



HEARING GOD'S VOICE

NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL SERIES
VINEYARD YOUTH CURRICULUM


vineyard**youth**
U.S.A



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NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL LIVING

| HEARING GOD'S VOICE |

WELCOME!

to Vineyard Youth USA Curriculum

Hello, friends. What you hold in your hands is the product of lots of people, lots of prayer, and lots of purpose. The Vineyard movement is at a crucial place, and we believe that the work we do with students will have massive influence on what the movement will look like over the next 10-20 years. We set out to design a curriculum that communicates and reinforces the biblical and kingdom values of the Vineyard while inviting students to embrace the reality that they are part of something bigger than themselves.

Understanding the diversity within the Vineyard movement, we purposefully designed curriculum that can be utilized by groups of differing sizes led by either paid or volunteer leaders in any geographical setting or location. Easy, right? We believe we accomplish this by offering a buffet of activities that allow you – the in-the-trenches leader – to choose what works for you and your group. We're pretty sure no one will use all of the material proposed, but we're confident some of it will be a good fit for your group.

Each lesson will include:

- Experiential, hands-on activities that reflect a variety of learning styles.
- Large group questions to frame a conversation (I.E., not a lecture).
- Application suggestions to live and reveal the kingdom of God.
- Small group questions with age- and gender-specific items.
- Chances for you as the leader to tune into what God is doing in you and your students' lives.
- Space for students to hear from God for themselves.

This curriculum is written by youth leaders for youth leaders. If you would like to join the team and contribute your voice to the conversation, we would love to hear from you.

You may not hear this enough, but thank you for what you do. It's important, it's needed, and it's laying the foundation for a new generation of leaders to continue the good things God has already done in the Vineyard movement. Keep up the good work!

Why This Topic?

In the Vineyard we believe that learning to hear God's voice, and living in submission and obedience to it, is a foundational skill we all should grow in throughout our lives. Sometimes hearing God's voice can start to feel intimidating though, or like it is only for certain people. In this curriculum book we want to give teens the opportunity to not only learn about how God wants to speak to them because he loves them, but also to experience it and grow in confidence. Our prayer is that this will lead to a lifetime of living in communion with the voice of their Heavenly Father.

Connecting to Vineyard Values

We intentionally connect our curriculum to Vineyard Values and Distinctives. Hearing God's voice connects in with the Vineyard Core Value of Experiencing God - you can read more about it here: <http://www.vineyardresources.com/CoreValuesAndBeliefs.pdf>

It also connects with the Vineyard Distinctives of "Everyone Gets to Play" and living "Naturally Supernatural" lives. You can read more about these here: <http://www.vineyardusa.org/site/phil-media/vineyard-distinctives/everybody-play>

Helpful Reminders For You, the Youth Leader

In working with this curriculum there are a few ideas we'd like to keep in mind:

Plug in your stories wherever you can. These are bare bones here; you add the meat!

- Experiential learning lasts. We've tried to make this as experiential as possible, rather than just providing head knowledge. We encourage you the leader to try it out. Take some risks!
- Humor is key. It's hard for us to artificially add this from a distance, but we encourage you to find all chances you can to connect through humor!
- Context matters. We don't know what's going on in your group right now - but you do. We encourage you to pray/think about how this message applies to the new ones in your group, the veterans, and the seekers. How does this tie into the message of salvation through Jesus?

NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL LIVING

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// IS THAT YOU GOD?



BIG IDEA

Because God loves his people, he has always spoken to them -- and he still is!

YOUTH LEADER SOUL CARE

I know right now you are busy. Can you take just a couple minutes by yourself? Somewhere quiet. And listen. Listen to what God is saying to you. About you. He loves you and he is proud of you. Lose a couple minutes of prep time, and gain a couple minutes of just listening to your Father. I think it will be more valuable for you!

STARTER



MEDIA : MOVIE CLIP

"Show me a Sign!" scene from Bruce Almighty. Make sure you use it according to copyright laws.

MAIN VERSE

John 10

"How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand."

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// IS THAT YOU GOD?

POINT 1

GOD SPEAKS TO US BECAUSE HE LOVES US

DISCUSS

Genesis begins with God speaking - literally - all of creation into existence. The last book of the Bible is called "Revelation" which is essentially all about God speaking to John. In between, every time God moves in a major way, he speaks to his people. As a group, let's brainstorm different ways God spoke to his people in the Bible.

Use a whiteboard, or just discuss -make a point of how often he speaks to his people, and how they are motivated by his love and care for his people! Here are just a few examples:

Abraham – "make you a great nation"

Noah - "build the ark"

Moses – burning bush

David – through Samuel

The Prophets – "the word of the Lord came to me saying..."

Gideon – angelic visitation

Daniel – dreams

Christmas story – Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, etc etc

Paul - the vision of Jesus on the road to Damascus

Peter -- the trance on the rooftop

TEACH

We are created for relationship with God - not to follow the rules of a religion. Jesus isn't looking for a bunch of obedient robots. He wants to have relationship with sons and daughters of the King.

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// IS THAT YOU GOD?

John 15:15

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

Can you imagine a friendship with someone who never talks to you? Think about your best friends. You recognize their voice right? That's the idea with hearing God's voice. The more we get to know him, the better we can recognize his voice when he speaks to us.

POINT 2

HOW DOES GOD SPEAK TO US?

DISCUSS

Using your knowledge of examples from the Bible, or examples from people you know, what are some ways that God speaks to us today. If you have a personal example of God speaking to you, let's hear it!

Try to cover the fact that there are a myriad of ways that God speaks. He is creative so we don't have to get pigeon-holed into one way. Here are some examples:

Visions
Dreams
Still soft voice
Scripture
Other people
Pictures
More?

TEACH

Share a story (or a couple stories) of God speaking to you or someone you know to illustrate one of the ways God speaks. If you haven't already, see if you can get a few students to share their own stories too.

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// IS THAT YOU GOD?

POINT 3

WHY DOES GOD SPEAK TO US?

DISCUSS

Okay, so we have talked about the fact that God loves us, and so he speaks to us. And we've covered HOW he speaks to us. But why? Why does the the God of the universe take time to talk to us? Let's discuss as many reasons as we can!

Here are just a few to help get it started if you need them.

Direction
Conviction
Warning
Encouragement
Prayer for others
Words for others

TEACH

Share several stories of God speaking to you and using you. Try to share one about personal warning or direction, and then share one about ministry to another person.

Try to include one FUNNY story about you messing up!

Can anyone hear God's voice, or just special people?

Yes!
The key is are we listening?
Are we creating space in our lives to hear him?
Like watching your favorite TV show

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// IS THAT YOU GOD?

RESPONSE

You will probably have great ideas for response because you know your group. Our hope is that we can help you as much as possible, without getting in your way. Below are some response ideas - use what works and throw out the rest! Our main hope is that we will make this as experiential as possible for the teens.

HOLY SPIRIT// MINISTRY TIME

OPTION ONE

Put on some worship music, or have your band start playing softly at the end of worship, and spend some time praying for each other and asking the Holy Spirit to begin speaking. Pray for each other to have confidence and peace when listening to God this week.

OPTION TWO

Throw some worship music on and give everyone a piece of paper and a pencil. Allow them 5-10 minutes to pray on their own and listen and jot down whatever thoughts, feelings, pictures, Scriptures, words, or phrases come to them. Then spend some time sharing what they've heard and encouraging one another.

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// IS THAT YOU GOD?

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① Have you ever heard God's voice? If so, what happened? How did it feel?
- ② Do you feel encouraged about hearing God's voice? Discouraged? Afraid? Excited? Why?
- ③ Let's brainstorm some ways we can grow in the "skill" of hearing God's voice.

NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL LIVING

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// THE BASICS



BIG IDEA

Everyone can hear God's voice - it just takes practice!

YOUTH LEADER SOUL CARE

In this lesson you will be discipling teens in hearing God's voice in a very practical way. It may not seem like it, but you are really stepping out in a powerful way with this lesson. You are taking ground from the enemy in their lives! For your own soul care tonight, could you text/email/call three friends/mentors and ask them to just be in prayer for you for the next 48 hours?

STARTER

Part of the beauty of learning to hear God's voice is that we are going to do it together. For a starter, let's play "All My Friends." If you've never played it, it is very simple: Sit in a circle in chairs with one person in the middle without a chair. They say, "All my friends who have _____." And they say something that is true about THEM (so we get to know them better). The game part is that everyone else who also has either done what they said, or owns what they said, etc, has to switch seats! Like musical chairs, there will always be one person without a chair, and then it is their turn to say "All my friends." Here are a few examples: "All my friends who have flown in a plane." "All my friends who are wearing blue," and so on.

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// THE BASICS

MAIN VERSE

Luke 11:11-13

"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

POINT 1

EVERYONE CAN DO THIS

DISCUSS

Can everyone in this room ride a bicycle?
Could you when you were born?
How did you learn?
Any funny stories?

Allow some funny stories here. Make the connection that hearing God's voice is like riding a bike in that everyone can learn, but it takes some practice and some willingness to mess up!

TEACH

This week I'd like to get really practical. You can ALL hear God's voice. But it takes some practice!

Look at the main verse together. The Father is ready to speak to us! And when we ask he is faithful to give us his Spirit!

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// THE BASICS

POINT 2

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR HEARING GOD

DISCUSS

What has helped you in hearing God's voice? What has hindered you?

Let them share their stories, but also add in your own personal experience. What helps you? What stands in your way? Maybe write these on a whiteboard so you can all see them?

TEACH

Here are some practical hints for us to learn as we grow in hearing God's voice:

① Be in prayer - invite the Holy Spirit

This may seem obvious, but many times "we do not have because do not ask." There is power in stopping everything else that we are doing and praying. There is something about being still, and listening for God's voice to speak.

Obviously God can speak to us when we aren't praying. But a great place to start learning is to ask him to speak to us!

② Be at peace – don't be stressed.

Tell a story about a time when you "tried too hard" and it didn't work out.

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// THE BASICS

③ Be okay if it doesn't happen right then!

Share an example of a time when it didn't work right away, but took some patience. It comes in waves and in his timing – we can't manipulate it

Psalm 27:14

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

④ Be Open - There are so many ways he can speak

We tend to want to make it happen a certain way, the reality is God is creative!

⑤ Be Attentive

Listening is second hardest part of this! Often it's the first thing that happens!

Stories! Tell stories of sharing the FIRST thing that came to your head when you asked God to speak to you.

Talk about the principle of the "Still Small Voice" – the story of Elijah and the fire!

1 Kings 19: 11-13

The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

⑥ Discernment

Talk to your students about the various thoughts and pictures that race through our mind at any given moment. How do we discern between what is God's voice, and what is our voice? Or the enemy? Or just a random thought?

A great way to do this is to make it not scary. We don't want them to be afraid of messing up. This is why it is such a good practice to ask people afterwards, "Did what I thought I heard from God mean something to you? Did it make sense to you?" This is a great way for learning to discern what is God and what isn't.

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// THE BASICS

⑦ Be Bold and Obey (if it's for you) or Speak Up (if it's for others)!

Explain the difference between words from God that are for you, and words that are for others.

Our response to words that are for us is obedience. Changing our lives to align with his words.

Our response to words that are for others is to share them in humility. As a leader, this is a great time to discuss how to share words, how to be humble, how to be natural, and how to be loving and kind.

RESPONSE

You will probably have great ideas for response because you know your group. Our hope is that we can help you as much as possible, without getting in your way. Below are some response ideas - use what works, and throw out the rest! Our main hope is that we will make this as experiential as possible for the teens!

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// THE BASICS

HOLY SPIRIT// MINISTRY TIME

Have everyone who would like to hear a word from God for their lives put their name on a piece of paper and fold it. Then put those together in a basket. Then either during worship, or however you want to do it, encourage people to come grab a paper, but don't look at the name. Then sit down and pray and ask God to speak to them for this person whose card they are holding (but they don't know who it is yet). On another piece of paper write down whatever encouraging words, prayers, Bible verses, or prophecies come to you for this person. When you are done, look at the name and go deliver it. Sometimes we have had people even get themselves! Then when its all done, take some time and share testimonies of what happened!

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① Did you try to listen to God this week? What happened? What worked for you, what didn't work for you?
- ② What are your biggest fears when you are trying to hear God's voice for other people? What can you do with those fears? How can you overcome them?
- ③ Let's take some time and pray for God to break fear off of us and give us boldness when he speaks to us.

NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL LIVING

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// FIVE STEP PRAYER MODEL



BIG IDEA

God speaks to us for others! The 5 Step Prayer Model has been used for a long time in the Vineyard as a great foundation for ministering to each other.

YOUTH LEADER SOUL CARE

We put this section right at the beginning because we know that we (youth leaders) often forget about ourselves as we minister to others! Take a second and ask the Lord to show you two major weights that you are carrying right now. Then spend some time in prayer giving them to Jesus. 1 Peter 5:7 exhorts you to, "Cast all your anxiety (cares, burdens) on him because he cares for you." Remember he cares for you. It's not about what you do, it's about who you are. Right now. Let him carry your burdens.

STARTER

A great starter is to have two or three students get up and share a testimony of a time that God has spoken to them since you've started this series.

MAIN VERSE

Matthew 20:32
Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// FIVE STEP PRAYER MODEL

POINT 1

WHY DO WE PRAY FOR YOU?

DISCUSS

Why do we pray for people? What's the point? Is everyone supposed to do this?

Let them provide as many answers as possible, but also try to cover what's below in the TEACH section.

TEACH

We believe every time we pray the Kingdom of God is breaking in! Jesus commanded us to pray for his kingdom to come and his will be done. When his kingdom comes, people are freed, loved, delivered, saved, and healed!

We believe what people really need is Jesus and his power.

Analogy of a batter who never swings the bat: we know if we never pray, we will see NO answered prayer. We need to pray!

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// FIVE STEP PRAYER MODEL

POINT 2

CAN I PRAY FOR YOU RIGHT NOW?

DISCUSS

Can a few of you share a time when someone prayed for you and it really meant something to you?

TEACH

Seven Powerful Words: We experience God when we respond to the Holy Spirit's nudges and ask, "Can I pray for you right now?"

This takes compassion: we need to care for the other person.

This takes boldness: sometimes praying for someone will require taking risks!

This takes courage: sometimes praying for people will require us getting outside of our comfort zones.

POINT 3

A MODEL FOR MINISTRY

DISCUSS

Have you ever heard of the Five Step Prayer Model? Do you know any of the steps? This could be a funny discussion of what we do and do not know!

TEACH

The 5 Step Prayer Model

The Five Steps are based on a series of questions helping to decide what to do next and how effective the ministry is at that point.

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// FIVE STEP PRAYER MODEL

This is just a practical way to get you started, and then you listen to the HS like we practiced last week.

To the youth leader: one great method of teaching this is bring someone up front and SHOW them while you TELL them. You can pray for them FOR REAL and ask how God works, you can point out the steps and also what you are sensing. If you have other leaders, maybe have 2-3 help.

STEP 1: ASK – How can I pray for you?

Matthew 20:32

Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

Ask the person's name (if applicable)

Ask what they want Jesus to do (sometimes they won't know, that's okay)

STEP 2: INVITE – Ask the Holy Spirit to come and minister

Wait -- on the Holy Spirit – he works even without our words.

Listen -- to the Holy Spirit – is he sharing anything with you. Pain in your body?

Watch – Sometimes you can see something God is doing on their face, in their reaction, all sorts of ways God can speak.

Ask what they want Jesus to do (sometimes they won't know, that's okay)

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// FIVE STEP PRAYER MODEL

STEP 3: PRAY – How should I pray?

Lay on hands

Pray for them – for what they asked for.

Prophecy – share what God is sharing with you. Encourage. Comfort. Try to avoid “God says” and just say, “this is what I’m sensing (or feeling).”

Prayer for healing – speak to it with authority (prayer of command). Invite healing power.

STEP 4: CHECK IN: What’s happening?

Mark 8: 22 - 23

They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man’s eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, “Do you see anything?”

Observe the person (pray with your eyes open)

Ask the person “What’s happening?”

If you share a word of prophecy – ask them if it made sense? Worked for them? Deeper understanding to pray for more about?

If healing – ask if they are feeling anything? Power? Heat? Something changing?

Continue to listen to the Holy Spirit.

Go back to steps two and three if necessary.

STEP 5: FOLLOW UP: How do I finish ministering?

You can usually just tell when it’s done. Either the Holy Spirit seems to have finished, or the person looks like they are done – or you have nothing else to say!

- Offer to pray again about it.
- Encourage to talk to mentors if it’s something deeper.
- Encourage more prayer if it’s not healed for example.

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// FIVE STEP PRAYER MODEL

RESPONSE

You will probably have great ideas for response because you know your group. Our hope is that we can help you as much as possible, without getting in your way. Below are some response ideas - use what works, and throw out the rest! Our main hope is that we will make this as experiential as possible for the teens!

HOLY SPIRIT// MINISTRY TIME

Break your group into smaller groups. Try to put a leader in each group. Then have them go around the group and pray for each person in the group. So if you have groups of five, while one person gets prayer, the other four are practicing the five step model. They are also practicing hearing God's voice, and observing what the Holy Spirit is doing during ministry. The leaders can help facilitate, coach, encourage, and point things out. But try to let the teens do most of the stuff. Even if you have seekers, this can really be a powerful experience for everyone!

Follow up with a testimony time afterwards if you have time. Encourage people to share what it was like to hear God's voice! Share some cool things that happened, and also talk about what was difficult and awkward.

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// FIVE STEP PRAYER MODEL

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① Does it intimidate you to pray for someone? If not, why? What makes you so confident? If yes, why? What scares you the most?
- ② Have you ever received prayer like this? What was it like? Did you feel God's presence? What did it feel like?
- ③ Do you believe that God can use you to minister to others? Do you ever struggle with feeling insecure or unworthy to be used by God? Let's spend some time praying over this in our lives.

NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL LIVING

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// TAKING RISKS FOR JESUS



BIG IDEA

We are not called to a boring existence as Christians. We are called to take risks and join Jesus on the great adventure of bringing his Kingdom into this world!

YOUTH LEADER SOUL CARE

1 John 3:1 says, "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" As you prepare for this week's meeting, just take a timeout and meditate on the Father's love for you. You are his child. He is pleased with you. He is proud of you. He adores you. Allow his love to fill your heart to overflowing!

STARTER



MEDIA : MOVIE CLIP

Search online for a video of some crazy stunts. Something that would reinforce the theme of taking risks.

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// TAKING RISKS FOR JESUS

MAIN VERSE

John 5:16-20

So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. In his defense Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working." For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does."

POINT 1

SEEING WHAT GOD IS DOING

DISCUSS

Have you ever been in a situation where you felt a "spiritual nudge" from God to do something? Maybe help someone? Or pray for someone? Or give a word to someone? Can you share it? Did you obey or walk away?

TEACH

Read the main verse again. There are a few points to take away from this:

1 | God is always working! Sometimes we make the excuse of not having any opportunities to do God's will. In reality he is ALWAYS working. We just need to see it.

2 | He shows us because he LOVES us - it is about relationships not performance.

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// TAKING RISKS FOR JESUS

It may help to ask a few more leading questions here, to really get this discussion going.

How can we learn to see him more?

What stands in our way of seeing him?

What does it feel like to "be nudged" by the Father?
What are we saying here?

Share a story or two from your life -- maybe one from church and one from out in "normal life" -- that exemplify the Holy Spirit nudging you.

POINT 2

CAN I PRAY FOR YOU RIGHT NOW?

DISCUSS

What is scary about stepping out and trying something for Jesus? What are we afraid of?

TEACH

Jesus said that his Father is always working, and that he does what he sees his Father doing. Once we begin to see God at work, the next step for us is taking that RISK and stepping out!

*It could be talking to someone about Jesus.
Or praying for someone at church.
Or praying for someone at school.
Or just feeling led to encourage someone with a text, or a hug.
Or asking if you can pray for someone's physical healing.*

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// TAKING RISKS FOR JESUS

John Wimber famously said that how you spelled "faith" is R-I-S-K!

There is just something powerful about stepping out in RISK to obey God that seems to create opportunities for the supernatural to happen - for the Kingdom of God to come on earth as it is in heaven!

Share the story from Acts 3 where Peter and John heal the man who was begging.

This is a great example of how Peter and John didn't just see the situation on a "natural level" but saw supernaturally what the Father was doing. God's power was there to heal! And they took a RISK and stepped into what God was doing.

Share a story of a time when you've taken a risk.

Everyone can do this! It isn't just for some people - it is for you!

POINT 3

DEFEATING THE SPIRIT OF DISCOURAGEMENT

DISCUSS

Have you ever stepped out for God and then it hasn't worked out at all like you had hoped it would? Can you share an example? How did it make you feel about trying again?

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// TAKING RISKS FOR JESUS

TEACH

The difficult part of taking risks for Jesus, is that sometimes when we step out, things don't go the way we hoped. Sometimes we pray for healing, and the person doesn't get healed at that time. Sometimes we share our faith in Jesus, and the person doesn't seem interested. Sometimes we lead with kindness, and the person doesn't accept it.

This is all part of living in the tension of the "already and the not yet" reality of the Kingdom.

Note to youth leader: there's probably not enough time here to go fully into this concept, but it is always good to keep reinforcing it.

So what do we do? Do we give up? No!

Hebrews 10:39

But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

God doesn't call us to control the outcomes and the results. He calls us to obey. He calls us to minister to others and to take risks for him!

So how can we deal with our discouragement?

Share a story of how you have dealt with it in the past.

Some other ways: prayer, sharing with others, getting mentoring from others so you can grow.

HEARING GOD'S VOICE /// TAKING RISKS FOR JESUS

RESPONSE

You will probably have great ideas for response because you know your group. Our hope is that we can help you as much as possible, without getting in your way. Below are some response ideas - use what works, and throw out the rest! Our main hope is that we will make this as experiential as possible for the teens!

HOLY SPIRIT// MINISTRY TIME

This will probably be a challenge for you, because you love to serve others, and probably don't love being served! As part of your soul care, what if at your meeting with your teens this week, you asked them to pray for you and your leaders? Flip the tables. Have them minister to you. Have them try out what they've learned during this series on you. It will feel more risky to them!

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① Does all this talk of taking risks for Jesus make you excited or terrified? God made us as different people - some of us are more outgoing and some are more introverted. Do you think EVERYONE has to take risks for Jesus?
- ② What is one area you feel really strong and confident in taking risks for Jesus? Why do you think that is?
- ③ In what ways can you grow in this area of taking risks for Jesus? What can you get better at? What is standing in your way most often? Can we pray for each other about these answers?

OUTREACH APPLICATION

A great way to translate this lesson into outreach is to do a "spiritual scavenger hunt." This is a term coined by some other movements, and it is definitely high-risk and may not be for everyone. But the general idea is you pray and ask God to speak to you (before going out somewhere public) about some people he may want you to minister to on the street. You write these ideas down (maybe its about what they are wearing, or where they will be) and go out looking for them - like a treasure hunt! If you find them, you go up and explain it to them and ask if you can pray for them! You'd be surprised how often it works. And the idea is, if we can get more comfortable taking risks intentionally, then when we see the Father working in our everyday lives, we will be more likely to join him!

Hearing God's Voice

In the Vineyard we believe learning to hear God's voice, and learning to live in submission and obedience to it, is a foundational skill we all should be growing in throughout our lives. Sometimes hearing God's voice can start to feel intimidating though, or that it is only for certain "super" Christians. In this curriculum book we want to give teens the opportunity to not only learn about how God wants to speak to them because he loves them, but also to experience it and grow in confidence. Our prayer is that this will lead to a lifetime of living in communion with the voice of their Heavenly Father.

Each lesson includes:

- Experiential, hands-on activities that reflect a variety of learning styles.
- Large group questions to frame a conversation (I.E., not a lecture).
- Application suggestions to reveal and experience the kingdom of God.
- Small group questions with age and gender specific items.
- A devotional for the leader to help them grow in this area.
- Planned activities to help students hear God for themselves.

Welcome to Vineyard Youth USA Curriculum

Hello friends. What you hold in your hands is the product of lots of people, lots of prayer, and lots of purpose. The Vineyard movement is at a crucial place, and we believe that the work we do with students will have much influence on what the movement will look like over the next 10-20 years. We set out to design a curriculum that communicates and reinforces the biblical and kingdom values of the Vineyard while inviting students to embrace the reality that they are part of something bigger than themselves.

Understanding the diversity within the Vineyard movement, we purposefully designed curriculum that can be utilized by groups of differing sizes led by either paid or volunteer leaders in any geographical setting or location. Easy, right? We believe we accomplish this by offering a buffet of activities that allow you – the in-the-trenches leader – to choose what works for you and your group. We're pretty sure no one will use all of the material proposed, but we're confident some of it will be a good fit for your group.

About the Author

Christian Dunn

Christian and his wife Mandy live with their four amazing kids in Pennsylvania. He is one of the pastors at The Barn Vineyard Church in PA, and has led the youth group for over twenty years. He is currently serving as the National Youth Leader for VUSA, and as the East Region Youth Task Force Leader. He is the author of "Finding the One: How Dating Prepares You For Marriage" and is excited about passing on to young people a passion to follow Jesus, discover their gifts, and pursue their ministry callings.