

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

2-25-07 - "The Student Body of Christ"

OPEN: Think back to your teenage years. Who are the names and faces of those who made a difference in your life and in what ways did they do so?

DIG: (LEADERS NOTE: Use this brief study to initiate discussion, but save extra time to commit our youth ministry to God in prayer.)

Read Matt 19:14-15 – “Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” 15 When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.”

Vs. 14 – While this particular passage is about “little children” rather than what we consider “youth”, we all know that the heart of Jesus would be equally as warm and welcoming to those young men and women in their older formative years.

- How do you see that our church is saying, “let the teenagers of our city come to us, and do not hinder them”?
- Do you personally have opportunity to express this same sentiment towards teenagers? Could you? In what ways?
- Did anything inspire you from this morning’s presentation concerning the Southwest youth ministry? Share what impacted you.

Vs. 15 – What is it about the “youth culture” that scares or intimidates us from “placing our hands on them”?

PRAY: Whatever age you are, and whatever season of life you are in, let’s tonight join together in praying for those in our church and in our city in the tough teenage years. Maybe assign the below prayer focus’ to different members of the group and spend some time begging God on their behalf.

- Pray for the youth group of the Southwest church.
 - That they love one another.
 - That they be protected from the evil one/avoid temptation.
 - That they honor their mothers and fathers.
 - That they reach out to their friends.
 - That they become like Christ individually and as a group.
- Pray for the parents of the youth of the Southwest church.
 - That they love one another.
 - That they strike the balance of “grace and truth” in their parenting.
 - That God give them wisdom.
- Pray for the youth ministry leadership of the Southwest church.
 - For the Wades and the Collards.
 - For the adult volunteers who dare “lay their hands” on the youth culture.
 - For the financial provision needed to support it.
- Pray for the youth in Amarillo.
 - That our students would love them.
 - That our students would go to them in the name of Christ.
 - That our students would invite them into their church family.
 - That our church family would “let them come to us and not be hindered.”
- Pray for our Elders...that they would have wisdom and courage as we grow in our ministry to youth.