

Because Every Student has a Story

Storyline



John

*Moanalua High School, 2011
AMR Club Beyond*

My sister, Stephanie, started going to the Stretch Monday night Bible Study (AMR Club Beyond's discipleship group) about a month before I did. I am currently training hard for the American National and World No-Gi Jiu-Jitsu Championships this fall, and I usually train six days a week, but when I visited the Bible study, which I had planned on going to just once - I was hooked! Now on Mondays, I take a break from training and go to Stretch. Then after the Bible study, Nate (AMR Club Beyond's Director) and a few other teens who are interested in martial arts come over to my house to learn Gracie jiu-jitsu. The time we spend together training is fun and a great time of fellowship. I share my grappling experience and Nate shares his spiritual knowledge and friendship with us.

Nate doesn't fit the typical youth pastor stereotype I had of a guy who tries too hard to be "too cool" and tries to connect with teens by being loud, awkward, and immature. Nate, on the other hand, is friendly, genuine, easy to talk to, and fun to be around.

Aside from Stretch, Nate and I share many common interests. The books we read, movies we watch and music we listen to are all similar. More than being my youth pastor, he is my friend. Currently in our Monday night Bible study, we are in a series on relationships from God's perspective. So far we have studied relationships with parents and siblings, and in the following weeks we will be covering romantic relationships and our relationship with God. This study is very relevant. I like focusing on each relationship one week at a time so that we can go deeper into each one.