



## VCSTUDENT

DECEMBER 2011

Follow what's happening in youth group with weekly updates about services and events by regularly visiting [vcstudent.com](http://vcstudent.com).

On Dec 21st, VCSTUDENT will be having a Christmas Party in the gym at Oak-Land from 6:30-8:30pm

Bring your family to Valley Creek's 5pm Christmas Eve service at Oak-Land

There's no VCSTUDENT on Wednesday, Dec 28th!

## VCSTUDENT A Wednesday Night Snapshot

We have such a great time on Wednesday nights: from awesome music, to a challenging message, to fun games and fun people!

Every few weeks we have a series, similar to Sunday morning services. We just finished our LIVE|DEAD series, and before that was our Least of These series. We learned a lot about loving people the way God does and putting other people and the things God wants us to do before ourselves and our own wants.

We also just finished our 321 Challenge from Minnesota Youth Convention. In just one month students gave \$1,187.02 to help others around the world. We are so proud of your teens for sacrificing and putting the needs of other people before their own needs.

We are now in the middle of our new series called Babies comparing some common myths or misunderstandings about faith against what the Bible actually tells us.

Ask your teens what they are learning about each week and challenge them to apply what they are learning in their everyday lives. Follow along with our weekly updates at [vcstudent.com](http://vcstudent.com).

Don't miss our adult service (9:30 or 11am) this coming Sunday, Dec 18th, as we conclude our series "I Believe in You"! Our VCSTUDENT leadership team wants to put a free resource into the hands of all parents attending that morning.

## Winter Retreat Feb 17-19, 2012 - Elk River, MN

We are heading to Elk River, MN for our first winter retreat ever! We are meeting at Oak-Land Jr. High at 4:00 pm on Friday, February 17th. The cost of the trip is \$45. Please turn in your money no later than February 15th. We will be spending two nights at Twin Lakes Church in Elk River. On Saturday afternoon we will be heading to the Wild Woods Waterpark, so bring a swim suit (Girls should have a one piece, tankini, or a t-shirt to put over top; Guys, no speedos), a towel, and spending money for the concessions if you would like. We will also be playing some group games outside so bring some warm winter clothes!

All the meals will be covered except for breakfast on Sunday morning, we will be stopping at McDonalds on our way back to Oak-Land Jr. High, so please bring some spending money for breakfast (approx. \$5).

We will be arriving back at the Oak-Land Jr. High on Sunday, February 19th around 9:30am for the first service at Valley Creek. If you have any questions you can contact Pastor Matt Reed (763-516-7689).

Attached to this newsletter is the permission slip for the water park which is needed in addition to our VCSTUDENT permission slip. Please fill it out and turn it in with your money. If you filled out a VCSTUDENT permission slip at the beginning of the 2011-12 school year, you do not need to fill out another one.

We are very excited for a fun weekend!

## Doubtful

### A safe place to question

It's normal for anyone to have questions or doubts arise throughout their lives, it's important to address doubts in a safe and timely way. As teenagers are learning and growing in their walk with God, it is perfectly normal for them to have questions about God. In fact, it's good for them to have questions, questions mean that teens are processing what they are learning and trying to apply it to their lives.

Some common doubts (that I'm sure many of us can relate to) are, "Does God exist?" or "Does God love me?" or "Does God have a plan for my life?" These questions provide a great time to sit down with your teens and talk about your own relationship with God, and how you have handled your own doubts in life.

During times of questioning it is important to hold every question up to the truth found in Scripture. It's okay if you don't know every answer. There are some great study tools that can be found online, or we have a great team of Pastors at Valley Creek Church who would love to answer any questions you or your teens may

have. During times when doubts surface it is also helpful to provide a positive and safe atmosphere for your teens to process what they are thinking. These discussions can provide a basis for some great quality time together, and they can strengthen the relationship between you and your child.

When we have doubts or questions and they are answered according the truth of God's Word, we can only deepen our relationship with God.

### 28 Minutes: Daily Devotions Cont'd

**We had such a positive response to the postings online for the 28 day challenge, Pastor Matt is going to continue to text/post them each day. The challenge is to spend 28 minutes with God everyday. Each posting gives some direction on what to do, and breaks the 28 minutes down into 7 minutes sections.**

**Each text/post gives Bible verses to read from the First Steps part of the SOAP reading plan that Valley Creek Church follows, suggests direction in prayer, a song to listen to or a video to watch, and some reflection or journaling time.**

**You can find these daily postings at [facebook.com/vcstudent](https://www.facebook.com/vcstudent) and the basis for the Bible reading plan at [valleycreekchurch.com/soap](http://valleycreekchurch.com/soap)**

