

Welcome Back!



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<http://www.twitter.com/gsumcyouth>



<http://www.youtube.com/goodshepyouth>



<http://instagram.com/gsyknowgrowshow>

Belonging...

Another school year is underway; another youth ministry season is upon us.

During the time I spend in the summer, reflecting and dreaming about our youth ministry at Good Shepherd, I ruminated on what my ultimate hope is for our students: belonging. The etymology of the word "belong" is Old English for "to go along with" or "to be a member of". However, as I thought about the idea of belonging to God and how He persistently pursues us, I was struck by the idea of "being longed for" by God. As a parent, I experience the longing of my children when I'm not with them. Or even longing for them when I have to discipline them and it breaks my heart to see them cry.

We all long to belonging. To be a member of something. To have someone we can go along with.

Beyond all the programming, singing, trips, and events, my hope is that students know that Good Shepherd is a place of belonging. In the midst of the busyness of school, extracurriculars, and planning for life after high school, I pray that they remember the truth that they ultimately belong to Jesus.

I am so thankful to be on this journey with all of you.

In Christ's Love,

David

ABC's of Homework

Jim Burns -President of HomeWord and Executive Director of the HomeWord Center for Youth and Family at Azusa Pacific University

For many families, homework is the number one source of conflict between parents and their kids. When kids won't do their homework or the quality of work is poor, the sparks begin to fly.

I interviewed the acclaimed parenting expert, author and columnist, John Rosemond, about what he believes parents should do regarding the issue of homework, and he outlined his ABC's:

A. All By Myself. Children ought to do their homework in a private, personal area -- not a high-traffic or family area like the kitchen. Insisting on a private area for homework tells your children that homework is their responsibility. As we help our kids move from dependence on us to becoming independent -- a private area allows them to function and complete tasks by themselves.

B. Back Off. Backing off means refusing to give children help with homework unless absolutely necessary. Although this is often difficult for parents, they need to realize that when children say, "I need help," it doesn't actually mean they do. According to Rosemond, when kids ask for help, about 80% of the time they are looking for mom or dad to solve a problem or bail them out of a situation that has frustrated them. When parents jump in to fix or bail out, they confirm for their children that they indeed were unable to solve the problem themselves. Backing off while supporting and encouraging your kids is the way to go. Even if kids fail, they will learn important life lessons.

C. Call It Quits. Rosemond suggests that parents set a time deadline when homework must be completed for the day, whether or not all assignments have been finished. When deadlines are set and kept, kids will begin to learn to manage their time more effectively.

These ABC's are nothing more than the approach to homework that most parents used 50 years ago. They might go against some popular thinking today, but they emphasize the development of self-discipline, responsibility, and the resourcefulness kids will need to become self-reliant and functioning adults.



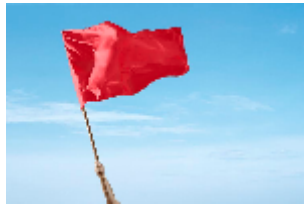
FALL KICKOFF!

September 10

6pm - 8pm

LOCATION: GSUMC

Time to get excited for another year at youth group! Come eat food, play fun games, and sing some songs!



Youth Gathering @ Northbrook United Methodist Church

September 24

330pm - 830pm

LOCATION: Northbrook, IL

Our first outing of the season! Come meet other United Methodist youth groups for some food and capture the flag!