

Fall 2017

# SRC STUDENT

# NEWS



## WHY WAIT?

A few years ago I got a call from a father. He was very concerned about his daughter who had gotten into some trouble at school, and he wanted us to help her. This was a girl we would see every week at church. Many of our leaders would greet her and her parents in the cafe, and we constantly invited her to join our weekly gatherings and special events. She would smile shyly and nod her head, but she made it obvious she really didn't want to, and her parents were always quick to jump in and let us know that although they wanted her to be involved, she was just too busy, and they didn't want to come across as pushy by making her attend, so she never participated.

Ironically, when crisis hit, the church is who this family reached out to for help; not the other people they had filled their daughter's busy schedule with. Of course, we were glad to help, and eventually she did get plugged in, make friends, and make a good deal of progress where she had been struggling. But I couldn't help but wonder how much easier this would have been if she had responded to our initial invitations; if her parents had been more insistent that she connect to other students and leaders at church. How much more natural and more effective would it have been to help her if it flowed out of existing relationships rather than trying to start those relationships in the midst of crisis?

Here at SRC Student Ministries we seek to offer many opportunities for teenagers to develop relationships with peers as well as our caring adult youth leaders. Everything we do is done with God's purposes (Worship,



Ministry, Evangelism, Fellowship, and Discipleship) in view. Whatever we are doing — eating, playing a game, studying Scripture, serving our community, having small group discussion, attending a student's game or concert — we want teenagers and their families to know Jesus and how He cares for us through His Church.

- Pastor Kevin Mahaffy

**YOU'RE  
INVITED!**

**SRC Student  
Ministries**

# OPEN HOUSE

**Sunday, January 21, 2018  
All Campuses**

**Come by the Youth Room in between services,  
enjoy some hors d'oeuvres, meet our leaders,  
ask questions, learn about the ministry.**

**SHELTER  
ROCK**  
*students*

**Vision:** We want to see students become **fully-devoted, life-long, passionate** followers of Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, impacting the world with the gospel.

**Purpose:** Our ministry programs and events are designed to help students **HONOR** God (worship), **SERVE** others (ministry), **REACH** people far from God (evangelism), **CONNECT** in life-giving relationships (fellowship), and **GROW** in faith (discipleship).

# MEET A VOLUNTEER



## Meet Lisa Johanson

**Family:** I am married to Craig for 23 1/2 years and have 2 daughters, Alexandra 18 years old and Mckenzie 14 years old, and a dog named Otto.

**Work?** I work as a 1:1 Teacher Aide In the Life Skills Special Education Program at North Shore High School.

**Favorite TV Show/Movie:** My favorite TV show is *This is Us* and my favorite movie is *When a Man Loves a Woman*.

**Hobby/Leisure Activity:** I enjoy cooking, drawing, fishing, and playing golf. I also love yoga and any type of fitness class.

**How long at SRC?** 4 1/2 years.

**Favorite Bible verse:** "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6).

**Coolest place you've ever been:** I just love being on vacation where it is warm. Most recently I visited Scottsdale, AZ and went hiking for the first time and really enjoyed it.

**What do you enjoy working with SRC students?** I enjoy getting to know them and teaching them about how much God loves them. Kids today live in a very challenging world and sometimes it can make them feel very isolated. I want them to know how much God loves them and that God will always be by their side during the good and bad times.

# CHURCH SHOULDN'T BE AN AFTERTHOUGHT!

## GET YOUR CALENDAR OUT & SAVE THE DATES!

### Winter 2018

7-12th grade @ShelterRockSM

January

- 2 - Winter Fest Adult Leader Orientation (Manhasset)
- 3 - No Delta
- 5-7 - Youth Winter Fest
- 7 - No Sunday Morning Youth
- 10 - Deltas United (Westbury)
- 15 - MLK Day Stop Hunger Now
- 20 - Student Leader Breakfast
- 21 - Student Ministries Open House (All Campuses)
- Equip to Serve

Weekly Gatherings  
(\*Unless Otherwise  
Noted on Calendar\*)

February

- 7 - Deltas United (Westbury)
- 10 - hrt-3 & manUP Lunch in Brooklyn & Nets vs. Pelicans Game
- 11 - Youth Missions Bake Sale
- 14 - Lenten Reflection Service
- 17-21 - Let's Ride Discipleship Road Trip
- 28 - Missions Trip Application Deadline

March

- 2 - hrt-3 & manUP
- 4 - Adult Youth Leader Lunch
- 7 - Deltas United (Westbury)
- 10 - Missions Meeting / Equip to Serve (Syosset)
- 24 - Student Leader Breakfast
- Serve at Eggstravaganza
- 25 - Youth Missions Bake Sale

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**DO NOT CONFORM TO THE PATTERN OF THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND.**

**THEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TEST AND APPROVE WHAT GOD'S WILL IS - HIS GOOD, PLEASING AND PERFECT WILL.**

**ROMANS 12:2**

### Summer 2018 Youth Mission Trips

**Sr. High (9-12th)**  
Belmopan, Belize  
July 7-14  
Cost: \$1,750

**Jr. High (7-8th)**  
Houston, Texas  
July 27-August 3  
Cost: \$1,200

Application & Deposit Due By February 28th

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# PARENT PEARLS

## PARENTING TEENAGERS IN A DIVISIVE POLITICAL CLIMATE

After the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, we experienced a renewed sense of unity as a nation. The American Flag was proudly displayed while the phrase *never forget* became synonymous with the unity of that time in history.

It seems difficult to imagine that type of unity occurring in our country today. We find ourselves in a season of divisiveness that our country has not seen, perhaps since the 1960's. Every Presidential election since 1984 has resulted in the victorious candidate winning with less than 53% of the vote. This means there is an entire generation who has grown up in an era of political division. We have seen racial and gender tensions escalate amid a world where moral issues are being constantly challenged. While sometimes teenagers can be ignorant to the realities of this world, how can we engage them to make sure they have a healthy perspective toward these issues?

One of the biggest challenges of the current generation of teenagers is their lack of desire to be engaged with world events.... As a generation, they are not opposed to standing for something, but seem to prefer avoiding thinking through difficult things. This explains the popularity of Snapchat as it eliminates the dilemma of picking the perfect picture or caption for Instagram. Snapchat also removes the social pressure as teenagers do not have to be concerned with likes or comments. Ultimately this generation practices avoidance as they gravitate toward the mindless use of apps, text conversations, and streaming media.

With that said, it is important that we do not allow what we see on the outside keep us from asking questions of the teenagers in our lives. Even though they may not express an inner conflict, it is likely there is a deeper awareness of these issues than one might see on the surface. As parents, we want to make sure we are equipping our teenagers to handle the things they will encounter in this world. They will face the effects of division, so we would do well to give them the tools now while we can influence them.

**Create Discussion.** The best way to get a response from teenagers is to ask questions. Crazy, right? If you are not getting good answers, then consider if you are having these conversations regularly. The book, *Sticky Faith*, says that only 12 percent of youth have a regular dialogue with their mom on faith issues. The statistics for fathers is worse as only 5 percent have regular faith or life conversations with their dad.

You as a parent can change that trend. In his book, *It's Just a Phase so Don't Miss It*, Reggie Joiner urges parents to rely less on their *positional influence* and increase their *relational influence* until a child can *live independently*. As parents, we should be asking teenagers what they think about world issues, even when they are ignorant of them. Present scenarios, ask questions about related topics, discover what they are

thinking. With my own teenage daughters, I usually assume ignorance going in, broach the subject, and then ask some questions to get their read on it. If the opportunity is there to go deeper, I'll take it. If it's not, then I'll move on. The bottom line that it is our job to create conversations with our kids.

**Create Experiences.** If the goal is to engage our kids with the divisive issues that are present in this world, we would do well to **remember this important truth: information doesn't change teenagers, experience does.** I learned this one later than I would have preferred when it comes to my own kids. Despite all the teaching on caring for the poor, it wasn't until we started serving food at a shelter that I noticed my kids were caring about poverty and homelessness. Create diverse experiences for teenagers. This could mean visiting a church or activity with people who look different from you. It could mean encouraging your teenagers to build diverse relationships or other exposure to those of different backgrounds.

**Seek God together.** Our kids are being raised in a world where differences can divide more often than unite. Turn to God's Word to help them understand how a follower of Jesus should respond to division. When it comes to believers who are divisive, talk about what it means to be united in Christ.

Galatians 3:26-28: *So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in*

*Christ Jesus.*

If we are united in Christ, then all other differences can be overcome. As for division with those who do not walk with Jesus, explore how we have intrinsic value because of being made in the image of God. There is a level playing field in this world no matter what differences a person has simply because we were all formed by the same Creator.

**Finally, find ways to Pray for Each Other.** As my kids entered their teen years, when there is a national event that requires prayer, I have chosen to pray as a family. It was super awkward at first, but now they expect it. It provides a great teaching opportunity as well as a reminder that God is the one who holds all things together.

I believe we are making a mistake if we wait for our teenagers to engage with us about the divisive issues of our day. As parents, we have the privilege of walking alongside them during these precious years. Let's be intentional about increasing our relational influence now to better prepare them for the unknown events that are ahead.

Article by Rob Chagdes, TheSource4YM



## FULFILLING GOD'S PURPOSES



## WORSHIP

## MINISTRY

## EVANGELISM

## FELLOWSHIP

## DISCIPLESHIP