

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM JANUARY 22, 2017



BIG IDEA:

This week we will look at little known facts about peer pressure that every junior high student faces. Peer pressure is a feeling that one must do the same things as other people of one's age and social group in order to be liked or respected by them. In other words, at the root of giving in to negative peer pressure is the human desire to be accepted. Because of that desire, junior high students do, say and buy things that are not helpful for them or others. Instead of seeking acceptance through peer pressure, God's word reminds us that Christ showed us our value through his death and resurrection. So we don't need to give in to peer pressure, instead, we are free to influence our friends to honor God.

ICE BREAKER:

What is your least favorite household chore? What household chore are you really good at?

DISCUSSION:

1. Read I Samuel 8:1-5. Have you ever let the actions of others affect what you do? (Leaders, be ready to share a time where you were influenced for good and a time where you were influenced to be dishonoring to the Lord).
2. Can anyone share an example where someone influenced you for good? Share an example where you were influenced to dishonor God.
3. What are some areas that junior high students are vulnerable to peer pressure in today's society?
4. What would you say is the biggest area in *your* life where you are experiencing peer pressure?
5. Why do you think giving in to peer pressure is so appealing to you?
6. Read I Samuel 8:7-8. How do these verses help you change your perspective on peer pressure?
7. Read Colossians 1:21-22. What do these verses teach us about our current relationship with God if we have trusted in Christ? The reason we typically give in to peer pressure is to feel accepted, but these verses tell us that we've already been accepted by God. How should that affect our desire to give in to peer pressure?
8. What is one area in your life that you can start being a positive influence on others?
9. What is an area where you as a small group can commit to being a positive influence and encouragement towards one another?

SCRIPTURE MEMORY:

Psalm 1:1-4

*Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,*

*but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.*

*That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.*

*Not so the wicked!
They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.*