

Parent Pack

Hey Parents!

We are ready for a fantastic week TOGETHER as we seek to equip your student to find life in Jesus. Our prayer is that the Lord will use this week away to help your student see how to GLORIFY God in daily life, GROW in love for Jesus and be inspired to GO share Jesus with others. We are here to partner with you and we hope this packet is one way to do that.

We have put together a packet of information not only to help your student pack, but also to keep you informed about what the week looks like. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your student's life in what we are praying will be a truly transformational week.

FOR THE CAUSE OF CHRIST,

Pastor Josh // Student Pastor



Parent Pack

Important Information

- **Life Groups & Morning Gatherings:** Students will be divided into Life Groups that will meet during our Morning Gathering. These groups will be discussion focused rather than teaching. The goal is to wrestle with the text and apply it to life. Don't try to have all the answers. It's okay to say, "I don't know, but let's look at that together." These groups will also be assigned times to clean up after meals throughout the week. Each group will have adult leaders and these will be the students you are asked to always be aware of during the week.
- **Night Gatherings** will be a large group discussion then break out into our Life Groups for more discussion.
- **Build relationships** with the students whenever possible. You will be working closely with students this week which allows you time to build relationships that will help them grow in their walk with Jesus.
- **Enforce the retreat rules** found in the Expectation Form and challenge our students to represent Jesus, FBC Dandridge and themselves well wherever they are. Also remember, speak the truth in love.
- **NO ADULTS. NO BEACH.** There are all kinds of risks on a beach trip. One big one is with the ocean. For that reason, we always need an adult while students are at the beach.
- **3+ Principle:** While around the camp, students are welcome to go to different spots without an adult as long as they stay in a group of 3+ students.
- **Be Flexible.** We are going to be prayed up and well prepared. We will also have situations come up that we don't expect. The students will follow your example (actions, attitudes and more). Ask the Lord to give you a servant's hearts from the moment you arrive at church until the moment we return home.



Camp Pastor

BEN BIRDSONG

About Ben. . .

Ben is married to Liz. He enjoys reading, writing, watching movies, and blogging. He is a church and para-church student ministry veteran and currently serves as the Minister of Missions at Christ Church in Birmingham, Alabama. He is also an adjunct professor teaching children, youth, and family ministries at Birmingham Theological Seminary. Ben also helps churches with custom curriculum through Your Youth Ministry Curriculum and authors with book projects through Birdsong Innovations.



Ben has bachelor's degrees in Marketing and Human Resource Management from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, a Master of Divinity degree from Samford University's Beeson Divinity School, and a Doctor of Ministry in Ministry to Emerging Generations from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. As an author, Ben has written the devotional books *Words from the Cross: 7 Statements that Will Transform Your Life*, journeying through Jesus' final moments before His death, and *James: Everyday Faith*. He is also a monthly contributor for parenting and family ministry content for Birmingham Christian Family magazine. Ben also wrote the John study and a portion of the Psalm study for Rooted Reservoir.

Schedule

FIRST Day

- 7:30 AM** Check-In at FBC Dandridge
- 8:30 AM** Depart for Beach Week
- 7:00 PM** Arrive at Surfside Retreat
- 7:15 PM** Unload, Explore & Eat
- 9:00 PM** Camp Overview
- 10:00 PM** Life Groups
- 10:30 PM** Free Time
- Midnight** Lights Outs

OTHER Days

- 6:30 AM** Sunrise Worship (Wednesday Only)
- 8:00 AM** Breakfast
- 9:00 AM** Daily Devotion
- 9:30 AM** Morning Gathering
- 9:45 AM** Life Groups
- 10:45 AM** Rec/Games
- 12:30 PM** Lunch
- 1:00 - 4:30 PM** Beach Time/Free Time
- 5:00 PM** Shower/Clean Up
- 5:30 PM** Dinner
- 7:30 PM** Night Gathering
- 8:30 PM** Life Groups
- 9:30 PM** Night Life
- 11:00 PM** Lights Outs (Camp Quiet Hours Begin)

On Wednesday we will spend the lunch and afternoon out at Pier Park. Students will need money for lunch that day.

LAST Day

- 8:00 AM** Breakfast
- 8:30 AM** Depart for FBC Dandridge
- 8:00 PM** Pick-Up at FBC Dandridge



FAQ

WHAT TO BRING

- Bible, notepad and pen
- Toiletries (shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)
- Summer clothing
- Swim Wear (*Remember: modesty is the best policy. If you wouldn't want to see your parent in it, then you probably shouldn't wear.*)*
- Shoes: Tennis, Bathing and Beach Shoes
- Favorite snacks or drinks (Recommended)
- Flashlight
- Spending money for meals while traveling and for the fun day outing.
- Watch and/or alarm clock
- Sunscreen
- Water bottle
- Towels: Shower and Beach

We will have some gender specific leaders who can be contacted with questions about swim wear.*

WHAT NOT TO BRING

- Alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, illegal drugs, fireworks, water guns, or any kind of weapon
- iPads, iPods, gaming systems or other gaming devices.
- Cell phones are permitted, BUT they are not to be out and in use during worship, Bible Study or group times.
- Items that may be used for pranks such as water balloons, shaving cream, silly string, etc. Pranks are not allowed on the retreat.

WHAT ABOUT MEDS?

Must be in their original pharmacy container along with written instructions. All in a Ziploc plastic bag with the camper's name printed on it. (PLEASE NOTE: If meds are not in the original container we cannot and will not administer them.)

WHAT ABOUT LUGGAGE?

- Label ALL luggage and items with a luggage tag (name, address, phone).
- One bag with the majority of items packed for the trip
- Small bag or backpack to have while traveling or to take to the beach.

Packing List

WHAT TO BRING

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- Shoes: Tennis, Bathing and Beach Shoes
- Favorite snacks or drinks (Recommended)
- Flashlight
- Spending money for meals while traveling and for the fun day outing.
- Watch and/or alarm clock
- Sunscreen AND Aloe Vera
- Water bottle
- Towels: Shower and Beach

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Theme Overview

STEADFAST LOVE

God's love is bigger than our failures, deeper than our doubts, and wider than our prejudices. The story of Jonah reveals a God who is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love—even toward those who least deserve it. Whether in the storm, the depths of the sea, or the heart of a rebellious city, God's compassion remains constant. His love pursues, forgives, and transforms, inviting us to reflect His mercy in our own lives.

Day One RUNNING

Scripture: Jonah 1

Big Idea: God's love pursues us even when we run from Him.

Jonah tried to escape God's call, but God didn't give up on him. No matter how far we run, God's love always follows.

Day Two PRAYING

Scripture: Jonah 2

Big Idea: God's love rescues us even when we don't deserve it.

From inside the fish, Jonah cried out to God—and God answered. His mercy is never out of reach, no matter how deep we've fallen.

Day Three TURNING

Scripture: Jonah 3

Big Idea: God's love is for everyone, even those we least expect.

Nineveh was a wicked city, but when they repented, God showed them mercy. His love isn't just for us—it's for the whole world.

Day Four WRESTLING

Scripture: Jonah 4

Big Idea: God's love is greater than our own.

Jonah struggled to accept God's mercy for Nineveh, but God reminded him that His love goes beyond human expectations. His heart is always bigger than ours.



FAQ List

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY GO TO THE BEACH FOR CAMP?

GREAT QUESTION! We spent some time in prayer about what the summer camp experience could be for our students. This led to a desire to go somewhere that created space for students to relax, focus on Jesus and build excitement for them. The beach was just the place! As we look forward to Beach Week, we are prayerfully expectant that the Lord will move in mighty ways in the hearts and minds of students this summer.

WHERE DO I DROP OFF AND PICK UP MY STUDENT?

Check-In: June 1st at 7:30 AM. Meet in the FBC Dandridge Student Room at the circle drive.

Pick-Up: June 6th at 8:00 PM. We will do our best to keep you updated if things change with this time.

WHERE WILL STUDENTS BE STAYING?

Surfside Christian Retreat Center

We have bunk houses assigned to our group. We will have guys in one bunk house and girls in another.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY STUDENTS GETS IN TROUBLE?

All students are required to follow FBCD Student Ministry Expectations for the entirety of the week. In most cases, a three strike policy is followed for disciplinary action. Students get three strikes for violating the rules. The first strike is a conversation with an adult leader and student pastor. On the second strike, parents will be notified. On the third strike, parents will be asked to pick up their student from the event location. We're sure this won't be an issue, but we want you to know!

Please Note: The FBCD Student Ministry Expectation and Procedures Form is required to be signed by all **students and parents** for them to participate in Beach Week. You can find a copy of this form at the end of this packet.



FAQ List

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CAN I BRING BEACH GEAR?

Absolutely! Feel free to bring beach gear like skim boards, beach towels, small shovels, or sand toys. You will need to get these approved by Pastor Josh so make sure to reach out to him before it's time to leave. Just make sure everything's labeled and easy to carry—we'll be on the move and sharing space with others. Let's make the most of the sand and surf!

WHAT DO I DO IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY?

Your student may have their cell phone on them at Beach Week. You can contact them directly or any of the leadership team listed below.

If your student or the leadership team needs to contact you for any reason, we will contact the person(s) indicated as the students' emergency contact.

Church Emergency Contacts

Josh Ogle, Student Pastor | (865) 315-0915 | josh@fbcdandridge.org

Church Office | (865) 397-3940 | Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM til 5:30 PM

WAIT, I STILL HAVE MORE QUESTIONS!

We know how important your student is to you! If you have any questions about the event, please contact Pastor Josh.

The Forms



SCAN THE CODES

Release Form

Complete this form so we can best care for your student in the event of emergencies.



Expectation Form

Complete this form so we can all be on the same page for what is expected at camp. Student AND Parents must complete this.

