



The Youth 2007 Design Team offers the following curriculum ideas as a way to get your youth excited about coming to Youth 2007, to be held in Greensboro, North Carolina, July 11–15, 2007. You may use all or any part of this curriculum in your regular meetings or as an additional activity time. We recommend doing a “Splat! Night” once a month for the 6 months leading up to the event, but you may also do “Splat! Nights” every week for the six weeks leading up to the event.

If you would like to participate in a larger way, you may contact the event office at Youth07@gbod.org or at 615-340-7190 for additional resources.

Seek

Supplies

- Food for the meal or snack
- Digital cameras (students can bring some from home or use any photo cell phones they have among them)
- Hidden picture
- Map of Greensboro, North Carolina
- Songsheets if you need them.

Preparation

Prepare for the scavenger hunt(s). Make a list of things around your church that the youth have to take a picture of and make copies of the list for each team. Have some small prizes for the winning team/s.

Psalm 105:4—Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.

Go on a Food Scavenger Hunt

Begin with a meal or a snack. Allow this to be a sort of scavenger hunt. For instance, if you are making sandwiches, rather than spreading the food out in a line along the counter, put it in various places around the room so that students have to “seek” out the ingredients. Or you could do this with a make-your-own sundae or make-your-own trail mix. (*Tip: Make sure that you record the hiding places so that food isn’t found the hard [and smelly!] way in several weeks.*)

Gather

Refocus everyone to move into the next part of the night. This time can include music if you choose. Ask a young person to open with prayer.

Go on a Photo Scavenger Hunt

Have the group go on a photo scavenger hunt around the church building. If you don’t have access to enough cameras, give the group a hidden image picture or a “Where’s Waldo” type picture for the group to seek out the hidden image or “Waldo.” If you have the capability, find an electronic image and project it on a screen. You want the youth to exercise looking closely or “seeking.”

Afterward, talk about how we need to seek God and seek out a deeper faith.

Treasure Map

Obtain a map of Greensboro, North Carolina. You can print out one from MapQuest, Yahoo! Maps, or a similar online source; or purchase a map at AAA or a map store.

As a group, investigate the area where you will gather for Youth2007. Then discuss the route you will take to Greensboro, the money your group will need to raise to get there, and the treasures you expect to find during and at the end of your journey.

Have Bible Study

Read aloud Psalm 105:4. What does it mean to “seek God”? What are you seeking in your life? Who can help you in your quest?

Pray and Close

This time may include music if you choose. The song “Seek Ye First” is an “oldie-but-a-goody” and would work great.

Prayer Focus: Those looking for God in their life



Pray

1 Corinthians 14:15a—So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind.

Gather

Have a youth open the time in prayer. Begin with a discussion of 1 Corinthians 14:15. Discuss why prayer is important and why we live our lives in a way that strengthens us as individuals as well as strengthens others around us.

Experience Prayer Stations

This night is all about experiencing God through prayer. Rotate the students so that only a few are at each station at a time.

- 1. Personal Prayer Space:** Here students may pray for themselves, their faith, their needs, their desires, and so forth. You may choose to put some written prompts in this space, or you may choose to leave it as simply a quiet space.
- 2. World Prayer Station:** Hang a world map on a wall. Allow the students to select a location, mark the location on the map with a tack or pin, and commit to pray for this location for a week. Have paper and pens available at this station so that the students can write down the name of the area they choose to pray for.
- 3. Family Prayer:** Provide crayons, markers, and paper. Ask the students to draw a picture of their family. As they think about their family, they may consider the needs of their family and pray for their parents, siblings, and any extended family they may feel led to pray for.
- 4. Local Prayer:** Stock this station with brochures and other sources of information about local ministries or newspaper articles about current needs within your community. Have the students choose an organization to pray for. Have them write the organization on a color index card and create a prayer wall, using the index cards as “bricks.”
- 5. Youth 2007 Prayer:** Hang up a sign that says “Destination: Youth 2007 SPLAT!” and invite students to pray for the leadership of Youth 2007 as we prepare for the event. Suggest that they pray for the city of Greensboro and the sites that we will be “taking over” for the event.

Pray and Close

Gather to discuss what they experienced during the prayer station time. Close with music if you choose. Suggested songs are “Sanctuary” and “Here I Am, Lord.”

Prayer Focus: Those you committed to pray for at the prayer stations

Supplies

- Supplies for each of the prayer stations
- Decorative and/or functional items to distinguish each station
- Songsheets if you need them

Preparation

Set up the 5 prayer stations ahead of time. Think of ways to make each area a distinctive area suitable for the varieties of prayer that will take place in the stations.

Learn

Supplies

- Food for the meal or snack
- Any supplies needed to play a game of your choice
- Songsheets if you need them

Job 34:4—Let us discern for ourselves what is right; let us learn together what is good.

Open

Begin with a shared meal or snack that includes fun goodies such as Smarties or Gummy (book) Worms.

Have a youth pray to open the time together.

Play a Game

Have the group play a game such as Fruit Basket Upset or I'm Going Camping and I'm bringing. . .

Do Bible Study

Lead a discussion centered around Job 34:4.

Worship With Song

Sings songs such as "Every Move I Make," "Now Is the Time to Worship," "Blessed Be the Name," "The Happy Song."

Discuss Faith Sharing

Gather into a circle. Talk together about some experiences of learning about God and what it means to follow Jesus. Ask questions such as these (affirm that it is OK not to have an answer right now):

- What important life lessons have you learned? How have they affected your faith?
- Where did you first learn about Christ?
- Where do you learn more about your faith? (Answers might include camp, youth group, Sunday school, Bible study.)
- What role do your friends play in your learning about faith? How do you affect what your friends learn about faith?
- How do you think Youth 2007 will help you continue to learn and grow in your faith?

Pray and Close

Learning is an ongoing, lifelong project. God calls us to continuously learn and grow. Close with a prayer focused on learning.

Prayer Focus: What you are learning about faith and what God is saying to you

Act

1 Peter 4:10—Each one should use whatever gift they have received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.

Open

Have a youth open the meeting in prayer.

You may choose to tie this in with a local service project earlier in the day or earlier in the week. Perhaps this is a Sunday night activity, following a Sunday afternoon workday. Or you might have a workday on Saturday and do this activity as a follow-up on Wednesday night.

Play a Game

Have the group play a game such as Freeze Tag or The Human Knot. The instructions for playing The Human Knot are to have the group stand in a circle, then each person uses his or her right hand to grab the right hand of someone else. When everyone is holding someone else’s right hand with his or her right hand, each person then joins his or her left hand with someone else’s left hand (not the left hand of the person who is holding his or her right hand). Then group members continue to hold hands while trying to untangle themselves.

Take Inventory

Talk together about what gifts each youth has. If you have a large group, have the youth divide into small discussion groups. Help the youth identify what gifts God has given them to serve in this world. Encourage the teens to confirm gifts that they see in one another as well. Perhaps, look at an abbreviated spiritual gifts assessment.

Act Out a Bible Story

Have students silently act out the story of the good Samaritan while you read. Often our actions speak louder than our words do. Have the group see what stands out most as people live into these biblical roles. Discuss with the group what gifts the good Samaritan had and how he used them. Then discuss the ways in which we can use our gifts to help others. Don’t stop there; find a way to put your plan into action.

Pray and Close

Include in the worship some songs related to today’s subject, such as, “We Are the Body,” “Undignified,” “They’ll Know We Are Christians.” Close with a prayer of thanksgiving for all of the gifts God has placed in your group.

Prayer Focus: Opportunities to put your gifts to work

Supplies

- Any supplies needed to play a game of your choice
- Props for acting out your choice of Bible stories (optional)
- Songsheets if you need them

Teach

Supplies

- Tennis balls or other small, lightweight balls (Have on hand 2 balls for every 3 people in the group.)
- DVD of Disney's *The Lion King*
- TV
- DVD player
- Songsheets if you need them
- A sheet of paper for each youth
- Pens, pencils, crayons, and/or markers

2 Timothy 2:2—And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

Connect Faith and Film

Show “The Circle of Life,” the opening scene of Disney’s *The Lion King*. Then discuss how Mufasa passes on his faith to Simba, who then has the responsibility to pass on the faith to his family and friends. When Mufasa dies early in Simba’s life, Simba runs away from all that he loves. It isn’t until Rafiki reminds him of the greatness of his father and of his responsibility now as the lion king and keeper of the faith that Simba returns to the teachings of his father.

As God’s creatures fall by the wayside, soar to the stars, sail through troubles, and live with scars, like in the song, to whom is Jesus’ calling you to respond? And how does your response TEACH others of God’s love for all of God’s creation?

What next? It is time for us to continue the process. For once we were SEEKers, now we are TEACHers of that which God has blessed us. What is God calling you to do?

The song also mentions the wheel of fortune. Many persons live in areas of “misfortune.” On a separate sheet of paper, draw a wheel with spokes. On each spoke of the wheel, write the name of a group or person who needs to know God’s love through your sharing and teaching of your faith. List ways that you can share with or teach others who need what you have.

Play a Game

Play Tennis Ball Toss. The goal is to understand the value of working together and our ability as people of faith to share and teach our faith to others.

Have all of the participants stand or sit in a circle. Toss a ball to one person and say, “My name is (*insert your name*). Here’s a lesson for you (for example, ‘Jesus loves you’)”. The person you have tossed to then tosses the ball to someone else and says the “My name is (*insert your name*). Here’s a lesson for you (for example, ‘rain and dirt make mud’)”. Play continues in the same manner. Meanwhile, start another ball going while saying the same thing as before. Keep introducing ball after ball. Stop the game when there are so many balls that the group members cannot keep up or until someone forgets to toss a ball.

Discuss Learnings

Ask questions such as the following:

- How many times did you say, “Here’s a lesson for you”?
- How many times did you drop the ball? How is this similar to when you have responsibility for something that doesn’t get done? Who is affected when you don’t “get it done”? How do you learn from that experience?
- When the chaos began, how much energy did you use?
- How could the chaos have been lessened?
- What do you learn if you continue doing the same thing over and over, without evaluating its effect?
- Are you taking the time to really teach; or are you just passing on information, without regard to what is being learned?
- How does God’s grace and love show through you when you respond to something that does not feel right? (Examples: keeping someone at school from being mistreated, contributing to the people in your community being safe, finding ways to help people find affordable housing).

Pray and Close

Read aloud 1 Timothy 4:12. Have the group sing some songs related to today’s subject.

Prayer Focus: What you can teach others about faith and a relationship with Jesus Christ

Important Information on Public Video Viewing

When you show home videocassettes or DVDs to a group of learners, you need to obtain a public performance license. You can get the license (sometimes called a site or umbrella license) from The Motion Picture Licensing Corporation’s church desk at 800-515-8855. You need this license even if you charge no money for the showing.

The license is valid for twelve months and typically costs about \$95. Check with your church to see if an umbrella license has already been obtained. Many denominations—through conferences, jurisdictions, dioceses, and other structures—secure licenses for their churches.

SPLAT! Night

Supplies

- Paper
- Pens and pencils
- Any supplies needed for the “Splat! Night” activities of your choice
- Songsheets if you need them

Open

Have a youth open the group time in prayer. Then invite several youth to read aloud the Scriptures for Seek, Pray, Learn, Act, and Teach.

Create a Verse

As a group, compose your own verse that summarizes the five Scriptures that were just read. Call this paraphrase “Gak 24:7.”

We invite youth groups to put their Gak 24:7 verse on their youth group t-shirts that they wear to the event. We also invite groups to submit their Gak 24:7 verse to the Youth2007 office at Youth07@gbod.org so that we can post them on the website for others to see.

Get Messy SPLAT! Night Activities

Allow this night to be all about having fun and getting messy. Suggested activities are egg toss, water balloon toss, “pie the pastor” (this could be a good fundraiser), throw darts at paint balloons, shave balloons, do a Gak toss (recipe below).

Pray and Close

Close with a time of worship and reflection on the upcoming event. Discuss what your group hopes to get from participating in this event. Discuss what your group can bring to the event and how your group can affect others’ lives along the way. Sing some favorite songs, and close in prayer.

Prayer Focus: Youth2007, its participants and leaders

Gak

- 1 cup white glue
- food coloring, your choice of color (Optional—coloring can stain clothing)
- 1 cup liquid starch (found in the laundry aisle)

Put the glue into a plastic container or zip-type plastic bag. Add food coloring if desired, and mix until the color is consistent throughout and is the chosen color.

Add the starch a little at a time, stirring with a spoon or kneading with your fingers as mixture thickens. Stir until mixture holds together like putty.

Test the mixture with your fingers. If it is too sticky, add more starch in small amounts until the mass is smooth and rubbery.

