



REDWOOD

COVENANT CHURCH

05.27.10

The Ultimate

“Ultimate!”

The word echoed across the school grass field while about 50 students and leaders ran full speed at each other as a plastic disc was launched into the air. If you didn't know better, you might conclude this is the most unusual weaponless warfare you had ever witnessed.

I had the privilege to watch the Redwood Covenant Church Emmaus Student ministry launch (literally) their summer ministry season at last Sunday night's Ultimate BBQ event. Numerous times throughout the summer, our church's youth workers are gathering Middle School & High School students for a fun evening playing ultimate Frisbee at a school in Sebastopol followed by the ultimate BBQ, pool, spa, trampoline, football gathering at the home of the brave & very gracious Kirk & Rachel Siedler. Check out Emmaus Student Ministries at www.youremmaus.com

Oh to be a teenager again. (Of course, I have plans to show up with my Nike's next time so I can take my shot at Ultimate Frisbee. I did sample the BBQ hot dogs just to make sure it was safe for the students!)

Life as a teenager today is an incredibly difficult, lonely, painful, consequential adventure. Too many students, ages 12 – 18, walk alone while making decisions that will affect them for the rest of their lives. In my short few weeks at Redwood Covenant, I have come to appreciate the quality and committed work of our staff and volunteers to reach students, children and the families trying to raise them.

At the center of the mass of laughing, launching and colliding students is a very intentional effort to connect them in relationship with the Lord, with adults who love God and love them and with healthy relationships among their peers. In a word – belong.

Sunday night I was invited to attend, connect, enjoy and belong to a dynamic group of teenagers and adults who love them.

The invitation awaits you. Sure, adolescent charged far flung Frisbee and Hot Dogs may not be your “ultimate” but there are other ways to take a step closer to belong with us and the Lord we know and love. Here are a few suggestions:

Attend – Come back this Sunday at 9:30 or 11:11 to worship, fellowship, and to hear God's Word about the life of a Man Standing Tall and the people he influenced in his life. If you have a teenager, know one or have seen one looking for a great group to be a part of, bring 'em with you!

Connect – Check out our summer small groups that gather throughout our community beyond Sunday morning.

Serve – Find a place to use your gifts, passion and personality. Youth ministry might not be your place, but we are committed to finding you a spot on the team where you can be a part of something bigger to make a difference in your world.

Belong – If you've been around long enough and you want to truly belong to our church, attend our Membership Class, Sunday, June 6 at the church from 11:11 (during our 2nd service) through 2:00. Lunch & childcare (after the 2nd service) are provided.

For more information about our ministries including small groups, the Membership Class or ministry involvement, check out our website @ www.redwoodcovenant.org or email rcc@redwoodcovenant.org or call our office at (707) 528-8463.

When Jesus walked the earth he said, "I have come that you might have life to the full..." (John 10:10) Personally, I think what He means includes running full speed at a group of oncoming teenagers.

Pastor Doug Webster