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| |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | | |  | Embark Student Family,  In my family, Sunday lunch was always a big deal. I had four siblings, and we all loved one thing: pizza. And since our dad was the pastor, which meant that Sunday was one of his busiest days, it became the day to have a meal that requires almost no preparation. That's right, Sunday was pizza day in the Manry house.  We would all sit down with our plates and say a prayer for the food, and the word "amen" became like a starting pistol signaling that it was time to chow down and eat as many slices as possible so we could get seconds before our other siblings took all the good toppings. But that mentality also meant that inevitably, just as I was taking the biggest bite I could possibly fit into my mouth, Dad would ask me the dreaded question: "So, Justin, what did you learn in church today?"  Of course it wasn't necessarily dreaded because I hated church, or even hated answering. I was a little bit of a "Bible nerd" even back then! The problem was that my answer would take up valuable eating time, and when I got finished explaining what I had learned, Jared would have eaten all the pepperoni, leaving me only the yucky vegetable pizza.  But looking back, I treasure those Sunday lunches. I learned a lot from talking over what I had heard from my teachers and even from my dad during the sermon, and I grew closer with my brothers and sister as we had our friendly competition of who could remember the most from Sunday service and who could eat the most slices during the same meal. Those were formative times for me.  So I ask you, do you have a "Sunday Lunch" with the students in your life? It may not necessarily be Sunday, and it may not necessarily be lunch, but there should be a time where you can gather and talk with one another about what you have been learning in God's Word both on Sundays and beyond. In the book of Deuteronomy, the people of Israel were encouraged to love God with all their heart, soul, and strength. Then Moses under the direction of God's Holy Spirit says this: *These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up...*  As your Student Pastor, at most I get to be with your family and students in particular 2-3 hours per week, maybe longer on a special event or camp week. You are with them every day. So make the most of that time. Find a "Sunday Lunch" where you can ask them what they've been learning. Get a devotional book you can go through as a family and discuss what God has been teaching you. Find time amidst the busyness and craziness of our modern world to simply spend the day together. You'll be surprised how long they'll look back on those memories with fondness, and what an impact something so simple can have on their lives.  -Pastor Justin  **Month in Review**  We had another busy month of ministry here at Emmanuel Church. Voyage Nights continues to grow as we are able to stay outside for Ultimate Frisbee and other games and break into small groups to discuss what's happening in our lives week to week. Join us every Thursday Night at 7 PM!  We took the students out to play paintball on Saturday, April 17, and they definitely took advantage of the chance to shoot Pastor Justin (even if he was on their team!). It was a great time of food and fun which very well may turn into an annual event.  The very next day, battle scars and all, Pastor Justin had the chance to preach in the main service, and used it as an opportunity to bring students and families together for a "Family Worship Sunday." We had students playing in the worship band, serving in the parking lot and A/V team, and joining their families to hear the timeless message that God's Word is truth, and we ought to be filling our minds with it instead of all the lies that are out there available to us at our fingertips.  May be an image of 2 people, people standing and indoor  **Looking Forward**  Check out these opportunities for students coming up in the month of May!  *Student Moving Day - Saturday, May 15, 10 AM-2 PM*  https://emmanuel.ccbchurch.com/get.php?id=5243&tk=dd3dcb68f9b9eb7c22a4980f3f742f4b&t=image  We're moving from our high school and middle school venues into the "House on the Hill" to make room for our new Family Life Center, and we need your help! We will be on campus from **10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, May 15**, cleaning out some things from the venues, moving some furniture, and preparing our new space. We'll only be in the house for about a year if all goes as planned, but we still want to make it our own for the time we'll be there by doing some painting and sprucing it up a little. It will likely take us a few more weeks after this date to fully move and make the transition, but it will be a good start in our journey as we look forward in faith to all that God has in store. Lunch will be provided. RSVP at [this link](https://emmanuel.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/293/responses/new) to let us know you'll be able to make it, and parents, feel free to stay and help!    *Students on Mission - Sunday, May 16 @ 6 PM* https://emmanuel.ccbchurch.com/get.php?id=5119&tk=dfbbb1ada184696d2da59aa67b120520&t=image For those who are going to MFUGE, or anyone who is looking to learn more about sharing their faith, over the next few months we will be hosting **Students On Mission: A Gospel Bootcamp** where we will ask questions such as "What is the gospel?", "How do I share my faith?", and "What if there are questions I can't answer?" Our second session will meet in the **High School Venue at 6 PM on Sunday, May 16** and go over some ways we can have confidence that God exists and that Jesus rose from the dead. You won't want to miss it! RSVP at [this link](https://emmanuel.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/291/responses/new) to let us know you're coming. If you're interested in MFUGE and have not yet registered, visit our [web page](https://www.emmanuelchurch.tv/mfuge-2021) for more information on how to do that.  *Kid's 1K Event - Saturday, May 22, Volunteers arrive at 7:30*  https://emmanuel.ccbchurch.com/get.php?id=5254&tk=1b507ce5f64d4f5a9cc71f4d2d658627&t=image  Another opportunity to serve with the children's ministry is coming up in the early hours of **Saturday, May 22**. If you are a student who needs service hours, this could be a wonderful opportunity to interact with the children here at Emmanuel and spend your Saturday making a difference! Volunteers would arrive at 7:30 AM and serve until noon at the latest. Let me know if you are interested - you must be 14 or over to serve in the children's ministry. *If your student is younger than 14 and still wants to serve, let me or our Children's Ministry Director Tamara know (*[envision-kids@emmanuelchurch.tv](mailto:envision-kids@emmanuelchurch.tv)*) and we might have a job for them as well.* If you're unable to help, but are interested in serving on Sunday mornings, E-Kids is always looking for trusted teens to begin giving back to the younger generation, so let me know if that interests you as well.  CTV Banquet - Saturday, May 22 @ 5 PM  The Banquet for our "Continuing the Vision" campaign will be on Saturday, May 22 at 5 PM, and families are encouraged to attend together as we celebrate what God has already done and consider what God is calling us to do with our resources of truth, time, talents, and treasures.  *Outdoor Service - Sunday, May 23 @ 10 AM*  The day after our CTV Banquet, we will be meeting as an entire congregation for an outdoor worship service at 10 AM. It will be a wonderful time for our whole church family to come together as we look toward the future and see what God has in store for us.   *Memorial Day Hike - Monday, May 31 @ Catoctin Mountain Park in Thurmont MD, 8 AM to 7 PM*  https://emmanuel.ccbchurch.com/get.php?id=5242&tk=f82945b93ea08595bbfca368e2050c21&t=image  Our Middle and High School Students are going on a hike! Mike and Deb Morgan will be leading the hike at Catoctin Mountain Park in Thurmont, MD, and your whole family is encouraged to join! (Though be aware the hike is probably too strenuous for small children.) This will be an all-day excursion, so if you want to ride with us, **meet at the church at 8 AM on Monday, May 31, and expect to be back at the church around 7 PM**. Since this is an off-campus event, **your student will need a Notarized Permission Form (attached to this email) if we do not have one on file**. We will stop to eat on the trail, so bring a bag lunch. We will then stop to eat on the drive back, so bring $10-15 for dinner, depending on where we eat and what you order. Please RSVP at [this link](https://emmanuel.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/292/responses/new) to let us know if your family and/or your students can join us!    *New Sunday Series*  https://emmanuel.ccbchurch.com/get.php?id=5244&tk=9d16827a7b1940b653f8fe2eda3f7f54&t=image  In partnership with the "Continuing the Vision" campaign for our new Family Life Center, the first half of this month we will be focusing on prayer and stewardship as it relates to Middle and High Schoolers. How can they even now develop the habits to use their resources for the good of Christ's kingdom and rely on Him every day in prayer? We'll find out together. The rest of the month we will return to our Orange Curriculum, focusing on the habits that will lead us to grow closer to Jesus every day. You can find more information and resources on our web page: [emmanuelchurch.tv/students](https://www.emmanuelchurch.tv/students).  **Closing Thoughts**  As things seem to get busier and more hectic both here at Emmanuel and in your daily lives, remember to take the word of God with you wherever you go, and let your love for Him lead you to take the time to love your family and lead them into His truth.  If you have any questions or concerns, or if you'd just like to talk, feel free to email me at [jmanry@emmanuelchurch.tv](mailto:jmanry@emmanuelchurch.tv), call/text at 443-987-1705, or stop by my office sometime. I'd love to hear from you and know any way I can serve you better.  In Christ, -Pastor Justin and the Embark Student Team Matthew 6:33  https://emmanuel.ccbchurch.com/get.php?id=5006&tk=a40007b34f10a7bc054a4fe01dc66444&t=image |  | |  | Attachments:   * [Notarized\_Permission\_Form.pdf](https://emmanuel.ccbchurch.com/get.php?id=5121&tk=5b8014f456e92d1923638c77de769440&t=mailMergeAttachment) |  | |  | | |