

Best Summer Event

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CRASH THE CREEK!

Crash the Creek was a GREAT momentum builder for us last year as we came out of the summer and into a fall where gathering in a building was still a tough sell.

The beauty in this event really is a reminder that a great event doesn't have to be super complex and ultra-hype.

We decided on two different occasions last year to invite only our high school students to come and crash the creek with us in a spot owned by the family of one of our church members. They have a great spot on Yellow Creek that has a nice deep hole for swimming. They have put in a diving board and a giant rope swing. The rope swing is made from a metal telephone/power pole and a metal cable.

Obviously, there are some safety factors to consider and this requires some intentional adult attention to make sure kids have the strength to do the rope swing and to watch for any weak swimmers.

The creek spot also has a grassy area with a volleyball net and we ALWAYS eat good at the creek.

The win with an event like this, is simply giving the kids a space to be and some adults to hang out with. I get sidetracked easily thinking that I must create a super hype event so kids will want to come, but they just want to be together and not have to wrestle with the awkward question of, what am I doing tonight?

Pro tip: Find someone in your church who loves to cook or grill and invite them to be creative with the meal. Kids and adults get tired of hot dogs and pizza. And, buy as much water as you do soda, many of our teens are trying to do better about drinking more water these days, let's help them out.

One more thing for summer in general. I encourage you to use these gatherings as opportunities to have one small group at a time get together or even just one grade of students if you have a larger group. These are great moments to invest in individual kids.