



REMEMBER

- God wants people to know the good news even more than we do! Thankfully he is the only one who can change hearts so we don't need to be in charge of people's responses. He can use our fumbling words but isn't counting on our "getting it right" so he can work!
- You cannot share the gospel in sincerity unless it has first transformed your own life. It is essential to first recognize why you think God is worth giving *your* life to. You need to know what you have been rescued from, before you can invite others to step into the good news for them
- 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 "I was unsure of how to go about this, and I felt totally inadequate – I was scared to death, if you want the truth of it – and so nothing I said could have impressed you or anyone else. But the Message came through anyway. God's spirit and God's power did it, which made it clear that your life of faith is a response to God's power, not to some fancy mental or emotional footwork by me or anyone else." (The Message)



RECOGNIZE

- The Gospel is good news because it tells us about God's rescue operation to save us from ourselves. The Gospel is good news because without it we are entirely on our own to make meaning out of our existence.
- The good news isn't just that we will go to heaven someday - it's that we can walk with God here and now. Teens need to know this.
- God's deepest desire is for a true relationship with us. But inviting someone to step into that without introducing them to his heart is like inviting someone to become engaged to a person they've never met. Your story of encounters with God's heart gives them a way to see who God truly is.
- Accepting Jesus is about giving up control and giving over your heart. It's a big thing! The good news of the gospel is that we don't have to be in charge any longer, but that doesn't always feel like good news if we're not sure we believe God is good enough and big enough for the job.



RESPOND

So what would we like teens to understand as they move toward God?

- **We're created and loved.** We were created by God and God loves each of his creations - not because we've done anything to deserve it but because we are his.
- **We keep trying to do life on our own terms.** When we try to make life work apart from God, we turn our back on him and his love.
- **God doesn't give up on us.** Nothing can ever separate us from God's love. He continues to make himself known to us through creation, through other people and through that still, small voice in our hearts.
- **God proved how far his love would go.** Jesus - who was God with skin on - came to earth and showed us what God's heart for us is like. He let himself be put to death to pay for every wrong we've ever committed.
- **Jesus was more powerful than death.** He didn't stay dead! He came back to life, to show us that His power is bigger than anything else in this world. If he can conquer death, nothing we do or feel is too big for him.
- **God wants a genuine relationships with us so he lets us choose.** If we want to step back into the relationship we were created to have with God, we need to ask Him to be in control of our lives and forgive us for thinking we could run our lives without him. We need to accept his crazy big love for us.
- **He invites us to believe - not to behave.** Once we come home to God he walks with us every step of our lives, teaching us how to live with peace, joy, hope and love.



THE GOSPEL



RESOURCES

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