

YOUNG LIFE CAPERNAUM

Gospel Proclamation

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH FRIENDS WITH DISABILITIES



WHAT IS YOUNG LIFE CAPERNAUM?



Young Life Capernaum is a Christian outreach ministry to teens and young adults with disabilities ages 14-22.

Young Life is a ministry focused on building relationships and earning the right to be heard in the lives of adolescents. Once we have earned the right to be heard through living life with our friends, our hope is to introduce them to Jesus and help them grow in their faith.

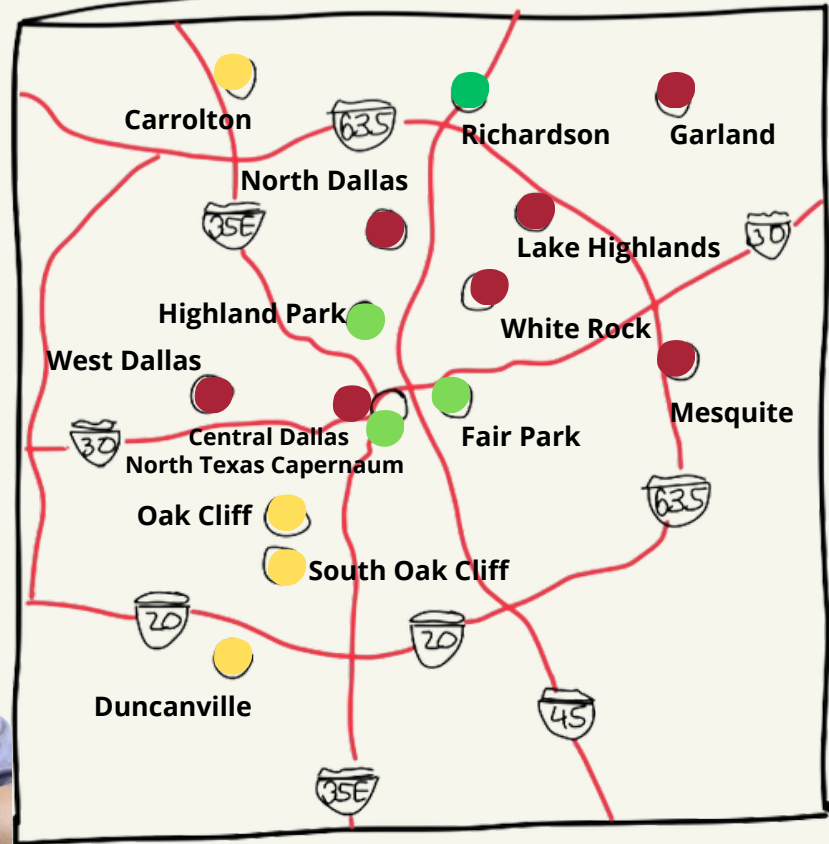
We love kids and remain in their lives no matter how they respond to the good news of Jesus.

NORTHEAST TEXAS REGION CAPERNAUM



Key: Last updated April 2023

- Existing CPNM ministry
- Developing CPNM ministry
- YL area without CPNM



IN **YOUNG LIFE CAPERNAUM** WE WILL DO *WHATEVER IT TAKES* TO BRING OUR FRIENDS TO THE FEET OF JESUS. THIS MEANS CREATING MINISTRY SPACES WHERE TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES BELONG AND HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO **MEET JESUS, GROW IN THEIR FAITH, AND LEAD OTHERS.**

THE "WHY" BEHIND IT ALL



"Within the body of Christ, *every body* has a place, and *every body* is recognized as a disciple with a call from Jesus and a vocation that the church *needs* if it is truly to be the body of Jesus." – Dr. John Swinton

"If faith is not something we do, but something we are given by God, then anyone can be a recipient of faith and respond with faithfulness, even if that person is incapable of rational reasoning."

(Dean, Practicing Passion: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church)

AGE APPROPRIATE TEACHING



- Assume Intelligence
- Speak and teach to the highest functioning friend in the room while making the lesson interactive and accessible to everyone in the room.
- Speak to our friends age appropriately (avoiding baby talk)
- Avoid arts and crafts for friends over the age of 13. Use other creative interactive techniques like acting out the Bible story instead.
- Adapt curriculum for children to be appropriate for teens and young adults, making it relevant and relatable to your population
- Overall, view your friends as peers and vital members of the church – this will change the way you speak to them and teach them.

SIMPLICITY VS. TRIVIALIZING



- It is important to simplify but not trivialize or water down information
- When preparing a lesson on a passage, think through word choice and simplification of bigger words or concepts
- Avoid the use of unnecessary names, cities, etc. when it does not change the meaning of the passage.
- Try using the "Easy To Read," NIRV, or other simplified translations of the Bible
- We also want to be sure that in our simplification of passages, we are not changing them. We want to be careful to stick to what it is actually saying (example of Jesus calming the storm)

HOW TO PLAN A SIMPLE LESSON



- Read the passage in three different translations
- Once you choose one to use, read it three more times - **we need to really KNOW the scripture we are teaching**
- Think through any words or concepts that may be difficult for our friends to understand. How can you say it differently so that it has the same meaning but comes across in a more simple way?
- Choose one main point that you want your friends to take away from this passage. Make it clear and concise.
- Think through what visuals and other sensory aids you can use for your talk. Choose at least two.
- Repeat your main point at least two times throughout the lesson.
- Be sure to connect the “take away” to their daily lives. How do we implement what we just learned?
- Plan two to three questions that they will discuss in small groups right after the talk.

Know the Story - Really know it.

Teach Verbally - So what?

Show Visually - What is the image?

Experience Personally - How does it impact us?

Know The Story



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Teach Verbally - “So what?”

- Ask yourself, "what's the point? Why does this Bible truth matter in the lives of our friends?"
- This main idea or controlling thought is especially important when teaching our friends with disabilities.

Date: _____

Talk Type:

Person of Christ

Sin

Resurrection

Need

Cross

Appropriation

Speaker: _____ Scripture: _____

Main Theme: _____

Resources: _____

MESSAGE PLANNER

Key Questions:

1. How well do you know the passage? Are you reading it with your head down, or can you memorize it, retell it (using storying technique), or make it lively?
2. What version of the Bible will you use? *Do your kids speak KJV?*
3. Have you made your message simple - easy to understand? *Analyze your vocabulary.*
4. Are you talking about Jesus? (*"...we must stick to presenting Jesus Christ. There are all kinds of secondary things we could get involved in, but they aren't Young Life's business. We are not to 'major in the minors', but in the one all-important essential: that Jesus Christ is our greatest need, and that He's all we need. He is far and away the most important and attractive person in the world and every high school fellow and girl needs to find that out." - Young Life found, Jim Rayburn*)
5. How will you follow-up? Small groups or one-on-one?

Final Checklist:

- Simple
 Includes Repetition
 Multi-Sensory
 Gospel Centered

Show Visually - What is the image?

- Our friends learn in many different ways, therefore, our lessons should offer many different avenues of learning.
- Try to use all of the senses when teaching a lesson - *sight, touch, smell/taste, feelings, and hearing.*

Sensory: *(make sure your talk is multi-sensory - pick at least 2)*

- See: Is there a picture or object you can use to illustrate the message?
- Touch: Is there something kids can touch to reinforce the message?
- Hear: Can you play or make a sound to accentuate the message?
- Feelings: Can you help kids express or connect to their feelings to internalize the message?
- Smell/Taste*: is there something kids can taste to be drawn into the message?

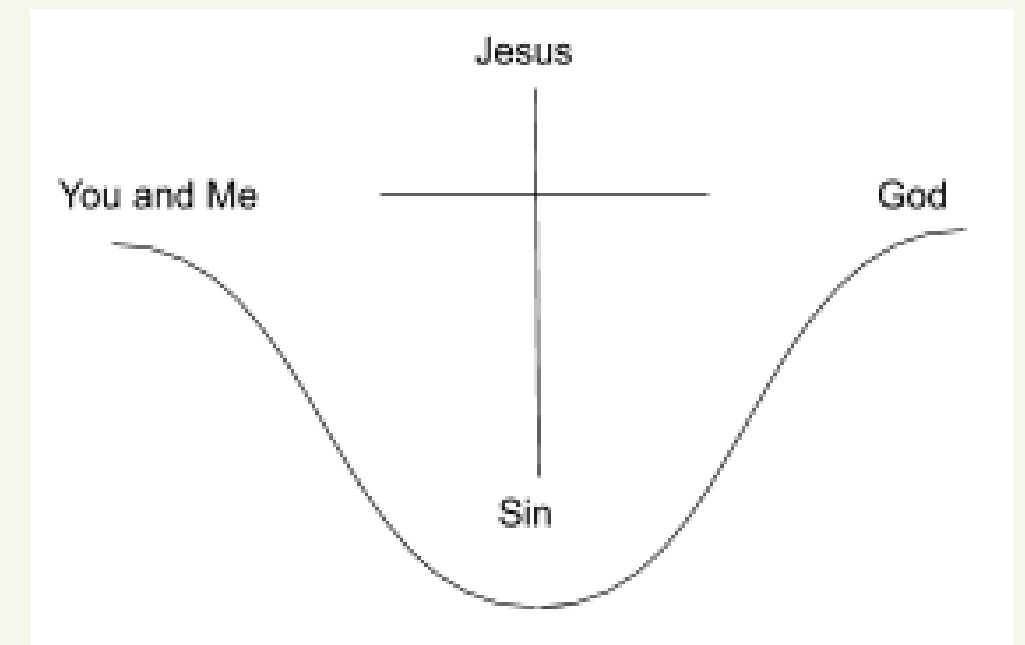
*Be aware of allergies and kids who are fed intravenously, use enteral feedings, or have sensory issues related to taste and smell.

VISUAL AIDS & ILLUSTRATIONS

- Of all of these senses, sight may be the most important to emphasize in a lesson. Visual aids and illustrations help our friends make a connection between a story that happened a long time ago and their lives in the present.
- These visual aids help them see the story or passage in the room with them.
- They help abstract ideas become more concrete in our friends' minds.

EXAMPLES:

- A video of the scripture you are using
- Acting out the story so that everyone can see it in action
- Visual illustrations of complex concepts like sin
- Pictures of the story that they can put in order of events



REENACTING BIBLE STORIES



- Reenacting Bible passages can be a fun and easy way to use all of our senses to learn.
- Having friends act out the story brings it to life in a new way and allows those acting to see from different perspectives within the story.
- It also helps friends memorize scripture

HOW TO:

- Print out the “lines” that each character says in the passage and assign one person for each character.
- Invite your actors up and help them read through their lines so that they are prepared when their time comes up.
- Create a scene and have a volunteer narrate the passage.
- You can even have the crowd participate by being the “mumbling crowd” or the “rushing wind”.

REPETITION

- Children and adults with disabilities alike benefit greatly from repetition. It is important that we repeat the main point multiple times throughout our lessons.
- Pause to summarize the story as you are telling it, page by page
- Look for ways to rephrase concepts and main points
- Using the same passage week after week can help our friends grasp the story and gain many different insights from one passage or story as well.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



- Start by asking your friends to tell you the story they just heard. This allows you to see what they picked up on and where you need to fill in gaps or correct misunderstandings.
- Gives our friends the chance to ask clarifying questions
- Allows volunteers to connect the lesson to our friends' lives.
- Can be the most formative and beneficial time of the lesson
- Provides space to make abstract ideas and concepts more concrete and connect the dots of how the lesson we learned from this passage actually connects to our everyday lives.
- It is helpful if these small group discussions happen directly after a lesson when the information is fresh on their minds.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Offer two to three open ended questions that go along with the lesson and help friends think about how the story relates to their ***relationship with God, their life, and their feelings.***

Example Questions:

- “What did you like about the story?”
- “What bothered you or confused you about the story?”
- “What does this story show us about God/Jesus?”
- “What does this story show us about people?”
- “What does this story show us about ourselves?”
- “Since we know this story is true, what should we do/What is there that we can obey or apply to our lives?”

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



This is also a great time to use different communication tools to help our non or minimally verbal friends process, providing an environment for them to listen to their peers and learn from what they have to say.

For example:

- Print out different emojis and ask the kid or adult to choose which one they feel when they are presented a certain question.
- Provide paper and coloring utensils and allow the group to draw what they are feeling or thinking.
- Have the students write a “letter to God” and tell him anything they are thinking or feeling after hearing the lesson.

LIVING LIFE TOGETHER



It is important to teach our friends how to walk with Jesus day to day.

Helping them understand not only what Jesus' love and sacrifice mean for our salvation, but what they mean for our daily lives as well.

"We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us."

1 Thessalonians 2:8

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