



WHY "AGAPE"?

The Greek word “agape” is a word used to describe genuine, unconditional, unfaltering, and selfless love. It is the word used in Romans 5:8 (*But God shows his ‘agape’ for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ESV*) demonstrating the love that God has for us, and the love Christ said we are to have towards him and our neighbour in Luke 10:27 (*..You shall ‘agape’ the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself. ESV*).

We chose that name for this element of our ministry as a reminder that that is what we aim to strive for; a greater understanding and love for our God, and a greater love for each other, both in our respective AGAPE groups and beyond.

Main Focus: To create a place where our students and leaders can gather in smaller groups specific to the region they live in, and intentionally engage in biblical discussion, promote biblical fellowship and community, and model biblical discipleship, in an atmosphere that is warm and welcoming.

WHY LOCAL?

As best we can, we will aim to have students meet in homes that are local to the region they live in (*ie. Bracebridge kids will meet in Bracebridge homes*, Port Sydney in Port Sydney*, etc.*).

* These are ideal breakdowns, and something we will work towards, but do not necessarily reflect how they will immediately look.

The purpose for this is two fold:

1. It builds the local community.

By placing students in homes local to them, it helps focus the lens of ministry as it shrinks the geographic footprint, shortens travel time, gives opportunity to build relationships in their area and allows students to serve in their own backyard (so to speak).

2. It promotes greater opportunity for discipleship.

Part of this localization also means that leaders from that area will serve in that area. This is incredibly important as it allows more opportunity for our leaders to ‘live life’ with our students as they themselves live in the same community.

This however does not take away from the fact that we are ONE youth group united for ONE cause, and that is to disciple and equip our students to follow Christ and to treat their immediate surroundings as a mission field.

We will still gather together on our LIVE nights for unity, but will focus intentional ministry locally through AGAPE.

WHAT WILL AGAPE LOOK LIKE?

Each AGAPE group has the freedom and flexibility to look slightly different from one another as they take on a character of their own, but all will follow the same basic structure and format.

A typical AGAPE night consists of 3 elements;

- **Social** Opportunity to build relationship and community
- **Study** Opportunity to open God's word in engaged discussion
- **Supplication** Opportunity to pray for one another and encourage accountability

And generally will follow this format:

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 7:00pm (7:15 for SH*) | Students Arrive |
| 7:00 – 7:45pm | Games / Snack / Hangout |
| 7:45 – 8:30pm | Large Group Guided Discussion (led by our leaders) |
| 8:30 – 8:50pm | Small Group Breakout (accountability/prayer) |
| 9:00pm (9:15 for SH*) | Parents pick up students |

*The 15 minute difference in start and finish time for our Sr High groups is to allow extra travel time to cut down on 'rushing'.

The above format will be used for the bulk of our AGAPE nights, but we also however, will encourage our AGAPE groups to 'mix it up' as they see fit, provided they keep the main 3 elements. For example, one group may prefer to do their study and accountability first and end the night in games and hangout, while another may prefer to have a longer time in prayer on certain nights.

There will also be opportunities throughout the year where an AGAPE night will be used for local missions (ie. *Volunteer at food banks, rake leaves, clean parks, go on prayer walks, etc.*) to practically learn and apply 'agape love' in their community – as a community.

AGAPE groups will be split into Jr. High (Grade 6-8) and Sr. High (Grade 9-12) specific homes.

There will be no bus accommodations for AGAPE nights.

AGAPE NIGHTS – 14 IN TOTAL

| MONTH: | DATE: | MONTH: | DATE: |
|----------|-------|----------|-------|
| October | 10 | February | 13 |
| October | 17 | February | 20 |
| November | 14 | March | 20 |
| November | 21 | April | 10 |
| December | 12 | April | 17 |
| January | 16 | May | 15 |
| January | 23 | May | 22 |

We will have 14 total AGAPE nights in the 2017/2018 school year and they will always be the weeks near the middle of the month (*where LIVE will always be the first and last Tuesday – to help remember ☺*)