

Empathize with Young People
Core Group Discussion Guide
04-22-2018

Message Overview:

So, this is the big week when we gather together in mixed aged core groups! This message will contain A LOT of information that should provide a great deal of content for your discussions. The message foundation is found in Christ who became like us in order to express his love for us and save us. We call this action...empathy. **Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of others.** Jesus could have saved us from a distance, without getting to close to our messiness. But he didn't. He loved us too much for that. If we are going to reach the young people in our church, we are going to have to seek to really understand them. This message will spend a lot of time helping the church understand young people and the lives they live. For us to grow young, we are going to have to become like Jesus and enter the world of young people.

Text:

- Hebrews 4:14-16
- Matthew 1:23, 28:19-20

Questions for Discussion:

Discussion Tip: For bigger groups, it may be helpful to break the group down into smaller groups so that more people can have input into the discussion of the message content. Inviting small groups to make a list of three comments and three questions about the message can be an effective way to help groups begin discussing the message.

1. (Practice listening to young people) For those of you 30 and under, what parts of the message did you identify with most?
 - a. It was mentioned that many young people feel abandoned by older people who aren't your parents or grandparents, have you found that to be true?
 - b. If not, can you describe relationships with older people who have meant a lot to you?
2. For those of you over 30, the message stressed the need to enter into the world of young people. What makes that difficult for you personally?
 - a. What did you learn from the message about young people that you hadn't considered before?
 - b. In what ways is life more complex for younger people today than it was for you when you were that age?
3. How do you think our congregation can help young people deal with their increased stress?
4. Are there ways in which MCA is successful in understanding our young people?
5. In what ways might we improve our empathy toward young people?