Continue

Bible Study Topics For Youth Engaging youth in Bible study can be a challenge. Many young people struggle to connect the ancient texts with their modern lives. This article explores engaging Bible study topics for youth that can ignite curiosity and foster deeper understanding. Each topic addresses relevant issues, helping young people discover their purpose, overcome challenges, and develop a strong faith. By focusing on practical applications of Scripture, we can guide them toward meaningful discussions and encourage personal growth. These engaging topics will empower youth to see the relevance of God's Word in their everyday lives. Young people often grapple with questions about their identity and direction. Exploring purpose through Scripture can provide clarity. Verses like Jeremiah 29:11 remind them that God has a plan for their lives. By studying characters in the Bible who discovered their purpose, youth can reflect on their own gifts and callings. Group discussions can help them articulate personal goals aligned with their faith. Life is full of obstacles, and youth may feel overwhelmed at times. Focusing on stories of perseverance, like David facing Goliath or Job's trials, can inspire resilience. Youth can share their own struggles and how faith has helped them navigate tough times. This topic encourages open conversations about mental health and reliance on God during difficult moments. Prayer is essential for building a relationship with God. Teaching youth about its power can transform their spiritual lives. They can learn different ways to pray, such as through gratitude, confession, and intercession. Encouraging them to keep a prayer journal can foster a deeper understanding of God's responsiveness. Group prayer sessions can also create a supportive community. Jesus exemplified love in action. This topic challenges youth to reflect on how they can show love in their daily interactions. Studying passages like 1 Corinthians 13 helps them grasp the importance of love in relationships. They can brainstorm practical ways to express love to friends, family, and even strangers. Engaging in service projects can further deepen their understanding of love as a verb. Uncertainty is a common experience for young people today. Teaching them to trust God amidst change can provide peace. Passages like Proverbs 3:5-6 emphasize reliance on God's guidance. Youth can discuss their fears and how faith can anchor them. Sharing testimonies of God's faithfulness can inspire hope and build trust in His plans for their lives. Understanding the concept of spiritual warfare can be eye-opening for youth. Ephesians 6:10-18 describes the Armor of God, equipping believers to stand firm against challenges. Each piece—like the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit—has a purpose that protects against temptation and doubt. Engaging youth in discussions about what each piece represents can help them apply these truths in daily life. Activities such as role-playing or creating visual reminders can reinforce the importance of being spiritually prepared. Faith is a journey, not a destination. Young people need to understand that growth takes time and effort. Studying passages like 2 Peter 3:18 encourages them to develop their faith continually. This topic can explore practical steps for growth, such as reading the Bible, prayer, and community involvement. Encouraging youth to share their faith experiences fosters accountability and motivation. Group discussions about struggles and victories can create an environment where everyone feels supported. The question of God's plan often weighs heavily on young hearts. This topic encourages them to seek God's guidance actively. Scriptures like Romans 8:28 assure them that God works for their good. Youth can explore different ways to discern God's will through prayer, Scripture, and wise counsel. Encouraging them to set aside time for reflection can help them gain insight into their unique paths. Group activities, such as vision boards, can help them visualize their hopes and dreams. Joy is a fundamental aspect of the Christian faith. Teaching youth about the difference between happiness and joy can be transformative. While happiness is often based on circumstances, joy is rooted in a relationship with Christ. Philippians 4:4 encourages believers to rejoice in the Lord always. Discussing practical ways to cultivate joy, such as gratitude and serving others, can enhance their understanding. Activities like sharing personal testimonies can highlight how faith brings joy even in difficult times. Temptation is a universal struggle, especially for youth. This topic provides a safe space to discuss challenges they face. Scripture, such as 1 Corinthians 10:13, reassures them that they are not alone in their struggles. Sharing strategies for resisting temptation—like accountability, prayer, and Scripture memorization—can equip them to stand firm. Role-playing scenarios can help them practice saying no in real-life situations. By building a strong support system, they can face temptations with confidence. Understanding their identity in Christ is crucial for young people. Many struggle with self-esteem and peer pressure, making it hard to see their worth. Scripture, like 2 Corinthians 5:17, reminds them that they are new creations in Christ. This topic can help youth explore what it means to be loved, accepted, and valuable in God's eyes. Discussions can center around how their identity impacts their choices and relationships. Activities like creating personal affirmations can empower them to embrace who they are in Christ confidently. Forgiveness is a vital part of Christian life. Young people often face situations where they need to forgive others or seek forgiveness themselves. Studying passages like Ephesians 4:32 encourages a culture of grace and healing. This topic can facilitate discussions about the challenges of forgiving and the freedom it brings. Engaging in role-playing exercises can help youth practice forgiving and seeking forgiveness in a safe environment. By understanding that forgiveness is a process, they can learn to extend grace to themselves and others. The Fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—offer a blueprint for Christian living. Teaching youth about these qualities can help them understand how to reflect Christ in their actions. Galatians 5:22-23 provides a clear list for discussion. Each week, youth can focus on one fruit and identify ways to cultivate it in their lives. Sharing stories of how they've seen these qualities in others can inspire them to embody these traits in their daily interactions. Friendships are a significant part of youth life, and navigating them wisely is essential. This topic emphasizes the importance of choosing friends who encourage and uplift. Proverbs 27:17 reminds them that iron sharpens iron. Youth can discuss the qualities of healthy friendships and the impact of toxic relationships. Activities such as role-playing scenarios or group discussions about peer pressure can provide practical insights. By learning to set boundaries and practice discernment, they can build strong, supportive friendships. Jesus calls His followers to be lights in the world (Matthew 5:14-16). This topic encourages youth to consider how they can make a positive impact in their communities. Discussions can revolve around what it means to be a light and how to shine through acts of kindness and service. Encouraging youth to identify specific ways they can contribute—whether through volunteering, sharing their faith, or standing up for justice—can motivate them to take action. Group projects or community service events can provide practical opportunities to live out this calling. Engaging Bible study topics for youth are essential for fostering a deeper understanding of faith. By exploring these subjects, young people can find purpose, develop resilience, and cultivate meaningful relationships with God and others. Each topic offers opportunities for personal reflection and group discussions that can strengthen their spiritual journeys. Encouraging youth to actively participate in these discussions will empower them to live out their faith confidently. As they embrace these teachings, they can become vibrant examples of Christ's love in a world that desperately needs it. Let us inspire the next generation to explore their faith and make a difference. Youth Sermons Coming up with ideas for youth sermons can be tough! Sometimes you feel like you've talked about everything with your group and just can't figure out what to do next! You want to have relevant youth sermons for your students, but feel like you're scraping the barrel to come up with what direction to go next! We've been there! That's why we came up with this list of 450 topics for youth sermons to jump-start your thinking and help you figure out what to talk about in your next youth sermon, series, or lesson. With as many ideas as there are on this list, we know that it's still just scratching the surface. There are infinite ideas for youth sermons – we just wanted to give you a list to turn to if you're trying to figure out what to talk about next. If you find a topic on this list you'd like to speak on, we encourage you to just take it from there and dig further into how you'd present the issue. But the one thing we want to stress is that in our belief, after 27 years combined experience in youth ministry, is that all good youth sermons relate directly back to Jesus. Every topic on this list, in one way or another, can be brought back to the cornerstone truth of our Gospel – that Jesus Christ lives, wants a relationship with us, and wants to change our lives now and eternal. Seriously, every youth sermon can relate directly to Jesus. To prove it to you, we're going to take one of the most random topics on this list – which is under the category of Self-Issues – A youth sermon about "catfishing"/pretending to be someone else online. Now, you probably know what a "catfish" is, but just in case you don't, we'll explain it to you. A "catfish" comes from the MTV show "Catfish" is a slang term for a person online using a fake photo or fake name to pretend like they are someone else. A catfish typically has fake social media accounts and tries to lure others into relationships, providing information, or exploiting by some other means. Impersonating someone else online is an identity issue, and the "catfish" are often people who are very insecure in their identities and don't value their worth. A great lesson on this real issue teens face would begin by examining why people pretend to be someone else online and asking the students if they've ever encountered this problem (they almost certainly have) and why they think students do that. You might then share a real-life story found online about the detrimental effects of impersonating others, and help the teens to see that this can lead to real problems Then, using a passage of Scripture that speaks to Jesus imparting identity on us (Matt. 11:28, John 15, etc), interface with the issue of catfishing contrasted with finding a rooted identity in Christ. Wrap up the lesson with some small group questions that focus on exploring false identity and social media use, the reasons behind it, how God wants us to think about our identity, and how we should respond to people who use fake identities online. See what we mean? Every youth sermon can relate directly back to Jesus. So as you read through this list, please think in terms of how you can relate these topics directly to the truth of who God is and what God is doing through the ministry of Christ and the Holy Spirit in our lives. We hope this list helps spur your thoughts and we'd love to hear about any great youth sermons or ideas that you are able to piece together from ideas on this list! And to accompany these sermon topics we have 128 small group questions for youth group. Check out these small group questions for youth group that will get your students really talking. Also, if you are looking for some great no prep youth group games, you can check out our 50 no prep youth group games, perfect for tiny youth groups and a big youth ministries. Get the free Youth Group Planning Cheat Sheet and Stop All of your planning problems! Get The Free Youth Group Planning Cheat Sheet As mentors and leaders of youth, it's important to spend time addressing the real issues they face everyday, and often matter to them the most. Our faith has much to speak into the lives of youth, and our job is to help foster an identity rooted in Christ. Choosing individual topics about self-issues for sermons and lessons is great way to engage youth personally and get them to think about the everyday decisions that they make. Self-Issues Youth Sermons Identity Peer pressure Sexuality Healthy boundaries Self-harm Self-esteem Suicide Depression Anxiety Stress Concern about the future Worry about grades Worry about popularity/social status Anger Bullying Pride Fear Doubt Nutrition (self-care) Ambition/goals Self-worth Compartmentalization Healthy competition Body image Overachieving (stress, busy, etc.) Time management – either could focus on underachieving or overachieving and the negatives of both of these Personal finance Stewardship/managing your money What you consume, consumes you (i.e. what you watch, who you hang out with, what you listen to all shape you) Alcohol use (self-care, depression, etc.) Illegal drug use (self-care, depression, etc.) Legal drug use (self-care, depression, etc.) Human sexuality Pre-marital sex Exercise (self-care) Getting ready for college (senior high youth) Getting ready for High School (middle/junior high youth) Lying – why is it important to be honest. Envy/Jealousy Greed Materialism Coveting other's possessions Coveting other's status Coveting other's relationships Grudges vs forgiveness Forgiving yourself Being hard on yourself or pressuring yourself Seeking internet fame Real life versus online persona (does who you are online match who you are in the real world) Catfishing/impersonating others Internet bullying/trolling How to choose a fulfilling career How to discern God's calling in your life What to look for in a marriage partner Lessons on managing self and finances What are you going to do after high school? What is your ambition for high school (for middle school students)? Get The Free Youth Group Planning Cheat Sheet Perhaps at no other point in life are relationships and friendships thought about so much as during the teenage years. In many ways, teenage life is defined by their relationships with other people. Naturally, its important for youth ministers and leaders to shape their thinking on relationships through a Christian world view. Relationship sermons and lessons are another good way to address regular student issues, while simultaneously improving the health and culture of your youth group. Relationship Youth Sermons Fighting at home with family What respecting parents looks like Healthy family relationships Healthy friendships Healthy romantic relationships What is a bad friend? What is a good friend? Internet relationships Being physical in a relationship Conflict resolution What to do if you have a friend that is in trouble? What to do if you have a family member that is in trouble? What if do if you or a friend is in an abusive relationship? How many friends should you have? (The quality of your relationships) Tackling being a different person around changing audiences, i.e. parents, friends, church, etc. How to handle a breakup How to breakup with someone What to do when your good friends break up? (loyalty vs. grace) Handling drama in relationships and friendships Reasons to break up with someone Get The Free Youth Group Planning Cheat Sheet Topics related to social justice and mission are broad and cover a wide-range of political and cultural issues. Sermons and lessons on these issues are a great way to help students think about current issues and expand their thinking beyond their own personal experience. Social Justice/Mission Youth Sermons Lessons on racism and race relations Helping students think about sexual harassment/abuse Local/National poverty Global poverty Immigration Alcohol and substance abuse/recovery Environmental issues/stewardship of planet Human trafficking Global war/genocide Global child labor/working conditions/fair trade Oppressed populations locally and globally Helping students think about LGBTQ issues Debt and financial divides Class division Lessons from historical problems/social progress Homelessness Get The Free Youth Group Planning Cheat Sheet All youth groups have issues that need managed and addressed from time to time. Sermons and lessons about the health of your youth group are a great way to foster a welcoming and loving environment for your teens and address issues before they become a problem. It can also be a good way to deal with any crisis situations that have occurred unexpectedly within your group. Your Youth Group Culture Youth Sermons Creating a welcoming youth group Inviting friends to youth group Cliques in youth group Sharing privacy in youth group (creating a safe place) Dealing with gossip Help the group think about break-ups among students in the group Being friends at school and not just youth group Building student leaders within the group How to have respect for one another Importance of making time for youth group activities What it looks like to love one another within the group What forgiveness might mean within the group Preparing for an upcoming mission/retreat Worship attendance/being part of the church in addition to youth group Integrating up and coming students Relationships with students who have left the youth group/graduated Get The Free Youth Group Planning Cheat Sheet As part of our duty to shape youth into critically-thinking adults, we need to address theological issues with teens. If we are not able to help them develop a mature understanding of faith, then who will? If you are not as comfortable with theological topics as other issues, be sure to find reputable resources to help you prepare your lessons. Make sure that what you teach is accurate! Additionally, it's very important to use your church's beliefs and doctrines as the basis for your teaching, and make sure to check-in with your pastor or other church leaders if you're not entirely certain what your denomination or church believes on a particular issue. Christian Theology Youth Sermons Explaining the Trinity Who Is God The Father? Who Is The Holy Spirit? Who is Jesus? What is sin? What is Heaven? What purpose does the Bible serve in our theology? How did God create the world? When did God create the world? Why did God give Adam and Eve an option to disobey? Why doesn't God just wipe out Satan? How is God three in one? Is God judgmental? Is God good? Is God the only Creator? Is God a man? Is God a human being? Is God all-powerful? Is God all-knowing? Where does God live? Is God everywhere? Natural revelation (seeing God in nature) Specific revelation (leaning about God through Scripture and life of Christ) Holy Spirit's ministry to us What is holiness? What is Heaven like? What happens when you die? Understanding freewill and choices Do you go directly to heaven when you die? What are angels and what do they do? Do demons exist? What does evil want to do to us? Is Satan everywhere? How is Jesus both fully human and fully God? How did Jesus' death fix the problem of sin? Get The Free Youth Group Planning Cheat Sheet The Bible is the foundation of most of our understanding of faith, and helping youth grow in their understanding of the Bible is a way to equip them for a lifetime in faith. Many teens are confused by the Bible, or only have a rudimentary understanding of it. You should seriously consider the right environment for Bible teaching and how you incorporate it into your youth ministry for the maximum impact. Bible – Overview Topics – Youth Sermons What is the Bible and what is it's significance? How was the Bible written? Was the Bible written just for me? How have people used the Bible throughout history? How has the use of the Bible spread throughout the world? What is a Bible translation, what is a good one for me, and what are the differences between them? How much should I read the Bible? What to do if you don't understand something in the Bible? Who are trusted people to go to with questions about the Bible? What to think if your friends or family don't trust or believe in the Bible. Is the Bible actually God's Word? Is everything in the Bible important to me? Why did God decide to give us the Bible, instead of some other form of communication? Can you pick and choose Bible verses? Importance of reading the Bible in context of surrounding passages Can God do things in ways that aren't outlined in the Bible? What is a prophecy in the Bible and how should you think about it? Are prophecies in the Bible for the future or have they already been fulfilled? The Jewishness of Jesus Get The Free Youth Group Planning Cheat Sheet The Old Testament is almost certainly less understood among Christians in general than the New Testament, and helping youth to develop their concept of the Old Testament will provide a foundation for answering major questions as they get older and encounter many different perspectives on the Bible and faith. The Old Testament is very broad in its topics, and it may be best to simply choose topics you feel led to teach on and develop a plan around incorporating them into your youth ministry. Old Testament – General Topics – Youth Sermons What is the Old Testament? How should we think about the Old Testament as Christians today? Summary/Quick Survey of the Old Testament events. What is a covenant? What is a prophecy? Story of God's Covenants with Noah, Abraham, Moses and David Who is the nation of Israel and where did they come from? The Jewish relationship with the Torah and Old Testament The importance of understanding Israelite and Jewish beliefs for reading the New Testament. Why are there so many rules in the Old Testament? Does God expect us to follow all the rules in the Old Testament? Where was Jesus in the Old Testament? What are Psalms and how can you use them? What are Proverbs and how can you use them? How to think about sacrifices in the Old Testament? Number 16 What was the purpose of feasts for the people of the Old Testament? Get The Free Youth Group Planning Cheat Sheet There are many great stories from the Old Testament that teach us about who God is and what God's vision and values for us are like. There are potentially thousands of stories you could derive from the Old Testament, and this list is intended to help jump start your thinking about teaching from the Old Testament and represents many of the most well-known stories from its pages. Old Testament – Specific Bible Story Ideas – Youth Sermons God created the universe and world. God created human beings in His image. God's relationship with Adam and Eve before the Fall and after the Fall. The Fall/First Sin Why did God allow humans to be tempted by sin? Story of Noah God's Covenant with Noah Story of Abraham God's Covenant with Abraham Story of Issac Story of Jacob Story of Joseph Story of Moses's birth Story of God's calling of Moses with the burning bush Story of Moses and Aaron confronting Pharaoh Story of the Exodus/Crossing Red Sea Giving of the Ten Commandments Understanding the Old Testament Law/Covenant Israelites and the Golden Idol Studies in the Ten Commandments Lessons on manna and God's direction in the desert Story of Jericho/Rahab Story of Moses' failure to enter the Promised Land Story of Joshua leading into the Promised Land Stories from Judges (Samson, Deborah, etc) The near collapse/civil war of the tribes of Israel (end of Judges) Story of Ruth Story of Samuel's birth Calling of Saul/Saul's anointing Failures of Saul Calling of David/Samuel's anointing David and Goliath Friendship of Jonathan and David Story of Saul, Jonathan and David Story of David sparing Saul's life Story of David becoming king God's Covenant with David Story of David's worship and celebration David as author of many Psalms Stories from David's Mighty Men Story of David, Bathsheba and Uriah Nathan's prophecy to David Solomon becomes king Solomon builds the temple Solomon's temptations and failures Struggles of kings after Solomon Elijah's opposition to idolatry Elijah finds God on the mountain top Elijah mentors Elisha Elijah taken to Heaven The split of Israel into two nations The exile of Israel The fall of Judea Story of Esther Story of Nehemiah rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem Ezra reads the Law Studies in Psalms Prophecies in Psalms Studies in Proverbs Story of Job Job's friends sit with him for a week Lessons from Ecclesiastes Prophecies of Isaiah about Jesus Messianic prophecies throughout the Old Testament Story of Jonah Jonah flees from his calling Jonah's prayer in the fish Jonah upset that God spaced Nineveh Story of Daniel Overview of the Exile The return from Exile What the Old Testament prophets expected the Messiah to be like Get The Free Youth Group Planning Cheat Sheet Helping youth understand the basic background, theology, and concepts in the Gospels will create a basis for better understanding Jesus' ministry and teaching. Many of these topics synthesize broad and core elements of our faith. These are great topics for introducing more Bible study to a group, or helping students who have a fragmented understanding of Jesus' ministry and what it means. The Gospels – General Topics – Youth Sermons What is the Kingdom of Heaven? Parables about the Kingdom of Heaven Parables about God's love Parables about God's judgment and justice Did Jesus' family believe He was God? What Jesus did in His 3 Year Ministry Why did Jesus heal people? Why did Jesus feed/serve others? What does Incarnation mean? Why did Jesus have to become a human being? How was Jesus both fully human and fully God? Why did Jesus primarily train 12 people? Examination of individual disciples' background The character and development of Peter The role of women in Jesus' ministry Jesus' love and respect for his mother Did Jesus know he was God? What were the people's expectation of the Messiah? The relationship/competition between Jesus and the Pharisees A look at Jesus' family Jesus as a person born into an oppressed and conquered society What is the race of Jesus? What did Jesus look like? Where was Jesus before His birth? Get The Free Youth Group Planning Cheat Sheet One of the most important things we can do is teach students about who Jesus is and what He's done. There are hundreds of stories from the Gospels that can do this, and virtually every verse in the Gospels could be crafted into a meaningful sermon. This is simply an overview of best-known stories from the Gospels that you might turn to when teaching specifically about Jesus' ministry. Gospel Story Youth Sermons Why did God choose Mary and Joseph to be Jesus' earthly parents? What was the role of John the Baptist? Story of Jesus' birth Story of Jesus and family fleeing to Egypt Story of Jesus in the Temple as a boy Story of Jesus' temptation in the desert Story of Jesus turning water into wine Story of Jesus clearing the temple Story of Jesus calling Nathaniel Story of Jesus and Nicodemus Jesus begins His ministry preaching "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven has drawn near" Story of Jesus calling Peter Stories of Jesus calling the disciples Story of Jesus and the woman at the well Story of the healing of the Centurion's servant Jesus and dealing with critics Jesus using salt and light as metaphors for us Peter confesses Jesus to be the Messiah Stories of Jesus' exorcisms and healings Story of Jesus feeding the masses Lessons from the Beatitudes Lessons from the Sermon on the Mount Why did Jesus teach in parables? Lessons from a favorite parable The masses begin to turn from Jesus as his teachings become harder Story of Jesus calming the storm Story of Jesus walking on water Story of Jesus raising Jarius' daughter Story of the friends lowering the paralyzed man through the roof Story of Mary and Martha Story of Jesus raising Lazarus Jesus' final night of prayer as depicted in John Lessons from John 15 (Vine and Branches) Lessons about communion and the Last Supper Lessons from the plot against Jesus Lessons from the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Lessons from Jesus' prayer in the Garden Lessons from Jesus' arrest Lessons from Jesus' trial Story of Jesus' beating and crucifixion Lessons from the death of Jesus Lessons from the Resurrection Lessons from the appearances of Jesus post-Resurrection Lessons from the Great Commission Get The Free Youth Group Planning Cheat Sheet The development of the Church, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and the spread of the Gospel, are the Bible's connection between the life of Jesus and the Kingdom as it exists today. Helping students understand how to read and Acts and the Epistles is a great way to equip them for understanding theology, what the church is, and what day-to-day Christian life should look like. New Testament Acts and Epistles Youth Sermons What is an epistle and how were they written? Who were the writers of the New Testament? How was the world of the New Testament like ours and how was it different? Is the New Testament more important then the Old Testament? What happened between the Old Testament and the New Testament? The establishment of the first church The stoning of Stephen The persecution and conversion of Saul/Paul What did the disciples do after Jesus' ascension Who is Paul and what did he do? Paul is reconciled with the first disciples and James Lessons from Paul's missionary mission Paul preaching in Athens Paul is persecuted and imprisoned by officials What is justification and sanctification? What are tongues and prophecy Lessons on spiritual gifts Thinking about yourself as part of the Body of Christ Forgiveness from sin Faith without good works is dead (James) Lessons on salvation by faith Lessons on bodily Resurrection and Rapture Lessons on original sin Jesus as our High Priest (Hebrews) Healthy marital relationships The value of humility Lessons on avoiding favoritism (James) Definition of true love (1 Cor. 13) Lessons on the Fruit of the Spirit The Armor of God (Ephesians) Lessons from the Heroes of Faith (Hebrews 11) What is the book of Revelation and how should we understand it? Depiction of heavenly worship (Rev. 4) God restores His people (Rev. 21) Get The Free Youth Group Planning Cheat Sheet Students are often confused as to what purpose, if any, the Bible should play in their day to day life. Sermons and lessons focused specifically on this topic can encourage students to have a stronger relationship with the Bible and demystify its role in the Christian life. How To Use The Bible In Your Life Youth Sermons Lessons in how to read and understand the Bible Importance of learning the Bible Understanding the Bible as a complete overall story Why you should memorize Scripture How you pick Scripture to memorize What kind of Bible translation/version should you use What to think when talking with someone who interprets the Bible differently Building a personal reading plan that fits your life Picking a "life verse" – a verse that really connects with you My favorite Scripture(s) and why. (This could be taught by youth leader and/or youth themselves as a sharing night) Ways to share the Bible with others Get The Free Youth Group Planning Cheat Sheet There may be seasons and times when you'll want to challenge students even more directly than usual to make commitments to Jesus. The following is a list of various approaches you might take for lessons that you hope will lead to youth accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Salvation/Evangelistic/Making Commitment To Jesus Youth Sermons What does it look like to be saved? How does a person become saved? What do you actually need saved from? What to think if you think you've already made a commitment to Jesus but you aren't sure What to think if you're the only person in your family who is a Christian. What to think if most of your friends are not Christian. How did Jesus' death atone for sin? First steps to take after accepting Jesus as Lord of your life What does the Holy Spirit do after you accept Jesus? Should you be instantly changed when you become a Christian? Should you feel different inside when you're saved? Does God treat you differently when you become a Christian? Get The Free Youth Group Planning Cheat Sheet Few teenagers have an organized life of discipleship, and that's why it is important to help them understand the rhythms and routines of Christian faith. Teaching youth to find their own expression and practice of faith will enable them to take ownership of their beliefs and create stability in their relationship with God. Christianity/Relationship With God Youth Sermons What does prayer time look like? Why it's important to pray What are spiritual disciplines Discovering your worship style What service or mission is God calling you to? Why it's important to read the Bible Why it's important to share your relationship with God with others Why it's important to go worship Moving your relationship with God from only at church to everywhere you go Does God care if I pray? What should my prayer life look like? How to read the Bible What are the first books or passages in the Bible I should read How do you become a Christian? How do you know you are a Christian? Memorizing Scripture verse living Scripture Should you be instantly changed when you become a Christian? Why does God care about sin? Are there big sins and little sins? Does God hear prayers before you are saved? What does God do/think if you mess up and sin? What does forgiveness from God look like? Who should I pray to – God The Father? Jesus? Holy Spirit? All? Get The Free Youth Group Planning Cheat Sheet Your teenagers have probably already encountered challenging questions about the faith. Creating a safe environment in your youth ministry is a way to handle those questions in an appropriate place and build up faith. Tough questions are a way to build faith, and sermons and lessons focused on apologetic questions show that you're open to discussion and critical thought. Apologetic Questions Youth Sermons Is the Bible accurate? Is it okay to doubt God? Why do bad things happen to good people? Is my friend or family member going to Hell because they don't believe in Jesus? Do you have to believe in God (The Trinity) to get to Heaven? Do we have a choice to follow God or does He pick us? (refer to your church's doctrinal beliefs, such as if they adhere to Calvinism or Arminianism Why is God so "mean" in the Old Testament? Is human evolution true? By what method did God create the universe? Did God set everything into motion and forget about it? How do we know there is only one God and not others. Is God just "the Universe"? Did Jesus really die on the cross? Did Jesus actually exist? Are there other books in the Bible that aren't included or were banned? Have Christians done terrible things throughout history? Are all religions basically the same? Do Christians and Muslims believe in the same God? Do you really need Christian community to be a believer? (Can't you just practice faith privately?) Get The Free Youth Group Planning Cheat Sheet What are the different denominations? What is unique about your denomination (if you are in a denomination or if not, what that's unique) Contemporary worship vs. Traditional worship Stewardship/Giving What is our church's view on who can be a leader or pastor? The church's obligations to the community Is it important to attend church? Is youth group "my church"? Lessons on baptism Lessons on communion Lessons on church membership (or why your church doesn't have membership) Qualifications for being a church leader (use your church's theology/doctrine/rules in shaping your lesson) The importance of Missions/Service Get The Free Youth Group Planning Cheat Sheet The following is a list of ideas that might be helpful for specific times of the year that lend themselves closely to sharing Christian teaching and theology. There are many ways you can approach holidays, and we encourage you to examine the meaning of these particular seasons for your group and think about how you can best minister to them through seasonal ministry. New Year's A review of the past year, helping youth process the decisions they made that led them to this very point. (Youth sermon idea is Looking towards the New Year a youth sermon on how to make lasting change Valentine's Day What is the true definition of love shown in 1 Corinthians 13? Being alone on Valentine's day, it's not such a bad thing. A lesson on self-esteem, self-worth, independence. Why not show love every day, not just on February 14th? A lesson talking about how Jesus always showed true love. One of the Fruit of the Spirit is love, did you know love is a gift from God? Romantic love isn't just passion. Exploring what long-lasting love really looks like. St. Patrick's Day Explain the meaning behind the holiday, what St. Patrick's ministry was and what we can learn from it today. Spring Break Making good choices despite temptation Easter Why did Jesus have to die? What happened at the Cross? What happened at the Tomb? What is Lent and why is it important or not important? Should you give something up for Lent? A look into the spiritual discipline of fasting or the Fruit of the Spirit self-control. How did Jesus death atone for sin? Summer How are you going to use your time off? (a lesson on time management and goals) Beginning of the school year New beginnings, how to make this the best school year. (A lesson on identity, goals, or determination) Halloween Why some Christians don't celebrate Halloween Should we as Christians dress up and pretend to be something else, especially if it is a "dark" character or thing? (identity topic or choices topic) Is it ok to celebrate Halloween? (Explore from your church's perspective) Thanksgiving What is Christian service, servitude? Why it is important we give and serve A night praying for people who are homeless, without loved ones, or down on their luck. Possibly coupled after a mission/service outing. A night of Thanksgiving. Have an event where the youth can share all of the things they are thankful for and hold a big youth group family dinner. Preach on the importance of gratitude. Christmas Why was Jesus born as a baby and what does that mean? Retell the Christmas story and break it down for them explaining the different aspects as recorded in the Gospels. Discuss the Incarnation and God's grace in becoming human. That's it for now! We hope we gave you at least an idea or two We also have a big list of small group questions for youth group that can get your students really talking. These questions go along with a lot of the topics presented in this post. We have another AWESOME, AMAZING free resource, 50 no prep youth group games. This list is perfect for extremely tiny youth groups to large ones. What's great about this list is that we provide instructions for each game. Go check it out and see if you find some games your group has never played before! 50 no prep youth group games. AND… If you want to receive our youth ministry resources subscribe to our youth ministry email list and you will always receive the latest and freshest content right to your email. We would love to have you sign up and it's of course free! Get The Free Youth Group Planning Cheat Sheet Looking for youth Bible study topics for fall? The 10 suggestions below are a great starting point. When leading a Bible study for teens, you'll need to spend time preparing. Preparation allows you to teach more effectively and answer students' questions. This introduction to Bible topics for youth explores what you can teach teens in your church. Teach Teens These 10 Youth Bible Study Topics 1. Dealing With Temptation First up, everyone deals with temptation (1 Corinthians 10:12-13). Even Jesus was not immune to the devil's trials (Matthew 4:3-11). When teaching about temptation, remind young people that we all struggle with temptation. But don't let teens think that just because we all struggle that it's right to obey temptation. Temptation is not sin, but if we yield to the temptation, then we fall into sin. The Bible describes the process of temptation and sin in James 1:13-15. Temptation does not come from God. It comes when our own lusts draw us away. This means each person will be tempted in different ways at different times. What is not a struggle for me can cause someone else to sin. Therefore, we should be sensitive to others and not participate in activities that could cause others to sin. The verses add that when lust is allowed to mature, it brings sin and ultimately death. We don't have to be slaves to the devil's temptations. By focusing our lives and minds around God's Word, we're better equipped to fight the battle against temptation. 2. Study on Prayer Prayer is a lifeline for Christians. It's our way of communicating with God. God gives us His Word so we can see what He wants to communicate with us. Through prayer, we can have a relationship with Him. The word prayer means to ask, request and even beg. And God invites us to do it. How refreshing! Don't feel ashamed to go to God and ask for what you need (Matthew 7:7-8). He wants to supply our needs, but He wants us to trust Him. If we spend our time asking friends, family and the government to supply our needs and never ask God, then we're not properly engaged in prayer. God has plenty and will take care of His children, but not if they never look to Him for that supply (Matthew 6:25-34). A great Bible study on prayer for young people can involve exploring various prayers in the Bible. Jesus spoke about prayer often in the four gospel accounts. So systematically work through His teachings on prayer. 3. How to Read and Study the Bible Next, young people need to learn the value of reading the Bible. Often we hear things like, "You shouldn't read the Bible like any other book." However, I think we often miss some of the Bible's power because we don't read it like a book. God gives us His revelation from the beginning of time to the beginning of eternity. He shows His plan systematically through history. Yet we often teach and read the Bible without regard to when events took place chronologically. So read the Bible from beginning to end. Find out how God reveals His plan little by little. Don't teach and read the Bible without considering the context. Then, of course, we need to study the Bible through individual stories and studies. Many great ways exist to study the Bible. Teaching various study methods helps young people approach the Bible to find answers to questions. When it comes to planning youth Bible study topics, pastors and leaders might feel limited by group members' age and life stage. But if you're teaching preteens or teenagers, there's no need to stick only to subjects such as peer pressure and dating. Sure, those are important lessons that interest most teens. But kids are also eager and willing to grow their faith in many other areas. And they're hungry for the nourishment provided in God's Word and for Jesus, the bread of life. Almost all subjects that lead to great adult Bible studies work well as youth Bible study topics too. Just be sure to make the teaching time age-appropriate. Also consider including themed activities and games to reinforce the lessons. 10 Youth Bible Study Topics 1. Miracles No matter their age, people remain fascinated by the miracles of healing, provision and restoration that Jesus performed on earth. Introduce a lesson or series about Jesus' miracles by playing a fun guessing game such as Emoji Bible Stories. In that game, kids try to guess each miracle based only on emoji clues. 2. Parables Jesus was a master storyteller, and his wide variety of parables are filled with insight and instructions for Christian living. You can spend a whole summer or semester studying the New Testament parables with teenagers. Begin or end each lesson with a fun game, such as this Lost Sheep Puzzle. 3. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount In his Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5-7), Jesus covers loads of topics of interest and relevance to young people. These include obedience, witnessing, relationships, enemies, giving, prayer, wealth, worrying, judging and salvation. Jesus' sermon opens with the Beatitudes, which make great youth Bible study topics on their own! 4. Obedience Character studies of people in the Bible who obey (and disobey) God's Word also work especially well for youth Bible study topics. Choose people from both the Old and New Testaments, including some whom teens may not have heard about previously. These studies are bound to lead to lively discussions about the challenges and blessings of following Jesus. 5. Evangelism You don't need to be an adult or a longtime Christian to share your faith in Jesus with others. In fact, teenagers tend to be some of the boldest witnesses around. Plus, they usually have wide-reaching networks of friends and acquaintances. During a youth Bible study on evangelism, address any fears or hesitations that kids have about sharing their beliefs with others. Whether you're looking for ongoing Sunday School or small group Bible study curriculum, midweek studies, short-term discipleship group studies, or studies for your youth retreat, you will find something that fits the needs for the teenagers in your ministry. If you are looking for some good Bible study topics for young people, then I hope these suggestions can be a help to you. You will need to do more personal study in these subjects to be able to teach them effectively, but this is an introduction to what you can teach the youth in your church or things you should be teaching your own children. Dealing With Temptation Everyone deals with temptation (1 Corinthians 10:12, 13). Even Jesus Himself was not immune to the devil's trials (Matthew 4:3-11). When teaching about temptation to young people you should encourage them in the fact that we all struggle with temptation. But don't allow them to think that just because we all struggle with it that it makes it right to obey the temptation. Temptation is not sin; but, if we yield to the temptation then we fall into sin. The process of temptation and sin is taught in James 1:13-15. It says that temptation does not come from God. Temptation comes when we are drawn away with our own lusts. This means that each person will be tempted in different ways at different times. What is not a struggle for me can be a cause of sin to someone else. Therefore, we should be sensitive to others and not participate in activities that could cause others to sin. The verses go on to say that when the lust has been allowed to mature it brings sin and ultimately death. We don't have to be slaves to the temptations of the devil. By focusing our lives and minds around the Word of God then we will be better equipped to fight the battle with temptation. Here are a couple other articles right here at WhatChristiansWantToKnow that deal with the subject of temptation: Study on Prayer Prayer has been called the lifeline for the Christian. It is our way of communicating with God. God has given us His Word so that we can see what He wants to communicate with us. Prayer is given so that we can have a relationship with Him. The word prayer means to ask, request and even beg. And God invites us to do it. How refreshing. Don't feel ashamed to go to God and ask Him for what you need (Matthew 7:7, 8). He wants to supply our needs but He wants us to trust in Him for it. If we spend our time asking friends, family and the government to supply our needs and never ask God, then we are not engaged in prayer the way we should be. God has plenty and will take care of His children, but not if they never look to Him for that supply (Matthew 6:25-34). A great study on prayer for young people can be to study the various prayers in the Bible. Jesus spoke much about prayer in the four gospel accounts. Systematically work through the various teachings of Christ on prayer as you teach. How to Read and Study Your Bible …this is an introduction to what you can teach the youth in your church or things you should be teaching your own children. Young people need to be taught the value of reading their Bible. Often we hear things like, "the Bible should not be read like any other book." However, I think many times we miss some of the power of the Bible because we don't read it like a book. God has given us His revelation from the beginning of time to the beginning of eternity. He shows His plan systematically through history. Yet we often teach and read the Bible without regard to when events took place chronologically. Read the Bible from beginning to end. Find out how God reveals His plan little by little. Don't be guilty of teaching and reading the Bible without considering the context that surrounds what is being read. Then, of course, there is a need to study the Bible through individual stories and studies. There are many great ways to study the Bible. Teaching various Bible study methods will help young people approach the Bible to find answers to their questions. Being a Disciple of Christ What does it mean to follow Christ? That is the question on which the New Testament is focused on answering. Study the life of Christ and His followers, but don't stop there in learning how to live for the Lord. A great place to start your study is Romans chapter 12, I wrote a summary that you may want to review here: Romans 12: Bible Study and Summary. This chapter, as well as the rest of Romans, tells practical things that a disciple of Christ should be doing. The 10 Commandments Study the 10 commandments in context as well as what they have meant historically. An interesting study for young people would be to find out which countries use the 10 commandments or the Mosaic law as part of their founding and constitution. God's law, and specifically the 10 commandments, can be effectively used as a soul-winning tool. Christ did not