

For parents with kids in middle and high school

August 12, 2023

Hi Parents!

My name is Gina White and my husband Mike and I have been teaching Sunday School to elementary, middle, and high school students for over 15 years. This school year we will be launching a class for middle and high school students at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church called Truthseekers. Father Ryan would like for the class to meet in between services, at 9am, to enable students to attend the 8am or 10am service with their families.

During the fall semester, we will be focusing on what's actually in the Bible, learning how it is one unified story that leads to Jesus. Many of our lessons will utilize portions of videos from the www.bibleproject.com. It is a wonderful resource that we encourage you to explore! In the spring, we will shift our focus to more practical theology and apologetics – tackling the big questions about Truth, God, and Christianity. In order for young people to really own their own faith, it's important for them to learn how to answer these tough questions they might encounter at school, with friends, etc. instead of just listening to leaders/teachers tell them things.

These are tough topics and we feel it's important for students to feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and questions. In order to do that, we need to create community. We will be posting and messaging the group in an Instagram page ([stthomasyouthstpete](https://www.instagram.com/stthomasyouthstpete)) on a weekly basis, and invite you to join and follow as well.

We will also be focusing on community service, highlighting the importance of giving back to help those in need and in the care of Creation. Throughout the year, the students will have an opportunity to participate in Sandwich Sunday (making sandwiches for the homeless and food insecure persons in the Tampa Bay area) once a month during our regularly scheduled class time. We will also participate in the Animal Fair, following the Blessing of the Pets service on 10/1. The students will receive service hours for participation in all community service activities.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need more information at ginabwhite@yahoo.com or 727-278-9404.