



A NOTE FROM  
**DOUG FIELDS**  
PASTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES



Hi Parents!

I've got a lot to tell you about! There are so many exciting things happening at Mariners Church and specifically in our High School Ministry. Let me jump right into it:

1. **This weekend is our official Fall Launch!** Pastor Eric is starting a new series titled **YOU ARE \_\_\_\_**: Understanding Your True Identity. We anticipate great things happening and I want to extend a reminder and/or invitation to join us at one of our 5 weekend services (Sat. 4 & 5:30; Sun 8:30, 10 & 11:30). Stay after the service for celebration with food trucks, lawn games, bounce houses, music, and opportunities for your whole family to get connected.

2. Also, this weekend we are also officially **launching FOUR new Mariners congregations** in North Irvine, Mission Viejo, Tustin & Santa Ana. We're thrilled to see the exciting growth that has happened as a result of our neighborhood gatherings during COVID. Who knew we'd start 4 new congregations because of a pandemic? Well... God did! :)

3. As a result of this incredible growth, we've asked **Matt McGill**--who has been serving as Irvine's high school pastor--to **oversee the youth ministries at all of our Orange County congregations** (including the existing Huntington Beach location) as well as the new congregations we'll be launching every year. The youth ministry at Mariners Irvine is booming and we want to ensure we build similar patterns of health at the other congregations, as well. Matt has a ton of experience in youth ministry as well as multi-location-churches. I'm personally very excited for him to help us grow youth ministry across Orange County.

4. We've asked **Chris Li** to step into the **role of HS Pastor at Irvine**. When Chris joined he came to us with several years of youth pastor experience in Brea. Our HS students love Chris and he has proven himself to be faithful to God's Word, passionate about teenagers, and highly relational. Both Matt McGill and I will be helping Chris in his new role as the HS pastor. We are all very excited about Chris and his future with HSM.

5. Reminder: **Wednesday night September 15th** from 7:00-8:30 we are having our **Life Group Meet/Greet** and YOU'RE INVITED... actually, you're WANTED. I want you to be there to hear from me and to meet your son/daughter's Life Group leader. Last year was a huge success and we're hoping/praying for another great parent turnout. So, no matter what your teenager says... you are invited/wanted... it's for students AND parents. Please don't miss it!

6. If your high schooler hasn't signed up for a **Life Group** yet... **there's still time**. Being in a smaller group with peers and a couple caring adults is one of the greatest ways to get connected and grow in your faith. Sign up at: [HSM Life Group Registration](#)

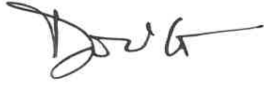
7. During our 3 ten-week Life Group Sessions we will be having something on **Wednesday nights for parents**. In Session 1 we'll be meeting in the Chapel and learning from Eric as he teaches the Deep Dive class. In Session 2 my wife Cathy and I will be teaching through our Intentional Parenting workbook, and in Session 3 will be addressing hot topic questions (i.e. What do we do with Social Media, etc...) from different parenting experts. We'd love for you to join us for Deep Dive starting Oct. 13--sign up will be available on the Marinerschurch.org website after September 15th.

8. If you've ever heard me speak about teenagers you've heard me stress that **teenagers aren't the future of the church**... they are the church--as are all Christ-followers regardless of age. We highly encourage high school students to attend one of the weekend services--either with you or other students.

Starting this weekend, we are encouraging high school students to attend either the Saturday 5:30pm service and/or the Sunday 11:30am service and sit with other high schoolers. Then, immediately following the service they'll gather for a shared meal outside the youth building courtyard. Chris Li and other HSM leaders will gather under the Bell (between the Worship Center and the Lawn) and then walk into the service together.

As you can see, there is so much happening within HSM. If your child is currently involved--you get it! If not, we want to do what we can to come alongside you and help your teenager grow in a relationship with Jesus and others. Please let us know what we can do to help your family and one of our team members will contact you.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug". The letters are cursive and connected, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the word.

Doug Fields  
Pastor to Youth