

Song Suggestions

From God Above – Marty Sampson (A)
Living for You – David Moore (A)
From the Inside Out – Joel Houston (C)
How Great is our God - Tomlin (C)

Announcements

1. Don't forget to join us for ROOTED WINTER CAMP!
Sugarpine February 12-15,
or Pinecrest I February 26-28
or Pinecrest II March 5-7
2. Don't forget about us at SOCALYC.COM and also the facebook, myspace and twitter page! They are active all year so stop in and say hello!

Game

There are a lot of options when talking about fruit.

Who eats an apple the fastest is funny.

Who can get the most juice out of an orange just using their mouth is good.

A fruit roll (like the roll an egg with your nose across the room) except use a pear or something odd shaped. Or something really small like a cherry. That's fun!

Here is the option I will most likely use. It is a free download of a powerpoint game. Make everyone stand and when they get out, they sit down. See who makes it the farthest! The winner gets a piece of fruit... I always give lame prizes and my students love me for it!

<http://www.youthministry.com/?q=node/19891>

Offering

God, it is our privilege to give you this offering!!! We look at this month of December and we remember it was you who gave first. Now we give with humble hearts of dedication and thankfulness to you, the ultimate giver. Amen

Intro

SPEND TIME ON TESTIMONIES OF ROOTED YOUTH CONVENTION!!!!

In fact if that takes the whole time, GREAT!!!

(This whole evening is set to be more participatory than previous weeks. Get people talking if possible... make sure they know its not just the ones that went to convention who participate in discussions, but everyone!!!)

We have discussed how our being rooted means a lot to us.

It's important that we are rooted because our roots proclaim a future hope that is ours!

It's important to be rooted because that as young people all of you are rooted because your lives matter!

It's important to understand where your roots are digging in and there is no better soil to dig in than right here at church where people totally love you!

Tonight is a twist on this theme....

See, your roots aren't only important to you,

YOUR ROOTS ARE IMPORTANT TO EVERYONE YOU COME IN CONTACT WITH.

(I would say that last line slowly and deliberately.)

A healthy roots system is the first step in the production of fruit.

How important is fruit? Lets look at Jesus' words in Matthew 7:16

ROOTED - ROOTS TO BEAR FRUIT.

¹⁶By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

Matthew 7:16

What does this mean? *(OK – Seriously, stop talking! Look at the students like you expect them to talk! I am guessing they will look at you like, “Idk, its your job to tell us what this means?” That’s OK. Let them sit for 30 seconds....)*

Another question... (by now I am hoping they are getting the idea that they are suppose to talk)

How important is the fruit that you produce?

(Again, give them plenty of opportunity to answer this....

We hope for, “It is very important... in fact according to this passage it is everything!”)

What does it mean to produce good fruit? Like what would that look like on a campus or at Burger King or something?

(We hope for, Loving our Neighbor! Kindness. Compassion for the hurting. Concern for the lost. Help for the hungry... without judgment. Rest for those pushed around by the world. Hugs for those who feel abandoned. Let the students answer and I bet they have some ideas close to this or better... however, I never let them get away with clichés! So, if someone just says, “Be Jesus to them” I push back again and say, “How?”)

*Notice, all of that is something you give away. They are the fruits that have been produced from your roots!
Hey, don't start me rappin.
Here is something just weird to think about. God created trees. He could have had them do whatever He wanted and He decided that they would produce fruit...*

**God decided to have trees bear fruit
for two purposes...**

#1. That's where the -SEEDS- are.

Inside that sweet apple, is what is needed to create more apple trees! The fruit your Christian walk produces contains seeds as well, seeds that will create more of whatever fruit it is you mentioned... love, kindness, peace. But this fruit isn't something you hang on to... its something you give away freely, like an apple tree. Give it away, give it away even if it just falls on the ground and dies, give it away! See John 12:24...

²⁴I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

John 12:24

***What will you give away
to spread the good news of the Kingdom of God?***

***What do you need to do now to prepare for the day
when someone wants to be a tree like you?***

(The two questions above are in the handout. I recommend you look at the clock. If there is time for dialogue, go ahead... ask out loud and expect answers, the stage has already been set. If time is running short encourage students to take these handouts home and reflect on the above questions for the next few days or through out the week or maybe find one that they can concentrate on through out the holidays.)

So, fruit plays a role in how trees house their seed, but God did not intend that each fruit is only for seed disbursement... He also intended that His creation would benefit from it!

The second purpose of fruit is...

#2. Nourishing -OTHERS-

Hang on for a second... look at these references from the Gospels that focus on others.

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 22:39

Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand...

Mark 1:41

Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Luke 6:31

***Jesus focused on others and taught us to focus on others as well.
How will you show the love of Christ to your neighbor this week?***

What is God calling this youth ministry to do to nourish our congregation, campuses and community over the next year?

(Again, the two questions above are in the handout. I recommend you look at the clock. If there is time for dialogue, go ahead... ask out loud and expect answers, the stage has already been set. If time is running short encourage students to take these handouts home and reflect on the above questions for the next few days or through out the week or maybe find one that they can concentrate on through out the holidays.)

We have asked several questions tonight and its not likely that we are able to arrive at answers to each of these and move on. This isn't that kind of message that's packed into a youth night and then we roll out and feel good. Instead this is a message that leaves us with questions about what our fruit will look like and how will it impact those around us.

Developing fruit is a continual action.

The same is true for our roots. They must always be growing deeper.

Rooted isn't a convention that just happened, it is a pattern of life that we are stepping into. It's a process of growth in Christ and His Kingdom, so we can give away the best of us.