

At the High School DYG, the youth in attendance asked a number of great questions, not all of which were able to be responded to during the panel discussion time. In order to offer support to your ministry, we are providing you as group leaders with the questions as they were asked along with resources that may help you in addressing these questions in your ministry. We know that these questions may not have been asked by members of your youth group, but we believe that these and other similar questions reflect the kinds of questions that youth have that need addressing by a church that is open to hearing and taking seriously the inquiry that youth are undergoing related to their faith. We have collected a number of linked resources that may help you in dealing with these issues with youth in your own youth ministry. Please read through the material prior to use and make sure to contextualize the material to suit the particular situation or kind of question/concern as expressed by youth in your church. Blessings to you and may God support you in your ongoing ministry to the youth of your congregation.



Bible and Faith

1. In the beginning of Genesis, it says that God was hovering over the waters. If there was emptiness and void, where'd it come from? I'm confused because this was before creation and before He created the sea, lakes, etc.
 - a. <https://answersingenesis.org/genesis/gap-theory/closing-the-gap/>
2. How can I defend my faith in college when even I sometimes question the existence of God?
 - a. <https://bradalles.com/>
 - b. <https://www.summit.org/>
 - c. <https://www.impact360institute.org/>
3. How do we know something is a sign from God?
 - a. Diagnostic questions
 - i. Is what you think is a sign consistent with the Bible?
 - ii. Is what you think is a sign seen as a sign by other mature Christians in your life?
 - iii. Are you being encouraged to do something that is consistent with living as a follower of Christ?

4. In Genesis 3:14, God curses the serpent to crawl on its belly for the rest of its days. Did it have legs before this happened?
 - a. <https://www.bibleref.com/Genesis/3/Genesis-3-14.html>
 - b. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/genesis/3-14.htm>
5. How do you know that the events in the bible really happened? How do you know this isn't just a work of fiction with a giant fandom attached? How do you know he actually EXISTS?
 - a. Why Should I Trust the Bible? | IMPACT Whiteboard Video
<https://youtu.be/XtNcbu5oHQU>
6. Why is there evil in the world??
 - a. <https://www.1517.org/podcasts/the-thinking-fellows/the-problem-of-evil>
 - b. Higher Things video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HyZmTiteeeg>
7. If humans are different from animals because we can understand our emotions, does that mean animals experience emotions?
 - a. New report video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GdNzHzb-w>
8. How can angels interfere in our lives?
 - a. <https://blogs.lcms.org/2010/yes-virginia-there-are-angels-12-2010/>
 - b. <https://www.lhm.org/projectconnect/downloadfile.asp?ID=3106>
9. What do you believe has more control in our lives? Fate or free will?
 - a. <https://www.lcms.org/about/beliefs/faqs/doctrine#witnessing>
10. Why do we only obey certain parts of the Bible?
 - a. <https://carm.org/what-are-the-main-divisions-of-the-old-testament-law>
11. What makes sin, sin? Why is it that something is wrong when there seems to be no reason other than "God said so". Not that I don't trust what God says, but it feels the same as when a parent or elder says "because I said so." Basically, why?
 - a. <https://blogs.lcms.org/2011/what-is-sin-3-2011/>
12. Why is it our job to tell people they are sinning when God is the only one who has the right to judge any of us?
 - a. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-should-christians-use-gods-law/>
13. In the same way drug abuse, cheating, not telling the truth is sinful... so in regard to homosexuality is to not act upon the desire to do it. Don't lie... don't do drugs which will harm your bodies, don't cheat on a test or steal... don't act upon the sins refrain from it. Don't act upon homosexual desire.
 - a. <https://www.kfuo.org/2019/11/05/lcms-gathering-2019-brian-barlow-from-gay-bars-to-jesus/>
14. Women as lead pastors?
 - a. <https://steadfastlutherans.org/2013/12/equal-but-not-interchangeable/>
 - b. <http://lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=1099&dialogFeatures=protocol=http>



Church

1. Suggest a way for me to become involved at my church? My congregation is mainly older people. What kind of things do you think youth can do?
 - a. First, talk to your pastor, DCE, or other leaders of the church. Let them know that you are interested in helping.
 - b. Church leaders should talk to you about what you are interested in (your passions and skills) and seek to find something meaningful for you to do along with others in your church.
 - c. You may also want to talk with your parents. They might be able to open doors or make connections for you.
2. Why is mental health considered so taboo to talk about in church? What can we do to change this?
 - a. <https://www.geneva.edu/blog/uncategorized/stigma-mental-illness>
 - b. <https://www.graceplacewellness.org/a-call-to-action-grace-and-mental-health/>



Body Issues

1. How do we deal with body image issues when people judge?
 - a. <https://www.lfsneb.org/2017/04/13/recognizing-potential-body-image-problems-todays-kids/>



Sex

1. I have a friend who is considering premarital sex. Society says this is ok but the Bible does not. How do I be a good friend and support them when I know that the Bible is against this?
 - a. <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/faith/three-lies-about-premarital-sex/>
 - b. <https://www.crosswalk.com/family/singles/how-to-respond-to-your-sexually-active-single-friends.html>
 - c. <https://wels.net/faq/living-together-versus-marriage/>
2. How do I tell a non-Christian friend that letting a boy touch her and go too far is bad and wrong when she's flattered by the attention?
 - a. <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-far-is-too-far>
 - b. <https://www.crosswalk.com/family/singles/how-to-respond-to-your-sexually-active-single-friends.html>



Homosexuality

1. Is it okay to be friends with a person who is gay or bisexual?
 - a. Yes, Jesus was a friend to many sinners, even us. Being a friend does not mean we agree with everything that our friends do. The key is to love while not compromising our own beliefs.
2. How can homosexual sex between two consenting adults after marriage be sinful? To me, it seems that it is virtually the same as a paralleling heterosexual marriage/relationship.
 - a. <https://www.kfuo.org/2019/11/05/lcms-gathering-2019-brian-barlow-from-gay-bars-to-jesus/>



Drugs & Alcohol

1. So I have friends that bring alcohol to school and kids pay them to drink some, What should I do?
 - a. <https://www.gotquestions.org/underage-drinking.html>
2. Some of my friends do drugs. How do I tell them it is wrong and they shouldn't do it?
 - a. <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/the-vicious-truth-about-drug-addiction-and-alcoholism/>
3. How would you confront a family member that is addicted to drugs or alcohol? You have respect for them and you feel held back. You know that nothing anyone says to them will change their mind.
 - a. <https://drugfree.org/parent-blog/want-help-adult-family-member-friend-drug-alcohol-problem-7-suggestions/>



Anxiety & Depression

1. How do I approach a friend who is depressed and how can I help them through it without offending them or making them feel worse?
 - a. <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/is-your-teen-depressed/>
 - b. <https://www.focusonthefamily.ca/content/four-lies-that-fuel-anxiety-and-depression-in-teens>
2. I have a friend that is going through a lot. I offer to help them, offer outside help (social worker, etc.) but they always seem to reject the help. Are there any other things other than prayer to help them go through their hardships and troubles?
 - a. <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/is-your-teen-depressed/>
 - b. <https://www.focusonthefamily.ca/content/four-lies-that-fuel-anxiety-and-depression-in-teens>

3. I do not struggle with anxiety or depression and find it hard to understand what my friends are going through. How can I best support my friends during these struggles?
 - a. <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/is-your-teen-depressed/>
 - b. <https://www.focusonthefamily.ca/content/four-lies-that-fuel-anxiety-and-depression-in-teens>
4. Why is mental health considered so taboo to talk about in church? What can we do to change this?
 - a. <https://www.geneva.edu/blog/uncategorized/stigma-mental-illness>
 - b. <https://www.graceplacewellness.org/a-call-to-action-grace-and-mental-health/>
5. When you have a good friend that is suffering from depression/anxiety, how do you help them?
 - a. <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/is-your-teen-depressed/>
 - b. <https://www.focusonthefamily.ca/content/four-lies-that-fuel-anxiety-and-depression-in-teens>



Dating & Relationships

1. Doesn't God tell us that we shouldn't be unevenly yoked? Isn't it dangerous to date a non-Christian?
 - a. <https://fervr.net/teen-life/is-it-ok-to-date-a-non-christian>
2. How do I tell a non-Christian friend that letting a boy touch her and go too far is bad and wrong when she's flattered by the attention?
 - a. <https://www.crosswalk.com/family/singles/how-to-respond-to-your-sexually-active-single-friends.html>
3. How do you move past your mistakes in dating? How do you forgive yourself?
 - a. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/purity-after-impurity/>
 - b. <https://els.org/resources/answers/sexual-sins-and-forgiveness/>



Social Media

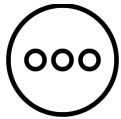
1. How can you inspire people on social media when you don't have a lot of followers?
 - a. <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/effective-ideas-for-sharing-your-faith-on-social-media.html>
2. There are so many inappropriate posts on social media to get attention. How do I deal with the fact that I have to compete with that?
 - a. <https://thomrainer.com/2014/08/seven-positive-ways-christians-can-use-social-media/>
3. What are the dangers of Instagram?
 - a. <https://www.connectsafely.org/instagram/>
4. What can I do to make sure I don't get swayed by likes and followers on Instagram. You told us not to be swayed, but how?

- a. <https://www.christiantoday.com/article/your.dopamine.addiction.is.hurting.your.soul/56723.htm>
- b. <https://now.northropgrumman.com/this-is-your-brain-on-instagram-effects-of-social-media-on-the-brain>



College

1. How can I defend my faith in college when even I sometimes question the existence of God?
 - a. <https://www.impact360institute.org/articles/students-how-can-you-best-defend-your-faith-in-class/>
 - b. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-logic-can-help-save-a-college-students-faith/>



Miscellaneous

1. I have fear of leading cause what if it doesn't go well. Do you suggest how I can get over my fear?
 - a. <https://ministrytoyouth.com/youth-group-lessons-on-fear/>
 - b. <https://stevenkozak.com/2019/02/18/4-ways-youth-pastors-can-train-students-to-overcome-the-fear-of-sharing-their-faith/>
2. Can Christians get tattoos?
 - a. <https://www.lcms.org/about/beliefs/faqs/lcms-views#tattoos>
3. Why do we stick to the status quo? Even in this room, we are sitting with our groups, why don't we move around to sit by a new person or group?
 - a. <https://churchjobfinder.com/6-reasons-churches-resist-change/>