

Kaleo/Discipleship groups FAQ:

What is the significance of Kaleo?

Kaleo is a Greek word that means “named” or “called.” This midweek program on Wednesday nights will serve as a communal space to gather and be reminded as a believer, I am (1) Called to belong to Christ as a disciple, (2) Called to belong to community in relationships, (3) Called to be a light in the world (for the non-believer, whom we encourage students to bring with them, Kaleo is a calling to purpose, life and hope found in Christ).

What will happen at Kaleo?

Each Wednesday evening will be a typical youth group gathering including fellowship, dinner, icebreaker games and a small message to kick start our Discipleship Groups. Kaleo will meet every Wednesday for eight consecutive weeksthroughout the year, going with the rhythm of men’s, women’s Ministry programming. Kaleo will serve as the host evening for our Discipleship groups program.

Will dinner be provided?

Dinner will be provided at every Kaleo gathering. We encourage you to make a small, voluntary \$20 donation each eight week period to help cover the cost of food. As always, families are welcome to sign up to bring snacks/treats to supplement the meal.

Why did you all decide on a Midweek program?

After hearing from our parents in last spring’s parent survey, it became clear that your students were needing “additional space” for connection and discipleship, and a majority of families were open to what the staff decided. Considering the midweek gatherings that men’s, women’s and some CGs were already planning to engage in, we decided to collaborate with all of our ministries in order to create a space where whole families could engage. Our desire with the student’s version of this midweek gathering was to create two things, (1) a rhythmic space in the week that allows students to connect with one another and experience spiritual formation. We did not want to reduce our church’s Christian practice to merely Sundays, but help form rhythms that imitate the “all of life” reality of discipleship. Additionally, (2) we wanted to have an additional space where students could be reminded who they are “called” to (Christ & His people) and what they are “called” to be (a disciple and disciple maker), hence the name: “Kaleo.” By design, this space will serve as both discipleship formation and refuge from the culture in which our students reside.

What are Discipleship Groups?

Discipleship groups are groups of students, same gender and same grade (as best we can), that connect with a leader and walk through scripture/curriculum together. Discipleship groups meet primarily on Wednesday nights during Kaleo, and will follow an eight consecutive week format, three times throughout the year. Discipleship groups will be centered on belonging, engagement in discussion and accountability with specific tasks week to week. Our encouragement is for students to commit to all eight meetings during the “trimester.”

How are Discipleship Groups different from last year's Small Groups?

The purpose of the name switch was to emphasize two things, (1) our purpose of the groups: discipleship and formation and (2) to emphasize the accountability elements of the group that will be added this year, involving parents.

Will Discipleship Groups be available at other points throughout the week?

At this time, all former Junior High small groups will be moved to Wednesday as Discipleship Groups. If you are a high school family and Wednesday night is difficult for one of the trimesters, please email or have a conversation with Kyler (kylar@redeemersd.org).

How will Discipleship groups be decided?

Each discipleship group will be broken up by gender, grade and region as best we can. It all depends on how many students sign up and show up week-to-week. Each week, groups will remain the same so that students can develop tight-knit relationships with one another.

If my student is able to participate one trimester, but not the next, will they be assigned a new group if they join again?

As we know discipleship takes place in the context of relationships, our commitment is to keep students as consistent as possible.

Can my students bring friends?

Yes. Absolutely! Our hope is that your students will see our Kaleo and Discipleship Groups as an opportunity for students to invite their friends to experience Jesus and community through our church.

What role do I play as a parent?

As a parent, your role is of primary importance in the life of your student and their walk with Jesus. We believe the stronger relationship you have with your student, the stronger potential relationship with Christ they will have. We are asking that each week, you engage with your student with one of two sets of questions: sermon discussion (sent every Tuesday), or Small Group discussion (sent on Thursdays). These will serve as a way for you to begin (or continue) to foster spiritual conversations with your students. Additionally, as a staff we would like for you to engage us individually or quarterly at our coffee and conversations (see calendar for dates and time)!

How can I sign my student up?

As always, sign ups are available on our website: <https://redeemersd.org/students>