

Summit Heart Courses




"I planted the seed, Apollos watered the plants, but God made you grow. It's not the one who plants or the one who waters who is at the center of this process but God, who makes things grow." 1 Corinthians 3:6-7

Our desire for all students who enter into the Alameda youth ministry is for them **to become fully devoted disciples of Jesus**. We understand this is an ongoing process, one that will require each student to mature in their hearts, and in their own time. We also understand that we cannot force any student to fall in love with Jesus and devote their life to him. This truly noble love and devotion will only be done by the power of God at work in the individual. However, **we can provide environments where our students can be challenged by the teaching of God's word in community with other believers**, and we will hold steadfast believing that God will do his work in their hearts as he desires.


"Heart Courses"

Below are brief descriptions of four essential and core courses we plan to offer all students who enter our youth ministry at Alameda. These four courses are what we now call our **Heart Courses**. These courses will be offered with hope that the information learned and applied, and of course in step with the Holy Spirit, will help our students develop a solid faith foundation to build on throughout their time in our youth ministry, and also for years to come as they continue to develop into adult disciples of Jesus.


Bible Basics Heart Course

The *Bible Basics* Heart Course is all about discovering God's story of redemption that happens from  Genesis through Revelation. Questions like: "*What is in the bible*", "*Who is God*", and "*Who is Abraham, and Paul*" will all be addressed in this class. We will assume that students in this class desire to start building faith from the beginning. If you feel like you are just getting started in the bible or need a good "refresher" to remember bible information, this is a great class for you.


Jesus Heart Course

The *Jesus* Heart Course is for students who want to know more about Jesus, the one Christians pledge  their lives to following. *Who is Jesus? What did he teach? Why is his resurrection so important? What does it mean to be baptized?* Becoming a disciple of Jesus—a die-hard follower—means that we investigate all that we can about him, his teaching, his miracles...everything! This course will help you begin your investigation and hopefully help you put your faith in him like so many countless others have done before you. Hopefully, by the end of the class students will have a journal of their own thoughts about Jesus and what they have come to believe about him.

Spiritual Practice Heart Course

The *Spiritual Practice* course is for the student who has already committed his or her life to Jesus  through baptism and is now daily trying to live with and for him. During this course students will discover and hopefully begin to develop new habits (spiritual disciplines) in order to live more consistently in the presence of God. Students will also be introduced to some inspirational people from Christian history such as *Thomas Merton* and *Francis of Assisi* who developed and refined spiritual disciplines in their own lives. If you are a disciple of Jesus and want to go deeper in your relationship with God, this will be a great class for you.

Living Ministry Heart Course (offered in 2013)

The *Living Ministry* course is for the committed follower of Jesus who wants to learn more about  fulfilling the commission of Jesus to make more disciples for him. *What talents do you offer that can be used by God for the growth of his kingdom? How can I see more clearly the ministry opportunities God has presented for me? How do I study the bible with people?* If you have a desire to get to work big-time for God and begin helping others come to Jesus, this will be a great course to help you identify your strengths and build your confidence as you go into the world as his ambassador.

“Yuck, homework!” [hohm-wurk]

Each class described above will have optional work assigned throughout the course to help students continue to focus on their subject at hand. One week it may be a section of Scripture to read and re-read, or it may be a chapter out of a book to read and journal about, or it might even be something to memorize. Just like at school where homework is daily, these courses will press the students who desire to grow with work to do at home so they can maximize their growth this year. Remember, these classes are for eight weeks only. And don't worry; you won't be tested over any extra work! Extra work will be given only for your benefit and done only if you desire. Just let it be known, if you take on the work...you will be glad you did!

Which “Heart Course” should I take this time?

Our *Heart Courses* have been designed with the idea in mind that students are in various places in their spiritual maturity and that every student who seeks to grow in their faith can do so. Therefore, all students are encouraged to sit down with their parents and/or a personal mentor to review and discuss the **Four Areas of Focus** of our youth ministry in order to choose the class that will *best suit their current growth needs*.

Here is a review of our **Four Areas of Focus**

1. **Bible Knowledge**—When a student is seeking information from Scripture to build a wealth of knowledge for a stronger foundation for present and future faith.
2. **Formed Commitment**—When a student is investigating discipleship of Jesus, expressing faith in Jesus with conviction, and seeking to know him more.
3. **Spiritual Practice**—When a student is learning and practicing spiritual disciplines, daily seeking more understanding about living a holy life pleasing to God.
4. **Living Ministry**—When a student is consistently thinking about the bigger kingdom picture and seeking new ways to lead others to Jesus, while living a self-sacrificial life.



***2012 Heart Courses will begin on Wednesday, January 11, 2012.
Please be prepared to choose a course on Wednesday, January 4th.**

Questions for your consideration... 

Students, ask the following questions to yourself and jot down your first thoughts. How you answer these questions might help you in determining which class to elect at this present offering:

- *What spiritual goals should I set for myself for this next year? Which class will help me reach those goals?*

- *Have I committed my life to Jesus through baptism yet? If yes, do I have a firm understanding of my life commitment to Jesus? What questions do I have about Jesus right now?*

- *How do I feel when I open my bible? Do I feel unsure and a little confused when I open my bible? Do I know the story of the bible and how it all pieces together? What questions do I have about the bible?*

- *Do I regularly desire to grow closer in my relationship with God on a daily basis? Explain.*

- *Do I relate to this statement: "I feel like I'm on a rollercoaster; sometimes I feel like I'm on fire for God and living for him with all my heart, and then other times I feel frustrated and guilty because my life just doesn't reflect him and the holy life he calls me to live." If you do relate to this statement, why do you?*

- *Do you desire to be a stronger leader in the kingdom, someone who lives with purpose for Christ and wants to bring others into his family? If yes, would you like to learn more about using your own talents in the kingdom and find better ways to talk about Jesus with others?*
