

# Student Conferences

Student Conferences—**All student conferences are in the Indianapolis Convention Center**

Session 1—July 3, 10:00–10:55 AM (choose one)  
Session 2—July 3, 11:20 AM–12:15 PM (choose one)

Each conference will last 55 minutes.

All conferences are offered at these two different times by the same leader(s).

Conferences are arranged in tracks to make it easier for you to choose a certain area to explore.

Choose two conferences to attend—they do not have to be from the same track.

## **Faith**



### **Starting Line: Faith**

*What does faith actually look like? Where do I start? How can I really believe in something I can't see? Discover and explore these and other questions.*

**Led by: Alex Weeks**

**Location: Rooms 201-202**

Alex Weeks is the associate student ministries pastor at First Church of God in St. Joseph, Michigan. She has lived there for six years with her husband Caleb and their dog Tucker. Caleb and Alex love to go on donut dates and watch Netflix in their spare time. Some fun facts about Alex: she graduated from Mid-America Christian University in 2012, and she has actually been to every IYC since 2004, when she went as a ninth-grader. Alex is really passionate about ice cream, coffee, and shopping at Target.



### **Own It**

***Learn how to own your faith, not because someone else told you, but because you really know, investigated, and believe it.***

**Led by: Kim Schuessler and Abbie Craig**

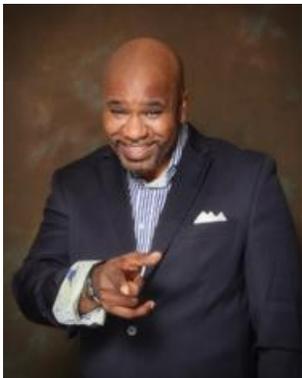
**Location: Rooms 203-204**

Kim Schuessler is a woman on a “quest”—a search for more! Not wanting to settle for the norm; she loves being a question-asker who looks forward to spending time with people of all ages, listening and learning about God, his ways, and his creations. Her word for 2018 is “Press On” to move forward with force despite trouble or trials. And she is excited to see where it takes her! She is married to her best friend Kevin, and has four amazing kids: Kyle (21), Jax (20), Makayla (19), and Faith (17). And she is blessed to serve her community at Town Center Church in Mooresville, Indiana.



Abbie Craig currently serves as the pastor of youth ministry at Church at the Crossing in Indianapolis, Indiana. Abbie met her husband Brock at church camp in fourth grade, and they were married on the same grounds where they first fell in love with the Lord and one another. The couple recently welcomed into the world their first child, a son they named Roman. Abbie is drawn to seeking and inviting others into sacred spaces, especially those found hiding unexpectedly in the midst of everyday life. She spent time studying and serving in Rome, craves traveling, and thinks Indianapolis is the

most underrated city in the world. She loves a good cup of coffee, books that make her think, conversations that matter, and any day spent with family.



### **God, Use Me**

***Learn how God can use you to make a difference in your world. Learn why faith is so important and how God can take faith like a mustard seed to change the world.***

**Led by: Handel Smith**

**Location: Rooms 231-232**

Handel Smith is an ordained minister of the Church of God who serves as the chief domestic officer for Church of God Ministries in the United States and Canada. He oversees the Church of God Ministries Domestic Team that serves pastors and churches in areas of leadership development, credentialing, youth, and church multiplication. He is also president and CEO of HVS Solutions, an organizational and information technology consulting company advising nonprofits, businesses, and governments worldwide. Smith holds the position of Maryland’s senior state director for the Celebrate Recovery Inside program, where his team oversees Celebrate Recovery inside prison and transition programs. Handel has a passion to help people

and organizations. He equips them to discover their purpose and potential while navigating them towards their God-given destiny. Handel has been married for thirty-one years to his wife Victoria, an anointed preacher, vocalist, psalmist, teacher, directress, and bassist. They are blessed with three wonderful children: Darius, Josiah, and Mariah.



**To Live For**

*Learn how to find the power in choosing to take your faith to a new level and becoming the person God has called you to be.*

**Led by: Ann Smith**

**Location: Rooms 233-234**

Ann Smith was born and raised in Alabama—the youngest of five children. A graduate of Anderson University and Scarritt College, she married Nathan in 1950 and served for twenty-six years in Japan and South Korea as a missionary. After returning to the United States, she served five years on the staff of the Missionary Board of the Church of God and five years as director of church relations for Anderson University.

To tell you the facts of Ann Smith’s life does not begin to reveal who she is. She is on a “journey of discovery.” That journey has taken her down a variety of paths and brought her into contact with a wide variety of people. It has contained failures and successes, pain and joy, disappointment and fulfillment, but most important of all, it has made her the recipient of God’s love and the love of many people. Each new experience has provided an opportunity for new insights and growth. At age ninety-two, she is still on that journey, and firmly believes that the goal of life is to be *full* instead of complete—there is still so much to learn, to discover, to become! For all of those who have ever met her, their lives are richer for having done so!

# Purity



## **Life in God's Lane**

*Who or what are you living for? Learn what it means to live life to the fullest and be in the center of God's will for your life by living out his plan.*

**Led by: Trevor Maggart**

**Location: Room 235**

Trevor Maggart is originally from Columbia City, Indiana. He graduated from Huntington University with a degree in youth ministry. Last August, after serving as an associate pastor in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Trevor and his wife Kaitlyn moved to Denver, Colorado. In Denver, Trevor serves at a local church and is a full-time graduate student at Denver Seminary. Trevor loves helping people of all ages embrace a full life with Christ. He also enjoys Friday hikes with his wife, donuts (and lots of them), and the ever-expanding Star Wars Universe.



## **RED LIGHT: Putting a Stop to Human Trafficking**

*Learn how you can make a difference in the modern-day fight against slavery and human trafficking.*

**Led by: Ann Brandon**

**Location: Rooms 236-237**

Ann Brandon currently coordinates communications and the Trafficklight initiative for Church of God Ministries. Ann's heart is to encourage the church to tap into the power of listening, learning, and loving well. As a mom (Jared and Ellie; Carlee) and new grandmother (Lottie), she knows that the generations have a lot to teach one another about living out the image of Christ and ministering in Christ's name. Discovering this call, she is passionate about stepping up in the fight against human trafficking in our homes, churches, and communities.



## **Starting Line: Purity**

*Learn God's heart for not just sexual purity, but overall purity in your life, and why is it worth choosing. Understand what God can do when he has all of your heart.*

**Led by: Candace Stephenson & Tyler Williams**

**Location: Rooms 238-239**

Candace (Hargett) Stephenson, a former recording artist from Nashville, Tennessee; former youth pastor; current Lead222 coach; and owner of Stephenson's Designs, LLC, pours into the lives of students, leaders, and student ministries around the country. She speaks to a variety of audiences, addressing topics such as self-esteem, purity, and seeing oneself through God's eyes. She is gifted at helping equip others with the relational tools needed to be an effective leader. One of her specialties is helping teenage girls see themselves through God's eyes. She is married to Andy and they have two little princesses.



Tyler has been ministering to teenagers in full-time ministry since January 2013. He is currently the youth pastor at BridgeWater Church in Hamilton, Ohio. He has a passion for investing in next-generation leaders and watching teenagers realize God's unique call on their life. Before entering full-time ministry, Tyler earned a bachelor's degree in youth ministry from Anderson University. Tyler is married to the love of his life, Jen. The couple just welcomed their first child, Liam, in September 2017.



### **Staying On Track**

*Life is full of temptations, especially sexual temptation. Learn how to be an overcomer and learn principles of how to win the race in the area of sexual temptation. Understand God's divine plan for you in this area and the fullness he gives if we stay on his track.*

**Led by: Brad & Erin Lenardson**

**Location: Rooms 240-241**

Brad and Erin Lenardson met as undergrads at Anderson University. They have been married twenty years and have two daughters. In 2010, they left the professional marketplace for full-time ministry. Brad launched a nonprofit ministry, JWAR (Jesus Was a Revival) and is also a consultant for kingdom-based companies. Erin teaches about the wholeness the Holy Spirit has for our lives through the healing of our past. Both believe in the restoration God has for each of us.

# Joy



## **Joy Thief**

*Learn how the enemy is always trying to steal our joy and how to keep him from robbing you. Understand the difference between happiness and true joy, and how you can be joyful no matter what your circumstances may be.*

**Led by: Brian Marlett**

**Location: Room 242**

Brian Marlett is currently serving as the youth and Christian education pastor at Fresh Start Community Church in Moore, Oklahoma, and as an adjunct professor in the psychology and ministry department at Mid-America Christian University. He has been married for nineteen years to his wonderful wife Crystal and has two amazing teenagers, Chance and Ava. Brian has been serving in youth and college ministry for eighteen years. He has had the opportunity to speak at numerous conventions and camps all over the United States sharing the gospel and teaches the youth ministry course at MACU for the next generation of youth leaders. Brian is a huge Star Wars and Captain America fan, but his greatest passion is seeing this generation come to know and follow Christ.



## **Joy Maker**

*Learn how to be a joy-maker to your friends and those around you. In a world that is often joyless, learn how to hear and share with others how to hear Jesus' voice and experience his joy above the noise of the world.*

**Led by: Chris Leon**

**Location: Room 245**

Chris Leon's passion to impact the teenage generation took off immediately after high school. He has spent the last fourteen years in youth ministry in different churches throughout California. His mission is to help teenagers find their identity completely as God's child and to empower the youth of today's generation with the understanding that God wants to use them *today*, not someday.

He has spent the last few months as the student pastor at Community of Hope in Maricopa, Arizona, just outside of Phoenix. He enjoys spending time with his three kids and wife, and loves being a part of the "Bearded Gospel Men." If he is not with his family, you can find him coaching football or grilling at the BBQ. He prides himself in being the "World's Okayest Youth Pastor" and is honored and privileged to be a part of this awesome event (IYC)!



### **What Do You Do at a Stop Light?**

*What do you do when you're stopped in life or God seems silent? What do you do when life throws you some things that are hard to overcome? Hear and learn from Molly's story of how she overcame a stop light of tragedy and was able to get back on track and move forward.*

**Led by: Molly Huffman**

**Location: Rooms 243-244**

Molly Huffman is an elementary teacher by day, but a writer and Bible-studier at heart. Her unique experiences with grief and loss have shaped her love of Christ. His words have birthed a desire in her to comfort and encourage the people around her who are experiencing seasons of suffering. An Indianapolis native, Molly now lives in Kentucky with her husband and two daughters.



### **Starting Line: Joy**

*Learn how to find joy in your everyday life with practical tips and tools that Rhonda has discovered through Scripture and her life experiences. Discover and learn how joy can be found everyday no matter the situation.*

**Led by: Dr. Rhonda Gibbs**

**Location: Rooms 130-131**

Dr. Rhonda L. Gibbs is the executive director of RLG Sports/Ministries and has been active in youth ministry since 1982. She is a musician, a tennis teaching professional, and a published author. Her newest book came out in 2017, titled *The Church of NOW!* It is a pastor's guide to transforming student ministry in the 21st century. Dr. Rhonda's call as a minister and teacher of God's Word is to be a living example to the 21st-century youth; helping them ASAP: Academically, Spiritually, And Physically. Presently she resides in Pleasanton, California.

# Focus



## **Tunnel Vision**

*What does it look like to have our eyes fixed on God's mission and purpose for our lives? Learn how to fix your eyes where God is at work and how he can use you to make a difference.*

**Led by: Sam and Daniel Kwak**

**Location: Rooms 132-133**

Sam and Daniel are serial entrepreneurs and real estate investors. They have launched several different businesses and have authored a book, *Fire Your Boss*. They now train entrepreneurs and small business owners on how to “crush it” in real estate investing and marketing. Sam and Daniel have very humble beginnings. Emigrated from South Korea in 1999, the Kwak family only had \$2,000 cash-in-hand and a small, one-bedroom apartment in the Albany Park area of Chicago. Today, Sam and Daniel are doing countless numbers of real estate investments. The Kwak Family first immigrated to the United States to serve at a church, as their father was and still is a pastor. They make sure they run their business to glorify and uplift the kingdom of God.



## **What's the Plan Lord?**

*Knowing God's plan for our life is really a journey—with God and with others! Come and explore these ideas and concepts as we look at the word and workings of God as he faithfully calls and leads his people.*

**Led by: Jeannette Flynn**

**Location: Room 138**

Jeannette Flynn was born and raised in northeast Ohio. Married to Charles, they have two grown children and four grandchildren all living in Fishers, Indiana. She grew up in the Church of God in Ohio, attended Gulf Coast Bible College (now Mid-America Christian University) and Anderson School of Theology. Jeannette has served in pastorates in the state of Washington; served the Church of God at the national offices in Anderson, Indiana; and the Florida Church of God Ministries office in Orlando, Florida. She is currently working for Church of God Ministries, Anderson, Indiana, as program director for Leadership Focus.



**Starting Line: Focus**

*Learn how to stay on track with Jesus. Learn principles and practical tools that can help you take what you experience at IYC to go back home and keep moving forward with Jesus.*

**Led by: Chris Maloney**

**Location: Rooms 134-135**

Chris Maloney was born in Canada, but was raised right here in Indiana. He has come to realize that God works in some crazy ways, and one of those ways was bringing him right back to the very place that he started his faith journey, now as the youth pastor of Westlake Church in Indianapolis. Chris is passionate about students and helping them encounter the love and affection of Jesus. He loves soccer, the Pacers, #iubb, and the Indy Eleven. Chris is married to his bride Hannah, the girl he fell in love with while working together at a VBS all the way back in 2009. Chris and Hannah started dating after a youth group trip and they haven't looked back since. Chris is excited to see what God has in store for their future!



**Who is in Your Car?**

*Who you have around you will help you move forward or sometimes cause you to go in the wrong direction. Understand the importance of who is riding along with you in this life. Learn principles you can put into practice to make sure you are on track and moving forward in your walk with Jesus.*

**Led by: Chip Taylor**

**Location: Rooms 136-137**

Chip Taylor is a captivating speaker with a contagious love for Jesus and a huge heart for young people. He is passionate about empowering leaders, caring for hurting students, and impacting the world. Chip loves fishing, football, and dates with his wife and kids. He is a graduate of Mid-America Bible College, former Youth Ministry Team member and a twenty-five-year veteran in student ministry. He currently is the director for Intern Academy and resides in Morganton, North Carolina, with his wife Lori, his daughter Leah, and his son Caleb.

# Morning Trainings

(Optional) Morning Trainings—Mind, Body, Spirit

All trainings are in the JW Marriott  
Tuesday, July 3, 8:15–9:00 AM



## **Mind Training**

*Meet the author of this year's IYC devos and focus on tuning your mind to be ON TRACK with God's mind. You will be studying and discussing Scripture in hopes that your mind will be renewed, strengthened, and changed.*

**Led by: Stephanie Collins**

**Location: JW Marriott 103-104**

Stephanie serves as NextGen pastor in Muncie, Indiana at The Gathering. She loves to speak and write and tell others about the love of Jesus! In her free time, you can find her hanging out with teenagers, listening to country music, or watching reality TV. She has a passion for engaging teens in the story of Scripture. Shoot her a message on Instagram, she'd love to meet you! IG: RockyTopSteph



## **Body Training**

*You will strengthen and train your body through physical exercise. The goal is to focus on honoring God through exercise and physical activity. You will discuss how physical activity honors God and why it is important. Be ready for a workout! Please wear appropriate clothing.*

**Females led by: Kristi Hayes**

**Males led by: Josh Deeter**

**Location:**

**Body training—Females—JW Marriott White River Ballroom A-D**

**Body training—Males—JW Marriott White River Ballroom G-J**

Kristi Hayes has been in ministry for over fifteen years. She is a mom of two and wife to Grant. She has been involved with different church staffs and worked closely with nonprofit ministries. She has worked in Washington, D.C., as a lobbyist on Capitol Hill and helped with President Bush's Advance Team. She is a personal trainer and CrossFit Level 1-certified. She founded KHOPFIT, which helps women journey to health and wholeness, and has led fitness classes out of her garage for years. She loves to teach others to strive together. Currently, she is

the CEO and founder of Be Strong Story, a business that is spreading a simple message from a note that her husband wrote in her son's lunchbox that says: "Be Strong. Protect the Weak. Love Everyone." They work with homeless and others who need a second chance. You can find them here: [www.bestrongstory.com](http://www.bestrongstory.com).



Josh Deeter is the lead pastor at First Church in Tallmadge, Ohio. Physical fitness and athletics have been important to him since childhood. He was a two-year captain on the Anderson University football team, is chaplain for the Tallmadge High School team, and enjoys exercising. He has trained clients to help them reach their fitness goals and helped start a fitness ministry called 121Movement, with his brother, that focuses on helping people understand biblical views of the body and how to care for it.



### **Spirit Training**

*You will focus on having an intentional time to connect with God through prayer and listening to his voice. You will have the chance to be still and focus on the power of prayer. You will understand more of why we pray, and the importance of having time with God. We will strive to leave with a fresh spirit, and a spirit that is ON TRACK with God.*

**Led by: Dave Dooley**

**Location: JW Marriott—101-102**

Dave Dooley is the senior pastor of Fresh Start Community Church in Moore, Oklahoma. He has been in the ministry for over twenty-five years, serving as youth pastor, associate pastor, and senior pastor in churches in Ohio, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. He has had the opportunity to speak at various youth events, men's retreats, churches, camp meetings, marriage retreats, and to different high school and college groups and teams. He has been married to Anna for twenty-four years, and has two children in college, Garrett and Madison. He has a heart to see individuals and families reach their full potential in Christ through connecting with God and using their talents and opportunities to make a difference in the world around them.