

HUDDLE GROUPS

What are HUDDLE GROUPS and why do we do it?

HUDDLE DATES FOR 2017-2018

9/10/2016	Leader Training
9/24/2016	(Sun.) HUDDLE KICKOFF
10/08/2016	(Sun.) Huddle Big Night
10/18/2016	(Wed.) Mini-Huddle
10/22/2016	FAMILY NIGHT
11/12/2016	(Sun.) Huddle Big Night
11/26/2016	FAMILY NIGHT
11/29/2016	(Wed.) Mini-Huddle
12/10/2016	(Sun.) In-Home Huddle Christmas Parties

A little history:

The OCYG middle school has made some changes in recent years to how its small group ministry is structured. For the past 14 years, the lifeblood of our school year ministry has been Covenant Groups (CG). As we have grown, we realize our programming has to change to accommodate growth. In the past, each grade and gender grouping was its own CG, giving us 14 groupings for the entire OCYG (6-12th grade). When a single class had 8 boys and 7 girls, this worked perfectly! But our classes are changing. For example, our current 6th Grade class has 50+ students on roll! These groups are too large to meet in homes, as well as too large to really function the way it was originally meant to function. We are learning and creating as we go, and it has been a really fun journey to discover what is going to work for our middle school students.

WHY?

We believe a few things have made our small group ministry a valuable experience:

- 1: Creation of a safe, small community.
- 2: Connection of students to an adult(s) who cares.
- 3: Sense of belonging to the entire group/OCYG/Otter Creek community through the small group.

These are the things that we want to hold on to. The power is not in CGs or Huddles. The power is in the *connections* made through these groups.

We realized a few years ago we needed to (1) make groups smaller and (2) get more adults invested.

WHAT?

You need to hold 2nd Sundays and one Wednesday a month (varying dates) sacred.

We are putting together an amazing team of adult leaders who are committing to serve as Huddle Leaders for your

Typical Rundown of a Big Night Huddle meeting

5:00pm	Arrival/mingling
5:10	Dinner begins
5:45	Big Group mixer game
6:00	Big Group worship and teaching time
6:25	Huddle Groups
7:15	Big Group Wrap Up and clean up
7:30	Go home!

student.

To clarify, here is a quick description of the BIG NIGHT meetings (2nd SUNDAY NIGHTS):

The second Sundays of each month will be HUDDLE GROUPS. All 6-8th graders and our adult team will meet at the building in the gym from 5-7:30. There will be a shared meal, one-on-one time, and HUDDLE time (two adults with 8-10 students in small clusters for approx. 45-50 minutes). The students will be with the same team of adults all school year long. We are going to be very prayerful and intentional in how we place students with leaders.

The mini-Huddle part of HUDDLES (WEDNESDAY NIGHTS):

This will be a mini-huddle meeting. It will happen during the regular OC Wednesday night schedule (7-8pm). It will be small group time with our Huddle Leaders and students. They'll spend the entirety of that hour with their leaders building relationships and diving deeper into the studies/topics that were introduced at the last meeting.

The FAMILY NIGHT part of the HUDDLE calendar (4th SUNDAY NIGHT):

Once a month we'll do a "family night" where the entire family is invited. It will be a time of intentional interaction. This is an attempt to help us not only get to know our students, but to encourage community among our families as well.

HOW?

Huddle Groups will be something for which we are going to require registration. Because this ministry will partner 8-10 students with two adults, we want to know who is going to commit to be a part of these gatherings. You will be asked to sign up to be a part of this program.