



# COVSTUDENTS

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2023



## A MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT TEAM

As we step further into the spring, I am constantly reminded of how good and faithful our God is. Life is chaotic, but God takes our mess and makes beautiful things that we could never expect.

You may be aware that Covenant UMC is holding a church vote on March 5th @3:30 to decide our denominational future. Be aware that students who are members have the right to vote. Students should have a full understanding of the issues at play before casting a vote. I (Nick) and the rest of our staff are available as a resource. I highly recommend listening to the Covenant Podcast where we've been working through this issue over the past few months. You can find that [here](#)!

Moving forward, we're going to continue being who we've always been. We're going to champion teaching our students to **Pursue God** and **Unleash Compassion**. There are so many amazing things happening in the lives of our students and we're honored to celebrate that along with you! Take heart, Christ has overcome the world and He is on the throne. We're going to follow Jesus and we'll figure out the rest together!

-Nick Shepherd



## DISCOVERY WEEKEND 2023

On behalf of our CovStudents team, we are so thankful for everybody who made Discovery Weekend 2023 possible! Events like this do not happen by accident and they involve a lot of investment from a lot of people. Special thanks to:

- All of our small group leaders and other volunteer teams who put their lives on hold to invest in our students
- Our worship and production team
- Our meal providers: Bill Slavins and Chris McLean, Celebrate Recovery, and Chick-Fil-A Ross Clark Circle
- And to everybody who prayed fervently for Discovery Weekend!

Together, we've resolved to love God with all our **hearts, souls, minds, and strength**. We learned all about what it means to love God in each of those 4 ways. We also learned about how God wants to RENEW us in all 4 of those areas as well. He give us new hearts, He restores our souls, He renews our minds, and He is our strength. We pray that Discovery serves as a catalyst in the lives of our students as we continue following Jesus together day by day. Click [here](#) to see the recap video!





**PARENT MEETING:  
MARCH 12TH  
4:30-5:30 PM**

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Meeting will happen in the Fellowship Hall from 4:30-5:30. Snacks and coffee will be provided. Purpose of this meeting is to discuss summer activities! Childcare will not be provided and youth should stay home.

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Please RSVP at the link below:

[SignupGenius](#)





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **SPRING FLING: SUNDAY MARCH 18TH 4:30-6:00 PM**

We're filling up the gym with inflatables for our students! This is a great opportunity to come and have some fun.

Bring a friend! Socks required on inflatables. Closed toed shoes required for Rock Wall.



## **NO TOPICS MARCH 29TH DUE TO SPRING BREAK**

### **RUMMAGE SALE**

The Rummage Sale is a fantastic fundraiser that supports Celebrate Recovery! Wear work clothes to Refuge on 3/26 and as soon as we're done we'll help set up at 11am! Other opportunities to serve include:

Wed 3/29 from 5pm to 8pm

Fri 3/31 from 12pm-7pm

Sat 4/1 from 7am-12pm





## SUMMER 2023

### WIRED: JUNE 25TH-29TH

CovStudents are all in on WIRED 2023! We're so excited to serve the Wiregrass with our community. Open to students who have completed 7th grade and up!

We need adults willing to work some shifts for us! Sign up [here](#)!

**Cost: \$249**

Deadline to sign up is **March 13th with \$50 deposit**



### VBS: JULY 10TH-13TH

VBS is one of the coolest opportunities we have to serve our church community.

We are making a BIG push for our students to step up for VBS this year, so mark your calendars!

### MOTION CONFERENCE: JULY 27TH-29TH

Imagine 13,000 students from across the country coming together in Birmingham, AL to focus on Jesus Christ and you'll see why we're so excited about MOTION! Motion is designed to be a catalyst for growth through worship, small groups, and fun! Sign up [here](#)!

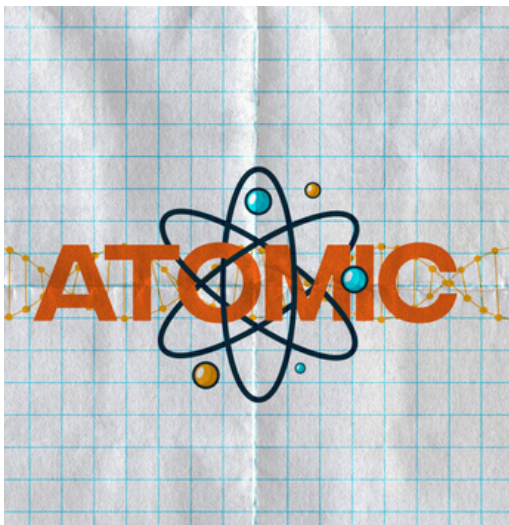
**Cost: \$110**

**Deadline: March 13th**





## UPCOMING SERIES: FEBRUARY



### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

We are stoked to dive into a new series on Spiritual Disciplines! We're going to be learning about the habits that God wants us to embrace to help us get closer to him. Often, it's the small habits that we don't notice that have the biggest effect.



### SUNDAY MORNINGS

God can do some wonderful things through the technology in our lives, but our tech can also be a problem if we're not careful. In this series, we'll talk about what it means to have a healthy relationship with our screens!





## UPCOMING SERIES: MARCH



### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

A trail-breaker is someone who goes ahead, who makes a new way, and who invites others to follow along behind them. In so many ways, that's exactly what Jesus did (and does) for us. In this Easter series, we'll read the stories of Jesus breaking new trails as we celebrate the Easter season together.



### SUNDAY MORNINGS

We like to be seen through a filter. Often, we're afraid of people seeing who we really are. What if Jesus came to love us knowing how messy and unimpressive we are? We're talking about what it means to live **UNFILTERED** in light of Easter and the Gospel.

# PARENT RESOURCE

## CELEBRATE YOUR FAMILY IDENTITY

BY JIM BURNS

ON MONDAY NIGHTS WHEN OUR GIRLS WERE GROWING UP, CATHY AND I WOULD TAKE THEM TO THE GOLDEN SPOON FOR FROZEN YOGURT AFTER DINNER. THE WEEKLY YOGURT RUN WAS PART OF OUR FAMILY IDENTITY --- PART OF WHAT MADE US WHO WE WERE. EVEN THE NEIGHBORS KNEW OUR ROUTINE AND SOMETIMES SHOUTED TO-GO ORDERS AS WE PULLED OUT OF OUR DRIVEWAY. OUR THREE DAUGHTERS ARE NOW GROWN, BUT WHEN OUR FAMILY GETS TOGETHER, WE STILL MAKE TRIPS TO THE GOLDEN SPOON. IT'S ONE OF THOSE SIMPLE TRADITIONS THAT HAVE KEPT OUR FAMILY BONDS STRONG.

NOT SURPRISINGLY, A STRONG FAMILY IDENTITY ALSO HELPS CHILDREN DEVELOP A STRONG AND HEALTHY SELF-IDENTITY. KNOWING WHAT MAKES THEIR FAMILY UNIQUE --- TRADITIONS, VALUES, AND WAYS OF RELATING TO ONE ANOTHER --- GIVES CHILDREN A CLEAR STARTING POINT FOR DISCOVERING THEIR OWN PLACE IN THE WORLD. STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT KIDS WHO IDENTIFY WITH THEIR FAMILY'S VALUES TEND TO BE LESS PROMISCUOUS AND FACE LESS RISK OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE.

I'M A BIG FAN OF PARENTS WHO MAKE THE EFFORT TO BUILD A STRONG FAMILY IDENTITY. BUT HOW IS IT DONE? HERE ARE THREE PRINCIPLES THAT I BELIEVE ARE CRITICAL TO THE PROCESS.

1. BE PRESENT. CHILDREN REGARD YOUR PRESENCE IN THEIR LIVES AS A SIGN OF CARE AND CONNECTEDNESS. FAMILIES WHO EAT MEALS TOGETHER, PLAY TOGETHER, AND BUILD TRADITIONS TOGETHER THRIVE. YOUR PRESENCE MATTERS! DOES YOUR FAMILY EAT TOGETHER AT LEAST FOUR TIMES A WEEK? IF SO, THERE IS A GREATER CHANCE YOUR KIDS WILL PERFORM BETTER IN SCHOOL AND BE LESS LIKELY TO EXHIBIT NEGATIVE BEHAVIOR.

2. CELEBRATE EVERYTHING! DON'T MISS A SINGLE CHANCE TO CELEBRATE YOUR FAMILY. YOU CAN CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS, GRADUATIONS, AND OTHER RITES OF PASSAGE, BUT DON'T MISS OUT ON CELEBRATING LIFE'S SMALLER OCCASIONS SUCH AS LITTLE LEAGUE VICTORIES, LEARNED SKILLS, AND SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS.

3. TALK ABOUT FAITH. FOR SOME FAMILIES, SPIRITUAL DISCUSSIONS ARE EASIER SAID THAN DONE. BUT HAVING FAITH CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR KIDS HELPS TO BUILD YOUR FAMILY IDENTITY. THEY ALSO HELP YOUR KIDS BUILD STRONG CONVICTIONS, AS THEY GET OLDER. WHEN YOU REGULARLY EXPOSE YOUR KIDS TO GOD'S TRUTH, IT CAN, AS A FRIEND OF MINE SAYS, "HELP THEM DEVELOP A SWEET TOOTH FOR JESUS." AND THAT'S SOMETHING FAR BETTER THAN BUYING YOUR KIDS FROZEN YOGURT AT THE GOLDEN SPOON.





## GET CONNECTED

Text the appropriate keyword to 334-605-9057 to join that texting list!

Parents: CovParent  
6th-9th: Topics  
10th-12th: SeniorHi

### FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

