

Hot Topics

LEADER GUIDE following well

Note to Leaders: *The students we minister to on a regular basis look up to us as leaders. This is a huge responsibility. As much as we try to be the perfect leader, eventually we'll disappoint someone. Sometimes these failures can be a great teaching point with our girls. Other times, failures are too major to continue in ministry. Students (especially girls) can deal with some pretty major emotional issues in the wake of a major failure of someone they look up to in ministry. This discussion might not be an easy one to have with your girls, but helping them take ownership of their faith will be a great blessing to them throughout their lives in church.*

Youth pastors, youth leaders, and the other people who invest in your life are a major blessing. As a teenager, you rely on these people for wisdom, insight, and spiritual direction. These are people who make you laugh, people you trust, and people you love. However, youth pastors and youth leaders aren't perfect people. If you hang around church and youth group long enough, eventually a pastor or youth leader will let you down in some way.

Read Matthew 4:18–22

Why do you think Jesus chose disciples? Couldn't He have just ministered to people by himself?

How do you think the disciples felt following Jesus? Do you think they ever felt frustrated or confused?

Why do you think it was so important that they left what they were doing to follow Jesus?

Read 2 Samuel 11:1 through 12:10

This story is very long (and can be a little too graphic for younger audiences). Feel free to paraphrase or skim if necessary.

David was the king of Israel when he made these bad decisions. How do you think this event affected the rest of his career as king?

How do you think his subjects would have felt to find out that he'd failed so miserably?

Have you ever felt like a leader let you down? How did you feel about following that person? How did you feel about following God? How did you respond?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:4–9

What do you think the purpose of youth pastors and youth leaders is in your walk with God?

What does it mean to be a good follower? Do you think there's a balance between following a leader and taking responsibility for your own spiritual growth?

Have you ever felt like you relied too much on a pastor or leader for your spiritual growth?

What are some practical ways to balance your relationship with the Lord and being a good follower?

Is it important to maintain your own personal relationship with the Lord apart from the leadership of your youth pastor or other leader? Why or why not?



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