

Dear Parents,

As you know, our Winter Ski Trip is just around the corner. I wanted to take a moment and fill you in on our theme for this year, and to also ask you to begin to pray for us as we head into this meaningful time in the life of our youth ministry.

As the parent of a teenager, I'm sure you're well aware of the frantic pace of your child's life. (In fact, you're probably the leading expert on it!) Today's teenagers are constantly engaged in activities. And when they aren't, virtually every "free" moment is packed with media or entertainment of some kind.

In the midst of this environment of constant entertainment and engagement, how does a teenager connect with God and grow in his or her relationship with Him? How can students take time to engage in seeking personal spiritual growth when the time to focus is almost non-existent? The key is for students to learn to *hit Pause*.

Your child is about to be embarking on a powerful time of Bible study and application, learning exactly what Scripture says about seeking the Lord in the busyness of life. *The Pause* will teach your child what the Bible says about:

- The importance of taking time to pause in order to live a life that makes an impact
- The importance of prayer in developing and maintaining a relationship with God
- How to pray to God
- How to study God's Word
- How to be on mission with God to the world around them

Soon you'll receive a follow-up from me that will equip you with two key pieces of content:

1. A guide to inform you of the topics we'll be covering in our Small Group sessions
2. Some questions for you to utilize in following-up with your child, reinforcing what he or she will have studied

Studies show that you are the most influential force in your child's life as it pertains to shaping their spiritual identity. My goal in these updates is to equip you to help continue and build on the process we will have started.

Please be praying for our ministry, your child, and your child's friends as we challenge them with this relevant, timely message from the Bible.

Blessings,

Pastor Tom Russell

