

YOUTH NEWS

A High School Parent Update

High School Lock-In

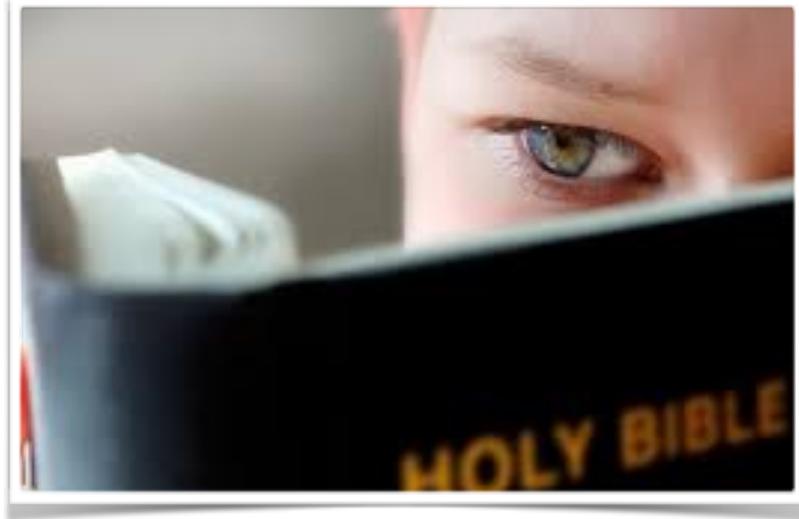
May 15-16
7:30 PM - 8:00 AM

The lock-in is finally coming! We're going to close out the year with this anticipated event. Invite your friends and be prepared for a night of service, fun, and worship. This night will kick-off at Feed My Starving Children and from there, who knows what? We'll spend some time thinking and praying about the underground church and even experience a bit of how things look for them. Contact JJ Miller to sign up!

Celebrate the Word

May 13, 6:30 PM

At the end of each school year our church presents a very special program we call Celebrate the Word. This program, which involves children, teens, and adults, is a celebration of Scripture through music, recitation, art, acting, and more. You'll be inspired and delighted as our whole church family celebrates God's Word.



Weekly Update

Sunday Morning Bible Study

We started a new three-week series to address a few of the tough questions your teenagers might have. Our first week focused on the issue of pain. Why is there pain in the world? This is a common question and can be a big barrier for some young people. To address the issue we looked at Genesis 3, which includes the account known as "The Fall of Man."

As we looked at this passage, we saw how God didn't create pain and it wasn't something he wanted, but



Parenting Tip

How to Get Your Teenager Talking, Pt. 4 By Whitney Hopler

Conversations between teens and adults can be awkward, so teens will often avoid talking much with the adults in their lives, leaving parents to feel frustrated by the lack of communication. But it doesn't have to be that way. Teens actually do have a lot to say, and they want to be heard. They will open up and start talking to adults who know how to approach conversations with them wisely.

You can get your teenagers talking by relying on the Holy Spirit to help you ask wise questions and listen well to your teens' answers. Here's how you can do so, plus some questions that can serve as springboards to interesting conversations with your teens:

Ask them to name a past accomplishment that they're proud of, as well as something they would like to accomplish in the future. This will encourage your teens to think about what's important to them and give you opportunities to affirm the good values that they want to pursue.

Ask them about where they would go on vacation if they could choose anywhere in the world for a free trip. This reveals important information about what types of experiences your teens value the most in their lives.

Ask them what they would invent, and why, if they could invent anything. This helps you understand their interests and gives you an opportunity to encourage their creativity.

pain exists in the world because of God's love. In his perfect love, God gave Adam and Eve a choice to love him back. Without choice, there is no love. We'd be robots without a choice. For a choice to be real, there must be consequences, because without consequences, there is no choice.

This week, when you get a chance, spend some time talking with your teenager about pain. Talk about how pain affects people and how it affects your student specifically. Consider sharing a few stories of pain you've experienced and how you've grown from it. You might want to offer to help your teenager find new ways to respond or to offer advice in dealing with the pain. As always, I'm available to help you if necessary.

If you need some other questions to generate dialogue, here are some suggestions:

- How might your life be different if you never experienced any pain? Would you choose this life, if given the option? Why or why not?
- Why did Paul find such strength and inspiration from his pain and difficult situations? How do you think you might react if you went through the experiences he described in 2 Corinthians 11?
- How has pain helped you grow spiritually and become more like Christ?

Amplify Recap

We discussed the importance of going from a strictly personal to a public faith and why that's important to the kingdom. One of the biggest fears for a junior high or high school student is being open about their faith. JJ shared with them his own fears about that, even at a christian school and how he dealt with my faith in a public setting. One can get too personal or too public, and neither extreme is good. We explored the balance of it, and how JJ found it. The goal was to get them to understand that making their personal faith public is good for the community and can be a great encouragement when done in the right context and with the right motives.