

Student Ministries Sunday

“Growing”

Brian R. Coles

June 28, 2020

Good morning. This is a very special day for us here at Petra. It is a day that we set aside specifically to highlight our students. This year has been a very interesting year for them.

We are in our next phase of relaunching our Student Ministries programs.

(Slides of Edge 56 logo and schedule, Edge 78 Dave Rizzo, High School, and picture of The Wake)

Of course, none of this would be possible without a gigantic team of volunteers.

Thank all of the student ministries volunteers, childcare, all of our moms who step in so often.

I'd like to take a moment right here in the outset of our time together and pray for our schools. I can't imagine the pressure our school district officials, principals, and teachers are under right now. Our local Christian schools are under that same type of pressure if not more. Our parents and students are really just waiting to see what the fall is going to look like.

Pray for the school districts' principals and leaders.

Children's ministry main verse,

1. The Promises of God are a firm foundation.

2 Peter 1:3-9

³His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

David Rizzo testimony

This week we re-launched our on-campus services. I reminded the students, particularly the seniors, that we fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen. There's a lot of fear. I don't even know if my college will exist. Will my job be there?

Once a foundation is laid in the life of the young person, it doesn't stop there. We encourage our students to grow in their faith by discovering and using their giftings, pursuing their callings, and living a life on mission for the Kingdom of God.

How are you growing?

2. The life of the believer is marked by daily intentional growth.

(Set student verse recital)

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

There is a little bit of energy in this verse. Make every effort to add to your faith. All diligence. Try your hardest to furnish, supplement your faith. Add to your faith. This doesn't mean we have to add to what Jesus did on the cross (it is by grace). It means that salvation is a starting point. Daily intentional growth is what follows.

Faith, trust or belief in God can seem like such abstract things. But the truth is that faith, trust and belief always show themselves outwardly, table, chair, children.

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We don't have time to cover all of these words

3. The life of a believer is marked by hope.

⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

“For if you do these things, you will never stumble, ¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Closing song was actually written by one of our own students. Jada Esh.

In the valley, in the shadow, I will find you
you pick me up dust me off
find a one to hold me
I rest in you
knowing that you love me
you're the only one I need
the only one I see and seek

Verse 10 the blessing, "For if you do these things, you will never stumble, ¹¹and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Prayer for students.