

Investing into the lives of our teens

Description:

In this workshop we will discuss ways to show the love of Jesus to the outcast, the broken, and the rebellious teens in our Junior High and High School ministries.

Bible Verse:

Ezekiel 33:3-6

“3. When he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people, 4. then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head. 5. He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life. 6. But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman’s hand.”

A Watchman: His job was to keep watch over a specific area or property. By patrolling and looking out for any signs of danger or the enemy.

4 key things that to take away from today’s discussion.

1. Are we called to this ministry; do we have a heart to serve?
2. How can we relate to what these kids are going through?
3. Is the love being pour out to the kids a “Christ like love” or is it generic?
4. Are we willing to stand in the gaps to keep watch for the enemy for these teens?

1st Question:

- **Are we called to this ministry; do we have a heart to serve?**

Ephesians 4:1-2

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love.

- **Why is it important to know if serving with the youth is our calling?**
 - ◇ Like anywhere we decide to serve, if we are not allowing the Lord to lead us to coming alongside the youth but instead it is our calling, we are no longer doing **THE WILL OF GOD** but satisfying our own will.
 - ◇ The result is that we will soon enough get burnt out or serving with the youth and decide to just walk away.
- **What can be the long-lasting effect if choice to grow relationships, only to walk away to our new calling?**
 - ◇ We can do more harm than good in the lives of these troubled teens.
 - ◇ We would just be another disappointment in their lives, or for some another person that walked away from them.
 - ◇ Leaving them to be closed to anyone else who truly has a heart to come alongside them, to the word of God, and to following Jesus.
- **Remember that some of these kids are looking for that that Chris like love! (They hear all about it, but they do not know how it feels)**

2nd. Question

- **How can we relate to what these kids are going through?**

James 3:17

“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”

- We might have a tough time relating at first with these kids, because we have such a different background.
- What are some of the issues troubling our teens these days?
 - ◇ Some of these kids come from broken homes, some battle with:
 - anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts, anger issues, self-harm issues, self esteem issues, Homosexual Identity issues, addicted to drugs, or alcohol, or pornography.
 - ◇ Some of these teens are just wanting to know if **God truly loves them** like they hear on Wednesday night or Sunday services.
- We are not here to become their friends; we have been called to lift the up as brothers and sisters in Christ.
- We can relate to the kids with our own life experiences.
 - ◇ Such as a time that we felt so anger with someone or some situation that we saw red.
 - ◇ Or an experience when we had to search Gods word or call out to the Lord because we were in such a depress state and we did not know how to get passed it.
 - ◇ Give your testimony (**5 minutes**) if you feel led too!
- What we always want to do is allow them to understand that our Lord and savor felt how the same way they felt.
 - ◇ **Matthew Ch. 21** and **John Ch. 2**, **Jesus was angry**: He overturned tables and made a whip to drive out those from the temple.
 - ◇ **John 11:35** shortest bible verse “**Jesus wept.**” Our Lord felt sadness.

- ◇ **Matthew 26:39** Jesus felt **scared and anxiety** because of His time was near to be put to death. **“O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”**
- ◇ **Matthew Ch. 4, Luke Ch. 4, Mark 1:12-13** Jesus was tempted by satan.

- **THIS WILL ALLOW THEM TO UNDERSTAND THAT WHAT THEY ARE GOING THROUGH, HOW THEY ARE FEELING, WON'T DISQUALIFY THEM, OR MAKE THEM LESS OF A CHILD OF GOD, HELP TO CLOSE ANY OPEN DOORS FOR THE ENEMY.**

3rd Question:

- **Is the love being pour out to the kids a “Christ like love” or is it generic?**

John 15:12-14

“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friend. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.”

- **For us to have a “Christ like love” for these kids, we must leave all our issues and distractions at the door of our classrooms.**
 - ◇ If we come with our baggage, we will not be able to love on these kids the way we are called too.
 - ◇ From the moment we enter the classroom, it must be all about serving these kids because of our love for Jesus.
- **When we think of what Jesus did to show His love for this word, He made it a point to be present in the lives of those that were hurting.**
 - ◇ **John 4:7-31**, Jesus speaks to **“The woman at the well”**, that is not only an outcast with her own people, but someone that in the Jewish people would consider “not worthy of their time”.
 - ◇ **Luke 5:29-39**, Jesus sat and **ate** with tax collectors and sinners.

- ◇ **Matthew 26, Luke 22, John 13**, we read that Jesus **broke bread** with someone He would betray Him.
- ◇ So, in turn, we must sit with these quiet, rebellious teens and show them love, and how do we do that?
 - Start a simple conversation by asking them question, *(What kind of sports, or video games are you in too? What is your favorite thing to do when you are not with your friends? What is your favorite kind of music, hobbies Etc.)*
 - Ask them if there is something you can pray for them about, invite them to pray for you about something you have going on in your life.
 - But something that is important, when they give us their responses, we must make sure we **REMEMBER THEIR RESPONSES!**
- ◇ Most of these teens are starving for attention, and satan is more than willing to be there to eat up that attention with his distractions.

4th and final Question

- **Are we willing to stand in the gaps to keep watch for the enemy for these teens?**

1 Peter 5:8

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

- **As believers we are all now enlisted in the Lords Army, we are called to be watchful over these kids.**
- **Because the enemy is looking to recruit himself, to rob, to distract and to destroy.**

- **We stand in the gaps by allowing the kids to see what Jesus has done in our lives by the love He has put in our hearts for them.**
 - In Nehemiah, when the walls were being built, the priests were assigned to build the section of the walls that were in front of their homes.
 - Because Nehemiah knew that they would build it strong to withstand the enemy, because it was where their family lived.
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- **These young teens have been entrusted to us by their parents, by the church and more importantly by the Father, so that we can point them back to Him!**
 - We do that by investing Jesus into them, we win them over by the love we give them.

In conclusion:

- There must be a calling in our lives for the Jr high and High school ministry, or else we will just be going through the motions.
- These kids are going through some heavy situations on a day to day, we need comfort them in that they are not alone in this fight. We all go through struggles and point them always to Jesus in their suffering.
- We **MUST** be consistent with these kids, by showing up ready to love on them. They have too many people in their home life that have let them down, we can not become another one, because we will lose them to the world.
- Let's make it a priority to remind these kids how much Jesus loves them, and how He demonstrated this on the cross, so that they can have hope through Him.
- Continue to love them, even when they are un-loveable, because we are called to stand in the gaps!!