



2010-2011



What is Jesus University?

Jesus University is an alternative to traditional Sunday school based on a university concept. It gives students the opportunity to earn scholarships through their involvement in St. Mark's Student Ministries and is a way for the church to make an investment in the students' future post-secondary education. Our goal is to involve students and their families in a strong relational, worshipful, and spiritual growth experience.

How does Jesus University work?

As students attend or participate in Sunday school, S.T.R.I.V.E., camps, mission trips, retreats, and volunteer opportunities they earn credits. Throughout the year students participating in Jesus University will have to earn at least 35 credits in order to be eligible for the money they raised that year for the Scholarfund.

A student can raise up to \$300 a year for the Scholarfund. Once the student has fulfilled the requirements for high school graduation, St. Mark's will write a check to that student's post-secondary educational institution of choice on behalf of him/her for the total amount of their Scholarfund. This can be a college, university, tech school, military school, and so forth. A student who starts this program as a sixth grader and participates all seven years could possibly have a scholarship worth \$2,100.

In the event that a student moves away before their graduation, St. Mark's will hold his/her Scholarfund money until notified by announcement of graduation their senior year. St. Mark's would then disperse those funds to the student's educational institution of choice. If a student chooses to withdraw themselves from Jesus University or does not meet all that is required, the funds raised will be retained in St. Mark's Student Ministries designated fund.

Each summer students will have the opportunity to enroll in Jesus University for the upcoming school year. There will be a \$25 registration fee that should be paid upon registration.

How is Jesus University funded?

Participation in S.T.R.I.V.E. (our Fall Fundraiser and mission project) and reaching the first level (\$150) is a requirement to be eligible for the Scholarfund. Students will earn 5 credits for the year and \$100 for the Scholarfund for their participation in S.T.R.I.V.E. However, they will not be eligible for that money if they do not meet all the requirements within that year.

We will have a St. Mark's Student Ministry golf tournament each spring. JU students will have the opportunity to earn up to \$200 more by finding hole sponsors and golf teams for the tournament. Students will earn \$20 for each four player team they sign up and \$25 for each hole sponsor they find. Students will also earn 2 credits for their efforts with the golf tournament. Any money raised above and beyond the cost of the tournament, prizes, and Scholarfund will go towards St. Mark's United Methodist Church missions.

At the end of each year, JU students who have met all requirements will then have the \$100 they earned from S.T.R.I.V.E. and the money they raised for the golf tournament, up to \$200, transferred into the Scholarfund account. Students can qualify for up to a total of \$300 a year. If a student fails to meet all the requirements in that year they will have no money placed in the Scholarfund and the money will remain in St. Mark's Student Ministries designated fund instead.

Enrollment and participation in Jesus University is not a requirement for a student to be a part of St. Mark's Student Ministries or to attend Sunday school. Students not enrolled in Jesus University will still be able to participate in the daily, weekly, and yearly youth events. Jesus University is simply a program that encourages students and families to be involved in the life of St. Mark's, while being able to earn money for post-secondary education.

Jesus University Banquet

There will be a banquet each summer to honor the students who participated in Jesus University and met all the requirements. It will be a rite of passage as each student graduates to the next year of Jesus University. We will honor the high school graduates as we celebrate what they meant to our student ministry and the amount of money they have earned for the Scholarfund. This will also be where the honor grads are named and honored. Attendance is a requirement of Jesus University.

Disclaimer

Jesus University will be reviewed on a yearly basis. The credit system and way it is funded, along with other requirements and elements, will be subject to change from year to year. Jesus University may be discontinued at any time. In case of discontinuation the money each student has earned for the Scholarfund will still be available to go toward their post-secondary educational institution of choice on their behalf upon high school graduation and proof of enrollment.