

WELLSPRING

W O R S H I P C E N T E R

Wellspring Ministry Training Center Student Handbook



Wellspring Ministry Training Center
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Student Expectations

Your time as a student at Wellsprings Ministry Training School is an opportunity to go deeper with God than you've ever gone before. You'll spend time with Him, listening to His voice. You'll study His Word and engage in discussions with classmates about how it applies to your life. You'll see growth and maturity develop as you press into Him and also build relationships with others who are on this journey. You'll step out in faith and see God touch other people through your ministry. This is an exciting time!



We encourage you to make the most of this season. The teachings, books, discussions and small groups are all designed to bring you into greater strength and power as a Christian. Go as deep as you can with your Savior! Try to find the limits of His love, power and revelation – you'll be amazed at how far you can go!

It's easy to start the school year with energy and then feel your motivation wane as life gets busy. Be sure to give it your best, even when you're stressed or frazzled. This type of training depends on you reaching out and taking as much as you can. We won't give tests or grade your papers, because YOU determine how much (or little) you get out of it. Students who step out in new ways will probably make mistakes along the way, but will grow and acquire more experience during this time than those who are passive.

All of us will have times during this school year when life gets tough. Something may make your life busier and harder at some point – illness, family drama, issues at work, parenting or marriage struggles. These things happen, but we encourage you to stay on track instead of letting them derail you. As a student, you've got a fabulous community to support you while things are rough, and to walk with you as you navigate the situation. Stay focused on God and what He's teaching you. You'll learn some great tools for listening to Him during hard times.

The Classroom

Students will meet at Wellspring from 9am to 12:30pm on Saturday mornings. We will begin our classes with a short worship time, which will help us put our busy lives aside and focus our attention on God. Next, we'll watch a DVD teaching and follow up with a discussion time. That will generally be followed by live teaching or hands-on lessons on that topic. This is not a passive learning experience, but rather a place where you will practice doing what you learn.

The classroom is a safe place to try something, see your confidence grow, and sometimes make mistakes. We encourage mistake making, because it helps you learn! No one will ever be criticized or judged here. Students agree to adhere to a code of conduct that includes making the classroom a safe, caring, encouraging place for everyone.

Attendance

Students are expected to be at all classes and school events (retreats, ministry meetings). We understand that life gets unpredictable, and everyone is busy. We ask that you prioritize your time at the school and only miss a scheduled school time when it's truly warranted (illness, family emergency, etc.). Students with more than 5 absences are not eligible for graduation.



Reading

Students are expected to keep up with assigned readings through the year. The books we use are key to understanding the topics we teach and discuss, and a student will not be prepared to participate in the classroom without reading the assigned material. Many discussions are based on the reading material. You can find many of these books in an audio format if that's easier for your lifestyle. We assign one book per month, so the reading load is not strenuous.

Besides these books, students are also expected to read a chapter a day of the Bible. It's impossible to go deeper with God apart from reading His Word! This reading will enhance your spiritual growth in a powerful way. If you are very familiar with the Bible and already read it regularly, we encourage you to read less familiar parts of it as well as the parts you know well. We'll also study the Word together and learn how to really live the way it describes.

Writing

Students will write a brief reflection paper on each assigned book. This is not graded, but is a tool for students' personal growth. Other writing assignments may be assigned during the school year, to give students an opportunity to formulate their reactions and ideas. Reflection papers should be approximately half a page at minimum. They are due on the final class period of each month, when we will ask everyone to hold up his/her paper so we can see that they are done.

These papers should answer questions such as: what do you think/feel about this teaching, how can you integrate an idea from this book into your life now, what teachings here challenged you?



Inner Healing

We require all students to get an inner healing session (sometimes called “Sozo”). This is a wonderful tool for moving into freedom and breaking away from lies or wounds from your past. This ministry is very gentle and loving. The prayer leader uses a framework to guide you through an encounter with God, so you’ll hear directly from God and not from the prayer leader. Some people worry that sins will be exposed or they’ll be embarrassed, but this is very far from the truth! As one person said, “It felt like God wrapped His arms around me and the whole ministry time was a long hug from Him.”

Community

Service at church is an important part of your training, because it provides a place to pour out what God’s doing in you! Some of this is built into our classroom times, when we invite people to receive prayer. In these ministry settings, you will be able to do things such as pray for others, share the Gospel, listen to what God’s saying for them, and facilitate healing.

Students should also be active in their local church family. Volunteer work is a vital part. Ministries include children’s ministry, the food pantry, worship team, prayer team, prophetic team, etc. If you’re not already involved, please join something this year.

Mentoring is one way we provide students with encouragement during the school year. We’ll match each person with a great mentor who will listen to what God’s doing in you and help you reach a higher level of growth than you could alone. We all benefit from having a person who understands where we are, and calls us to push past our fears and limitations. Mentoring is just an intentional friendship, and we hope students will really enjoy these times. Students should meet at least once a month with their mentors.

Also, we highly encourage students to join or host a fellowship group. This is a wonderful chance to connect with others from church, and pour out God’s goodness to them. Those from other churches should be part of similar groups through their home churches. Let’s build stronger unity in the church body!

Graduation Policy

In order to graduate, students must:

- Demonstrate good character throughout the school year
- Have no more than 5 absences
- Get an inner healing session, either at Wellspring or elsewhere
- Complete all nine reading and writing assignments



Code of Conduct

All students must abide by the Ministry Training Center's code of conduct to ensure that this is an environment of respect, love and safety. During the school year, you will learn about creating a culture of honor. To this end, we will:

- Treat all staff and students with love and kindness.
- Respect other viewpoints about religion, the Bible and how to live the Christian life. We don't need to agree about everything, and conversations about what may be true or false are healthy in this school; however, speaking as though your belief is "the true one" or using tone or body language that puts down another belief is unhealthy. This is an ecumenical school, where we hope to see many people from many Christian backgrounds. We want all students to feel safe and valued. We're all Christians who are "transformed by the renewing of our minds" as the Holy Spirit continues His work in us (Romans 12).
- Be honest in your work.
- Keep certain things confidential. Not everything we discuss is confidential in nature, but some things are. Our class discussions and small groups will *only* be successful if we're able to share our struggles, our failures, our thoughts and hopes. No one wants those intimate things to be shared with others outside the group. Remember, if you're not sure if someone would allow you to repeat something, err on the safe side by not saying it!



Disciplinary Procedures

We hope that we won't need to refer to these during the year, but certain behaviors call for a conversation about your standing as a student here. These behaviors include things such as missing a total of more than 5 classes, failing to adhere to the code of conduct, or acting in any other way that is disrespectful of others or of our time.

Finances

Tuition is \$500 for the school year. A deposit of \$50 is due with the application, and the remainder is due by August 31. Students who are unable to pay the full amount should request a scholarship application.

Students must purchase their own copies of required reading books. We see no need to have every student purchase a new edition at full cost through the program, when not all students will want to own each book or purchase a new copy. Most, if not all, are available used online at a discount. Many can be borrowed from friends, since these are popular Christian books that your friends may own. Students sometimes share the books or borrow from past WMTC students.