About Young Life Messages

The Basics of a Young Life Message
1) Introduction to Club (1 week)
2) God’s Character (2 weeks)
3) The Person of Jesus Christ (3 weeks)
4) Human Need & Sin (2 weeks)
5) The Work of Christ (2 weeks)
6) Consideration (1 week)
7) Appropriation & the Holy Spirit (3 weeks)
8) The Christian Life (1 week)

1) Introduction to Club

What is Young Life? What will we be doing at meeting? What will we be talking about? It is important to start off the Young Life season by explaining what Young Life is.

2) God’s Character

Is there a God? If there is a God, what is he like? A quick introduction to God’s character, this talk is the beginning of the Young Life Message arc and the first introduction to Jesus, as the greatest display of God’s Love.

3) The Person of Jesus Christ

These talks focus on the person of Jesus Christ; who He is and what He did. These talks set the solid foundation upon which to build the other talks. “Person” talks have the goal of simplicity as well as direct and consistent communication about Christ’s love for us. “Person” talks should answer questions like “why does God want to help us?” and “why does God care?” Exclusively use Scriptural accounts in person talks (i.e. healing of the leper, Jesus calming the storm, Jesus raising Lazarus, etc.).

4) Human Need & Sin

“Need” talk opens the door for the “Sin” talk. Accordingly, if the same person does not give the “Need” and “Sin” talks, then the talks should be coordinated. In “Need” talks, we illustrate the point that our lives are full of need, and Jesus has made known his desire to meet those needs.

The “Sin” talk, however, illustrates our greater need due to our sin. It is important to illustrate how our sin separates us from God and how it affects our relationships with God and with others.
5) **The Work of Christ**

During these talks, we reveal that while we could do nothing to heal our sin-broken relationship with God, while we can do nothing to fill our “need,” God loved us so much that He sent his one and only son, Christ, to pay the price for our sins. I recommend actually walking through a Biblical account of the crucifixion. The biggest challenge of the “Cross” talk is to communicate 2 things: Jesus was a volunteer, not a victim, and His death on the cross was much more than a physical sacrifice.

Don’t leave Jesus on the cross. The “Work of Christ” must also incorporate Christ’s resurrection. The real glory of the cross is not Jesus’ death but His conquering of death. Christ’s resurrection is our assurance of His victory over our Sin.

6) **Consideration**

This talk is an opportunity not only to review the gospel presented so far, but to focus on the decision we face regarding our own salvation. Now knowing the Gospel of Christ, do we choose to ignore it and remain dead or do we choose to believe and begin living life to the full?

7) **Appropriation & the Holy Spirit**

The talk on the Holy Spirit explains the role of the third member of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, in a believer’s life. Why is the Holy Spirit significant? Why is that relevant to a high school kid?

Appropriation talks explain the practical nature of following Christ. Why should we be committed to Christ? What does this commitment involve? These talks should present the truth of sacrificing for Christ, the beginnings of discipleship, and the life that results. These talks are an encouragement and an invitation.

8) **The Christian Life**

This talk describes what it is like to live the Christian life. Use the joy expressed by other leaders to illustrate this. Re-illustrate the purpose of Young Life. Be personal but represent the team as a whole.
How to Give a Message

Jim Rayburn developed and employed a simple technique in his club presentations, which we can use to help guide our talks. It is very easy to remember and proves to be an excellent example. His messages followed this pattern:

1. Get the attention of the audience.
2. Tell a Bible story.
3. Remind them of the main point of the story.
4. Apply it to their life.

1. Getting the attention of the audience
   a. Tell an interesting story, or refer to a recent incident around school that leads into your subject.
   b. Begin with a strong statement that will arouse their interest.
   c. Use a visible example
   d. Begin with a joke. This is hard to do well. If you do try this approach, be sure to use positive, clean, unabrasive humor.

2. Telling the Bible story
   -- read it from Scriptures, then...
   a. Put it in your own words and in their language.
   b. Dramatize the action so that they can visualize it.
   c. Use your face, hands, and body to bring out your emotions.
   d. Use descriptive words to paint the pictures. (Help them to see it.)

3. Bring out the point of the story
   Have one clear and definite point. Be able to write out this point in a sentence or two, and be sure there can be no mistake as to what the point is. The whole message should be built around the one point.

4. Applying it to their lives
   Your message should answer the question, “So what?”, “what does it matter to me at this day and time?” and “How does this apply to my life?” Work hard at making it very easy for kids to apply the main point of your talk to their own lives.
Message Planning Form

Introduction:

Scripture:

Message Body:

Application/Conclusion:

Challenge:
It comes to my attention that there are many various ways of presenting the Gospel. Some would argue that the presentation of the Gospel is unique to the individual presenting it, or unique to the beliefs of that individual. I do not agree with denominationalism as the solution or any hint that the Christian brotherhood should be divided based on beliefs; as Christians and as a Christian family, we worship one God. But as a ministry team, we have been called to present a message and thus we will present a message that reflects the truth of the Gospel and our unity as a family. I will not force anyone to believe anything. But because I take the call placed on us by God seriously, I will demand that the message we present is not one based on the noble attempts of any man but rather one that is plainly based on the Word of God. Consequently, I want to take the opportunity to discuss some issues, so that we may present the Gospel as one united message. It is my intention to be very clear and very plain as not to be misunderstood on any of these issues.

- The unconditional love of God is not performance-related. Our Heavenly Father waits and wants all to be saved and come to knowledge of the truth.²

- Christ is the Son of God who died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous. Christ died for everyone, thus our message is applicable to all.³

- It is very easy to obtain eternal life. We are justified by faith in Christ and consequently receive the grace of God as a completely free gift.⁴

Club is intended to be an outreach. These truths are the heart of the message we are to present in club. Other significant issues such as all that encompasses our love for Christ, which we display in obedience⁵, will be addressed in campaigner groups and on individual levels because they are not matters of saving faith but rather spiritual growth.

Very simply, our greater intent is to infuse the broader message of restoration of a loving relationship with God, but throughout club we will preach a message focused on simple belief, the only condition required to obtain eternal life.

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1 2 Corinthians 11:3,4
2 Luke 15:20; 1 Timothy 2:4
3 John 1:7,29; John 3:16,17; John 4:42; John 12:32; 2 Corinthians 5:19; 1 Timothy 2:1-6
   1 Timothy 4:10; Titus 2:11; 1 Peter 3:18; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 2:2
4 John 3:16; John 6:47; Romans 3:22; Galatians 2:16
5 1 John 5:3

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The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."

—Acts 16:29-31