

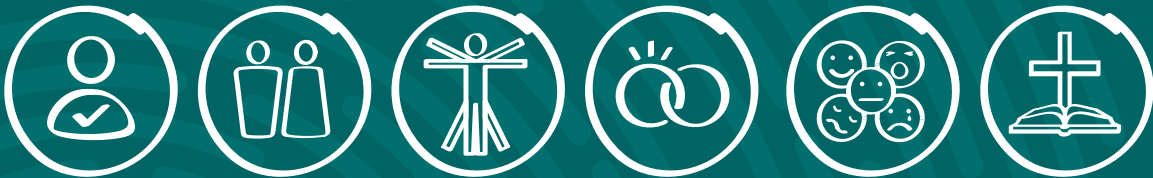
YOUTH
11-14s

GROWING

God's
Good
Story



Session content
and conversation starters
for parents



faith **in** kids

	Session title	Bible passages	What is the truth that changes our young people?	How does this truth change our young people?	Issues this session will tackle
1	I am who God says I am	Genesis 1:26-27 Psalm 112:1	We are made by God. He knows who we really are.	Young people who listen to God, trusting that he knows what is best for them.	We pick up messages from within and around us. We can measure these against the voice of our loving creator God; he tells us who we truly are - we listen to him. We are affected by the many messages we hear, sometimes without realising it.
<p>Some questions parents and carers could ask following this session to start a conversation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do others say about you? • Is there a message you feel like you keep hearing from friends, from teachers, from me, or others? • After watching something together: What is the content maker's message behind the story? What are they trying to persuade us to believe? 					
2	I am male or female	Genesis 1:27, 2:7, 22 Ecclesiastes 12:1	Our body tells us whether God made us male or female. Puberty is when our body changes, but our sex does not.	Young people who understand that their sex has been chosen by their loving creator and that growing up is good.	Our bodies are wonderfully designed to grow into adulthood during puberty. Our God-given sex does not change, we were made to be male or female. People can struggle with the body God has given them, with some feeling they are the wrong sex and wanting to change this. We can be sure that the loving God who made them didn't get that wrong and we can trust him. We need to be kind to those who dislike their bodies.
<p>Some questions parents and carers could ask following this session to start a conversation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When are you most grateful for your body? • You could share what you remember of going through puberty before asking, "How do you feel about puberty?" • Do you know anyone who makes it clear that they don't like their body or their sex? How do you feel about your body? • Do your friends believe that someone can change their sex? What do you think? 					
3	I have a valuable body	Psalm 139:14 1 Corinthians 6:19-20	Our bodies are a gift from God that we treat with care.	Young people who value and protect their God-given bodies	Our young people are growing up in a sexualised, visual culture which frequently does not respect their own or other people's bodies. We are each responsible for our precious, God-given bodies and want to look after them well. 'Consent' is a key concept to understand - we want to listen to God and make wise decisions about our bodies, being careful how much we show to others and who gets to touch them. We reject pornography because it does not respect others' bodies.
<p>Some questions parents and carers could ask following this session to start a conversation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you think of some ways that you look after your body? • Have you ever felt like someone has not shown respect for your body? Or touched your body without your consent? • Do you know what pornography is? Do you know of people who are looking at porn? <i>We are not trying to get young people to name and shame their peers, it is enough for them to answer yes in an open and honest way.</i> 					

continued →

	Session title	Bible passages	What is the truth that changes our young people?	How does this truth change our young people?	Issues this session will tackle
4	I know God's plan for marriage	Genesis 2:18-25 Matthew 19:4-6 Revelation 19:6-9	God created marriage between one man and one woman for the rest of their lives.	Young people who trust God that his plan for marriage is good.	<p>God created marriage to be the faithful commitment of one man and one woman for life. It is the only true home for sex and the way a new family begins.</p> <p>Marriage gives our young people a glimpse of the eternal relationship Christians will enjoy with Christ in heaven.</p> <p>There are many other beliefs about where sex belongs and how relationships can work, with many people's relationships breaking painfully. We need to be kind, respectful of others and careful how we explain God's better story.</p>
<p>Some questions parents and carers could ask following this session to start a conversation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you think people get married? • Can you think of a married couple who seem like a good advert for marriage? And is there anyone you know who seems like a bad advert? • Can I ask what you think about sex? What do you think it is for? What do you think it is like? Do you find the idea of having sex appealing or unappealing? 					
5	I have strong feelings	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	We belong to the Lord who can help us to respond well to our strong feelings.	Young people who make good choices with their strong feelings because they know who they belong to.	<p>Puberty brings new, bigger feelings, like attraction and sexual desires. We are not slaves to our feelings. God gives us better ways of making decisions than following the world's message of, "If it feels right, do it."</p> <p>Our strong desires, including our sexual desires, point us to our longing for heaven - the fulfilment of all our aches and desires.</p>
<p>Some questions parents and carers could ask following this session to start a conversation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many of this age group are feeling ashamed about their feelings and desires. Some already regret decisions they have made and feel afraid to talk about them. If they say anything unexpected, try not to appear shocked. • Could we talk about those things that feel most important to you and create the strongest feelings? Which feelings do you feel most strongly? What makes you feel that way? <i>Perhaps share your own example of a strong feeling and what causes it within you to get the conversation going.</i> • Do you think that we should always follow our strong feelings? Why or why not? What do you hear others say about this? 					
6	We live what we believe	Philippians 2:14-16	We live differently because we know that we are children of God.	Young people living differently with God as the biggest influence on their thoughts and actions.	<p>Listening to and obeying God will mean we stand out from others.</p> <p>We want to live out our faith every day, confident in the truth of God's word, with great grace for those who think differently.</p>
<p>Some questions parents and carers could ask following this session to start a conversation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you think of one moment when you have seen the difference it would make (or does make) to be a Christian? • Could you tell me what makes someone a Christian? Do you think you are a Christian? • What do you think stops you from living in a way that shows others that you are a Christian? 					



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