

Life After Youth Group
Session 2: Find Your Puzzle
Leader's Guide

Scriptures in this session*: 1 Cor. 12:14-20, 26-27; Galatians 6:10; Eph 2:19-20; 1 Corinthians 15:33; Ecc.4:9-12; 2 Cor. 6:13-15; Col. 3:12-17.

**You may not have time to look at all these passages and have meaningful discussions. Look at the passages and prioritize which ones you want to spend your group time on.*

Lesson objectives:

By the end of this session your students should:

KNOW –

- their time in the Youth Group is coming to a close
- their immediate plans after graduation
- the biblical picture of fellowship
- three reasons to find their next fellowship group.

FEEL –

- thoughtful about their upcoming graduation
- motivated to find their next group

DO –

- fill out the sheet, *My Exit Strategy* ([download from gradguides.org/resources.html](http://downloadfromgradguides.org/resources.html))
- think about their fellowship plan after graduation

Small Group Time

▪ *Warm – up (5-10 minutes):*

Goof around, get caught up with each other

Re-introduce and review video/discussion series:

“We’re going to continue our once a month discussion on Life After Youth Group. In last month’s DVD we looked at the idea that graduation is coming soon and that lots of students don’t do well in their faith when they leave the youth group. There were three challenges you will face – does anyone remember what they were? (Challenge 1, No Peeps – after graduation many of you will lose contact with those Christian friends who encouraged your faith; you’ll be all alone. Challenge 2, Satan’s Lunch - Satan is a real enemy and like a devouring lion he goes after those Christians who not connected with other Christians. Challenge 3, Starting Over – most seniors don’t realize just how hard it will be to start over looking for a new fellowship group.) Let’s look at the second DVD in this series, Find Your Puzzle. ”

▪ *Lesson (40-60 minutes):*

Introduction (5-10 minutes)

- Play first chapter, “Intro” (Time: 2:03)

BIG IDEA: Fellowship is powerful and crucial to our spiritual success for three reasons.

- Pause the DVD and hand out *My Exit Strategy* sheets to each member and have them fill in the section for this lesson. Then discuss their answers. (It is intended that they keep this sheet for the rest of the lessons in the series. If they are faithful to use this sheet, by the end of the series they will have a pretty solid idea, or plan, of where to find their next place in God's kingdom.)
- Have students share as much detail about their plans as possible. More than likely they won't know too many details, which will surface some anxiety. Hopefully their anxiety will put them in a more teachable frame of mind for this lesson.
- Ask them how they feel about their plan/immediate future and just listen without comforting right away. There will be time to encourage them, but it is important that they become conscious of their anxieties now before they leave.

Point 1: Reason 1 – Meet Friends (15-25 minutes)

- Play second chapter, “Meet Friends” (Time: 1:33)

BIG IDEA: Since many students will need to “start over” after high school, a fellowship group/church will be the key place to find like-minded believers who can become friends.

- Pause the DVD and look at the following passages: (Time: 15-20 minutes)

1. Look up and read 1 Cor. 12:14-20, 26-27 out loud together.

a. Ask for any initial observations that stand out to your students from the passage.

b. Here are some suggested questions to guide your discussion

1) vv14-16 Paul is stressing that if a Christian says they aren't apart of Christ's body because they aren't like “so and so”, that isn't true. As a Christian, they ARE a part of Christ's body REGARDLESS if they feel like it.

Discussion:

Do you ever feel like you don't belong to the Body of Christ/Church? If so, why?

If not, what makes you feel like you belong in Christ's Body/the Church?

Do you think Paul believes that a Christian can even survive apart from the body of Christ?

If not, how important is it to you to be connected to a local body of believers?

Based on what Paul says here, how significant are you in the body of Christ? Are there any insignificant people in the body of Christ?

If you are a member of this invisible body, what do you need to receive from other Christians and what do you need to give?

2) vv17-18 Paul answers the thought, “I don't belong here” with the truth that EVERY believer DOES have a place in the Body because God gave them a unique role to play in His Body. His Body would not function properly without you.

Discussion:

What effect does it have on the Body of Christ if a believer does not get involved with other Christians?

What effect does it have on the individual believer if he or she does not get involved with other Christians

3) vv19-20 Paul want us to know that God intended there to be a wide variety of believers in His Body who all have a vital role to play.

Discussion:

How will this truth affect you as you look for a new fellowship group?

Are you open to meeting new people who are different from you?

Does different mean “bad

2. Look up and read Gal. 6:10 and Eph. 2:19-20 out loud together.
 - a. Ask for any initial observations that stand out to your students from the passages.
 - b. Here are some suggested questions to guide your discussion
 - 1) In both of these passages Paul emphasizes that we should give preference to other believers because we belong to God's family and are members of His household.

Discussion

Based on what you've learned from these two passages, why do you think God wants us to give believers priority over other people?

What does the word "family" mean to you?

What do you think the word "family" means to God?

What kind of spiritual family do you want to participate in?

3. Look up and read 1 Cor. 15:33 out loud together.
 - a. Ask for any initial observations that stand out to your students from the passage.
 - b. Here are some suggested questions to guide your discussion
 - 1) Paul is very clear about the negative influence the wrong kind of people can have on us.

Discussion

Do you think it is easy to get pulled down by non-Christians? Why or why not?

Why do you believe Paul warns them to not be "misled"? What do we tell ourselves to justify ourselves when we start doing/saying inappropriate things when we are around our non-believing friends?

Should a believer's main group of friends be Christians or non-Christians? Why or why not?

Do you think your non-Christian "friends" want to help you become a more obedient Christian? If not, how should that affect what role you let them have in your life?

4. Look up and read Ecc 4:9-12 out loud together.
 - a. Ask for any initial observations that stand out to your students from the passage.
 - b. Here are some suggested questions to guide your discussion
 - 1) Solomon, the wisest king in history, explains what are the values of having friends who are committed to you.

Discussion

List all the ways in this passage that Solomon says friendships help us.

Point 2: Reason 2 – Meet "Special Friends" (8-12 minutes)

- Play third chapter, "Meet 'Special' Friends" (2:01)

BIG IDEA: Involvement in a Christian community is the best environment to be in to become and find the right person to marry someday.

- Pause the DVD and discuss: "How would being involved in a fellowship group help shape your views about relationships and marriage?" (Time: 5-10 minutes)

- Thoughts for Group Leaders:

1. Let the conversation run. Get them to explain themselves. Pull out your students' answers with clarifying questions.

2. Have students share what they have learned about relationships and marriage so far through their involvement with church/fellowship group.
3. What do they wish they could hear more of about relationships/marriage from the church/fellowship group.
4. Have your students forecast what kind of marriage and family they would like to have someday. Then have them work backwards as to what steps they need to take to insure they become and meet that right person for the marriage they want.
5. Look up and read 2 Cor. 6:13-15 out loud together.
 - a. Ask for any initial observations that stand out to your students from the passage.
 - b. vv13-15 Paul states rather strongly as a command that believers are not to be united to unbelievers.

Discussion

How does what Paul says relate to our dating relationships?

What are some reasons why Christians get involved in dating non-Christians?

What are your convictions about dating non-Christians?

Point 3: Reason 3 – Meet Jesus (15 – 25 minutes)

- Play fourth chapter, “Meet Jesus” (Time: 1:50)

BIG IDEA: There is something spiritually unique that happens when Christians gather in Jesus’ name that cannot be experienced when we are all by ourselves.

- Pause the DVD and discuss: *Luke XYZ*. (Time: 10-20 minutes)

- Thoughts for Group Leaders:

1. Look-up and read the passage out loud together.
2. Look up and read Col. 3:12-17 out loud together.
 - a. Ask for any initial observations that stand out to your students from the passage.
 - 1) vv12-14 Paul describes the character qualities of the new self in Christ that we should express to each other.
Discussion:
Have you seen these qualities of Christ in believers you know? If so, whom do you notice them in and which qualities do you experience?
Do you feel motivated or encouraged in Christ when you are around this/these believers?
Which characteristic of Christ in this passage do you wish you experienced more of from other believers? Which characteristic do you think you want more of in your life?

- 2) vv15-17 Paul describes more ways we should treat each other as Jesus did as we allow Jesus to rule our hearts in peace and allow His word to dwell in us richly.

Discussion

Many Christians who aren’t doing well in their faith don’t want to be around Christians who are walking closer with Jesus because they feel guilty. Have you ever experienced this feeling?

What are some things a person can do to deal with those feelings and get back into fellowship with others?

Conclusion:

- Play last chapter, “Final Thoughts” (:38)
BIG IDEA: Summarizes the lesson and introduces next month’s session.
- Thoughts for Group Leaders:
 1. Summarize the lesson. We are like pieces of a puzzle and need fellowship with other believers to:
 - Make friends
 - Make “special friends”
 - Meet Jesus
 2. Ask if there are any comments or questions.
 3. Tell students to keep their My Exit Strategy in a safe place.
 4. Close in prayer.