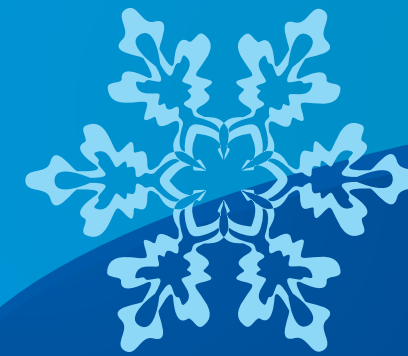


JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 -11am-12pm... Combined Sanctuary Service	2 -Church Offices Closed	3	4 -6:30-7:45pm... The Hub in the Forum (Jr. and Sr. High)	5	6	7
8 -8:45am... Overflow open -9:30am...NFCU in the Forum -Life Groups in various homes	9	10 -6pm...LEAD committee meeting in Y16/17	11 -6:30-7:45pm... The Hub in the Forum (Jr. and Sr. High)	12	13	14
15 -8:45am... Overflow open -9:30am...NFCU in the Forum -6pm...The Expression in the Forum	16	17	18 -6:30-7:45pm... The Hub in the Forum (Jr. and Sr. High)	19	20 -Overtime!! -Jr. High meet @ the church @ 6:45pm -Sr. High meet @ the church @ 9pm	21
22 -8:45am... Overflow open -9:30am...NFCU in the Forum -Life Groups in various homes	23	24	25 -6:30-7:45pm... The Hub in the Forum (Jr. and Sr. High)	26	27	28
29 -8:45am... Overflow open -9:30am...NFCU in the Forum -Life Groups in various homes	30	31	coming in FEBRUARY... NFC SNOW TEAM: BETTER TOGETHER {winter retreat 2012} REGISTER ONLINE			



the PARENT LINK JANUARY 2012

INTRODUCING...THE HUB...

Growing up in the 90's (I know...some of you just cringed...), youth ministry was done a lot different than we are trying to do it today. Youth groups were flashy hype machines just trying to get as many behinds in the seats as possible. It was believed that if you could just expose them to a little bit of Christianity, they would be hooked, no matter how you got them there. Mostly this left teens bitter and feeling like something was missing, mostly relationships. You see, this "attractional" model of ministry did not emphasize relationships, it was all lights and loud music. Teens were not plugged into Jesus or to the larger church community, they were plugged into one person (the youth pastor) or a program. Obviously, this model is not healthy or sustainable.

The attractional model of ministry was centered around one main gathering, the traditional youth group service: 1 game, 5 songs, and 1 message. Deep content and relational connectivity were optional, and often missing. Now let me introduce you to 'the HUB'. This is a new gathering we are rolling out Wednesday, January 4th. It will replace What if...? and Uproot, combing the Jr. and Sr. High together. The HUB will be formatted similarly to that of the traditional youth group service, only much more relational and much more intentional. We will not be seeking huge crowds or simply filling seats. We will, instead, be seeking to connect teens to each other, to Jesus, and to the NFC Faith Community.

How, you say, will we do that? By speaking the God-given vision of NFC Student Ministries into every service we put together. This means that every time we gather we will proclaim that Jesus is Lord, we will live out the truth that relationships matter, and we will practice the art of the long scope. That means we don't try to top what we did the week before or make it a big show. We sense where the Holy Spirit is leading us and we go there. We'll talk about serious things and get deep into the Word of God. We'll give teens time to have fun

together, talk to each other, and worship as a community together. We'll have elements from all four of our [LEAD] groups present in most services. The **LOVE** group will coordinate greeting and follow-up, **LAUGH** will have input into what games we play, **LEARN** will suggest things we cover and talk about, and **LIVE** will focus on the things we can do to bring the community together on a weekly basis.

This interaction is where the name 'the HUB' came from. All four groups, while able to function separately, will find a central time and place to interact together every Wednesday. The diagram to the left gives a visual representation of this concept.

We're very excited for the kickoff of this new gathering January 4th. It starts at 6:30pm and ends at 7:45pm downstairs in the Forum. If your teen is looking for a time to get started and get connected, this is a perfect chance for them to see what we're all about.

-Brian Loeber





by: Nate Roskam

NFC Snow Team 2k12: Better Together

Relationships matter. That is point #2 of the vision behind our Life Groups here at NFC Student Ministries. Point #1 drives everything, declaring that Jesus is Lord. Point #3 is the frame, reminding us about the art of the long scope, that growth, formation, sanctification and relationships are birthed, refined and mature in process.

This year's Winter Retreat is jumping off the reality that Jesus is Lord and focusing hard on the truth that relationships matter. In that light, we are doing something we've never done before!!! This year we are having a combined retreat, grades 7-12 and will be housing by age & gender, similar to our Life Groups format. Our Life Groups bring students together who are in a similar life station in hopes they will journey together for years to come. My Life Group, made up of five college guys, started meeting when they were in the 7th and 8th grades! There is much fruit in the "long scope".

We have been blessed with about 10 families who have offered the use of their cabins in McCall to house our groups. This will provide opportunities for existing groups to grow closer together and/or add new members. New groups will also have the opportunity to establish a base of relationship from which to grow. We will come together as a large group for five corporate gatherings and several other times for games, having meals together and fellowship. We believe this format is consistent with our philosophy of ministry and the direction God is leading NFCSM.

We really are "better together" and this year's Winter Retreat will be a living metaphor for the truth and value of Christian community.

Other "perks" of this format:
 -typical retreat cost for 4 days/3 nights:\$100, this format \$50 w/AAP
 -activities we can enjoy: broom ball at McCall ice rink, Gold Fork Hot Springs, Little Hill for tubing, shopping/hanging out in Downtown McCall.

{winter retreat 2012}

register online at: nfcnaz.org -- ministries -- teens -- upcoming events -- winter retreat

MUSIC REVIEW

Few artists have pursued pop-music domination with the single-minded determination Rihanna has mustered. Exhibit A: *Talk That Talk* marks her sixth album in just seven years, a furious flurry of productivity that's rarely seen in the music world these days. And it's a strategy that's propelled the singer into the ranks of music's elite in, well ... record time.

When the album's first single, "We Found Love," cracked the Top 10 recently, it marked Rihanna's 20th hit to reach that milestone. And she accomplished that feat faster than any other solo artist in history. Shortly thereafter, the song reached No. 1, becoming the Barbados-born charmer's 11th chart-topper. The only artists with more? Madonna (12) and Mariah Carey (18).

But the upward trajectory of Rihanna's singing career has gone exactly in the opposite direction of her steady descent into ever more explicit lyrics. As Randall Roberts of the L.A. Times said of her latest release, "The 23-year-old star, who's been gliding toward the edges of pop propriety since her first hit in 2005, has progressively pushed toward NC-17 territory."

Several songs on *Talk That Talk* voice what seems like Rihanna's genuine longing for love. In fact, she even gives a shout out to God's love in the album's liner notes, saying, "Lord, you have always been so good to me! Thank You for your LOVE, guidance, protection, the blessings that You continue to bestow upon me, and the people around me! I will always keep my eyes on You Lord."

Unfortunately, like so many other voices in our culture, Rihanna often seems incapable of separating love from sex, much less divine love from human affections. And to get love, she's more than willing to give sex—so much so that at times one wonders if she's ever using the right word for how she feels and for what she wants. The racy liner note photos raise even more questions.

It's impossible to reconcile, then, how Rihanna's stated faith relates to her NC-17 appetites. She says she wants to keep her eyes on God. Her album will take her fans' eyes off Him.



ARTIST: Rihanna
 ALBUM: *Talk That Talk*
 ADVICE: Avoid It!



Need a Sitter?

MOVIE: *The Sitter*
 STARRING: Jonah Hill
 RATED: R
 ADVICE: Stay Away!

Movies like *The Sitter* require viewers to suspend disbelief, incredulity, morals and at least 80% of their brain cells if they hope to survive the experience. Take kids to a drug dealer? Sure! Blow up a restaurant bathroom and escape? Great! Rob your own father blind? Why not? Wrap up the night—a night that boasts assault, drug possession, grand larceny and child endangerment—by driving back home in a completely trashed minivan (still coated in a sheen of cocaine) and pretending nothing went amiss? And getting away with it?! Why, it's all part of the story! Don't think! Go with it!

For your part, chances are that just going with it—that is, going to see *The Sitter*—won't get you jail time or necessitate years of therapy. But it's about as wise as dropping a cherry bomb in your toilet and standing there, waiting for the thing to go off. Sure, maybe it won't kill you, but it's guaranteed to leave quite a mess for you to clean up.

