

Community

Wild Predications (This will take about twenty minutes to do with discussion.)

Refer to the hand out. Have students guess which students or staff in their small group or youth group is most likely to fulfill the predications on the handout.

Commitments (Allow five to ten minutes for these, depending on group size.)

Have each student make a ridiculous commitment for that week. It should be something they could actually follow through with and have the group vote on whether or not that student could actually follow through with it. For example:

I will eat nothing but pizza for a week.

I will not eat anything this week.

I will bike ten miles a day.

Follow through next week to find out who succeeded.

Bible

Intro

1. What is the most adventurous thing you have ever done in your life?
2. If you could have anyone come to your house to hang out, who would it be? Who would you invite?
3. Where—in what what context—do you have the most influence? School, family, sports team, here, etc?

Luke 19:1–10 (NLT)

1 Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. **2** There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was one of the most influential Jews in the Roman tax-collecting business, and he had become very rich. **3** He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowds. **4** So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree beside the road, so he could watch from there. **5** When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name.

“Zacchaeus!” he said. “Quick, come down! For I must be a guest in your home today.”

6 Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy.

7 But the crowds were displeased. “He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,” they grumbled. **8** Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have overcharged people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!” **9** Jesus responded, “Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a son of Abraham. **10** And I, the Son of Man, have come to seek and save those like him who are lost.”

Observation (What is going on in the text)

1. Why do you think Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus so badly?
2. Do you think Jesus was looking for him specifically or did he just see him in the tree?
3. The Bible says that Jesus called him by name. Why?
4. Why does Jesus invite himself to dinner? Do you think Zacchaeus could have said no?
5. What is the result of the connection?

Interpretation (What does it mean)

1. Why was Zacchaeus a “notorious sinner?”
2. Who are the “notorious sinners” today?
3. What does it mean when Jesus goes to hang out with them?
4. Why pay them back? Isn’t forgiveness enough?
5. Zacchaeus never went near an altar. What does it mean when the Bible says, “Salvation has come to this home today...”

Application (What are some lessons we can learn)

1. What are we committed to? Individually and as a group?
2. What hinders us from following through with people, spiritual conversations, or our commitments?
3. Why did Jesus not back down from this conversation?
4. What is the reason Zacchaeus cannot see Jesus? What is something that keeps you from seeing or being with Jesus?

Spreading the Word is about making a commitment to establish a connection for the purpose of having a spiritual conversation.

1. What are you committed to?
2. Who do you have connections with?
3. When was your last spiritual conversation?

WILD PREDICTIONS

Below is a list of crazy forecasts. In your groups, try to match different youth to something wild that they will accomplish in their lifetimes. (Don't take it too seriously.)

The person in our youth group most likely to...

- _____ Develop Arnold Schwarzenegger-size biceps
- _____ Become the first woman to play professional football
- _____ Become the most famous pet psychologist in Beverly Hills
- _____ Win the Internet contest for worst jokes
- _____ Appear on the cover of *GQ*
- _____ Replace Regis Philbin on the Regis & Kelly Show
- _____ Become a Barker Beauty
- _____ Win the tattoo contest at a Harley Davidson convention
- _____ Rollerblade across the country
- _____ Become an African safari guide for wealthy people
- _____ Open a charm school for Hell's Angels
- _____ Win money on a television game show
- _____ Become a stuntman for Mt. Dew commercials
- _____ Become the first woman president of the United States
- _____ Make a fortune on portable toilet rentals
- _____ Become the salesperson of the year for aerobic gear
- _____ Write a soap opera based on their love life
- _____ Set a world record for marathon dancing
- _____ Become a participant on the World's Strongest Man Competition
- _____ Become a millionaire by age thirty