

YOUTH CONFERENCE 2024 - TUESDAY PM | Joel Firebaugh

Overview:

Speaker (Joel Firebaugh) kicked off the session stating there are 2.4 billion people who claim to be a Christian, today. The word Christian literally means = 'little Christ'. What started with 15-30 followers of Jesus has now spread to more than 2 billion followers. Of the 15-30 original followers of Jesus, almost all of them would have been young people (teenagers). God has used young people in the past and He continues to use young people today to change the world!

Key Scripture: Galatians 2:20; Luke 1:34-35; Matthew 4:18-22; 1 Thessalonians 5:19

Dig Deeper:

The Gospel in a verse: **Galatians 2:20**

- *How do you see the gospel in this verse?*

Almost all of Jesus' 12 disciples would have been high school age students. In this verse it states 'It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me'.

- *In what ways do we see Christ empower and living through His disciples in the New Testament?*

AS WE GET FILLED WITH CHRIST, HIS LOVE OVERFLOWS TO OTHERS

Examples of young people in the Bible that God used to change the world:

READ Luke 1:34-35 (NIV)

- Mary, the mother of Jesus
- Only about 13-14yrs of age when the angel delivered the news
- *How does Mary respond to the Angel? (A: 'How will this be?')*
- *As you read on in Luke 1, what key characteristics does Mary portray (A: Willing heart and obedience to God)*

WILLINGNESS AND OBEDIENCE IS HOW GOD USES PEOPLE THAT ARE ORDINARY TO DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS

Did you know that 11 out of 12 disciples were most likely high school aged guys

READ Exodus 30:14

- *What was the age of those who were required to give an offering? (A: 20yrs of age or older)*

READ Matthew 17:27 (needing to pay the temple tax – 2 drachma)

- *According to verse 27, Jesus paid the temple tax for how many people?*

These high school age students are being INVITED to follow Jesus

READ Matthew 4:18

- Why are they fisherman? (**A: Because they weren't good enough**)

But Jesus gives an invitation – ‘Come Follow Me’ and they accepted it and it changed everything!

READ 1 Thessalonians 5:19

YOU ARE EITHER FOLLOWING OR YOU ARE QUENCHING

The thing you think you need, when we give it up, might actually be the thing that brings you freedom when you give it up to God.

COME FOLLOW ME!

The Invitation has been given ... how will you respond?

Group Discussion:

1. Joel helped us see that God ALWAYS uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things, does this make you more or less prone to accept His invitation? Why?
2. Think back on the past year of your life. Have you been following Him or quenching Him from using you? What is the thing that's putting a "kink" in letting God use you? Is there are area of your life that your struggling to give up?
3. If you made a decision to accept the invitation to follow Jesus, share that publicly with your youth group. Celebrate their commitment!
4. For many it's been a long day. Share your hopes and expectations for this week. Commit to ask God each morning to do something that will change your life.