

# Youth Group Plus

## Episode 1

### “What is this Podcast All About?”

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#### • Our Story (Tasha)

- 25+ years in student ministry.
- Tasha has the same experience in various roles.

#### • Our Dream

- Our prayer – God would stir up a massive spiritual awakening in students around the world.
  - Students would develop a deep love for and trust in Jesus.
  - Their friends would see it and want the same.
  - We would see literally hundreds and thousands of students discovering the life God dreams for them.
    - Who they really are.
    - Where they fit in.
    - What’s their purpose.
- We’ve prayed that for 25+ years ... and we would love to play a small part.

#### • Our Experience

- Students really want to live lives that matter, they want to be a part of something bigger than themselves.
- Most churches have great intentions, but they under-challenge students. In our experience, students can do way more than most people think.
  - Students will rise to the challenge if we can help them grasp a vision for “what if ...” – a vision for living out God’s Kingdom and revealing it to others.
  - You might hear that phrase a lot – living and revealing God’s Kingdom.
    - That captures the heart of Jesus for his followers.

- Key Passages

- Romans 12

*Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. All of us have a way of thinking ... shaped by our family, culture, etc.*

- We're made in God's image, so he's given us an incredible imagination, but our imagination is dulled by the brokenness in us and in the world.
- We need the Holy Spirit to change the way we think
  - Renew our minds
  - Renovate our imagination

- John 14:12-14

*12 "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. 13 You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. 14 Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!*

- I can't imagine doing "even greater works" than Jesus ... because my imagination is broken and dulled. But the Holy Spirit wants to renew it.
- By the way, Jesus said those words to his disciples ... scholars are pretty sure they were all under 30 – younger than Jesus ... and it's highly likely that **most of them were teenagers**.
- Jesus told these teenagers they would do even greater things than he.
- MFT
  - What are some of the more amazing things you remember that Jesus did?
  - Can you imagine doing even greater things than that?!??

- **1 Timothy 4:12**

*Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.*

- I'm not sure how old Timothy was ... it doesn't matter, because Paul was saying it doesn't matter how old you are to be an example to all believers.
- You are not the church of tomorrow. You are the church of now.
  - And the church needs you to be the church ... to lead the church ... to show us how to chase after Jesus.

- **Our Hope (This Podcast)**

- **Encourage You**

- In a world where many, many people treat students poorly, this podcast is a place where we believe in you and we believe the best about you.

- **Disciple You**

- A global spiritual awakening among students isn't going to happen because students come to hear a good preacher. It's going to happen because students are growing as disciples of Jesus and making disciples of their friends.
- Matthew 28:19 ... "Go and make disciples of all nations ..."
  - Jesus said be a disciple who is making disciples.
  - We want to be a part that disciple-making process in your own life.

- **Resource You**

- In 25 years of student ministry, I've had countless conversations with students. Great conversations. And I've helped find answers to loads of questions students ask.
- We want this podcast to be a place where
  - You can find answers to your questions about faith and life.
  - You can use as a resource as you're having conversations with your friends.
  - You can point your friends to to help the conversations you're having.

- **Inspire You**
  - We want you to grow in your relationship with Jesus, we want you to hear the nudging of God's Spirit to say "yes" and follow when he leads.
    - That's why you'll hear from real teenagers across the US and eventually the world. So you can inspire and be inspired by one another.
  
- **Ephesians 3:20-21**
  - *Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.*

#### • **Your Turn**

- As you listen to the heart behind Youth Group Plus, what thoughts are going through your mind?
  - Did anything stick out in today's teaching?
- What are you excited about with respect to Youth Group Plus?
- What are some topics/questions you hope we'll talk about?
- What do you sense the Holy Spirit is saying to you through this teaching?
- What are you going to do about?

#### • **Go-To Question**

- How do you make sure you're growing in your relationship with Jesus?
- Why is that so important?