

FFG & Fuse FAQ's

Thanks for checking out Faith Formation Group (FFG) and Fuse at St. Mark's. We've worked hard to put together a program that students love and that parents find simple and supportive. Below you'll find answers to a bunch of frequently asked questions and even a few that you might not think to ask. And if you think of anything we've missed, please don't hesitate to visit us at www.stmarkslife.org/ffg or by emailing info@stmarkslife.org.

1. WHAT IS FFG?

FFG is the primary part of the St. Mark's middle school program. FFG is open to all 6th-8th grade students. Friends and guests are always welcome!

2. WHEN IS FFG?

FFG happens most Wednesday evenings throughout the school year from 4:30 – 5:45 pm. Students may arrive and check in at the Lobby as early as 4:15 and stay as late as 6:15 (when there is no Fuse – see below). Please help us keep our environments safe and secure by being punctual regarding drop-off and pick-up.

3. HOW DOES DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP WORK?

There is no need to walk your student into the building for pick-up. Please make arrangements with your son or daughter concerning the best door to pick them up at (Library Lot or Lincoln Lot). Please do not leave your car parked in the fire lane of the Library Lot at any point in the evening.

4. CAN PARENTS STAY AND OBSERVE?

Parents are always welcome! However, we ask that you have a specific purpose for your visit. Visits are for observation, exploration of volunteer opportunities, and facilitation of your son or daughter's experience. Also, to ensure the safety of all children and students, visitors (non-program leaders) must sign in and receive a visitor tag while on-site. Only ministry staff and volunteers who have been previously background checked (with name tags) will be allowed with the FFG groups between 4:30 and 5:45 pm.

5. WHAT SHOULD STUDENTS BRING TO FFG? WHAT SHOULD THEY NOT BRING?

We encourage all students to bring a Bible, notebook, and pen each week. Students are asked to refrain from texting, web surfing, and gaming during FFG. Students ought not to bring large quantities of money, video games, drugs of any kind, or anything that might be construed as a weapon. We also ask students from wearing clothing that would be offensive, distracting, or immodest in a church environment.

6. WHAT HAPPENS AT FFG?

FFG begins with hang time (snacks, socializing, etc.). We'll then move into large group programming (games, videos, music, and teaching). From there, students will select a small group to move into discussion time. These groups are led by adults.

7. WHAT IS FUSE?

Fuse is an "extended" night of ministry on the 1st Wednesdays of the month (January is the 2nd Wednesday), during the school year from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Friends and guests are always welcome to attend this action-packed time of hanging out, games, pizza, and interactive teaching and discussion in fresh, fun ways. You can learn more at www.stmarkslife.org/fuse.

8. HOW DO I REGISTER FOR FFG OR FUSE AND CAN I BE PART OF BOTH?

Register for FFG at www.stmarkslife.org/FFG. You do not need to preregister for Fuse. And, yes - absolutely! You can be part of and bring friends and guests to both!

9. BESIDES FFG AND FUSE, WHAT ELSE DOES ST. MARK'S PROVIDE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS?

The middle school ministry hosts other major events during the year. Major events include serving opportunities, parent/student growing workshops, seasonal retreats, and a summer event like a mission trip.

10. HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT AND REGISTER FOR EVENTS?

Our primary means of communicating is via e-mail and our website. Program updates and announcements will be sent via email and Facebook. Registration for most events can be found on our website, stmarkslife.org/students.

11. HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED WITH OR VOLUNTEER IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM?

It takes a large team of adults to make FFG and Fuse work. Some roles are more task oriented and others are more people oriented. Participation can range from weekly to monthly to quarterly for events. Needed skills include everything from teaching to tech to foodies. To get involved, email info@stmarkslife.org and ask for someone to follow up with you about serving in Middle School Ministry.