

## FaithYouth Mission and Vision

**FaithYouth exists to glorify God by teaching our youth to know Jesus, grow as faithful disciples, and live, love, and look like Him.** We pursue this through three key commitments:

### **1. FaithYouth is committed to teaching and applying the Word of God with clarity and care**

We believe that only Scripture is wholly sufficient and authoritative, providing truth for salvation, hope for life's struggles, and wisdom for daily living. Through clear, faithful, Christ-centered teaching, our highest priority is to build a firm foundation in the Gospel, sound doctrine, and compassionate, practical application for both the sufferer and the sinner. We aim to help our youth understand not just what Scripture says, but how it speaks to their current and future struggles, doubts, and daily decisions.

While we want our youth to have fun, the main commitment of FaithYouth is the teaching of God's Word. We recognize that many teens do and will face confusing cultural messages, spiritual doubts, persistent sin, and personal hardships that were not present in their parents' generation. We welcome and desire to create space for their questions, lovingly engage their doubts with biblical truth, and strive to show them how God's Word provides reliable, unchanging answers for life and godliness.

We desire to facilitate this by providing our students the opportunity to ask questions, focusing on apologetics, and applying God's Word to everyday challenges such as:

- How can we know that God is real?
- If God is real, why is there so much suffering in the world?
- How can a loving God send people to Hell for eternity?
- How do I know the Bible is true and reliable?
- How can I be confident that I am a Christian?
- What do biblical sexuality and sexual immorality look like in our culture?
- What does it look like to love those who reject Christ?

We welcome difficult questions and doubts and strive not to shame those who wonder. We desire for our youth to face these thoughts under the care and instruction of the church, rather than be sheltered from them until they are out on their own.

No one will go to college or the workforce, encounter corrupt worldviews, or experience personal tragedy, and be grateful to sports or entertaining worship for strengthening their faith and equipping them in godliness. They will be grateful that they learned how to give an answer for the hope that is within them. While fun and games have their place, and we will have fun, they cannot sanctify hearts; only God's Word can. Only by hearing and believing God's Word will our youth ever trust in Jesus Christ, walk in repentance, and live, love, and look like Christ for the rest of their life.

Our goal is that our youth graduate from FaithYouth with a firm grasp of the Gospel, confidence in essential doctrines, and the ability to apply Scripture to the joys and trials they will encounter for the rest of their lives.

## **2. FaithYouth is committed to cultivating a Christ-exalting, safe, and caring community**

FaithYouth is more than activities and entertainment; it's a small group where our youth are known, loved, and encouraged to exalt Christ. We believe that our youth cannot honor God on their own, so we desire for them to learn in a caring community of leaders and fellow youth how Christ is better than the idols of their hearts and this world.

We do not teach mere moral living and “doing better.” We believe that only Jesus changes hearts, producing a desire to honor Him out of the overflow of His grace through the Gospel in our lives. Only when our youth see Jesus as more precious, valuable, and supreme than anything else in creation will they truly want to live their lives for Him.

We are intentional about building godly friendships that encourage our youth toward holiness and Gospel hope. We desire to model our ministry after the pattern of the early church in Acts 2:42 by devoting ourselves to fellowship, prayer, and care for one another.

We also prioritize physical and spiritual safety. Our background-checked leaders undergo training to shepherd, protect, and counsel the youth entrusted to our care with integrity, accountability, and wisdom. We strive to create an environment where every teen, regardless of their background or current struggles, can experience Christ-centered care, belonging, and growth.

## **3. FaithYouth is committed to equipping youth to live, love, and look like Jesus, stand firm, and integrate with the church**

We live in a world increasingly opposed to biblical truth. Our youth *will* face temptations, cultural pressures, doubts, and even hostility for their faith. Our goal is to prepare them for these challenges by cultivating a biblical worldview, exposing the empty promises of sin, and exalting Jesus as incomparably valuable.

Through our teaching, we desire for our youth to love the Lord and, out of a heart filled with His love for them, love others like Jesus loves. We want our youth to live in a way that reflects the faith they claim. Therefore, we strive to provide heart-level applications with particular examples of living for Christ. We also desire for our youth to look like Christ in a culture that lacks an understanding of our Savior, not look like a shallow, cultural caricature of a Christ defined only by love or only by wrath.

We believe that all who believe the Gospel are not merely the future church; they are the church, including our youth. We are committed to integrating our youth into the broader church family by encouraging them to serve, worship, and build relationships alongside believers of all ages and cultures. Whether God calls them to remain here or sends them elsewhere, we want them to be ready to live as faithful disciples and Gospel witnesses for the rest of their lives.

To support this, we strive to provide opportunities for cross-cultural relationships and ministry both here at FBC and throughout the broader Lincoln area. To deepen the integration with our FBC family, we also encourage our youth to attend and energetically participate in Missions Highlights, ONEFAITH Sundays, and to joyfully submit our worship and teaching to the biblical direction of the FBC Elders.