

what every christian teenager should know

Not long ago, group asked a large and denominationally diverse group of youth leaders to break into small groups and brainstorm the basic truths their senior highers should know by the time they graduate and leave the youth group. Here's a group-by-group listing of what they came up with—ask your kids to come up with their own list, or ask them to choose which group's listing is the best one for your group, or ask them to agree/disagree with the lists.

GROUP #1

1. You must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. You must die to self—as Jesus increases, you decrease.
3. You must be personal evangelists.
4. You must know *why* you believe in Christ.
5. You must maintain fellowship with other Christians.

GROUP #2

1. God's love is unconditional, so love others unconditionally.
2. The gospel is relevant to today's issues.
3. Jesus is the only path to God.
4. There's power in the gospel.
5. It's not enough to hear about Jesus; you must know him.

GROUP #3

1. God's truth is dynamic and relevant—it doesn't change.
2. God can be trusted with our whole being.
3. Jesus, God's Son, is our Lord and Savior—he wants us to follow him wholly, no matter the cost.
4. The Holy Spirit empowers us to be transformed into God's disciples.
5. God is always for us, regardless of where we are in our relationship with him.
6. Our challenge and mission as followers of Christ is to boldly change our world by sharing the gospel, one person at a time.

GROUP #4

1. Jesus loves you for who you are, where you are right now.
2. The gospel brings new life—it gives you the freedom to be a new person.
3. There are absolute truths.
4. God desires an intimate, personal relationship with us.
5. God has a passion for our life—we must know how to establish a relationship with him.

GROUP #5

1. You're created with a divine purpose, and you're accountable to persevere toward that purpose.
2. God's love is unconditional.
3. It's important to personally communicate with God.
4. Christianity isn't something you do; it's something you are.
5. Living a "called life" isn't easy, but you won't be alone—you're connected to a worship community that freely gives you strength.