CHARIS YOUTH

THANK YOU FOR DOWNLOADING CHARIS YOUTH CURRICULUM!

WHAT MAKES CHARIS YOUTH CURRICULUM UNIQUE?

There's a spiritual battle for our youth. Culture is changing, and young people are questioning their identity. Social media, school staff, television, movies, friends, and strangers can give and affirm messages that young people aren't happy with who they are and should change their gender. They suggest distrust of adults or anyone who tries to convince them that what they feel isn't the truth of who God created them to be. We need to teach our youth who God says they are and that God has a good plan and purpose for their lives!

This curriculum has meat, not fluff. Each lesson focuses on what the Bible says and encourages the youth to apply it personally throughout the week. The Word of God has the power to set young people free, but they need to hear the truth and be encouraged to choose to follow God and His plan for their lives. These truths can be presented in fun and relevant ways, but the focus needs to remain on Jesus and living as overcomers, not victims!

We believe the power of the Holy Spirit is needed to live a powerful Christian life. This curriculum teaches about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. When young people grasp the power that is available to them through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, they can be leaders who impact their generation to make a difference in the world!

YOUR FREE LESSONS INCLUDE:

- *About This Lesson:* This section explains the relevancy to the teens and why it is important for them to learn what this lesson addresses.
- *Key Takeaway:* This is the lesson objective so you can keep on topic and make sure you are repeating and reviewing this statement.
- *Key Verse:* This can be used as a challenge to memorize the verse.

  NOTE: These three sections could be added to parent emails/texts so the family can reinforce what you are teaching.

- *Teaching Outline:* Depending on the amount of time you have, you might want to break up the lesson and present over two weeks. With younger youth, you might use a shorter version of the outline. Think of your own personal examples to insert into the outline

where appropriate. Also, add comments and current news/cultural examples that relate to the youth.

- *Bottom Line:* This restates the Key Takeaway a little differently to help reinforce it.
- *Small Group Time:* Use the questions to generate a conversation to explore how the lesson relates to each person. Advise leaders to help guide the conversation from going off-topic and encourage responses by affirming each person who shares. This is a powerful time to build relationships, trust, and a sense of belonging. Group leaders can help each youth know that God has a good plan and purpose for their lives.
- *Declaration:* This is something to say together to affirm the point of the lesson. This could also be sent to the parents. Imagine how your church families would grow if whole families began declaring God's truth each week!
- *Youth Weekly Journal:* This could be printed and handed out, emailed to the youth, or downloaded from your church's youth website. The goal for the journal is to help the youth interact with the lesson focus throughout the week. The journal encourages the youth to pray, read the Bible, apply the lesson, and create something that ministers to them or to others about what they learned about God.
- <u>OPTIONAL:</u> *Extending the Lesson:* Based on the time frame, number of leaders/helpers, and space, these are optional activities that can be done.
  - *Icebreaker Question* could be written on the board to generate conversation as the young people arrive.
  - *Opening Activity Suggestion* helps give a visual and get the youth thinking about the topic.
  - *Opening Affirmation* could be said together as a way to prepare the students to receive the lesson and positively state God's truth.
  - *Giving Time* verse and focus help you invite the young people to develop the habit of giving to the Lord. Guide them to see that God is not trying to take from them but give to them!
- <u>OPTIONAL</u>*: Beyond – Additional Application for Church or Home:* You might have extra opportunities with the youth throughout the week, or some families might desire activities to do at home during the week.
  - *Challenge:* helps the young people grow spiritually and apply the lesson to their lives.
  - *Biblical Worldview:* helps the youth use their biblical knowledge to view their world. Teens are prone to peer pressure and social media influencers as sources of their worldview. Each young person in your group can make an impact on others by knowing what the Bible says and following it—not following views that go against God's Word but are popular.
  - *Outreach/Missions:* helps the youth recognize that when they say "yes" to following Jesus, the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19–20) applies to them. Their mission field is everywhere their feet take them, whether locally, nationally, or internationally.

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Additional Notes to Leaders:

Scriptures are New King James Version unless noted.

Encourage the young people to bring a Bible (not use their phones) and look up the verses. Having youth volunteers read scriptures helps the young people become more familiar with finding verses in their Bibles, and they hear other young people they may look up to reading the Bible. Create a culture that encourages everyone to be familiar with the Bible and to read it regularly.

If you have a wide range of ages, for games and small groups , divide the group by age and gender. Allow time for adult helpers to get to know the students in their group. Building a strong relationship with the youth will allow them to feel special and comfortable asking spiritual questions. Encourage small group leaders to follow up with the youth the next week about situations in which they asked for prayer or indicated a desire for salvation.

Relationship Building Game:

Game time will be more successful when you test out the game beforehand. This will show you any flaws or unprepared components. Explain the game in under one minute. Attention spans are short, so quickly pair up or assign groups and then go over the specific game rules, allowing for quick questions.

Look for a game that allows everyone to participate. Often, young people who are quiet or shy hang back and don't want to participate. Don't force people to participate, but create a positive and affirming atmosphere that encourages everyone to be part of the activity.

Here are a few websites with games for youth ministry:
https://spirituallyhungry.com/no-prep-youth-group-games/
https://groupgames101.com/youth-group-games/
https://thesource4ym.com/games/
https://www.leadertreks.org/youth-group-activities-message/