

God's Word

Deuteronomy 6:4-9
Psalm 1:1-3
Isaiah 55:8-11
Matthew 5:17,18
Colossians 3:16
2 Timothy 2:15
2 Timothy 3:16,17
Hebrews 4:12,13
1 Peter 1:22-25

Fellowship

John 13:34,35
Acts 2:42-47
Ephesians 2:18-22
Ephesians 4:1-8,11-16
Philippians 2:1-11
1 Corinthians 12:12-13:13
Romans 12:3-16
Hebrews 10:23-25

Identity in Christ

John 1:12,13
Romans 8:1,2,31-39
Romans 10:9-13
2 Corinthians 5:17
Galatians 3:26-28
Ephesians 1:3-2:10
Colossians 2:13-15
Titus 3:4-7
1 John 5:11-13

Suffering & Satan

Genesis 3:1-5,14,15
John 8:43-45; 16:33
Romans 5:1-5
2 Cor. 1:8,9; 4:16-18
2 Cor. 12:9,10
Ephesians 6:10-17
2 Timothy 3:12,13
1 Peter 5:8-10
Hebrews 12:4-13
1 John 4:4
Revelation 21:3-7

Evangelism

John 17:20-26
Matthew 28:18-20
Luke 10:16
Romans 10:11-15
2 Cor. 2:17; 3:4-6
2 Cor. 4:1-6
2 Cor. 5:11-6:2
Philippians 1:12-18
Colossians 4:2-6
1 Thessalonians 2:3-9

Communicating with God

Psalms 6, 8, 34:1-10
Psalm 36:5-9
Psalm 51:15-17
Psalm 62:5-8
Psalm 63
John 17:1-12
Romans 8:26,27
Ephesians 3:12
Philippians 4:6
1 Thessalonians 1:2; 3:9-13
1 Thessalonians 5:25
2 Thessalonians 1:11,12
Hebrews 4:16
1 John 5:14,15

The Difference between the Non-Walking Christian and the Disciple

Fold this chart in half and read the Non-Walking Christian description with a student, one box at a time. After reading the first box, read the corresponding description for the disciple. As you progress down the chart, start asking them to guess at the Disciple description before you read it. (Try to guess with them).

Non-Walking Christian	Disciple
Goes to meetings	Shares and prays at meeting
Listens to teachings	Acts on teachings
Feels guilty that they don't tell people about Jesus	Asks God to give them chances to talk about Jesus
Doesn't read Bible on their own	Reads the bible many times each week
Only thinks about the fun that will come after the teaching	Likes to hang out with people after the teaching. Tries to have spiritual conversations
Avoids scary steps of faith	Takes scary steps of faith, and becomes more excited
Sees himself as a kid that has always gone to church	Sees himself as a disciple of Christ
Feels torn between wanting to be popular and living like a Christian	Respected by non-Christians because he does what God wants and doesn't care about what other people think
Avoids obvious sin	Avoids obvious sins but also sins that other people don't see
Has doubts that break down their faith in God	Doubts go away as they act on what they learn in the bible, trusting God

How do I share my faith?

Once we have a relationship with Jesus, He wants us to tell other people that He died on the cross for them, too. Your story of how God has changed your life is important for your friends and family to hear. Work through these steps to practice sharing how you ended up with Jesus in your life.

1. What were you like before you asked Jesus for forgiveness?
2. Why did you decide to ask Jesus for forgiveness?
3. How has your life changed since you asked Jesus for forgiveness?
4. Come up with some kind of question to find out what the other person thinks about of your story? Come up with a question about what he or she thinks about Jesus?
5. Practice sharing your story with a friend.

Worship

Worship is when we show God and other people how awesome, powerful and wise God is. Read through each of the following passages. What do they teach you about worship?

- Psalm 100
- Acts 2:42-47
- Romans 12:1-2
- Romans 15:16
- Ephesians 5:18-19
- Colossians 3:15-17
- Hebrews 13:15

Talking with God

Read through each of these passages in the Bible. What do they teach us about talking to God?

- Psalm 6, 8, & 34:1-10
- Psalm 36:5-9
- Psalm 51:15-17
- Psalm 62:5-8
- Psalm 63
- John 17:1-12
- Romans 8:26-27
- Ephesians 3:12
- Philippians 4:6
- 1 Thessalonians 1:2; 3:9-13
- 1 Thessalonians 5:25
- 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12
- Hebrews 4:16
- 1 John 5:14-15

Suffering and Satan

The Bible teaches that God has an enemy, Satan. He tries to use hard times to keep us from being close to God.

Read through each of these passages in the Bible. What do they teach us about suffering and Satan?

- Genesis 3:1-5, 14-15
- John 8:43-45; 16:33
- Romans 5:1-5
- 2 Corinthians 1:8,9; 4:16-18
- 2 Corinthians 12:9,10
- Ephesians 6:10-17
- 2 Timothy 3:12-13
- 1 Peter 5:8-10
- Hebrews 12:4-13
- 1 John 4:4
- Revelation 21:3-7

Fellowship

God says we grow best when we spend time with other people who know Jesus. He calls this fellowship.

Read through each of these passages in the Bible. What do these passages teach us about fellowship?

- John 13:34,25
- Acts 2:42-47
- Ephesians 2:18-22
- Ephesians 4:1-8, 11-16
- Philippians 2:1-11
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-13:13
- Romans 12:3-16
- Hebrews 10:23-25

Who God says you are once you have a relationship with Jesus (You are a new person)

Read through each of these passages in the Bible. What do they say about who you are now that you know Jesus?

- John 1:12-13
- John 3:35-36
- John 5:24
- John 6:35-40
- John 7:38-39
- John 8:12
- John 10:10, 27-28
- John 11:25-26
- John 12:46
- John 17:25-26
- Acts 10:43
- Acts 13:38-39
- Romans 3:20-26
- Romans 8:1-2, 31-39
- Romans 10:9-13
- I Corinthians 15:53-57
- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- 2 Corinthians 8:9
- Galatians 2:20-21
- Galatians 3:26-28
- Galatians 4:4-7
- Ephesians 1:3-2:10
- Ephesians 3:12
- Philippians 3:20-21
- Colossians 1:12-14
- Colossians 1:21-22
- Colossians 2:13-15
- Colossians 3:3-4
- 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10
- Titus 3:4-7
- 1 Peter 1:3-5; 23-25
- 1 Peter 2:4-10; 24-25
- 1 John 5:11-13

Suffering

Read through each of these passages in the Bible. What do they teach us about suffering?

- Luke 9:23
- John 12:24-26
- John 15:2
- John 16:33
- Romans 5:3-5
- Romans 8:35-36
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-7
- Philippians 1:29
- Philippians 3:10
- Hebrews 12:5-13
- James 1:2-3
- 1 Peter 1:6-7

Ministry

God wants us to serve Him. This means we learn to help other people in many different ways. Below are passages that show us what God does when we try to help people.

Read through each of these passages in the Bible that are about what God does when we serve.

Matthew 10:19,20

Matthew 16:18

Matthew 28:18-20

John 12:32

John 14:10-17

John 15:4,5,16

John 15:26,27

John 16:8-11

Acts 1:1

Acts 1:8

Acts 13:2,4

Acts 16:7-10

Acts 16:14

Acts 18:9-10

Acts 20:28

Romans 7:4,6

Romans 15:5-6,13,18

Romans 16:20

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

1 Corinthians 3:5-7

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

1 Corinthians 15:10

1 Corinthians 16:9

2 Corinthians 2:14-3:5

2 Corinthians 6:6,7

2 Corinthians 10:3,4

2 Corinthians 12:9,10

Ephesians 1:19-23

Ephesians 2:10

Ephesians 3:7,16-17

Ephesians 6:10-13

Philippians 4:13

Colossians 1:28-29; 4:3

1 Thessalonians 1:5

1 Thessalonians 3:12

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

2 Thessalonians 2:17

2 Thessalonians 3:3

1 Timothy 1:12-14

2 Timothy 1:7,12

2 Timothy 4:16-17

Hebrews 13:20-21

Psalms 127:1

Zechariah 4:6

Haggai 1:13-14; 2:4-5

Revelations 3:7,8

God's Word (the Bible)

Read through each of these passages in the Bible.

What do they teach us about God's word, the Bible?

- Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- Psalm 1:1-3
- Isaiah 55:8-11
- Matthew 5:17-18
- Colossians 3:16
- 2 Timothy 2:15
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Hebrews 4:12-13
- 1 Peter 1:22-25

Evangelism

Once we have a relationship with Jesus, He wants us to tell other people about Him.

Read through each of these passages in the Bible. What do they teach us about evangelism?

- Matthew 28:18-20
- Luke 10:16
- John 17:20-26
- Romans 10:11-15
- 2 Corinthians 2:17; 3:4-6
- 2 Corinthians 4:1-6
- 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2
- Philippians 1:12-18
- Colossians 4:2-6
- 1 Thessalonians 2:3-9

Adopted by God

When you become a Christian, God becomes your father and he loves you. He is totally committed to you, and will not reject you even if you do bad things. He will always be with you even in the worst times. The bible says,

Romans 8: ¹⁵ You didn't receive a spirit that makes you a slave to fear once again. Instead you received the Holy Spirit, who makes you God's child. By the Spirit's power we call God "*Abba*." *Abba* means Father. ¹⁶ The Spirit himself joins with our spirits. Together they give witness that we are God's children. ¹⁷ As his children, we will receive all that he has for us. We will share what Christ receives. But we must share in his sufferings if we want to share in his glory."

- What would it be like if God treated Christians like slaves? How is that different from him treating him like his children?
- This verse says that God lets us know that we are his children. How do you think he does this?
- How has God been trying to show you that he is with you?
- Optional: How might God show his love differently to a boy than a girl?

Struggling with Sin

Do you ever get confused by the things you do? You try to do the right thing but you can't seem to do it. Instead, you seem to always do the wrong things. You say you're going to try harder the next time, but the harder you try, the more you just seem to do the wrong things. Why can't you do the right things that you want to do? This is a struggle all of us go through who are trying to grow closer to God.

One of the men who followed Jesus, named Paul, wrote about this struggle:

Romans 7:15-24

¹⁵ I don't understand what I do. I don't do what I want to do. Instead, I do what I hate to do. ¹⁶ I do what I don't want to do. So I agree that the law is good. . .

¹⁸ I know there is nothing good in my sinful nature. I want to do what is good, but I can't. ¹⁹ I don't do the good things I want to do. I keep on doing the evil things I don't want to do. ²⁰ I do what I don't want to do. . .

²¹ Here is the law I find working in me. When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² Deep inside me I find joy in God's law. ²³ But I see another law working in the parts of my body. It fights against the law of my mind. It makes me a prisoner of the law of sin. That law controls the parts of my body.

²⁴ What a terrible failure I am! Who will save me from this sin that brings death to my body? ²⁵ I give thanks to God. He will do it through Jesus Christ our Lord.

According to this passage, why does Paul feel like such a failure?

It may sound strange, but this struggle is an important part of growing with God. Anyone who wants to grow will go through this struggle.

How could this struggle actually help us get closer to God?

Ideas for reading the Bible on your own or with a friend:

Psalms: Write down every word you can find that is used to describe God.

Proverbs: Write down everything you can find that talks about using your words for good instead of evil.

Daniel: Write down every example where Daniel shows he cares most about people knowing how awesome, powerful and wise God is.

Matthew: Write down every time the writer talks about Jesus being the Messiah (the one who came to save us all).

Mark: Write down every word or everything that happens that is about how important it is to tell people about Jesus.

Luke: Write down every time you see Jesus loving someone. Who did He love? How did He show them love? What was happening in Jesus' life when He showed this love? (Maybe make a chart)

Verse	Who did Jesus love??	How did Jesus love?	What was happening in Jesus' life?

John: Write down how Jesus describes Himself and how people around Jesus described Him as you read through the book of John.

John: Write down verses that talk about how you start a relationship with Jesus.

Matthew/Mark/Luke/John: Write down anything that talks about Jesus' relationship with God, the Father. What does Jesus say? How does Jesus pray to the Father?

Acts: Write down every verse that talks about the Holy Spirit. What does Acts teach us about the work that the Holy Spirit does?

2 Corinthians: Look for opposites in the book. (strength/weakness, comfort during hard times, etc.)

Ephesians: Write down everything you read that is said about Christians. Who are we? What are we supposed to do?

1 Timothy, 2 Timothy and Titus: Write down everything written about God's word/the Bible (truth, scripture, etc.). What do those verses say about God's word?

Prayer

Another way Christians grow is through prayer. Prayer just means talking with God. As we grow in our relationship with him, talking to him, seeing him answer prayers, we mature spiritually.

- When do you think you should pray to God? Name a bunch of different situations.
- Do you think that people should pray to him when they are in the middle of doing something bad?
- Hebrews 4:15,16 says, "We have a high priest [Jesus] who can feel it when we are weak and hurting. We have a high priest who has been tempted in every way, just as we are. But he did not sin. So let us boldly approach the throne of grace. Then we will receive mercy. We will find grace to help us when we need it."
- 1 Thess 5:17 says "Never stop praying". Obviously, there are times when we can't be praying. So what do you think it means to "never stop praying"?

Sometimes praying to God is really hard. Sometimes I think that he doesn't hear my prayers or care about me or have the power to change the things that I need help with. It's hard to even talk to him when I feel so alone and unsupported.

- How might reading James 4:8 help me?

An old Christian guy once said "You are as close to God right now as you habitually choose to be."

The Logic of Salvation – John 3:16

Jesus said, "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life."

1. "God loved the world"

How does God feel about people?

2. "anyone who believes in him will not die"

Is Jesus saying that if we believe in him you could jump off a 20 story building and not die? What kind of dying is he talking about?

He is saying that we will live forever with God even after our body dies.

3. "he gave his one and only Son"

- 1 Peter 3:18 "Christ died for sins once and for all time. The One who did what is right died for those who don't do right. He died to bring you to God"

(He took the punishment for our sins so that we can live with him after we die)

Fellowship as a Means of Growth

Fellowship is one way that God makes Christians grow.

Another term for Fellowship is Body Life. We call it that because of 1 Corinthians 12 which teaches that the church works like a human body, and Jesus is the head. Read 1 Corinthians 12 below.

“¹² There is one body. But it has many parts. Even though it has many parts, they make up one body. It is the same with Christ. ¹³ We were all baptized [or placed] by one Holy Spirit into one body. It didn't matter whether we were Jews or Greeks, slaves or free people. We were all given the same Spirit to drink.”

(This teaches that God's Spirit puts all Christians into this body)

“¹⁴ The body is not made up of just one part. It has many parts. ¹⁵ Suppose the foot says, "I am not a hand. So I don't belong to the body." It is still part of the body. ¹⁶ And suppose the ear says, "I am not an eye. So I don't belong to the body." It is still part of the body.

¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, how could it hear? If the whole body were an ear, how could it smell? ¹⁸ God has placed each part in the body just as he wanted it to be. ¹⁹ If all the parts were the same, how could there be a body? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts. But there is only one body.

²¹ The eye can't say to the hand, "I don't need you!" The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you!" ²² In fact, it is just the opposite. The parts of the body that seem to be weaker are the ones we can't do without. ²³ The parts that we think are less important we treat with special honor. The private parts aren't shown. But they are treated with special care. ²⁴ The parts that can be shown don't need special care.”

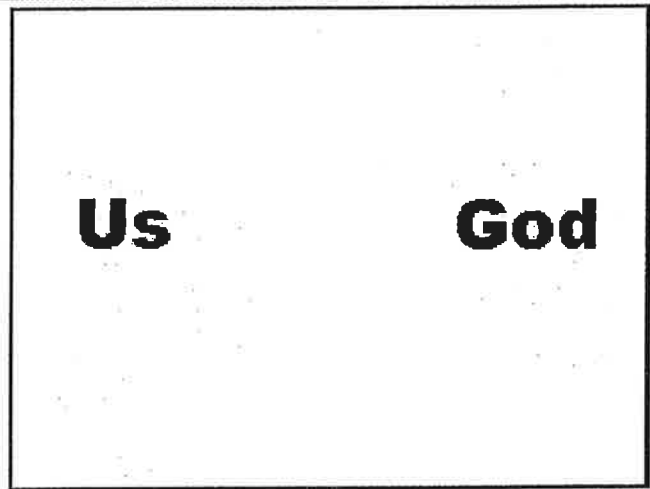
“But God has joined together all the parts of the body. And he has given more honor to the parts that didn't have any. ²⁵ In that way, the parts of the body will not take sides. All of them will take care of each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it. If one part is honored, every part shares in its joy. ²⁷ You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it.”

The Bridge Illustration of the Gospel

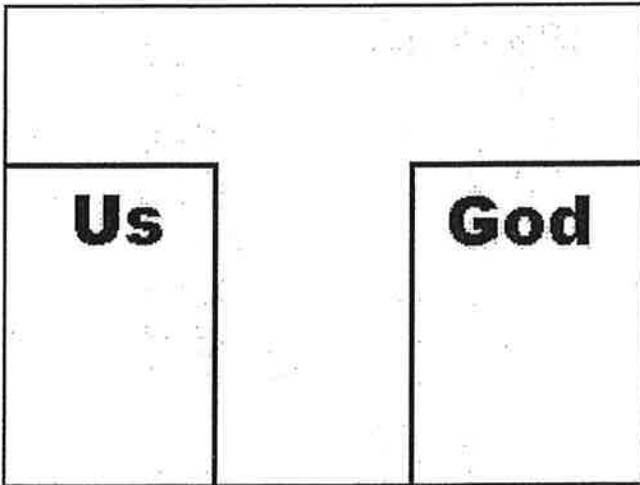
Read through this with your student a few times. Then go through it one more time, asking them to put each section into their own words. Write it in the area to the left of the diagram.

Have them practice giving this illustration to you a few weeks in a row. Have them practice on others (easiest people first).

God made us and loves us (John 3:16)



But the bad things we do separate us from God forever (Rom 3:23)



Evangelism

God's Love for Lost People and How He Uses Christians to Find Them

Icebreaker question: What's the most important thing that you ever have lost?

1. God loves all people and wants a relationship with them. Jesus told two stories illustrating this love.

Read Luke 15:4-7 and Luke 15:8-10

- What do these stories have in common?

- What do these stories teach about how God feels about lost people?

2. Students between the ages of 14-19 are more open to God than any other age group. Most people that become Christians do it during these ages. Way more than any other age. You have an amazing opportunity to bring your friends to God and have them get to heaven. But the time is short.

3. God uses Christians to draw lost people to himself. Jesus used word pictures to describe their role. (Their most important role is to share the message of God's forgiveness. We will cover that in another lesson).

Evangelism

God's Love for Lost People and How He Uses Christians to Find Them

Many students fear that evangelism involves pressuring others to become Christians. The goal of this material is to provide Godly motivation for evangelism. We will explore God's loving concern for lost people. We will also look at what the scriptures teach about how God uses Christians to draw lost people to himself. The subject of sharing the gospel message will be treated in a different lesson.

Icebreaker question: What's the most important thing that you ever have lost?

1. God loves all people and wants a relationship with them. Jesus told two stories illustrating this love.

Read Luke 15:4-7 and Luke 15:8-10

- What do these stories have in common? *(give them time to figure this out)*
- What do these stories teach about how God feels about lost people?

Two of the answers you would like them to discover are:

1. The coin and sheep are important/valuable

(just as people are of great value to God)

In Becoming a Contagious Christian Bill Hybels wrote "there is not one person that your eyes met today that is not of immense value to God".

2. Owner searched long and hard for the lost item (just as God does this with us)

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How Satan Messes with Christians - Division

1 Peter 5:8 "Be on your guard. Your enemy the devil is like a roaring lion. He prowls around looking for someone to chew up and swallow."

- According to this verse written to Christians, who is the enemy of the devil?
- It says that the devil is prowling around looking for someone to chew up and swallow. What do you think this means?
- Why do you think the devil would try to chew up a Christian? Doesn't he have better things to do?

One way that the devil tries to mess with Christians is by causing division in their groups. He wants people hating each other, talking trash about each other, making themselves look better than others. He does this by tempting them to be jealous or disrespectful of each other, or angry, or to just not like each other. When this type of hate spreads through a group, the group is divided and the devil has won.

Read the passage below. You will see that the attitudes that cause division come from the devil:

James 3:14 But suppose your hearts are jealous and bitter. Suppose you are concerned only about getting ahead. Don't brag about it. . . .¹⁵ Wisdom like that doesn't come down from heaven. It belongs to the earth. It doesn't come from the Holy Spirit. It comes from the devil.¹⁶ Are you jealous? Are you concerned only about getting ahead? Then your life will be a mess. You will be doing all kinds of evil things.

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven . . . loves peace. It thinks about others. It obeys. It is full of mercy and good fruit. It is fair. It doesn't pretend to be what it is not.

How Satan Messes with Christians – Division (leader copy)

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50 Books to Consider Reading with High School Students

*Books to read with a more mature student possibly with a personal ministry developing

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>		<u>Subject</u>
Know Why You Believe	Paul	Little	Apologetics
Christianity the Faith that Makes Sense	Dennis	McCallum	Apologetics
So What's the Difference?	Fritz	Riddenour	Apologetics
* Pierced By the Word	John	Piper	Bible
* Understanding the Bible	John	Stott	Bible
When People are Big and God is Small	Edward	Welch	Co-Dependency
* The Peacemaker	Ken	Sande	Conflict
* Mere Christianity	C.S.	Lewis	Doctrine
Know What You Believe	Paul	Little	Doctrine
Basic Christianity	John	Stott	Doctrine
Share Jesus Without Fear	William	Fay	Evangelism
Becoming a Contagious Christian	Bill	Hybels	Evangelism
Out of the Salt Shaker and Into the World	Rebecca	Pippert	Evangelism
Screwtape Letters	C.S.	Lewis	Fiction
The Great Divorce	C.S.	Lewis	Fiction
The Treasure Principle	Randy	Alcorn	Generosity
Why Grace Changes Everything	Chuck	Smith	Grace
How Good is Good Enough	Andy	Stanley	Grace
A Gospel Primer	Milton	Vincent	Grace
* Bookends of the Christian Life	Jerry	Bridges	Grace/Identity
* Walking in Victory	Dennis	McCallum	Grace/Identity
* Sit Walk Stand	Watchman	Nee	Grace/Identity
More Than a Carpenter	Josh	McDowell	Jesus
Case For Christ	Lee	Strobel	Jesus
* Jesus Driven Ministry	Ajith	Fernando	Ministry
* Master Plan of Evangelism	Robert	Coleman	Ministry/Discipleship
* Organic Disciplemaking	Dennis	McCallum	Ministry/Discipleship
Appointment With the King	Joel	Comisky	Prayer
Too Busy NOT to Pray	Bill	Hybels	Prayer
A Praying Life	Paul	Miller	Prayer
Prayer: Our Glorious Privelege	Chuck	Smith	Prayer
Loving God's Way	Gary	Delashmutt	Spiritual Growth
Brokenness	Nancy Leigh	Demoss	Spiritual Growth
✓ Surrender	Nancy Leigh	Demoss	Spiritual Growth
* Call to Joy and Pain	Ajith	Fernando	Spiritual Growth
Measure of a Man	Gene	Getz	Spiritual Growth
The Calvary Road	Roy	Hession	Spiritual Growth
Who You Are When No One's Looking	Bill	Hybels	Spiritual Growth
* Prodigal God	Timothy	Keller	Spiritual Growth
Satan and His Kingdom	Dennis	McCallum	Spiritual Growth
* / Doubting	Alister	McGrath	Spiritual Growth
* Love Not the World	Watchman	Nee	Spiritual Growth
* The Normal Christian Worker	Watchman	Nee	Spiritual Growth
When Good Men Are Tempted	Bill	Perkins	Spiritual Growth
* \ Enjoying Intimacy With God	Oswald	Sanders	Spiritual Growth
* Spiritual Maturity	Oswald	Sanders	Spiritual Growth
Knowing God's Will	Blaine	Smith	Spiritual Growth
The Green Letters	Miles	Stanford	Spiritual Growth
Purpose Driven Life	Rick	Warren	Spiritual Growth
The Fight	John	White	Spiritual Growth

Why do people do drugs?

The answer is most always, "Because it feels good!" But the thing they have to think about is, why do you need drugs to feel good?

There are two types of good feelings. One is a deeper, more long-term sense of joy. The other is the more immediate feeling of ecstasy. One is meant to be a staple, like meat and potatoes. The other is meant to be a treat. The problem with many drug users is that they live on the treat. The cost of this is obvious.

Again, we are substituting one thrill for the real thing. What people really want is fulfillment – the fulfillment that comes from love relationships, a good relationship with the Lord, and a sense of purpose in life. Without these things, we go looking to fill a void.

Drugs make us vulnerable (Eph 5:18; Gal 5:20)

One of the greatest dangers of all is that drugs make us vulnerable. Because they rob us of control (Eph 5:18), we are open to the control of the other, including demons. This is why Paul uses the term "*pharmakia*" in describing the deeds of the flesh in Gal 5:20. Witchcraft and occult involvement was often associated with drug use, and still is.

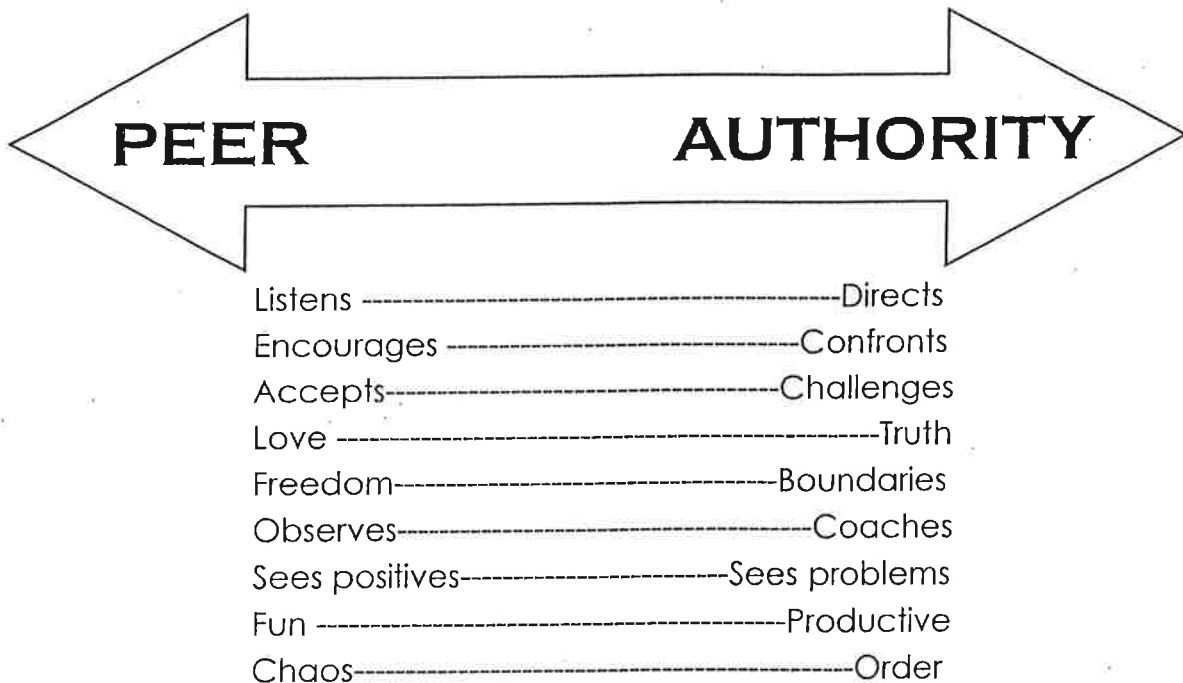
Drugs rob us of our personality & retard social development

One of the major side effects of any drug is that it makes you someone that you aren't. Alcohol can make you more depressed or more boisterous. Pot takes away your relational skills. When they are used over a long period of time, they can have long term effects on our personality. Effects that take months or even years to overcome.

Drug usage can be especially serious for HS students because during the teen years they are in the process of developing social skills. Drug abuse will retard their growth in becoming confident, outward, and others-centered in social situations.

RELATING WITH STUDENTS

There is a tension that all youth workers experience. You are called upon to be a **friend** to students, but you are also called upon to be an **authority** in their lives. Look at the diagram below. Which side of the continuum do you tend to fall on? Our goal is to strike a balance where we can play both roles. Most of us will need to lean against a tendency either to be too heavy or too soft.



KEY QUESTIONS:

Do the students really want me to be around? If not really, then I'm too far on the authority side.

Does the irresponsibility of students and chaos of student work have me in a constant state of frustration? If so, I'm too uptight and too far on the authority side.

Do I know what sins/struggles my students are dealing with?

Am I willing to make students uncomfortable if they aren't into spiritual things?

Am I willing to raise the tension level in my group until students give in to the Lord's way?

THE JUDGE

For expanding a person's view of God and what He did for us. He is not only a loving father, but also a just judge; not only a good teacher, but also the one who died in our place. Since the illustration is verbal, it can be used in person or over the phone. It is a story that hits with emotion as well as truth.

This is a story of a young person convicted of a crime. The judge, being a good judge, could not just let the law-breaker off. The penalty the law demanded was imposed—a fine of \$10,000.

The fine was totally beyond the young person's ability to pay. But then the judge did an unusual thing. Taking off his judicial robe, the judge came around in front of the bench and paid the fine.

The judge did this because the criminal was the judge's child. The penalty had to be paid, but the judge paid it.

You would have to agree that it would not make very much sense for the child to refuse to allow the father to pay the penalty and to insist on going to jail.

The point is that God is a good judge as well as a loving father. As a judge, He sees our sin and says, "you have sinned against me, the penalty is death, but I love you and will pay the penalty myself." Then, as a father, He took off His heavenly robe, stepped over to our side of the bench, and paid for our sins by His death on the cross.

Adapted from *More Than a Carpenter*, pages 114–15, by Josh McDowell, © 1997. Used by permission of Tyndale Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved.

NIAGARA FALLS

For those that need a clearer picture of what real faith is. It also shows our helplessness without Christ.

This is about a man who was rolling a wheelbarrow back and forth across the Niagara River on a tightrope. Thousands of people on both banks cheered him on. Next he put a two-hundred pound sack of dirt in the wheelbarrow and rolled it across and back.

"Who believes I can roll a man across?" he asked. Everybody cheered and shouted their agreement. The tightrope walker then asked, "Who will come and sit in the wheelbarrow?"

The crowd grew entirely silent; nobody was willing to risk it. Although they professed belief, nobody was willing to act on it. And so it is with Christ . . .

Adapted from *Peace With God*, by Dr. Billy Graham, © 1953, 1984 by Dr. Billy Graham. Word Inc. All rights reserved. For an updated and expanded version, refer to Seeds Tape M8624 *The Message of the Christian Faith*, part 2 of *Christianity 101* by Bill Hybels.

from

Becoming a Contagious Christian, Participant's Guide; Mark Mathison, Lee Stokel, + Bill Hybels; Zondervan Publishing House; Grand Rapids, MI; 1995

SWIMMING ACROSS THE OCEAN

<p>For anyone who struggles with self-righteousness, thinking their goodness will somehow get them back to God. This illustration is simple and clear.</p>	<p>Suppose we decided to swim from across the ocean entirely unassisted. You might make it farther than me, and an Olympic Gold Medal swimmer would make it farther than either of us. The fact is that nobody can do it. That's the way it is with trying to live up to God's standard. We all fall short (Romans 3:23). We all need help from God to make it, and it is Christ who made it possible.</p>
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Teaching Notes for HS Encouragement

Definiton: Communicating God's truth (with love) in a way that strengthens people to follow God's will despite difficulty

Encouragment- Parakaleo- To call alongside. Sometimes used in extra-biblical Greek to describe military situations in which soldiers were strengthened to fight on in battle.

Four Types of Encouragement

1. Potential in Christ

- a. Jesus with Peter – renamed to show potential. Like Naked Andy's potential. (Simeon-rash impulsive, Cephas (Ar), Petros (Greek) Rock
- b. Paul with Corinthians (1 Cor 12)-set apart form Gods glory, part of much bigger community, enriched in speech knowledge, blameless before God, have fellowship with Christ. Even when life is a mess can encourage this way.
- c. Guy who encouraged Larry Crabb, pp 23-24,

2. Accomplishments

- a. We need to know that what we do matters. Ever feel unappreciated by family?
- b. Young Christians as they try to walk are acutely aware of deficiencis
- c. Paul with Thes, Philemon.
- d. What we notice here-good sharing, outreach, friendly

3. God is faithful

- a. Honest look shows painful things. People withdraw, blame God.
- b. Paul to Thess with dead friends-you will see them again
- c. Compassion and truth-not blowing sunshine (Prov 25-like one who takes away garment on a cold day is the one who sings songs to a heavy heart)
- d. Christianity excels here. Real answers. Uncle Harry

4. Go on following Christ despite pain

- a. Like marathon runners hitting the wall, challenged to go on
- b. Stiffer opposition than expected
- c. Gal 6:9, 10 Don't lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we don't grow weary
- d. 1 Peter:5,9,10 Resist the devil knowing that you are not alone in your suffering and temptation-lots of believers are going through it. After you have suffered a little while, God with strengthen you and you will have grown.

Becoming and encourager-Listen, Initiate ("only one to prep is teacher" vs. life of Christ released into group)

Lies-"Big head", "she didn't do it perfectly, wait", "wait till feels natural" "She already know this"