Dear Senior Pastors, Youth Pastors, Youth Leaders, and Volunteers,

I am delighted to have the opportunity to share with you about an impactful event in our community that has been transforming the lives of our youth and strengthening our church body – Discipleship Now Weekends, commonly known as D-Now. As leaders in our Baptist association, it's crucial for us to understand the significance of D-Now weekends and how they contribute to the spiritual growth and development of our youth.

**What is Discipleship Now (D-Now) Weekend?**

1. **Definition**: D-Now is an intensive weekend discipleship program designed to immerse students in biblical teaching, worship, small group discussions, and service opportunities.
2. **Purpose**: The primary goal of D-Now is to deepen students' relationship with Christ, equipping them to live out their faith boldly in their schools, families, and communities.
3. **Format**: Typically held over a weekend, D-Now involves hosting students in host homes, where they participate in various activities such as Bible studies, worship sessions, fellowship meals, and service projects.

**Key Components of D-Now:**

1. **Teaching and Bible Studies**: Engaging sessions led by skilled speakers and teachers who address relevant topics and guide students in exploring the Word of God. Brace yourselves for an inspiring weekend with Keith Joseph from Jackson First Baptist delivering powerful messages that resonate with our youth.
2. **Worship**: Dynamic worship sessions where students are encouraged to express their love and devotion to God through music, prayer, and reflection. We will be led in worship by the Nichols Ian Cater Band!
3. **Small Groups**: Intimate settings where students can openly discuss their faith, share struggles, and receive support and encouragement from peers and adult leaders. We will have three breakout small group sessions where our leaders will engage with our youth on a personal level, facilitating discussions and providing guidance.
4. **Host Homes:** Each church will need to provide a host home (guys and girls separated) or please let me know if you need assistance or to be plugged into another church’s host homes. The essence of D-Now lies in the warmth of host homes. Families generously open their doors to provide a welcoming environment for our youth. This includes providing breakfast, splitting students into groups, and ensuring everyone feels at home.
5. **Service Projects**: Opportunities for students to put their faith into action by serving others in the local community, demonstrating the love of Christ in tangible ways. We're thrilled to offer an all-inclusive mission project for those interested. Whether your church wants to participate in this or plans its own, there's an opportunity for everyone to engage in meaningful service.

**Benefits of D-Now Weekends:**

1. **Spiritual Growth**: D-Now weekends provide an environment conducive to spiritual growth, fostering deeper connections with God and a greater understanding of biblical truths.
2. **Community Building**: By participating in D-Now, students develop strong bonds with their peers and adult leaders, cultivating a sense of belonging within the church community.
3. **Empowerment**: Through meaningful teachings and discussions, students are empowered to live out their faith boldly and make a positive impact in their spheres of influence.
4. **Lifelong Impact**: The lessons and experiences gained during D-Now weekends often have a lasting impact on students, shaping their spiritual journey for years to come.

**How You Can Support D-Now:**

1. **Prayer Support**: Lift up D-Now weekends in prayer, asking for God's guidance, protection, and transformational work in the lives of students.
2. **Promotion and Encouragement**: Encourage youth participation in D-Now weekends and promote the event within the church congregation.

In conclusion, Discipleship Now Weekends play a vital role in nurturing the faith of our youth and equipping them to be strong disciples of Christ. As senior pastors, let us continue to support and champion D-Now, recognizing its significance in shaping the next generation of leaders in our churches and communities.

Thank you for your attention and commitment to the spiritual development of our youth.

Blessings,

Gary Webb

Family Pastor of Youth and Children

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