

# THE COVENANT

Welcome to the Gwinnett Student Ministry! As we begin this new season, we want to set clear expectations for how we treat one another, how we participate, and how we grow together. This covenant is not about rules for rules' sake—it's about creating a space where every student can feel safe, respected, and challenged to grow in their faith. We believe that when students take ownership of their attitudes and actions, they help build a ministry that is fun, meaningful, and honoring to God. With that in mind, here are a few core expectations we ask all students to commit to:

- **Be Respectful** - Not just to me, but guests, other students, and themselves
- **Pay Attention** - We know everyone learns differently. If you need to use a fidget, sketch, or find another way to stay focused, that's okay—as long as you aren't distracting others. The goal is that you're present and engaged.
- **Treat Others the Way You Want to Be Treated** - It's the golden rule for a reason.
- **Be Prepared for Certain Uncomfortable Topics** - Our ministry includes students from 7th to 12th grade, which means we have a wide range of maturity and life experience in the room. Still, we believe middle and high schoolers deserve honest, Christ-centered conversations about real issues.
- **Take Care of Our Space** - This includes the Shed, classrooms, buses, hotel rooms, and anywhere else we go. Clean up after yourself, be gentle with shared equipment, and—for real—don't write on the walls.

And in the words of Barney Fife:

- **Obey All Rules**
- **Do not write on the walls, as it takes a lot of work to erase writing off of walls**

We can't list every possible behavior in this covenant, but our aim is to create a Christ-centered environment of maturity, safety, and respect where every student—no matter their background—can grow and belong.

Student Ministry is a gift. And just like at school, some behaviors are simply out of bounds here. If a student repeatedly struggles to meet these expectations, they may be asked to step away from GSM for a time, with the goal of restoration and growth.

Let's all do our part to make GSM a space where students thrive.

# THE COVENANT

**As a member of the Gwinnett Student Ministry, I agree to this covenant.**

I will be respectful, responsible, and engaged in all areas of ministry life. I will approach challenging or uncomfortable topics with maturity. I will treat others with kindness, just as I would want to be treated. I will love God, love the Church, and love others—because GSM is committed to being a loving family, living for God, and serving our neighbors.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_