

You Matter Most

Youth (Week 1)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

Youth matter most and youth were made for more.

Key Scriptures

Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity. Until I get there, focus on reading the Scriptures to the church, encouraging the believers, and teaching them.

Do not neglect the spiritual gift you received through the prophecy spoken over you when the elders of the church laid their hands on you. Give your complete attention to these matters. Throw yourself into your tasks so that everyone will see your progress.

1 Timothy 4:12-15 NLT

But you, Timothy, certainly know what I teach, and how I live, and what my purpose in life is. You know my faith, my patience, my love, and my endurance. You know how much persecution and suffering I have endured. You know all about how I was persecuted in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra—but the Lord rescued me from all of it.

2 Timothy 3:10-11 NLT

If the Lord Jesus is willing, I hope to send Timothy to you soon for a visit. Then he can cheer me up by telling me how you are getting along. I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare. All the others care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus Christ. But you know how Timothy has proved himself. Like a son with his father, he has served with me in preaching the Good News.

Philippians 2:19-22 NLT

I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you. This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:5-7 NLT

What is required of an older generation?

1. Compassion
2. Consistency
3. Character

Start talking.

- What are some of your favorites and preferences in life? Ice Cream? Musical artists? Sports?
- Why do we have a tendency to value certain people over others?

Start thinking.

- Why are youth so important to the life of a church? How have you seen Harbor benefit from the presence of teenagers?
- Read 2 Timothy 3:10-11. What happens in your life and in the life of young people when they see your consistent character? When they know that you love them and care for them?
- Read 2 Timothy 1:5-7. Why can it be so hard to show compassion to teenagers? Have you ever seen what encouragement and challenge do in the lives of others?

Start sharing.

- Do you ever feel like a second-class citizen in the Kingdom of God?
- Of the three traits Pastor Ryan mentioned, (Character, Consistency, Compassion) which is the hardest for you? How can you grow in this area?

Start doing.

- What youth can you pray for?
- What teenagers can you encourage and challenge? If you're not in close proximity to young people, how can you begin to move towards them?

Closing prayer.

Father, thank you for the gift that teenagers are to our lives. Thank you for their energy and idealism, for the inspiration that their boldness and love for Jesus is to us. Help us to consistently live with the character of Jesus and to show compassion to youth, as we equip and launch them into all that you've called them to.