

# THE STORY OF YOU

## Week 5 - Your Future

### THE MAIN POINT

The past couple of weeks we have talked about who we are in the past. These next two weeks we are going to be talking about our future and how to set ourselves up for success. Today we are going to talk about the people the we surround ourselves with. We want them to leave this meeting knowing the importance of community and the people around you.

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- MASH description
- Paper
- Pen
- Snacks

### GETTING STARTED

Begin by welcoming everyone to your small group. Go around and have everyone say their highs for the week. Ask: If you got paid the same amount no matter what job you had, what career would you choose?

From last week, who is the adult that you believe will pour into you and love you the way Barnabas loved Paul?

Make sure that everyone has at least met one another and learned each others' names. Share the rules for small group and ask if everyone can agree to them. Again, maybe have a student share them.

### **RULES FOR SMALL GROUP:**

**Commitment** - Commit to being at every group meeting (make it a priority!)

**Confidentiality** - What is shared here stays here.

**Be honest or be silent** - don't make up an answer just to have one. Sometimes the most honest answer is no answer, so if you need to, just say pass.

**Respect** - for one another, their thoughts/ideas/opinions (no put downs).

Today we are talking about your future.

## ACTIVITY

### **MASH (separate document included)**

Sometimes it can be fun to guess what your future will be like. But, when it comes to the kind of person you will be in the future, you have more control over than then just a fun prediction game!

## GOING DEEPER

### Paul's Story

After Barnabas encouraged Paul, he showed Paul how to be on his own and love others the way that Barnabas loved him. Paul then left and started to surround himself with people who had the same goal and who were like-minded. The people that Paul surrounded himself with were people who saw the best in him, never left his side, and went through the tough times with him as well. Paul went on to be a great man and impacted thousands of people and communities.

1. What do you think would have happened if after Paul left Barnabas, he surrounded himself with

the same friends he had had before?

2. When was a time that friends peer pressured you into doing something you didn't want to do? Or, when is a time that you peer pressured someone into doing something they didn't want to do?
3. Do you feel like you influence your friends more, or do they influence you more? Why?
4. Are the friends you are surrounding yourself with now helping you get to the place where you are being described in the way that you said you wanted to last week (are they helping you become the person you want to be)? Are they helping you become a better person or worse person? How?
5. After Paul's life turned around, one of the things he wrote was "Do not be deceived: 'Bad company ruins good morals.'" If this is true, how does it make you feel about your friend group? Do you feel like anything needs to change?

## TAKE AWAY

Today we want every student to leave feeling empowered to be in control of their future. We want the students to understand that who they surround themselves with will have a major role in who they become. Challenge the students to think of and find one new friend who they believe will help them become who they want to be.

### LEADER ONLY:

Next week we want you to instill words of encouragement and empowerment to each student in your small group. Take time this week to prepare to tell each student what makes them special and what strengths they have. We want each student to feel seen and empowered after next week, so please take the time and energy to make sure each one is unique and true.