

YOUTH CONNECT GROUP

Leader's Guide 1.13.19

Announcements

- 1. Junior High Mission Trip:** If you are a 7th or 8th grader, spend your Spring Break at Cookson Hills serving families and participating in a number of service projects! You will have the opportunity to show God's love to families and students who are in need of hope and love! Make sure to be part of this life changing trip! The deposit for this trip is **\$75**. The total cost is **\$275**.
- 2. High School Mission Trip:** This Spring Break, we are going back to Mexico to serve alongside Vida Nueva Ministries in Piedras Negras, Mexico. There are limited spots available on an "application" basis! You must have a passport to come on this trip! The deposit is **\$75** and the total cost of the trip is **\$300**.
- 3. Winter Connect Group Season:** The Winter season goes from January 13th – March 9th. If you have a friend who isn't in a connect group, invite them to join yours!

BOTTOM LINE: Being weird in a God way is way better than being "normal".

(CARD 1) ICEBREAKER QUESTION:

AROUND THE ROOM: In 5 words or less, describe your life since our last connect group.

AROUND THE ROOM: What are you most looking forward to in 2019?

Have someone pray to begin your group time.

(CARD 2) HISTORICAL/GETTING TO KNOW YOU:

A FEW OF YOU: What is one thing that was normal when you were growing up that people would consider weird today?

AROUND THE ROOM: In what ways would you classify yourself as being weird?

AROUND THE ROOM: Who is someone you would describe as being weird in a God way? What have you learned from them being weird?

BIBLICAL:

Leader: On Sunday, we continued a new series called "Weird." Being normal, fitting in with everyone else, doing what everyone else does is lame! God doesn't call us to be like everyone else, He calls us to be different, to be set apart, to be "weird." We aren't just weird for the sake of being weird, we are called to be weird in a God way!

(CARD 3) SOMEONE: What was your greatest takeaway from Sunday's message? (If your students struggle with this, encourage them to (1) be in attendance every Sunday, and (2) be engaged in the service. We will do a brief recap at the beginning of each connect group lesson.)

A FEW OF YOU: What is something that is “normal” in our world that God would be disappointed in?

A FEW OF YOU: Think back to Sunday’s sermon, what does it mean to be holy? (Pure, set apart, different, weird in a God way.)

(CARD 4) AROUND THE ROOM: On a scale of 1-10, how consumed are you with what other people think about you? (Encourage students to be honest about this.)

A FEW OF YOU: How has this influenced the things you do or don’t do?

A FEW OF YOU: What’s the danger in obsessing over what others think about you? (“Becoming obsessed with what people think is the quickest way to forget what God thinks about you.”)

(CARD 5) SOMEONE: Read Galatians 1:10

A FEW OF YOU: In what ways do you see yourself trying to please others?

A FEW OF YOU: What fuels your desire to please others?

(CARD 6) SOMEONE: Read Matthew 5:10-12

A FEW OF YOU: What should be our perspective when people persecute or criticize us for being weird in a God way?

A FEW OF YOU: How can being criticized for your faith be good for your relationship with Christ?

(CARD 7) APPLICATION:

A FEW OF YOU: Whose criticism do you need to stop listening to in order to focus on what God wants you to do?

AROUND THE ROOM: What can you start doing this week that might be weird in a God way?

(CARD 8) PRAYER:

(Make sure to take prayer requests before closing.)

-Pray for God to work in your life through this connect group.

-Pray for the boldness to be WEIRD in a God way!

SERMON NOTES:

Weird Is Better

Holy = Weird in a “God” way

-Pure

-Set apart

-Different

How to be weird

-Fear God not people

-Please God not man

-Follow God not the crowd

"You shall be holy, for I am holy."

1 Peter 1:16

ICEBREAKER

- In 5 words or less, describe your life since our last connect group.
- What are you most looking forward to in 2019?

HISTORICAL

- What is one thing that was normal when you were growing up that people would consider weird today?
- In what ways would you classify yourself as being weird?
- Who is someone you would describe as being weird in a God way? What have you learned from them being weird?

SERMON RECAP

- What was your greatest takeaway from Sunday's message?
- What is something that is "normal" in our world that God would be disappointed in?
- Think back to Sunday's sermon, what does it mean to be holy?

SERMON RECAP

- On a scale of 1-10, how consumed are you with what other people think about you?
- How has this influenced the things you do or don't do?
- What's the danger in obsessing over what others think about you?

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BIBLICAL

-Read Galatians 1:10

-In what ways do you see yourself trying to please others?

- What fuels your desire to please others?

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BIBLICAL (Cont.)

-Read Matthew 5:10-12

-What should be our perspective when people persecute or criticize us for being weird in a God way?

-How can being criticized for your faith be good for your relationship with Christ?

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APPLICATION

-Whose criticism do you need to stop listening to in order to focus on what God wants you to do?

-What can you start doing this week that might be weird in a God way?

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PRAYER

-Pray for God to work in your life through this connect group.

-Pray for the boldness to be WEIRD in a God way!

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