



Parents,

Hi, my name is Jarod Grimes and I am the Student Minister here at Woodmont Baptist Church. One of the blessings I receive as the Student Minister is to have the opportunity to teach the Word to your student! I also enjoy spending time with your student as we learn and grow closer to Christ together. I just want to encourage you all to continue to pour into your student's life. As parents we are to be the primary spiritual leaders in our kid's lives. I love teaching your kid's and growing with them every step of the way, but, if all the spiritual guidance they are receiving, are the 1-3 hours per week they spend with me then it will be hard for them to grow. Imagine if you told your student they could only have 3 meals per week. Would you expect them to grow or to be malnourished? The same is true spiritually. In order to grow they must be fed spiritually each day. That spiritual nourishment consists of: reading the Bible daily, spending time in prayer and spending quiet time listening to what God wants to tell us. They need your example and leadership at home in order to grow. The teaching that I do should only supplement what they are already learning from you as parents. I'm not asking you to do a Bible study every night with your student. What I am asking is that you set the example of what a Christian is supposed to look like because your student will reflect you for better or for worse. Let me just give you a little example. I have small children at home and far too often I say something without thinking that is not kind or uplifting and later my child repeats that phrase back. When I hear my child say something that is not kind or uplifting, my immediate thought is, "where did they learn that"and then it hits me, they learned that from me. It is easy to remember when you have little children just how much they watch us and act like us. The same is true for you all with students in junior high and high school. They still watch and imitate, you just may not notice it as much.

I wrote this because I want to make you aware of just how much of an impact you have in your student's life. I want to be here to encourage you and work alongside you in your student's spiritual development. This is something we must work together on. We have some excellent kids in our youth group and that is because of the way you all have raised them. I am thankful for each parent and student. I know each of you want the best for your student and would do anything to make sure they are successful in life. The only success that matters in our lives starts and ends with Christ. They can go to the top colleges, get the best degrees, and have the highest paying jobs out there but if they have no relationship with Christ then there will be no true joy. All of those things can make a person happy for a season but eventually the temporary happiness those things bring will fade and you will begin looking for something else. Let's commit to making Christ the focus of everything we do!

God Bless,

Jarod Grimes