

S.E.T. Youth Conference

Workshop 1- Strengthening

Key Takeaway: Stay Strong (bearing fruit) by having a close relationship with God

Interactive portion:

A wall set up with a tree cutout made of felt like material. Balls with velcro stuck onto them will be provided. One by one, we will have youth attempt to take all of the balls off of the tree before it can “grow” more fruit (balls). The youth not pulling the balls from the tree will have the task of throwing additional balls onto the tree, “growing” more and more as the youth harvesting pulls them off. A timer will potentially be setup based on youth attendance and engagement.

Scripture:

Mark 11:12-14

¹²On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. ¹³And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴And he said to it, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” And his disciples heard it.

Having just had throngs of people announcing blessing and a high praise in the city of God, (Hosanna, Hosanna!), we are confronted with a Jesus who cares about a tree producing fruit “outside of it’s season”.

Things to note:

- Jesus cares about fruit in our lives
- The tree looked as if it had fruit, but in reality had nothing.

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.

The Lord’s desire is for closeness. He understands we are limited in every sense of the word and desires to strengthen us in our identities as children of God. He wants us to trust him and to gather our life sustaining power from his stream of life giving relationship through his Holy Spirit. Scripture says that we will have springs of living water shoot up from us when we have a relationship with Jesus, and it is this very lifesource that will allow us to bear fruit in every season.

Mark 11:20-25

²⁰As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. ²¹And Peter remembered and said to him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.” ²²And Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. ²³Truly, I say to you, whoever

says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. ²⁴ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received^(a) it, and it will be yours. ²⁵ And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

3 keys to a fruitful relationship with Jesus:

1. Have faith and believe He is who He says He is
2. Forgive others
3. Live a repentant life to stay free from sin

Workshop 2 Equip

Key Takeaway: The Lord wants us ready for his arrival, we can stay awake by resisting our flesh and choosing His will.

Interactive portion:

All youth wear blindfolds. One person plays the master who can come at any time. The youth with the blindfolds stand facing away from the master. If the master announces (by tapping a youth) that he's come and a youth still has their blindfold on, they are out of the game.

Sharing portion:

Mark 13:34-35, 37

It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

Discussion:

Current culture is big on being woke. Can anyone explain what that means?

- Give the group the opportunity to share their thoughts
- The definition of woke according to the Merriam Webster dictionary, woke: aware of and actively attentive to important facts and issues (especially issues of racial and social justice)
- Why would Jesus tell us to stay awake?

Matthew 26:40-41

⁴⁰And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Jesus says that we should "watch and pray that we would not enter into temptation".

How can we make disciples of the nations if we won't surrender our flesh in the secret place with the Lord?

Take five minutes to allow God to search our hearts and reveal anything we've been sleeping on that the Lord wants to free us from. Write them down and pray about them for the next week.

Workshop 3 Train

Key Takeaway: HANDS ON, spend time training youth how to talk about Jesus & how to pray for people who want to follow Jesus. Make this fun, lots of laughs, and christian hip hop music playing in the back to loosen up the mood. We want this to feel like a safe place to try and fail.

Matthew 28: 19-20 The Great Commission

Break up into 2 groups, one with Freddy, one with Rebecca.

Ask youth to share in one sentence why they follow Jesus. (Give them time to think.)

Everyone share one at a time.

Remind the youth that their testimony is an essential part of sharing the gospel with others.

Back into one group

Demonstrate using one or two youth's testimony how we would share the gospel.

Ask 3-4 youth to step out and share the gospel using their testimony.

Demonstrate how to pray for people who want to follow Jesus.

1. Admit sinful nature
2. Repent from sin
3. Declare a desire for Jesus
4. Ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior over life, invite Holy Spirit to guide

Give out cards with key scriptures for them to have access to when talking to others about Jesus

John 3:16-18

Ephesians 1:7

Romans 8:28

Jeremiah 29:11

Psalm 139:13