

Working with Junior Highers (People in Transition)

Setting Anchors

- Bible truth—character of God, man’s limitations, eternity
- Life impacting experiences (feels bigger than life, real emotion)

Growing Relationships

- Interaction—humor, pride, story telling, care, love
- Importance—best friend, girl/boy, companionship
- Changing—parents, authority, teachers

Learning about Loss

- Loss of perfect parents
- Loss of friends
- Loss of being treated fairly
- Loss of simple trust of youth

Practical Tips for Your Group

Setting Anchors

- Longer series that deal with a single core characteristic of God (e.g., love, power, goodness, everywhere).
- Many things do change but emphasize the things we know will never change; these are anchors in our life.
- The Devil is a liar—he is trying to pull up your anchors and will try many “good sounding” lies to make you question what you have always heard.
- Man is weak, fragile, and need’s God to do anything and everything—some talented junior highers must come face to face with their limitations.
- Teach on the reality that life is about more than my life—I want to live today for something that is far bigger after I die and live with God.

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Growing Relationships

- Don’t let the “older kids” shut your junior highers down.

- Watch out for older siblings who don't allow a younger sibling to interact.
- Be okay with the clunky, awkward, or quiet relationship with them . . . they will transition out of it.
- Recognize that they are not kids anymore.
- Expect them to like the opposite sex—don't ignore this new found interest; teach them what true love is.
- Teach how to live without many or even any friends—topics of loneliness, loyalty, and betrayal are topics they will listen to intently.
- Don't use sarcasm with junior highers—they can't tell if you mean it or not
- Be clear with them if they do relationship stuff well or if they are awkward—a good friend is blunt about what is appropriate and what is not; they really want to know and have probably not been taught.

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Learning about Loss

- Don't forget how hard it was to be a junior higher—just because you lived through it doesn't make it easier for them now.
- Inconsistency, hypocrisy, fairness, mercy, justice, and forgiveness are great topics you should cover often—they will have personal experience that needs biblical perspective on these topics.
- Discuss the fact that even good people are not perfect and how we should deal with imperfect people (follow Christ's example in Philippians 2).
- Their emotion is just as real as yours—teach them how feelings can not be the determiner of my joy or contentment.

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Last Thoughts

- Luke 2:52—Jesus was a junior higher, and He grew.
- Junior highers may look like they are not paying attention, but they are listening to your every word. Senior highers may look like they are listening, but they are miles away.
- Don't be deterred by their ADD behavior or quiet demeanor—much is going on in their minds, more than you would expect.
- In just four years this seventh grader will become leader of your group. In 10 years they begin their career, family, and church involvement. Never give up on our future—love the future of your junior highers.
- Patience . . . the growth is so slow you that don't see it . . . but it is happening.

Scope and Sequence

What Is a “Scope and Sequence”?

- A list of all the ideas, concepts and topics that will be covered during a specific course of time.
- It is a term often used by educators when they develop curriculum.

Why Have a Scope and Sequence?

- No hobby horse issues/topics—keeps us balanced.
- Keeps us moving and not bogged down—we just have six years to get a lot done!
- Disciplined to stay on topic even though we heard a great idea at Youth Leaders Retreat—that idea is then kept for when it fits.
- It is your plan of spiritual teaching.
- Allows you to see the big picture and then dig down into the nitty gritty details.
- Changing it lets you know to what you are saying no.

How Do I Develop One?

- Start by listing all the things that would be helpful for your teens to learn.
- Check with your pastor and find out what he hopes your teens will learn.
- Check with parents to see what they are hoping is taught in youth group.
- Look over your list for too much emphasis in one area or omission of an important topic.
- Check with other youth leaders earlier and later than you to find out if they have a scope and sequence and how yours would complement theirs (most don't have one).
- Set out your timeline and begin plugging in topics—your length of time spent on an area will show your belief about its importance; your inability to cover everything completely is a reality of eternity (we will spend forever continuing to learn about our God).
- Take a rough draft to all interested parties and see if they recommend changes—this is like the table of contents for the next six years.

Faith Baptist Church Teens

Always, with Boldness, Magnify CHRIST

Philippians 1:20–21

August 2016

Year 1

September–December

- **Sunday School: Old Testament Characters**
Elijah, Leah, David's Mighty Men, Asa, Eliphaz, Obadiah, Gideon
- **Wednesday Night: Biography of God**
Psalm 95, Jonah 3–4, Psalm 103, John 14–15, Hebrew 13, Psalm 78, Isaiah 40

January–May

- **Sunday School: Apologetics 1**
Are all religions the same?

Does the Bible and science work together?
 How do I know the Bible is true??
 Why is there evil?
 Is Jesus God?
 Can I prove God is real?
 How can a holy God allow so much evil to exist?
 What about all contradictions in the Bible?
 Why is there suffering? Why is there a hell?
 What about people who have never heard of Jesus?
 How do we know there is only "one way" to heaven?
 Critical thinking, faith, debate and arguing
 Euthanasia, mercy killing, and suicide

- **Wednesday Night: Biography of God**
Romans 11–12, Ephesians 1–3, Job 1–3 & 38–42, Psalm 19

June–August

- **Sunday School: Living by Principles**
 Principles from Timothy
2 Timothy 1:7—God gives us power, love, and a sound mind.
Ecclesiastes 12:13—whole duty of man is to fear God and obey.
1 Corinthians 10:3—glorify God; that’s all I do.
Matthew 6:33—seek God first.
2 Corinthians 4:17–18—eternal perspective; see what is not seen.
Romans 11:33–36—of, through, and to God are all things.
1 Kings 17—God provides.
Job 38–42—my life is about more than my life; God has a plan.
Jonah 4—God loves people; they are important to Him.
Galatians 6:7–10—I can’t get away with doing good. God will not be mocked.
Psalm 46—know God.
2 Corinthians 10—God commends.
1 Kings 17—be a conduit for God’s work.
2 Timothy 2—faithful: follows after God, flees from sin, good fight of faith.
Romans 8:28–39—God is with us, for us, and loves us.
Isaiah 40—God is big . . . really, really BIG.
Psalm 51—broken before I am useful to God.
Hebrews 11—live by faith, God’s Words not my sight; makes no sense!
Psalm 63—thirst for God; follow hard after Him.

Year 2

September–December	January–May	June–August
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School: New Testament Characters 12 Apostles (Peter, James, Andrew, John, Matthew, Paul, Thomas), the Bad Guys (Herod, Pilate, Judas), Pharisees, Nico- • Wednesday Night: Proverbs Stick Figure Proverbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School: Bible Big Picture Overview • Wednesday Night: Fruits of the Spirit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School: Preparation for the Next 5 Years • Wednesday Night: TBA

Year 3

September–December	January–May	June–August
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School: Leadership and Service • Wednesday Night: Counseling Friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School: Personal Doctrinal Statement • Wednesday Night: Church 101 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School: Temptation, Sin, and Forgiveness • Wednesday Night: TBA

Year 4

September–December	January–May	June–August
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School: Old Testament Characters • Wednesday Night: Biography of Jesus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School: Apologetics • Wednesday Night: Biography of Jesus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School: Principle of Discernment • Wednesday Night: TBA

Year 5

September–December	January–May	June–August
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School: New Testament Characters • Wednesday Night: Psalms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School: Spiritual Gifts and Love • Wednesday Night: Study God's Word 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School: Relationships God's Way • Wednesday Night: TBA

Year 6

September–December	January–May	June–August
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School: James • Wednesday Night: Prayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School: Faith and the Future • Wednesday Night: Worldviews and False Religion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School: Twelve Disciples • Wednesday Night: TBA

Possible TBA Topics

- Disciplines of a Christian Life
- Personal Evangelism
- End Times
- Bible Customs
- Angels and Demons
- Church Ordinances
- Grace and Holiness
- Authority in our lives
- Our Roles

Activities We've Done

Besides a new game almost every Wednesday night

Year 1

- Nerf—blow dart, top shot, and 3 on 3
- Pixit—remake of Dixit with our own pictures
- Chopped—appetizer and dessert with a mystery ingredient
- Youth Winter Rendezvous with MAG Shop Bingo
- Diamond Syndicate—Murder Mystery Dinner

Year 2

- Skee Ball Extravaganza
- Captain Sonar at Youth Winter

Activity Possibilities

- Fire and Ice—ice cream and bonfire on the Bluffs, the most remote ice cream shop in the desert combined with a big, Big, BIG bonfire.
- Non-Art Art Contest—each teen makes their own abstract art (that probably doesn't look very good) and then shares the deeper meaning of the art; of course several pieces will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. All pennies will be spent on a cause of the youth groups choosing.
- Desert Treasure Hunt—real treasure with hints, clues and puzzles that will challenge each team; first one to find it gets their pick of treasure.
- Mockmercials—pick a popular commercial and remake it your own style; awards for best actor/actress, etc.
- Demolition Derby Hotwheels—we don't have enough money to have real cars but imagine the destruction possible with a few hot wheels ... no ride is safe from the sledge of splat!

Youth Information

Sunday School

- If applicable, review the Simple to Wise and make application to teens.
- Catch up with each other with questions and an opportunity to share our beliefs.
- **Lesson: New Testament Characters** – A look at a number of New Testament characters who were used by God despite their problems. Many practical lessons will develop from those who did right but also from a few characters who are thought of as the “bad guys” of the new testament.
- Questions and Answers
- We will plan to get out of Sunday School at about 10:50 . . . giving the adults the 10:45 on-time advantage for food line. :-)

Wednesday Night

- Whimsy and Merriment (20 minutes)
 - Favorites once a month
 - Saboteur
 - Code names
 - Bingo
 - 1-50
 - Telestrations
 - Spyfall/Where are you
 - Death Ball
 - Giant Marble Octagon
 - Broom Hockey
 - Versus
 - Spoons
 - Sculptionary
 - Concept
 - Tenzi
 - Pillow Fight
 - Knife, Baby, Angry Cat, ...
 - Rebound
 - Snap, Crackle, Pop
 - Dutch Blitz
 - Cow Tipping
 - Heads you squeeze
 - Cootie/Speed Cootie/Make your own
 - But Wait, there's more!
 - Backwards Charades
 - Big ball V-ball, Blind Man's Volleyball
 - Electricity
 - Shuffle Board
 - Superfight
 - Jenk'ems up, Jenk'ems down
 - Dodgebee
 - Can Jam
 - Goooooooooooooooooooooooooallllll!
 - One duck fell in the pond, Kerplunk!
 - Voices from Heaven
 - Build our own game
- Silly 2 Serious (20 Minutes)
 - World Records
 - AMA
 - Focus on 1 (Encourage one, Enlighten all)
 - Quirkology
 - Missionary stories
 - Win friends & influence people: Critical thinking exercise
 - If ... then
 - Announcements
 - Trista's Questions
 - Current Events and God's Word
- Lesson (20 Minutes)
 - One chapter per week and we will share 2-3 principles that we find and then open it up to the group to share what they find.
 - Collect several and make a list of possible proverbs—then we have to pick one.
 - Draw a stick-man illustration of the Proverb lesson that we want to emphasize for the week. Collect all 31!

Aug	24—Sam	Overview of Proverbs
	31—Sam	Proverbs 1
Sept	7—Sam	Proverbs 2, Scott w Orientation
	14—Scott	Proverbs 3
	21—Sam	Proverbs 4, Scott on Excursion
	28—Scott	Proverbs 5
Oct	5—Jeff	Proverbs 6,
	12—Pray for Shindig	Shindig Play and Prep
	19—Sam	Proverbs 7
	26—Sam	Proverbs 8
Nov	2—Scott	Proverbs 9
	9—Jeff	Proverbs 10
	16—	Theme Night (Jr/Sr Decide)
	23—	No Wed. Service
	30—Scott	Proverbs 11, Sam on MB trip
Dec	7—Sam	Proverbs 12
	14—Sam	Proverbs 13
	21—Sam	Proverbs 14
	28—Scott	Proverbs 15
Jan	4—Sam	Proverbs 16
	11—Jeff	Proverbs 17, Sam at Neh. service
	18—Scott	Proverbs 18
	25—Sam	Proverbs 19

Service Opportunities

Our teens get involved in a number of different ways. Most Sundays you will see them involved in 10 to 15 ways.

- Usher
- Sound System
- Open up and Close up
- Nursery
- Puppets
- Sunday School Teacher
- Food Table
- Church Cleaning
- Bible Reading
- Encouragement
- Setup/Cleanup

Communication

- Heads-up and follow-up e-mail—let us know if you are not getting an e-mail
- Facebook—activity details and pics
- In Person—goals, questions, issues, clarifications, suggestions, constructive criticism