

THE STORY OF YOU

Week 4 - Your Past (Part 2)

THE MAIN POINT

Today we are diving deeper into the importance of growth in a student's life. We are going to continue to evaluate who we are now, and who we want to be and the growth that needs to happen to get to where we want to go.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Piece of paper for each student
- Pens
- A bucket or bowl
- Snacks

GETTING STARTED

Welcome everyone back to your small group. Go around and have everyone share their high of the week and their spirit animal.

What were the three words that people described you as (see "Take Away" from last week)? Why do you think they chose those words? *If they didn't do it, have them text 3 friends really quick.*

Make sure that everyone has at least met one another and learned each other's names. Share the rules for small group and ask if everyone can agree to them. At this point, your students should know these rules. Maybe instead of you reiterating them, ask if any of the students can name them

all.

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).

We are going to continue on this journey of self-discovery and determine the growth that needs to happen in order to become who we want to be.

ACTIVITY

Have everyone think back to when they were little kids and anonymously write down what career they wanted to be when they grew up, put them in a bowl, and mix them up. Read each paper out loud and have your group guess who wrote it. Have them share why they think each person in the group would've written that career. Make sure students know it's ok to guess wrong on purpose when their career comes up so they can throw people off! Student who guesses the most correctly wins!

GOING DEEPER

Paul's Story

If you remember, from the last few weeks, we've been talking about this guy named Paul. He is not a nice dude. He did a lot of things he regretted. Paul was actually on his way to the next town to do some harm to some people he really didn't like when, through a freak accident, he goes blind. Because he was known for being a bad dude, no one would help him. Eventually a guy was convinced to help him, and through this guy's help, Paul regained his sight. And, as we talked

about, through this experience, Paul majorly changed his tune. He was no longer looking to harm people, but to help them and share love. He wanted to change crowds, and do the right thing. Here's the thing though, everyone else wasn't so convinced that he had really changed. But there was one guy that really believed him & stuck up for him: Barnabas. Barnabas saw Paul, not by his past, but for the potential he saw in him. He did not let Paul's reputation define what he could become. Barnabas took Paul under his wing and invited him into his life. He was with Paul every day and invited him into his home and stood up for him when others were stuck on his past.

- Remind us of what you wanted to be when you grew up. What has changed since then?
- Now, who do you want to be when you grow up--not just your career, but what kind of person do you want to be?
- What word(s) do you want to be described as?
- What needs to change in you in order to live up to that?
- Paul had a mentor/advocate in his life; do you have someone who sees you and your potential?

TAKE AWAY

We want students to leave this day feeling like they understand themselves and each other better. Hopefully their eyes were open to the value and importance of differences in people. Challenge them this week to find an adult who sees them the way Barnabas saw Paul. Come back next week with a name of an adult who you trust and who sees your full potential.