

SONQUEST: THE RIDE!

YOUTH LEADER DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

We can't wait to see everyone in Orlando in a few days! The organizers of SonQuest have decided to try something new this year that we think will really help our weekend together. Each year, it is our prayer that our teens LEAVE SonQuest CHANGED . . .

. . . but what if they could ARRIVE at SonQuest changed . . . and ready to grow!

The following guide is designed for youth workers, class teachers, or volunteers to use on the Sunday and Wednesday youth group meetings **leading up to** SonQuest.

Here is what YOU as a Youth Minister, group leader or class teacher can do:

1. Use this guide this coming SUNDAY and use the other for this WEDNESDAY as you prepare your group for the weekend.
2. Download the TEEN guide that contains a daily devotional for teens to do on the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday leading up to the big event. You can refer to this on Wednesday as teens will have had a few days to work through the daily devotionals.
3. Encourage your TEENS in class this Sunday morning to download the individual daily devotional guide, OR you can print it off and pass them out in class. E-mail or Facebook your group (if you have this capability) especially if they miss class on Sunday to let them know about the Daily Devotionals. Remind them each day through your own youth groups Facebook pages, etc.
4. Encourage them to go to Facebook and look up "SonQuest 2010". By joining this group, they can participate in a larger dialogue as teens will be invited to post answers to the daily devotional questions on the Facebook page.
5. You might even find these daily devotional guides helpful to refer to in your Friday/Saturday night devotionals AT SonQuest.

We realize that not everyone will take advantage of this, but for those who do, we feel they will have their heart prepared for what God will say to them this weekend. Perhaps by next year, everyone will know the drill and we can do this again.

All teens will be given a follow up devotional guide (along with some other helpful and creative "tools") AT SonQuest that will help them to process what they have heard and learned AND will challenge them to SHARE it with others.

Bottom line: We want SonQuest to last beyond the few days we are together, and we hope that by providing these guides, we can jumpstart the personal devotional life of the teens (and adults!) who will make the journey to SonQuest 2010: The RIDE!

See you next weekend!

COUNTDOWN TO SONQUEST...

USE IN SUNDAY CLASS:

These first two activities should be used to loosen up the group and prepare them for the deeper discussion that follows:

OPENER #1: Begin by finding out who in the class will be making the trip to SonQuest. Have a few of them share the highlights of this event so that those who have never been can be introduced to the meaning that SonQuest has for those in your group.

- Have them share why events like these are so special.
- Have them explain why this helps them to deepen their youth group relationships.
- Have them share the TWO things about SonQuest that they look forward to the most.

OPENER #2: Explain that the theme of SonQuest 2010 is "The RIDE." Go around the room and ask each teen to share their FAVORITE AMUSEMENT PARK RIDE. It might be one from a recent trip to the theme park or maybe they can share about a nostalgic ride from their youth. Have them explain why these rides were so awesome.

If you have a large group, you might let them divide up into smaller groups and share their answers so that everyone can participate.

GROUP DISCUSSION:

Facilitate the discussion by using the following questions:

1. What was the FIRST roller coaster you remember riding? Where was it? What do you remember most about it? Did you have to be convinced to ride by someone?
2. Were you ever too young (or too small) to ride a roller coaster? Do you remember the sign that would say: "Must Be This Tall to Ride"? What were some things kids would do to "cheat" in order to make themselves appear "taller" or "older"?

READ: Ephesians 4:14-16

GO DEEPER:

3. Have students work together to list at least THREE things Paul says about "growing up" in this passage. What kinds of phrases does he use? What kinds of imagery? Unpack this passage with your teens.
4. Why do you think it is that when it comes to riding a coaster we will do anything to APPEAR "grown-up" but when it comes to our spiritual journey, we seem to avoid those things that call us to GROW UP? Encourage students to process this deeply.

5. Are there some things that people do to cheat in attempts to convince others that they are SPIRITUALLY “taller” than they are? Why do we feel the need to use “shortcuts” to fool people into thinking we are spiritual grown-ups?

6. Key Question: What is one POSITIVE thing about you TODAY that was NOT TRUE of you this time LAST YEAR? In other words, what is ONE area of growth you have seen in yourself? To what or to whom do you attribute this growth? (Leaders Note: This is a great question for teens to use some self-evaluation. Really encourage them to share so that others in the class can hear some good stories of growth in their peers. Be prepared to share an answer yourself.)

7. Can you identify an area where you really want to take the next step of growth? Where do you really want to see a change? (Leaders Note: For those who feel comfortable sharing, have them explain to the group what this area is and how they might develop a plan for growth.)

READ: 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Explain that this is the theme verse for the weekend and that you will explore it more deeply on Wednesday night.

8. Encourage your teens to download the Daily Devotionals designed for teens available at www.SonQuest.com or you can have them printed off to pass out to them in class. Encourage them to visit the SonQuest 2010 Facebook page each day to share their thoughts and to read the thoughts of others as they work through the daily devotionals.

CLOSING:

9. Have the class split into groups of 2-3 and spend some time in prayer over those areas in which they want to grow. Encourage them to pray FOR each other after exchanging specific requests.

COUNTDOWN TO SONQUEST . . .

USE IN WEDNESDAY CLASS:

OPENER: If you have a whiteboard or chalkboard in your class, use it to play a little game of Amusement Park PICTONARY (or Win, Lose, or Draw if you are older and are wearing a really bad sweater). If you don't have a board, then use a large flipchart pad, etc. Have students compete GUYS vs. GIRLS to see who can guess the most pictures. Give each artist a time limit to go down the list. Or have them draw one at a time. Feel free to play with the rules. Here are some ideas of items you can draw. Feel free to make up your own. Perhaps you could print them on note cards and have contestants draw out of a hat and see how many they can draw in one minute.

SUGGESTED ITEMS: Things you see in an Amusement Park

- Ferris Wheel
- Cotton Candy
- Log Flume
- Funhouse
- Bumper Cars
- Caramel Apple
- Ole Timey Car Ride
- The Magic Kingdom
- Carousel
- Popcorn
- Water Slide
- Roller Coaster
- Balloons
- Clowns
- Train
- Haunted House
- Caricature Artist
- Large Stuffed Animal Prize
- Stroller
- Camera
- Sunburn
- Security Guard
- Turnstile
- Ticket
- Pretzel
- Skee Ball
- The Swings
- Tilt-a-Whirl
- Puke
- Juggler
- Marching Band
- Parade

Be creative and come up with others on our own, OR have the different groups come up with some for the other team to do!

READ: 1 Timothy 6:17-19

GROUP DISCUSSION:

Facilitate the discussion by using the following questions:

1. On Sunday, we talked about the sign at the Roller Coaster that says “You must be THIS tall to ride.” In other words, we have a standard that lets us know when we are

GROWN enough to RIDE. In this passage, Paul gives Timothy three commands to pass on to others that are a sign of our growth as believers. What are the three things that he asks us to “do” or to “be”?

2. Focus on the LAST phrase in the passage: *“so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”* Do you like this phrase? What do you think it means? How does following Paul’s commands help us to take hold of the life that is truly life?

3. When was the last time that you participated in a group that “did good”, was “rich in good deeds”, or that was “generous and willing to share”?

-Explain what you did?

-How did it make you feel?

-How did it change you?

-What did you learn about yourself?

GO DEEPER:

4. How does doing these kinds of things compare to what others would shallowly describe as “LIFE”?

5. Think back to our opening activity. If people were to DRAW a picture of someone serving, giving, and meeting the needs of others, would someone offer YOUR NAME as a possible answer? Would they even think of you at all? Would they think of your youth group or your church? What kinds of efforts are you involved in as a group that people would associate with your youth group/church?

THE CHALLENGE:

6. Can the group come up with at least ONE idea of a way they could together follow Paul’s commands and do something (upon returning home from SonQuest) that was rich in good deeds allowing them to take hold of the life that is truly life? Brainstorm some ideas, and during your SonQuest devotionals have them develop these ideas even further and use that time of bonding to create some energy about serving together.

Be creative!

You don’t have to change the world, but what are some ways that you could change the life of one kid in your group, one family in your community, or one group of citizens in your town? How can you assist a missionary? How can you encourage the shut-in? How can you help another ministry at your church? Spend some time on this as a group. Try to come up with some ideas that you can refine into ONE project at SonQuest that will help your group take hold of the life that is truly life.

CLOSING:

7. Have the class split into groups of 2-3 and spend some time in prayer over these ideas AND have them pray about the coming weekend! Be sure to remind them to continue in their daily devotionals and to check out the Facebook site and post their thoughts.

Leaders: Thanks for your investment of your lives in the lives of these teens. We hope these guides have been helpful in preparing the way for GOD to take these kids on quite a RIDE in the coming days! Be safe . . . and we will see YOU at SonQuest!