



Q: "How do I get my son/daughter involved in Ablaze?"

This is probably the most frequently asked question by parents, but there is no one right answer for every student. One of the easiest ways to get your student involved is to introduce him or her to someone on the student ministry staff on a Sunday morning or Wednesday evening. Once a staff member meets them, they will find a student who can show your son/daughter around to meet other students and leaders. Another way to get your son/daughter involved in the ministry is to attend a major event, camp or retreat. Depending on your student, it may be a lot less threatening to come to an event. The student ministry staff wants to do whatever is possible in order for your student to get involved in the ministry. We would love to meet your son/daughter and get them connected!

Critical Connection Steps:

- Commit to 3 months of attendance – with one major event.
- Connect with a family and a friend. Team up with one or more of your student's friends and go out of your way to make sure that they are present.
- Get to know your student's life group leader. Ablaze leadership and life groups leaders text and call your student regularly. Your student's life group leader can encourage your student to be at Ablaze events.

Ablaze Connection Environments:

70% of adults active in church today were active in their youth ministry

- Doug Fields (30 years Student Ministry experience, former Student Ministry Pastor, Saddleback Church)

- Ignite Student Worship – Sunday Mornings 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM
- Ablaze Student Life Groups – Wednesday Evenings 6:30 – 8:30 PM
- Ablaze Student Ministry Life Group – Annual Events – Winter Retreat (January); Disciple Now (April); Middle School Camp (July); Super Summer (July); Global Impact (November).

Q: How do I, as a parent, get involved in Ablaze?

There are numerous ways for you, as a parent or guardian, to get involved in Ablaze. The greatest impact you can have on our student ministry is to pray on a regular basis. Although there are a lot of things going on in the ministry, none of those things make any kind of significant difference without God's power. As far as physically getting involved in the ministry, there are tons of ways to get plugged in. Pick up an Adult Volunteer Application from our Student Ministry Resource Center (in the Ablaze Shed). This will give you the information of what we are looking for in a volunteer. Every adult volunteer will fill out an Application and Background Check Form. Turn those into Christie Stott and she will get in contact with you to find out where you can get plugged in. The Ablaze Student Ministry staff would love to have you be a part of the team!

Q: If my son/daughter needs professional counseling, where should I go?

Anyone on the Ablaze Student Ministry staff would love to talk with your son/daughter. We are not trained licensed counselors, but we can speak with students about the spiritual nature of his or her faith. For other major issues, we recommend licensed and professional counselors. CrossBridge Community Church and the Ablaze Student Ministry recommends Charles Coulter, a licensed professional counselor for Christian counseling. You can contact him at (210) 849-7264 or via email at coulterlpc@aol.com.

Q: Why does the Ablaze Student Ministry meet in Life Groups?

Most church & youth ministry settings tend to be large gatherings of people from week to week. In these gatherings, developing life-on-life relationships of care and accountability is very difficult. Ablaze Student Ministry Life Groups helps fill the need for meaningful personal relationships with peers and caring adults that lead to life transformation.

A student ministry life group is a great place for students to form strong friendships with other students, build relationships with caring adult leaders, learn more about God and grow closer to Him. Ablaze Student Ministry staff and life group leaders will encourage students to establish accountability with each other, have consistent personal quiet time, get involved in ministry and participate in service projects.

Q: When and where do they meet?

Ablaze Student Ministry Life Groups meet Wednesday Evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. Most meetings take place at the CrossBridge Community Center.

Q: What does a typical evening look like?

Each life group is committed to balancing the values and priorities that we believe create the opportunity for life transformation to take place. These values and priorities include: relationship building, prayer, Bible study, and application of God's Word to personal life. Each life group meeting will include some or all of these elements as the Ablaze leadership team shapes each individual group.

Typical Evening Structure

- Large Group Gathering and Hang Out Time (Separate High School and Middle School Venues)
- Worship and Bible Study Challenge
- Life Group and Life Application Discussion

Q: What about my student's Life Group Leader?

The Ablaze Student Ministry Leadership and life group leaders are incredible. They are screened and trained adult team members who are ready to serve and lead the students of CrossBridge. Our team members are there to encourage, teach, guide, and help strengthen your student's walk with Christ. He or she may turn out to be one of the most significant adults in your student's life.