our relationship with the world. First, we want to resist the world's influence. There are many desires that seek to distract us from loving God and others that we must avoid.



E: Engage

The second way we want to relate to the world is by engaging it with the life-changing message of the Gospel. This area is a natural by-product of our salvation. When we are changed by Jesus, we should naturally want everyone else to meet Him as well.

Process: The Goal

So, how will you go about doing all of this?

Just like any other task, we have mapped out some very strategic plans to help us develop strong cores in your 6th graders. It is one thing to “know” what should happen. It is a totally different thing to “follow through” with what needs to happen. Because we want to be good stewards with what God has given us, we have looked to Jesus, our ultimate example, in trying to figure out how to do what we know we need to do. Here’s our 3-step process for how we plan on building a solid core in your students:



Outline

First, we want to give students a solid outline of what God desires for us to be according to His word. Students will learn what it means to love God, love others, resist temptation, and engage the world.



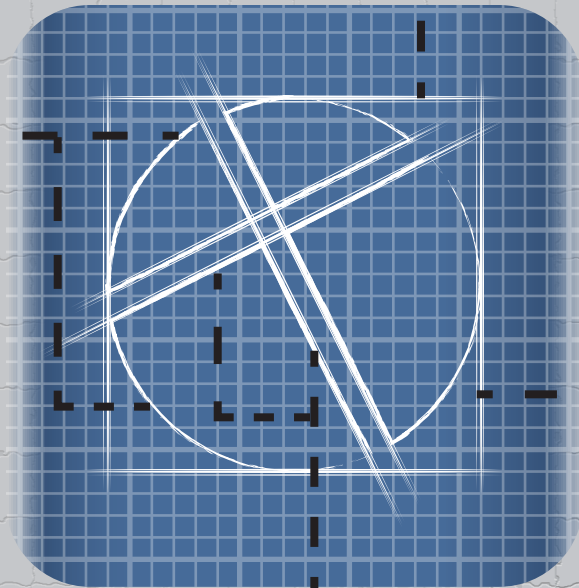
Observe

Second, we want to demonstrate how students can live out their lives inside the outline from step 1. Paul said it best in 1 Corinthians 11:1 - “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”



Obey

Finally, we want to give students opportunities to put into practice what they have learned in step 1 and seen in us in step 2. This final step gives the students a chance to make their faith their own.



Process: The Goods

What activities and events will my student be able to take part in, and what purposes do they serve?

All of our activities will fall into one of two categories: Fun and MORE fun! (... or evangelism and discipleship... however you want to look at it...) We want students to want to come up here to hang out and have a good time, so we have intentionally planned many fun activities for your students to be a part of. In the process, we will be strategically planning events for the purposes of reaching out to other students and getting them to our church (evangelism/fellowship, see green activities) and equipping our regular students to live godly lives (discipleship, see blue activities). Here is a list of some of this year's planned activities. Dates will be announced as the year progresses (see "Communication" page to find out how to stay up-to-date).

Regular Activities



Worship at The CORE

Evangelism AND Discipleship. Our weekly worship service for 6th graders will be on Wednesday nights from 6:15pm-7:15pm. Food will be available as early as 5:00 in Lagniappe Hall. This is a family meal, so the entire family is invited. Services will officially end at 7:15pm, but students are free to hang out afterwards as well. In fact, if you're a parent picking up your student, we encourage YOU to come up and hang out with us after service as well! Our meeting space is upstairs in the gym in the north-west corner.

Sunday School

Discipleship. Sunday School will be held on Sunday mornings during the first Sunday School hour from 9:15am - 10:30am. Students will come up to The CORE to kick it off. We will be implementing a Master-Teacher style format, meaning that students will hear announcements, listen to a teacher who sets up the lesson, watch a short video, and then split up for discussion. Boys and girls will be together during the main segment and will split up during the discussion time.





Bible Study

Discipleship. Bible studies will be on Monday evenings from 6pm-7pm. The locations for each Bible study will vary throughout the year. Each study will take place in a volunteer home. Locations will be communicated each time they change, and information about the current location can always be obtained by calling the church office and speaking with Becky Bell. The content from the Bible studies may vary from going through a book of the Bible to picking a topic and studying the Scriptures to discover what they say about it. Food will be provided.

LATE Night



Evangelism and Fellowship. LATE Night is a chance for students to come up to The CORE to simply hang out and have a good time! This is another great time for students to invite their friends to come up to church with them to have a good time.

LATE Nights will be on Friday nights from 6-9:30 (times may vary depending on special plans or dates, but this timeframe is typical), meaning that students can hang out up here and have fun while parents go out and grab dinner or something. You're welcome ;)



Service Opps

Discipleship. Service Opps are opportunities for your students to go out into the community to serve. While we will definitely have a couple of mission trip opportunities for your students to be a part of, we also want to provide a regular chance for them to get out in our own community to serve others. Service Opps will be on Saturdays, and parents are not only welcome to come, but we highly encourage it! There is something about a family serving together that really leaves a strong impact on students and their families. These opportunities will take place once a quarter, the locations and times will vary depending upon the needs of our community and the options that are available, and the dates will also vary depending upon family schedules and organization schedules that we might have to work around. See the "Communication" page for information on how to stay up-to-date with when and where these Service Opps will take place.

Annual Events



Back-to-School Bash

Evangelism. Our Back-to-School Bash is our way of starting the year off with a bang! We will be giving away big prizes, playing big games, and having a big time!

This is an easy event to invite friends to, and they won't be disappointed if they come! Food will be provided for all who show up! The event will be from 6:00pm - 7:30 pm in the field behind the office building.

WinterMix



Evangelism AND Discipleship. In December, we will host a weekend retreat focused on service. We will have a service project, worship, bible study, and, of course, plenty of fun games and activities. The dates and times will vary on this event in order to account for school and community events, such as the Benton Christmas Parade, so we will release more specific information as that time draws near.



D-NOW

Discipleship. Disciple NOW is an annual event where students are poured into for an entire weekend. During D-NOW, students stay in host homes. While at the host homes, they will engage in multiple Bible studies. During the day, we will have a unique recreation activity planned, and at night, we will get to sit in with the youth group to listen to a dynamite speaker. This event typically takes place in January or February. Exact dates will be released closer to time.

Spring Retreat



Evangelism AND Discipleship. This event will take place the weekend of Spring Break. While the winter retreat focuses on service and action, this retreat will focus on slowing down, spending time with the Lord, and spending time with each other. We will have some fun activities planned, worship, and Bible study. This is another great event to invite friends to.



Summer Camp

Evangelism AND Discipleship. Summer Camp is one of the most memorable events that students can be a part of. Students give their lives to Jesus, believers draw closer to Jesus, and we ALWAYS have a great time! The dates, times, and locations will be announced shortly after the school year begins, so stay tuned for more information about this incredible event!

Mission Week



Discipleship. This is the second large event we do every summer. As with D-NOW, we will be meeting with the youth group a few times during the week to help prepare the 6th grade students as they get ready to enter into it. However, we will have our own service projects that will be tailored specifically for 6th graders. This event lasts a full week. Students will go out and serve during the day and will stay in host homes during the evening and night time. This is typically the last big event that we will enjoy together before the students promote into the youth group.



Lock-Down

Evangelism and Fellowship. Lock-Down is a lock-in that will be hosted in the gym. During a lock-in, students are "locked in" the gym from 10pm until 7am the following morning! There are fun activities and games that we will have to take us through the night. This event will pop up at random (no more than twice a year), so you must stay up-to-date in order to be in on the Lock-Down!

Summer Activities



Evangelism and Fellowship. These activities will vary in length and content. Also, they will be scattered throughout the summer and will sometimes pop up without a moment's notice. These activities are an opportunity for students to get out and do something. They will also allow the 6th graders to begin hanging out with students from the youth group to help with their transition into it.

Process: The Gospel

What is the Gospel?

We understand that many different people have many different understandings about God, heaven, the Bible, and Jesus. Here at The CORE, we believe that the Bible is God's Inerrant, Infallible communication to us, His creation. Therefore, we can trust everything it says about God, heaven, and Jesus. Here's what it says about the Gospel (Good News):

Jesus is the only way to heaven.

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

John 14:6

On our own, we are not headed to heaven because of sin. God is perfect and Holy, so He can't let sin into heaven. He must punish it.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 6:23

God loves His creation and does not want us to perish. He wants us to enter into heaven, so He sent Jesus to die to atone for our sins.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

"... but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 6:23

"The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."

Romans 6:23

To receive this forgiveness, the Bible teaches that we must repent from our sinful lifestyle...

"I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Luke 5:32

"Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out."

Acts 3:19

... willfully submit our lives to God's authority...

"... because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

Romans 10:9-10

... and put our faith and trust in Jesus' work on the cross as the "propitiation" for our sin (put simply, a Holy and Just God requires that sin be payed for, so Jesus died on our behalf).

"In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

1 John 4:10

Our repentance and submission to God does not "pay" for our sins, but is our reaction to God's kindness and mercy towards us.

"I appeal to you therefore, brother, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

Romans 12:1

"... God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance."

Romans 2:4b

Praise God for His amazing grace!!!

Communication

How will you be communicating all of this??

We do not want any student to miss out on what will be going on here at The CORE. Therefore, communication will be a top priority for us. There are a few different ways that you can expect to hear from us:

Monthly Newsletter



We will be sending regular newsletters out to all of our families. In our newsletter, you can expect to see information such as: the current Wednesday Night sermon series, the next several Sunday School lessons, and some tips or conversation starters for you as you seek to disciple your student and talk with them through the material that they are learning at church. There will also be important announcements and calendar dates for upcoming events, service opportunities at The CORE, and possibly, OCCASIONALLY, something EXTRA... You'll have to wait and see what that might be!!!

Mass Text

This will be the most instant mode of communication we utilize. The obvious benefit to communicating this way is that EVERYONE has a cell phone. Students, as well as parents, can both register their phones and receive free text messages about any last minute plans as well as reminders about certain events. To receive these texts, simply text the word "CORE" to "97000." This will register you for our group. You will be able to communicate with us over this thread as well. Again, it is FREE, and you will get INSTANT updates right to your phone. We recommend registering for this as soon as possible if you would like to stay current on everything that's going on!



Social Media

We understand that social media is becoming a major form of communication, so we have three different platforms that we utilize to communicate with parents and students. All three accounts are shown below. Please feel free to follow us, like our pages, and share them with others! If your students do not have social media, PLEASE don't feel like they need to have one just to follow The CORE. All information about hangouts and events will be communicated through mail and the texting service, so you will not be missing out by not being on social media. Here are some ways you can connect with us via social media:



FACEBOOK

[www.facebook.com
/thecore6gm](https://www.facebook.com/thecore6gm)



TWITTER

[@thecore6gm](https://twitter.com/thecore6gm)



INSTAGRAM

[@thecore6gm](https://www.instagram.com/thecore6gm)

Contact Us

Below are a few additional ways you can reach us. Please let us know if you have ANY questions about The CORE or if you would be interested in serving with us!

Email: kaylin@cypressbaptist.org

Calebwelch218@gmail.com

Caleb Cell: 318.542.9371

Kaylin Cell: 318.272.4455