



# Evergreen SGV

Dear Children and Youth Ministry Leader,

Thank you for responding to God's call to serve the children and youth of our church family. Your commitment to love the kids of Evergreen SGV through your time, talents and treasures blesses every parent, grandparent, church member and especially me. It has been my observation over the years that children and youth leaders can have a profound impact on young lives that are in the midst of forming life-long values. They will listen to us, but more importantly, they will watch us. Faith is caught, not just taught.

Our example of Christ-likeness will be a blessing to those in our charge. We don't have to be perfect, just perfecting. One of the key ingredients of our servanthood is what we will be willing to lay down in order to serve. In Philippians 2:6-7, it says although Jesus, "...existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men". Jesus was willing to lay down that which He could rightfully claim or do in order to serve.

As you consider signing the **Call to Leaders**, you will be doing as Jesus did... laying down some rights and privileges in order to pursue a calling to serve.

This document is not a statement of judgment, but a declaration of servanthood. Paul wrote that "*All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable*" I Corinthians 6:23. It is not a matter of pointing out what is right or wrong behavior or making judgments about people.

Paul went on to say in I Corinthians 8:9, "*But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.*" We have freedom to do a lot of different things, but they may not be profitable if they cause someone to stumble.

One final thought that is found in the document. The Lord informs us to be careful that we do not cause "little ones" to stumble. He explicitly stated in Matthew 18:6, "...*but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea*". Not the kind of jewelry any one of us would want to wear.

Allow me to give you one quick example from my life as your pastor. I know people observe me at wedding banquets during the time of toasting the bride and groom. People are curious as to what is in my glass. I choose not to drink alcohol for some of the reasons stated in this letter. It may be lawful, but I don't believe that it is profitable and may cause someone to stumble.

So thank you once again for your desire to serve and your willingness to take this **Call to Leaders** commitment wholeheartedly.

It blesses my heart to have church family members who love the Lord and the young people of our church so deeply that they are willing to "empty themselves" of certain rights and privileges in order to more fully serve Him.

Blessings,

Cory Ishida  
Senior Pastor



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## Call to Leaders Ministry 2 Children & Youth

At Evergreen SGV, we believe that ministering to children and youth is a high and admirable calling of God. We believe this for the following two reasons:

- 1) Children and youth are in a stage of life when they are most impressionable. They are in the process of forming foundational values and beliefs about themselves, their world, and especially God;
- 2) The most influential people in their lives (other than their parents) are the authority figures with whom they are in regular contact. As a teacher, helper, caregiver, youth advisor or coach, your consistent, regular contact with the children and teens of our church results in you having a MAJOR impact upon their lives. It is because of this influence that the Lord Jesus, Himself, condemned anyone who would block or even hinder a child's faith in God (Matthew 18:6). It is in light of these two truths that the following **Call to Leaders** has been written for those serving children and youth within the context of an Evergreen SGV ministry.

### My Commitment to God's call to leadership

As a leader to children and youth, I affirm my confession of faith and have undergone (or will undergo on (date) \_\_\_\_\_) the waters of baptism. My commitment to continually growing deeper in my personal relationship with God will be reflected in my consistent commitment to:

- Spend personal time with God through prayer and reading of God's Word
- Participate in weekly worship services and small group Bible study
- Seek and remain in authentic Christian community

Knowing that certain activities and behaviors may cause some children and youth to make decisions to compromise their own faith (e.g. seeing a church school teacher smoking a cigarette may likely give a junior higher the justification to smoke), I affirm my commitment to refrain from the following as a tangible expression of my love for them:

- Drinking alcoholic beverages or smoking in ministry or social occasions where youth and children are present, drinking alcohol or using drugs recreationally; gambling on a regular basis
- Wearing clothes that are immodest and revealing (i.e. showing too much skin); acquiring tattoos, acquiring piercings in the tongue, nose, eyebrow, belly, etc.;
- Sleeping over at the home of or vacationing alone with a boyfriend or girlfriend;
- Dating or romantic involvement with someone who is not a believer;
- Using foul or questionable language; telling inappropriate jokes of a sexual nature; engaging in inappropriate entertainment, literature, TV shows, or movies;
- Uncontrolled negative displays of anger or frustration.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, accept and affirm this **Call to Leaders**.  
(print name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature) (date)