The 7 CHECKPOINTS...
What’s it all about?

The 7 Checkpoints serve as our foundation and teaching material for our entire student ministry - for elevate, exchange and impact. This “content” is based upon biblical principles that are crucial for students to be properly equipped for life beyond youth group. We have adopted this material from Andy Stanley and the North Point Community Church Student Ministries (and resourced by DASH Student Leadership Resources). Andy and his team call this “the irreducible minimum” - the essential principles upon which an entire youth ministry can be built.

These Checkpoints serve as an attempt on our behalf to become more focused and clear on what we hope to achieve and see accomplished in Student Ministry here at Eagle Church - and more importantly in the lives of these students!

It is our goal that these 7 basic principles be understood, memorized and embraced by any student we have the chance to impact before they leave the safety of their homes and youth ministries.
Checkpoint #1: Authentic Faith

This checkpoint focuses on a correct understanding of faith. Confusion in this one area is the primary reason so many students abandon Christianity. True faith is confidence that God is who He says He is - and confidence that He will do everything He has promised to do.

**Principle:** God can be trusted; He will do all He has promised to do.

**Critical Question:** Do you trust God with the critical areas of your life?

**Key Passage:** Proverbs 3:5-6
Checkpoint #2: 

**Spiritual Discipline**

The focus of this checkpoint is on developing a healthy devotional life. The apostle Paul says that true spiritual transformation begins with a renewed mind. Only as we begin to renew our minds according to the truths of Scripture will our attitudes and behavior begin to change.

**Principle:** When you see as God sees, you will do as God says.

**Critical Question:** Are you developing a consistent devotional and prayer life?

**Key Passage:** Romans 12:2
Checkpoint #3: **Moral Boundaries**

One of the most important things you can teach teenagers to do is to establish clear moral limits. They need to learn how to protect their bodies and emotions by honoring God’s plan for sex and morality. That’s the focus of this checkpoint. The depth of their intimacy with God and others is dependent upon it.

**Principle:** Purity paves the way to intimacy

**Critical Question:** Are you establishing and maintaining godly moral boundaries?

**Key Passage:** 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8
Checkpoint #4: Healthy Friendships

The people we associate with the most will have a direct impact on the decisions we make and the standards we choose. Healthy friendships build us up and draw us closer to God; unhealthy friendships bring us down and cause us to compromise what we know is right. This principle focuses on helping students build healthy friendships while avoiding unhealthy ones.

**Principle:** Your friends will determine the direction and quality of your life.

**Critical Question:** Are you establishing healthy friendships and avoiding unhealthy ones?

**Key Passage:** Proverbs 13:20
Checkpoint #5:  **Wise Choices**

This principle focuses on the necessity of applying godly wisdom to the choices we make. Good decision making is more than simply choosing between right and wrong. We need to learn to ask, “In light of my past experience and my future dreams, what is the wise thing for me to do in this situation?”

**Principle:** Walk wisely.

**Critical Question:** Are you making wise choices in every area of your life?

**Key Passage:** Ephesians 5:15-17
Checkpoint #6: Ultimate Authority

Teenagers often view freedom and authority as opposing concepts. But the Bible teaches that true freedom is found under authority. This principle focuses on our need to recognize God’s ultimate authority and respect the earthly authorities He has placed over us.

**Principle:** Maximum freedom is found under God’s authority.

**Critical Question:** Are you submitting to the authorities God has placed over you?

**Key Passage:** Romans 12:1-2
Checkpoint #7: **Others First**

Selfishness comes naturally to teenagers (not to mention the rest of us!) *Selflessness*, however, must be learned. The Bible says that Jesus “made himself nothing” in order to serve the people He loved. He put the needs of others ahead of His own. This checkpoint focuses on the true nature of humility and service.

**Principle:** Consider others before yourself

**Critical Question:** Are you putting the needs of others ahead of your own?

**Key Passage:** Philippians 2:3-11