



**Welcome to Middle School
August 2026**

Dear Middle School Parent,

Have those words hit you yet? You are the parent of a middle schooler! As this reality sets in, allow me a few minutes of your time to introduce you to our middle school ministry.

First, if there is one word that sums up this stage of your child's life, it's **CHANGE!** Over the next three years, your pre-teen will experience exciting, challenging, amazing, and sometimes frustrating changes. These changes include:

- **Social Changes** – Peer pressure increases as friendships begin to have a greater influence than in the past. *"What will my friends think?"* often becomes a guiding question in their lives. You will, at times, feel more like an Uber driver than a parent as you manage their ever-growing social lives.
- **Physical Changes** – Puberty, growth spurts, voice cracks and many other physical changes begin to take place. And yes, your grocery bill will go up a bit!
- **Intellectual Changes** – They will begin to think more abstractly, question authority, and test boundaries as they develop their own ideas and convictions. Don't panic! Along the way, you'll also begin to see signs of greater maturity.
- **Spiritual Changes** – As kids begin to question their faith and what they have been taught, it can be unsettling for parents. Yet this is often a healthy and necessary part of making their faith their own. Home and church should be the two places where students should feel safe to ask honest questions.

As our kids grow older and mature, their lives will be shaped by the choices they make for themselves—especially when it comes to their faith. That's why our goal at Island Youth is to introduce your pre-teen to a

lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ and to equip them with the spiritual tools and resources they need to grow in that relationship.

We aim to do this through our weekly meetings—now held on Friday nights—as well as through the various events we offer throughout the year.

I'm also incredibly blessed to work alongside an amazing team of volunteers who love Jesus and model what it looks like to follow Him in everyday life.

In a world of ups and downs, difficulties and challenges, our goal and prayer is to be a constant source of spiritual encouragement and stability, always pointing our kids to Jesus and making sure that we have lots of fun along the way!

The new year at ISLAND YOUTH kicks off on Friday, September 18th, 7:30–9:30PM. We're inviting students for a night of worship, spiritual challenge, fun, and food — we hope your child will come and check it out!

Transitions and change, while exciting, can also feel overwhelming. But here's the big picture: **spiritual investments are always worthwhile!** When our kids remain patient and consistent through times of change, I've found that fear and anxiety often fade more quickly than we expect.

Looking back, it was during my middle school years that I became passionate and serious about my relationship with Jesus Christ. It's when I started to really own my faith and make it my own. My prayer is that all of the kids who walk through our doors will do the same. As we seek to provide a safe environment for your child to connect socially and to be challenged spiritually, I want to thank you for allowing Island Christian Church, and myself, to play a small part in God's plan for your child. I look forward to getting to know you and your family this coming year!

Pastor Seth

LET'S STAY CONNECTED!



Instagram
islandchristianyouth

Website: ***www.islandchristian.com***