



# START ING POINT

STUDENT EDITION

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Making Disciples

# MAKING DISCIPLES

6

## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# HERE WE GO

In this session, we will discover the concept of spiritual multiplication. Then, we will discuss the biblical pattern of spiritual multiplication that is found in 2 Timothy. Finally, we will explore the basis of our motivation to multiply spiritually.

## MEMORIZE *2 Timothy 2:2*

*Copy the words, draw pictures, do whatever you need to memorize the Scripture.*

Faith definition:

**FAITH IS CHOOSING TO LIVE AS THOUGH GOD'S WORD IS TRUE REGARDLESS OF CIRCUMSTANCES, REGARDLESS OF EMOTIONS AND REGARDLESS OF CULTURAL TRENDS.**

“And without *faith* it is impossible to please him (God)...” - Hebrews 11:6

“...whatever does not proceed from *faith* is sin.” - Romans 14:23

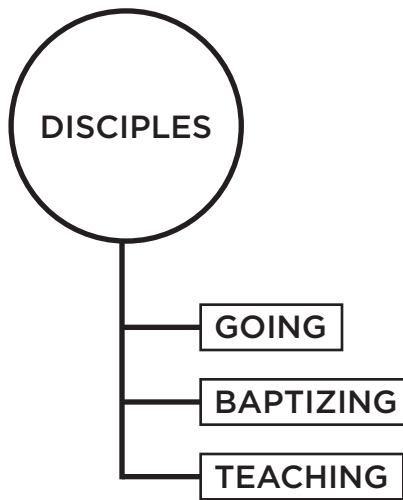
“for we walk by *faith*, not by sight.” - 2 Corinthians 5:7

## CONSIDER THIS

Cooper sat in the pew and listened to the visiting preacher speak on Matthew 28:18-20. He had heard that this passage was part of what was called the Great Commission, but this preacher made it seem so urgent. He compared the Great Commission to a relay race in which members of a team must successfully pass the baton in order to complete the race. “The key to winning the race ...” he said, “... is to pass the baton. If we do not pass the baton to the next generation of Christians, our society will be in trouble.”

Cooper thought the Great Commission was for missionaries and preachers. It had never occurred to him that the Great Commission was meant for him. Now, he saw that he could leave a legacy and impact the next generation.

Read Matthew 28:18–20. In this passage, the main verb “make disciples” is a command. The verbs “go,” “baptizing” and “teaching” are participles that tell you how to do the command.



This passage means that we make disciples by:

- **Going**

“Go” means being intentional about making disciples. We are to be intentional about making disciples as we go about our lives.

- **Baptizing**

“Baptizing” addresses the principle of helping others to be introduced to and identified with Jesus Christ.

How does baptism identify us with Jesus?

Why is it important for believers to be baptized?

- **Teaching**

“Teaching” means that we should teach other Christians to obey God’s Word by faith.

Read 2 Timothy 2:2 and Acts 1:8. These verses are considered to be parallel passages to Matthew 28:18–20.

## **Spiritual Multiplication Defined**

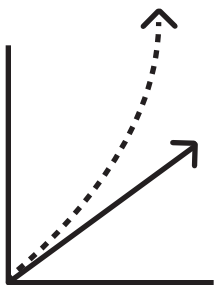
Spiritual multiplication is mentoring that equips a believer to evangelize and mentor others so that they can evangelize and mentor others, and so on, and so on. Spiritual multiplication is different from spiritual addition:

**Spiritual addition:** Leading someone to faith in Jesus Christ or helping a believer spiritually.

**Spiritual multiplication:** Mentoring and preparing someone to mentor and prepare others who will, in turn, mentor and prepare others.

Anyone who wants to be involved in spiritual multiplication needs foresight as to how God wants to increase Himself through him or her. This involves fostering relationships, adhering to the truth, staying accountable, modeling godly living and having a desire to minister according to the pattern established in the New Testament.

Compare the following:



If you introduced ten people each year to faith in Jesus for the next ten years, you would see 100 people added to the church. VS. If you disciplined one person per year for the next ten years, who were then equipped to reach and disciple one person per year, and so on, you would be part of raising up thousands of trained workers for the body of Christ in a ten-year period.

Which of the above represents spiritual multiplication?

## EXPLORE

If you are going to understand what it means to spiritually multiply, you need to look at it from Paul's perspective in 2 Timothy 2:1-10. Read 2 Timothy 2:1-10, and note the necessary principles of spiritual multiplication.

### **1. Understand the motivation of grace.**

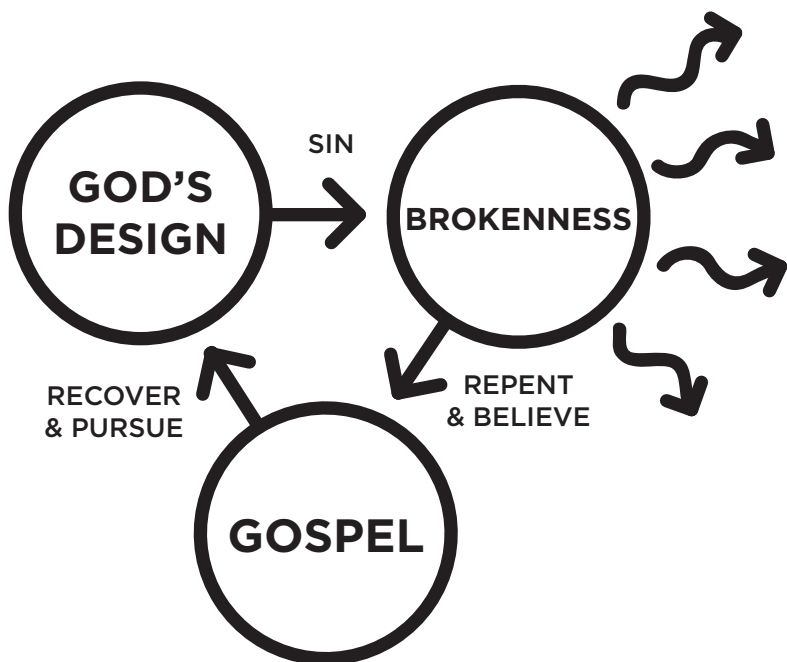
*"You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 2:1).*

Someone who is passionate about mentoring does not mentor only because he has been commanded to do so; he does it because this is what he desires to do. He understands that God has done an amazing work in his own life, and he wants to share that with others.

Why do some Christians not share the Good News of God's grace with others?

The following image sequence is a presentation of the 3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide from Life on Mission. The illustrations have been created to be a tool to share the Gospel with other people, and have been designed so that they can be simple enough to draw on the back of a napkin. An illustration of the 3 Circles presentation and a helpful app can be found at <http://lifeonmissionbook.com/conversation-guide>.

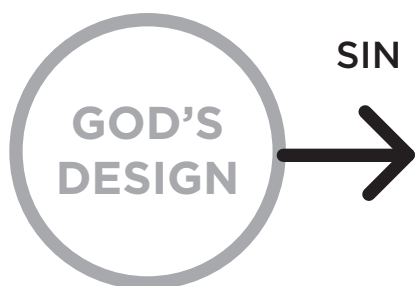




## CIRCLE 1: GOD'S DESIGN

From the very beginning, God had a plan for humans. Not only did God have a plan for humanity at large, He had and has a plan for every human individually. God has a design for the way we should treat our families, work our jobs, and interact with friends and strangers; the plan is perfect. The Creator who knit together every being desires nothing more than for His plans to be implemented in every life.





The challenge is that there is something within people that pushes us to depart from God's design, to go in our own direction. The Bible has labeled that departure from God's design "sin."

Sin leads to a world of consequences. When we sin, we find ourselves in a place of "brokenness."

## **CIRCLE 2: BROKENNESS**

The feeling of brokenness is the result of our poor choices or even the choices of others that negatively affect us. This state exemplifies itself in ruined relationships, addictions, unease, fear and a mountain of other negative circumstances and states of being. Our brokenness, the feeling of emptiness and desperation, leads us to look in many different directions for healing.



We turn to religion, success, beauty, substances, anger and many other seemingly filling solutions to fix the brokenness in our lives. The challenge is that none of the solutions we carve out for ourselves will work; the brokenness remains.

Although brokenness is bleak, God uses it for good. God uses brokenness to help people understand that there is a problem that needs a solution. When someone surveys his life and recognizes the destruction around him and acknowledges that his solutions have failed, he often becomes open to the idea of a different path. He becomes open to a genuine change. The Bible's word for change is "repent."

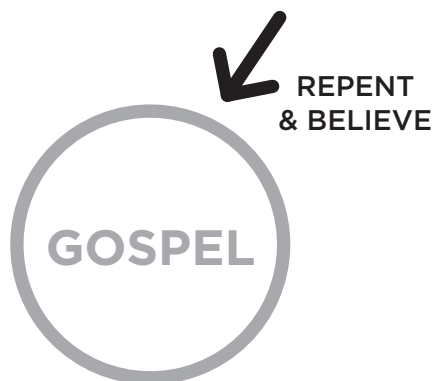
We want to change and repent but we realize that we can't do much on our own (as evidenced by our own solutions to our brokenness). The good news is that God has a plan to fix the problem of brokenness; it's called the "Gospel."

### **CIRCLE 3: GOSPEL**

The Gospel is the story of what Jesus did for us. Jesus, who is God in flesh, came and lived a perfect life. He never departed from God's design; He lived a life completely without sin. He taught people about God's love for them and His design for their lives. He healed the sick, spent time with the poor, and sought the outcasts. When He was around 33 years old, people that He loved nailed Him to a cross and murdered Him. While Jesus was on the Cross, God did something incredible.

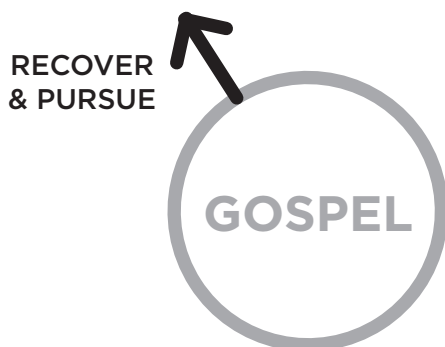


He took the sins of the world and placed them on Jesus. So in His death, Jesus paid the penalty for all of our sin. After He had accomplished His mission on the Cross (bearing the consequences of the world's sins), Jesus died and was buried in a tomb. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead. In His conquering of death, Jesus proved that He was who He said He was, the Son of God. Jesus proved that He could do what He said He could do, forgive sin. And this is the Good News.



The death and Resurrection of Jesus opens up the path by which we might return to the design of God. God's provision means that we can do no good of our own to fix brokenness, nor can we lose that provision by making mistakes. The path to restoration and redemption is this: Repent and believe.

When we make the step of turning from our sins (repentance) and turning toward Jesus (belief), God restores us. He does a work in our hearts that helps us to recover and pursue God's design. No matter what our brokenness looks like or how deep we are in it, God restores us to a right relationship with Him through Jesus.



When we come to faith in Jesus and are restored to His original design for us, we begin to experience the good things that God intends for us to have: purpose, forgiveness, community, hope, joy. As we experience these blessings from God, He sends us back into the brokenness of the world to help others discover the Good News that we have found.

STAGE	SUPPORTING VERSES
<b>GOD'S DESIGN</b>	Genesis 1:31; Psalm 19:1
<b>SIN</b>	Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23a
<b>BROKENNESS</b>	Romans 1:25; Proverbs 14:12
<b>GOSPEL</b>	John 3:16; Colossians 2:14
<b>REPENT &amp; BELIEVE</b>	Mark 1:15; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:9
<b>RECOVER &amp; PURSUE</b>	Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 2:10

Many people understand what their culture expects of them (what they should or should not do), and they try to live by those expectations. They give money, volunteer or go to church because they feel they are expected to do so. Even though God wants us to do these things, He wants us to do them out of the overflow of our hearts. Once people are discipled, and they understand grace, they are free to give money, volunteer and go to church because they are grateful to God. They are also excited about all He has done for them, and they are overwhelmed with gratitude.

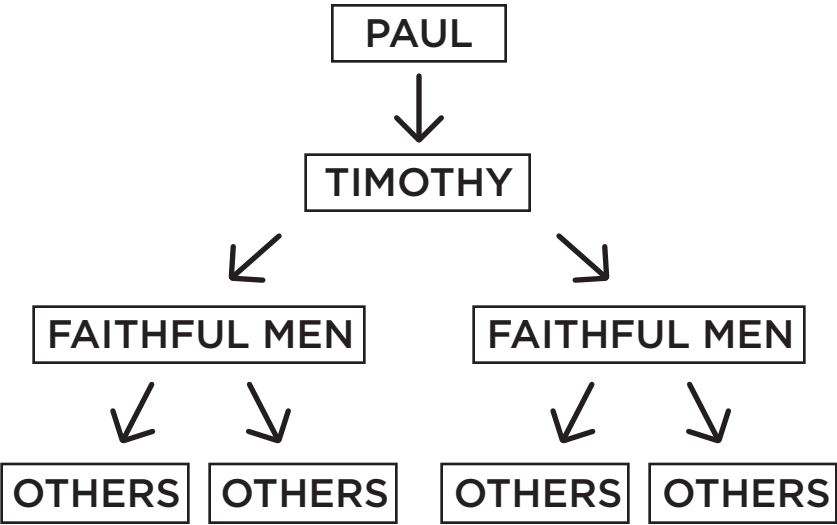
For a greater understanding of this gratitude, go back and review the 3 Circles illustration. Practice presenting the 3 Circles below:

2. Commit to a life of multiplication.

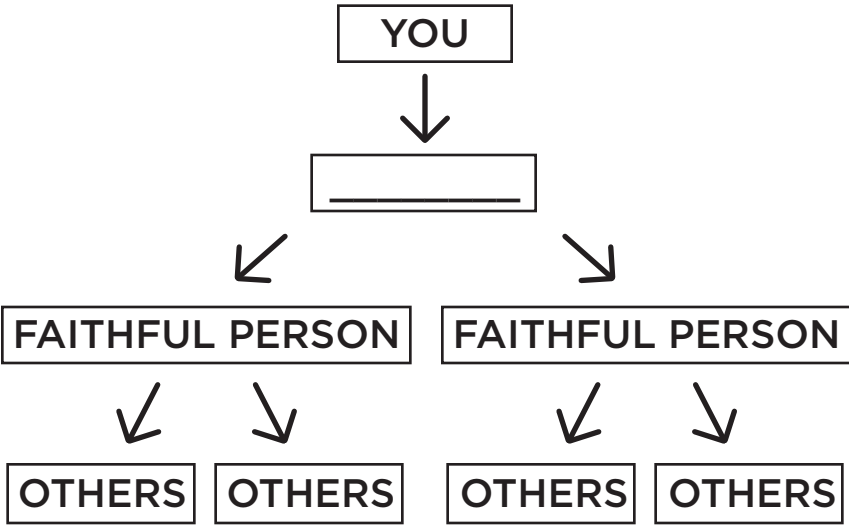
*“... and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2).*

Ben went to the wedding of a young man he had mentored two years earlier. Although he was happy to attend Jackson’s wedding, he was sure he would not know anyone else at the wedding. During the reception, five of Jackson’s friends introduced themselves to Ben and told him that they were all in different stages of the mentoring process. Jackson had disciplined one of them; he disciplined another, and so on, and so on.

If you want to multiply spiritually, you must commit your life to investing in the lives of others and encouraging them to do the same. The chart below illustrates Paul’s ministry of spiritual multiplication. Paul only needed to mentor Timothy. Then Timothy needed to develop disciples who would develop disciples. This chart also illustrates why the selection of those to be disciplined is so critical. If someone decides not to share what he or she has learned with others by developing their own mentoring relationships, spiritual multiplication will stall.



Prayerfully consider whom you would like to disciple. As you do so, think about the influence you could have many spiritual generations into the future. Begin now to pray for the person you will mentor and for the people he or she will mentor, and so on.



**3. Look for the potential in others.**

As you prayerfully begin to consider whom you will disciple, there are certain characteristics you should look for. There are three main characteristics to look for in the life of a person who is ready to be discipled. These characteristics are:

- Availability
- Teachability
- Faithfulness

List some of the attributes of someone who is available.

Someone who is available will desire to be discipled and make it a priority above other things. He knows he needs to mature spiritually and is excited to start the process.

List some of the attributes of someone who is teachable.

List some of the attributes of someone who is faithful.

#### **4. Be a model for change.**

It is important to keep in mind that no one is perfect. As you begin mentoring others, you will likely encounter people whose lives are in need of certain changes. If you want to help someone change his or her life, then you have to be committed to be a model for change. In order to show someone how to allow God to change them, you must allow God to change you.

Describe a time when someone else was used by God to help you change.

#### **5. Commit to live a disciplined life.**

*Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything (2 Timothy 2:3-7).*

Paul uses three professions, the soldier, the athlete and the farmer, to illustrate the perspective and commitment that is needed to multiply spiritually. Note the principles that Paul teaches from these three professions.





## TALK IT OUT

### ***THE SOLDIER*** (vv. 3-4)

- A good soldier is single-minded in purpose. He is willing to say “no” to good things in order to please his ranking officials.
- A good soldier is willing to suffer hardship.

List some of the things you may consider to be “good things” to which you might have to say “no” in order to participate in spiritual multiplication.

What are some difficulties that someone who is committed to multiplying spiritually might face?

### ***THE ATHLETE*** (v. 5)

- The victorious athlete is disciplined. He knows that hours of rigorous training and discipline lie behind every victory.
- The victorious athlete knows and follows the rules of competition.

In what ways does one who wishes to participate in mentoring need to be disciplined?

### ***THE FARMER*** (v. 6)

- The successful farmer is unafraid of the hard work and patience needed to produce a harvest.
- The farmer enjoys a fruitful harvest. His patience and hard work are rewarded when the harvest is brought in.

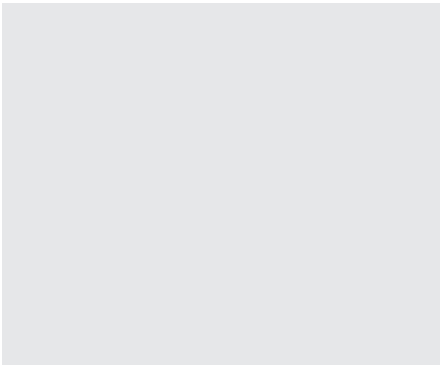
Describe a time when you encountered a relationship that required hard work and patience.

One must spend time studying the Bible and meeting with her discipleship partner. This will establish a great model for your mentoring partner, which will likely carry over into her subsequent mentoring relationships as well.

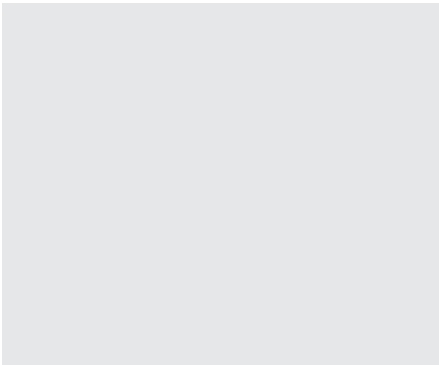
**YOUR LIFE TODAY**  
**Applying the Faith Principle to Spiritual Multiplication**

Fill in the following chart based on 2 Timothy 2:3-4. Note your perception of your experience in the left box, and the truth of God’s Word in the right box:

Your Experience

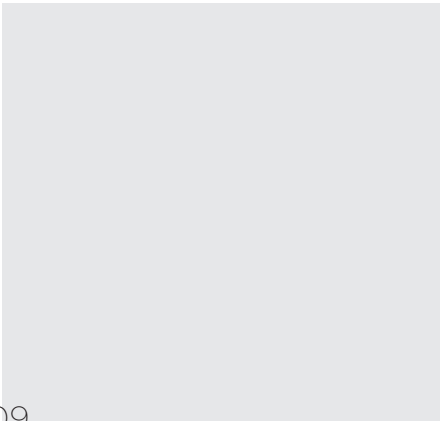
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What God’s Word says  
in 2 Timothy 2:3-4

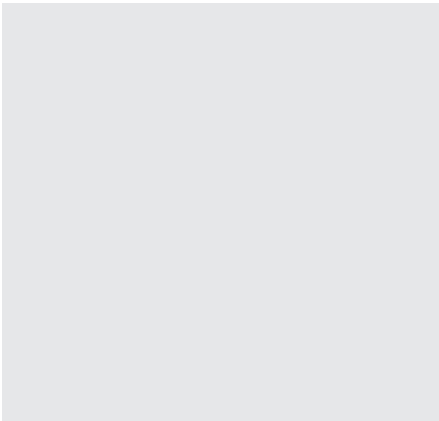
A large, empty rectangular box with a light gray background, intended for the user to write the truth of God's Word.

Now do the same for 2 Timothy 2:5.

Your Experience

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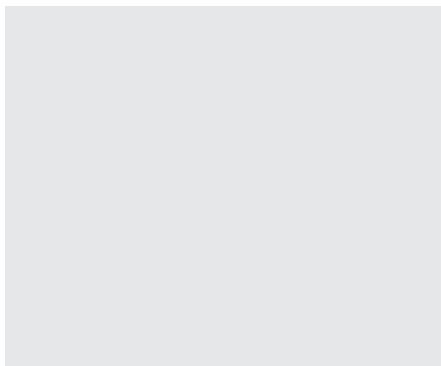
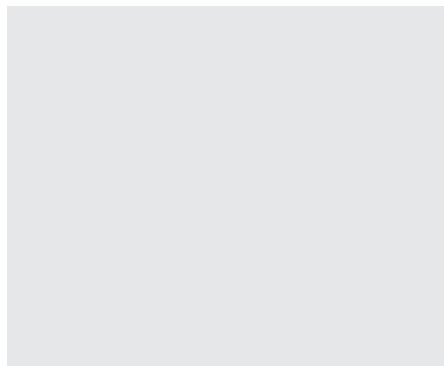
What God’s Word says  
in 2 Timothy 2:5

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Now do the same for 2 Timothy 2:6.

Your Experience

What God's Word says  
in 2 Timothy 2:6



## REVIEW

Faith is choosing to live as though the Bible is true regardless of circumstances, emotions or cultural trends.

## ASK

If you choose to live as though 2 Timothy 2:3-6 were true, how would you be living?

## PRAY

Take a moment to ask God to make these biblical truths a greater reality in your attitudes and actions. Share your thoughts below.

# BEFORE YOU FINISH

## Your Ministry of Spiritual Multiplication

Take time to reflect on your ministry of multiplication. Answer the following questions:

1. Are you able:
  - To be committed to spiritual multiplication?
  - To be a model for change?
  - To look for the potential in others?
  - To be committed to live a disciplined life?
  - To rely on the Holy Spirit to accomplish all of the above?
2. What can get in the way of your ministry of spiritual multiplication?
3. List some of the people you believe are ready to participate in spiritual multiplication:

Ask God to raise up a person with whom you can share this information so that he can become a spiritual multiplier, too.

Consider all the material through which you have just worked, and read the following statement. When you completely agree with the statement, sign on the line.

**By faith I choose to believe that God is calling me to invest my life in the ministry of spiritual multiplication.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

# RESOURCES

After reading this guide, you may have further questions. That's not unusual! Salvation is just the beginning; most Christians spend the rest of their lives growing in their relationship with Christ. Below are some wonderful resources that will help you navigate this journey as a Christ-follower.

## PRESTONWOOD.ORG

On the Prestonwood Baptist Church website, you can learn the church's beliefs and history, find additional reading materials, and if you need personal guidance, look up contact information for our ministers. You can also find classes, meeting times, events and small groups to help you engage in the life of our church.

## PRESTONWOODSTUDENTS.ORG

The Prestonwood Student Ministry website is a great resource for any information you would like to know about the Student Ministry. You can find meeting times for Student Bible Fellowship as well as meeting times for Wednesday night student activities and events throughout the year.

## PRESTONWOOD STUDENT MINISTRY DEVOS

The Prestonwood Student Ministry provides daily devotionals that are directly related to the teaching topics in Student Bible Fellowship. Pick one up today at the Student Ministry office or download the app in the App Store or on Google Play.



972-820-5000  
[prestonwoodstudents.org](http://prestonwoodstudents.org)