

CHALLENGE YOUR TEENAGERS TO SHARE THEIR FAITH

Many young people fear that sharing their faith may offend other people or damage a relationship. Because relationships are so important to young people, this fear causes many of them to abandon opportunities for outreach. I encourage young people to remember that when it comes to faith-sharing, “If it doesn’t sound like Good News, it isn’t Good News.”

Imagine receiving word that your sick child has just survived major surgery and will make a full recovery. You’d be so excited to share this good news with everyone around you—and not the least bit worried about offending or hurting anyone. Sharing our faith should be similar.

With this approach, faith-sharing becomes about the good news stories of how God has impacted our lives and is working through us, bearing witness to how God is already present in the world. This shifts our focus from confrontation to conversation and from division to relationship.

What can you do to share the Good News with other people who need Jesus? How can you encourage your teenagers to do the same?

—Hank Hilliard, Young People’s Ministries, hhilliard@GBOD.org

THE VIEW

- The number of Christian teenagers who say they’ve explained their beliefs to someone with different faith views in the last year declined from 63% in 1997 to 45% in 2009.
- Yet teenagers are among the most religiously active Americans, with nearly 60% engaged in some type of group spiritual activity in a typical week.
- Two out of three Christians make their commitment to Christ before turning 18.

(Barna Group)

TIPS >>>

In *Dare 2 Share: A Field Guide to Sharing Your Faith* (Focus on the Family), Greg Stier offers these evangelism insights:

- **Share your own story.** A compelling story has 1.) a “before-and-after” factor about how your life is different with Jesus, 2.) a turning point that convinced you Jesus was your only hope for eternal life, and 3.) authentic honesty about how you still struggle but are forgiven.
- **Discover your own faith-sharing style.** Four types of sharers include talkers (articulate and persuasive), stalkers (blunt and courageous), brains (intellectually stimulating and logical), and buddies (loving and relational). Maximize your

strengths but try out different styles in different situations.

- **Use the seven secret spiritual “weapons” at your disposal.** These include 1.) people’s inner knowledge of God, 2.) their personal conscience, 3.) the power of the word of God, 4.) the power of the gospel, 5.) the power of prayer, 6.) a life of doing good, and 7.) your love for other Christians.
- **Have L3 conversations.** Use this formula to talk about Jesus: Loving3 x Listening3 x Learning3 = Reaching3. When you truly love people, deeply listen to them, and learn from them and God’s word, you can reach them on a deep level—with God’s help.

PONDER THIS

- What does evangelism mean to you? Do you consider yourself to be an effective faith-sharer? Why or why not?
- How easy or difficult is it for you to discuss Jesus with other people? What is your personal faith-sharing style?
- How can your family work together to tell people about Jesus?





GOING DEEPER

Expert Insights for Parents of Teenagers

By Greg Stier

At SimplyYouthMinistry.com, Dare 2 Share president Greg Stier discusses the urgency of sharing Jesus with others:

Christians, especially adults, have lost their faith in the simple gospel message to truly transform lives. Most sing about its power on Sunday but don't carry that confidence to work on Monday.

What's the result of our failure to proclaim Jesus with our lives and lips? America is falling apart morally. We're keeping the cure to the cultural cancer of sin locked in our hearts. If we discovered the cure to the real disease of cancer, we'd share it with everyone,

wouldn't we? We'd "force our beliefs" on cancer victims out of love. We'd do our darndest to get them to accept the cure. We wouldn't say, "I'll just live out the cure and hope cancer victims see the cure in me."

Well, guess what? Those around us who don't know Jesus are headed somewhere infinitely worse than death. And we have the cure. Yet the average Christian has never shared it with their closest friends, coworkers, and neighbors.

But I refuse to be discouraged. I have the privilege of training tens of thousands of Christian teenagers to share the cure, the

ultimate antidote to the poison and cancer of sin. What I see in the eyes of teenagers is a hunger. They believe in the power of the gospel.

It's awesome to watch thousands of teenagers call up their friends and share the good news of Jesus. What's amazing is that they do it without blinking.

So I've got to ask: Are you sharing your faith? Think of one person you know who doesn't know Jesus. Pray for them and then give them a call. Let them know you have something important to talk about and set up a time to chat. Evangelism still works—but we must be willing to take the initiative.

RESOURCE



In the 30-day devotional *Reach Out...Don't Freak Out* (Simply Youth Ministry), Greg Stier offers motivation, tips, stories, and strategies that will help young people tell their friends about Jesus.

BIBLE FOCUS

For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes.

Romans 1:16

MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

MAINSTREAM MUSIC



SLIPKNOT

Background: This metal band formed in 1995 and has sold more than 14 million records worldwide. The band always wears matching suits, and each member wears a unique mask. Their music is heavy, dark, and full of profanity. The trailer for the rerelease of their second album, *Iowa*, shows someone hanging a severed goat head onto nails, with a pentagram as an underlay.

Albums: *Iowa* (2011, 2001), *All Hope Is Gone* (2008), *Slipknot* (1999)

What Slipknot Says: In an interview about his book, which tries to diminish how bad the deadly sins are, singer Corey Taylor says, “I ask more questions about how can we be better people toward *each other* than worrying about the planet or worrying about this or that.... There’s a bigger issue, and it’s...why are we so ugly toward each other?”

Explore: You can watch the trailer for the reissue of *Iowa*. This video is *filled* with profanity, but if your kids are listening to Slipknot, you owe it to them to see the darkness and depravity the band admits to: youtube.com/watch?v=O6nstylji3s.

CHRISTIAN MUSIC



SEVENTH DAY SLUMBER

Background: This rock band was independent for 11 years until signing with Tooth & Nail in 2007. Frontman Joseph Rojas has an incredible testimony of drug addiction, an overdose, and a conversion in the back of an ambulance as he cried out to God in what he thought was his last moment. Since then, the band has had a strong heart for disaffected, fringe, and abandoned teenagers.

Albums: *Anthem of Angels* (2011), *Take Everything* (2009), *Once Upon a Shattered Life* (2005)

What Seventh Day Slumber Says: “There are things going on with Christian kids that no one wants to talk about because we’re supposed to be happy,” says singer Rojas. “We always paint Christ as the answer to hurting people and tough situations.”

Explore: You can listen to some of the band’s songs on their MySpace page: myspace.com/7thdayslumber.

MOVIES

Movie: *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 1*

Genre: Drama, Romance, Thriller

Rating: PG-13

Synopsis: Bella and Edward go to Rio for their honeymoon, and Bella soon becomes pregnant. The birth nearly kills Bella, and Edward has to decide whether to make her immortal.

Our Take: Although the “Twilight” books aren’t the hot commodities they once were, teenage girls still care deeply about Bella and her completely dysfunctional relationship with Edward. Blech.

Movie: *The Muppets*

Genre: Comedy, Family

Rating: PG

Synopsis: Some Muppets super-fans reunite the gang for a telethon so they can save the Muppet Theater from a nefarious oilman who’s trying to tear it down.

Our Take: I wasn’t sure teenagers would care about this—until I heard how much they LOVED *The Smurfs*. So maybe the beloved Muppets are poised for a comeback, too.

For more media discussions and ideas, go to www.MinistryandMedia.com.

VIDEO GAMES



The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim—The celebrated RPG (role-playing game) series returns, and your character must defeat a dragon god who’s prophesied to destroy the world. The world is *huge*, so you can sink hundreds of hours into the game. It’s rated M (mature) for intense violence, blood, and gore.

Saint’s Row 3—This sandbox-style game—similar to *Grand Theft Auto*—finds players leading up a crime syndicate and fighting against rival gangs. One of the early-release videos shows a completely nude female character parachuting off a high-rise building. So it isn’t exactly family-friendly. The rating is still pending but will likely be M (mature).

NOVEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
			Bible Study Jr. High 6:30-7:30 Sr. High 6:15-7:45	Feeding Frenzy-Mexican		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
UMYF-			Bible Study Jr. High 6:30-7:30 Sr. High 6:15-7:45	Feeding Frenzy-Hamburgers		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
UMYF-Lesson on Prayer			Bible Study Jr. High 6:30-7:30 Sr. High 6:15-7:45	Feeding Frenzy-Italian		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
UMYF-Rec. night				Thanksgiving Day		
27	28	29	30			
UMYF-Shopping for Angels	ASP pre-registration forms and \$50 deposit due.		Bible Study Jr. High 6:30-7:30 Sr. High 6:15-7:45			

Explanations and more details are found on the next page.

Sunday, November 27-Shopping for Angels. Each year the youth adopt 10 angels from the Arlington Independent School District who are teenagers and homeless. By pulling our funds together we are able to provide a Christmas for each of these teens. We will gather at 6 and depart to go shopping as a group. When we return we will have cookies and hot cocoa. There will not be any snack supper on this night, please eat before you come! Bring with you \$5, \$10 or \$20, whatever you can afford. Together we can make this happen!

Youth bible study happens on Wednesday nights in Barnabas Hall. Sr. High meet from 6:15-7:45, Jr. High meet from 6:30-7:30. Come when you can and as often as you can.

Feeding Frenzy- lunch is provided each Thursday for Juniors and seniors from Martin High School. We ask for \$3 to cover the cost. Good food and friends, no preaching, no judging.

ASP, Appalachia Service Project is a mission trip for anyone completing the 9th grade this school year up to those who will be graduating this year. The dates are Friday evening July 20 thru Sunday July 29. Registration this year has been moved way up on us and we need to get started. Anyone interested in going needs to complete a pre registration form and return it to Michelle by Monday, November 28 along with a \$50 non-refundable deposit. Cost of ASP trip is determined by whether or not you participate in all of the fundraising efforts. If you participate in fundraisers then your cost will be \$200 (because of extra meals on the road and extra lodging this trip cost more than the CTCYM trips). If you choose to not participate in all of the fundraisers the cost will go up to as high as \$500. Registration forms are being loaded onto our web-site or hard copies can be picked up at the church. I hope many of the youth will go on this amazing trip to help the poorest of our nation. We are also looking for some adults to attend this trip with us. Contact Michelle.

National Youth Workers Convention-I will be attending the national youth workers convention Thursday, November 17-Monday the 21. If you have questions please call my Cell 817-793-4593. I will be attending sessions from 8 am until after 10 pm each day but between sessions I can return phone calls or texts.