



Our mission, as Bethel Baptist church, is to glorify God by helping more people know and serve Him. The goal, of FUSE youth ministry, is to focus that mission and tailor it to teens. Based on that goal, the purpose of FUSE, is to help unite teens with God's purposes to create whole disciples.

Our desire at FUSE is to not simply repeat the rules of Christianity, but to equip teens with tools so they can understand how the Bible fits in their own life, and can see that they are free to define their own relationship with God. For example, in that sense, my goal is *not* to teach teens to simply say "lying is wrong." Using that example, my goal is to equip them so they can decide to do what would honor God most in difficult situations, not based on an ingrained rule but based on their love for God.

That idea of owning and thinking independently about our own relationships with God has been our focus this year through our teaching topics. "Thrive, not just survive" focused on how to amplify and get the most out of our relationship with God. "Pivotal Moments" addressed specific moments we all will have as Christians and how they build our relationships with God. "Grey Areas" was a series that took a look at the decisions and situations we run into in life that don't always have clear answers, and how we can honor God in those moments. We ended the year with the two part series "Rethinking Christmas." This series addressed how to make the most out of the holiday season in a way that reflects our love for God and for the families and friends He gave us.

Our teens have also had the opportunity to grow in other environments as well this year. They've participated in the Bethany Camp's summer camp, KingdomBound, the Bethel Block Party, Bonkers4Jesus with the Erie City Mission, Trunk or Treat, as well as our own unique and special FUSE events.

As always, I'm excited to see what God is going to do in the lives of our teens this next year!

Pastor Tim