

HUDDLE GROUPS

What are HUDDLE GROUPS and why do we do it?

HUDDLE DATES FOR 2015-2016

9/13/2015	Leader Training (no meeting)
9/27/2015	MS Fall Retreat Weekend (no HG)
10/11/2015	Week 1
10/25/2015	Week 2
11/8/2015	Week 3
11/22/2015	Week 4
12/13/2015	Week 5 (in homes)
12/27/2015	no meeting
1/10/2016	Week 6
1/24/2016	Week 7
2/14/2016	Week 8
2/28/2016	Week 9 (in homes)
3/13/2016	Week 10
3/27/2016	Week 11
4/10/2016	Week 12
4/24/2016	Week 13(in homes)
5/15/2016	HUDDLE FINALE (lunch time)

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 12 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 and 4th Sundays as sacred.

We are putting together an amazing team of adult leaders

Typical Rundown of a 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!

who are committing to serve as Huddle Leaders for your student.

They are committing to:

- Two meetings per month
- One act of service together per semester (combined with another Huddle)
- One turf visit per school year

To clarify, here is a quick description of the ON-SITE meetings:

The second and fourth 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 OFF-SITE part of HUDDLES:

Your Huddle Leader will plan a service project for their team to participate in once per semester. Each Huddle will combine with at least one other Huddle for this experience. This doesn't have to be on a Sunday night. It will be up to the group to plan how to make that happen.

You Huddle Leader will be asked to make a "turf visit" to each member of their group at least once during the school year. This means they will go to a ballgame, recital, concert, or play. Or they'll be invited by you to come over for dinner. Or they will team up with another Huddle and go to a movie night. It simply means that they will be with or visit your student outside of OC.

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.

We charge dues for this gathering. It covers meal cost for our meetings. We'll collect \$20 this fall, and \$30 in the winter/spring. That comes out to less than \$5 per meeting. It covers food cost, as well as helps with our sponsorships for a student at Made In The Streets that OCYG middle school supports.