



BYC Mission, Vision, & Values

Creating space for all students to become more whole, belong in community, and participate in the peacemaking way of Jesus.

Motto: "We Love You Already"

Vision

- BYC embodies the inclusive love of God by providing space for all students to feel accepted and included in community. We want our Bend community to be aware that BYC is a sanctuary for every teenager.
- BYC empowers students to build meaningful relationships with Self, Others, and God. Teenagers will experience community that is authentic and supportive.
- BYC equips students with tools and experiences to balance mind, body, and soul. Teenagers will be accompanied as they discover their own faith journey.
- BYC creates opportunities for students to be immersed in the stories of the world, and as a result of their experience, they participate in peacemaking and social justice.
- BYC empowers adults to build meaningful relationships with teenagers. Parents, teachers, coaches, and leaders will receive support and resources to understand adolescence.
- BYC is rooted in the way of Jesus: the gospel is radically inclusive, loving, and peacemaking. As we embody the inclusive love of God, we participate with the Spirit in the healing and restoration of all things.

Values

- **Transformational Way of Jesus** | We are rooted in a spacious Christian theology and accompany students on their spiritual journey - we are not trying to convert anyone. *(1 John 4:16)*
- **Open & Affirming** | We wholeheartedly celebrate people of every gender, sexuality, religion, race, and socio-economic circumstance - we do not judge or shame each other. *(Galatians 3:28)*
- **Community & Relationship** | We love to build relationships and help people connect in meaningful ways - we are not program-driven. *(John 13:34-35)*
- **Peacemaking & Social Justice** | We seek ways to actively be good news in our community by learning and serving in love - we are not apathetic. *(Luke 10:27)*
- **Well-Being** | We care about students' entire well-being: social, emotional, spiritual, physical, & intellectual - we are not focused exclusively on religion or spirituality. *(John 10:10b)*
- **Collaboration** | We partner with a variety of people and organizations to create something meaningful & good for teenagers. Every voice matters - we are not isolated. *(Romans 12:4-5)*
- **Curiosity** | We believe in dialogue, the interplay of faith & doubt, the importance of asking questions, openness to the mystery of God and movement of the Spirit - we do not pretend to have it all figured out. *(Matthew 7:7-8; 1 John 4:18)*

BYC Theology / What We Affirm



Wonder & Mystery

- We acknowledge that God is beyond all that we might say or believe, so we embrace the mystery and wonder of experiencing God and the journey of faith.

God / Jesus / Holy Spirit

- God is the source of all life, love, and wholeness.
- God cannot be fully described by human language and cultural constructs, particularly regarding gender (i.e. God is not "he").
- Jesus, fully human and fully God, reveals God to us and shows us what life can look like in the kingdom-of-heaven-on-earth.
- Jesus' life revealed God's love, forgiveness, justice, and radical inclusion. He showed us the costly, life-giving way of peace. Jesus' death revealed God's insistent and faithful presence in the midst of suffering, violence, and death. Jesus' resurrection revealed the good news that life can come from death, that light can come from darkness that hope can come from despair.
- God is present through, with, and among us in the Holy Spirit, who awakens us to the ever-unfolding reality of the kingdom of God and invites us to actively participate in the restoration of all things with God.

Humanity

- People are inherently good and are made in the image and likeness of God.

Brokenness (Sin)

- Brokenness is anything that separates us from being in whole relationship with God, others, ourselves, and creation. As individuals we participate in brokenness by inaction and action; humanity as a whole participates in systems of violence (physical, emotional, economic, and ecologic) and oppression.
- We see the brokenness of the world as something to be grieved and healed, not ignored or shamed.

Revelation & the Story of God

- The Jewish and Christian Scriptures are ancient paths that lead us into the universal love of God. The writers expressed their experience of God through story, poetry, law, parable, and visions that were rooted in particular times, places, and cultural perspectives. For this reason we believe the Bible is inspired but not infallible. We take it seriously, but not always literally.
- We believe that God's story is still being written, and that we continue the work of revelation with our lives.
- Because we believe God is love, goodness, truth, beauty, and life - anything that is good, loving, alive, true, or beautiful can reveal something of God to us.

Atonement & Salvation

- Salvation means becoming whole: thus we are being saved every time we choose something that brings more goodness, love, peace, life, and beauty into our own lives, the lives of others, or the life of creation. Atonement means at-one-ment, that we would be at one with ourselves, our community, creation, and God.
- Jesus' death was not the blood-sacrifice requirement of an angry and vengeful God, but the inevitable result of a life of revolutionary, counter-cultural, inclusive love. His suffering and death reminds us that God is with us even in the darkest depths of human heartbreak. Jesus' resurrection is our hope for peace, reconciliation, life from death, and light from darkness. God is now reconciling us to each other, ourselves, and creation.
- Heaven and hell are present realities, and we are invited to either create more heaven on earth or to make each other's lives a living hell.
- The time is coming when everything will be restored. There will be no more death, fear, shame, or tears. We will experience shalom in our relationships - wholeness and connection with God, others, ourselves, and creation. All will flourish as God intends.
- We are giving ourselves to this future reality now, participating with God in the restoration of all things.

