

FEBRUADAY 2020

OUR SOCIETY

Hi everyone,

This month in Crews we are going to be unpacking the theme of 'OUR SOCIETY', and what it means to positively impact society. We want to help our YxYA community to understand the society they live in and how they can be salt and light and be the change in the world around them in 2020.

We of course have Encounter Conference this month, which is the one time of the year we gather all YxYA communities across all campuses. We invite churches from across the UK to inspire and help create an atmosphere of faith for people to have God encounters. This year we have 3 separate Encounter Conferences with Youth, Young Adults and for the first time Edinburgh! Two life-changing days that are not to be missed!

February Crew notes is an introduction to this overall theme - we will be talking about what 'OUR SOCIETY' is all about, and how we can best begin to think about impacting the society we live in. This month we will also introduce a Serve Day. Across all YxYA campuses within Crews we will all do something to serve our community. We will clean up the rubbish in our neighbourhood, help at Nursing homes, volunteer at a youth club, remove graffiti from walls etc...

The crazy thing is God has already given us everything we need to be successful, his Holy Spirit. Our job is to use whatever is already in our hands through the power of the Holy Spirit! A great way to start this process of positively impacting our society is by utilising the tools that our YxYA ministry has made available to start Crews in schools and universities. Having Crews in schools, universities and in the workplace, allows people to directly impact their friends who may have never been to church and who may have no desire to do so. Our role as leaders is to remind our YxYA community whenever we speak to them about the power that lies within them. We remind Crews to transform whatever is in their hands into something they could never have dreamed of.

We are pumped about this month's Crew notes and the potential of all our YxYA community grabbing hold of what their role can be in society.

Kind regards
Hillsong YxYA Teaching Team

OUR SOCIETY

FEBRUADAY 2020

WEEK 1 // WHAT IS OUR COMMUNITY?

TAKEAWAY POINT

Together, let's do what we can to ensure the Church is known for how fiercely it protects, loves and serves people in society, not how it cares about politics, fame or prestige.

OUR SOCIETY

INTRO.

When you join a new workplace, or a new sports team, or make a new group of friends, you are now part of a new community. You must know what that community that you've now joined is about. If I join a new company, I have to know who we as a company are, what values we hold dear. With a new group of friends, I will check whether I want to be associated with these people or not.

It is more important than the above to know who the church is since you are a part of it. Knowing who we are is vitally important because it answers questions of identity. So, we define who we are and who we are not. Contrary to our society pitting us against them, we should not create an us vs them mentality as Christians. Instead, we aim to understand where we stand in society as children of God.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28:20 (NLT)

Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you and be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Acts 2:42–47 (NLT)

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshipped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity – all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

MAIN POINT

What is our community? What is the church? It's not grand stained-glass windows, or a dimly-lit theatre or a school hall; the church is the collection of people from all backgrounds, creeds, ethnicities, personality types who believe in God through his son Jesus Christ who died for our sins so we may enter God's family. Jesus never alludes to a building in his teachings.

OUR SOCIETY

The writers of the rest of the New Testament do not place importance on a building called the ‘church’ - the reference is about a community of believers. The exciting story of how the Church grows is filled with real people doing real things with and for other people. Our community is one that cares for each other, creates genuine and authentic ties with one another, worships and prays together. We equally love and care for all the people within our society and above all want to spread the Good News of Jesus!

What we can be sure of is that our community is being built by Jesus Christ for the glory of God through the people in the church. Our community as Hillsong YxYA is an expression of Jesus Christ’s Church.

QUESTIONS

1) Is this a community you are happy to be associated with? Why or why not?

2) What similarities can you spot between what you know church to be and the description in the Acts scripture?

3) What can we do in our Crews to share with those in need?

OUR SOCIETY

FEBRUADAY 2020

WEEK 2 // SERVANTHOOD

TAKEAWAY POINT

Being a Christian and being a servant are inseparable. Separating them is like having a doctor who will not check up on, diagnose or operate on patients. We serve because Jesus first served us and as humans we were created to connect, love and serve each other.

OUR SOCIETY

INTRO

There is no getting around it: servanthood is part of our very essence as Christians. Jesus himself said he came to serve others and not to be served. How amazing is that? The King of Kings did not come as we expect Kings to: using power and authority for his own selfish gain. Instead, he came to serve his friends, his community and all people. In fact, being a servant is what took him to the cross to atone for our sins and reconnect us to God.

In the passage from Acts we looked at last week, we saw the early Church constantly serving each other and their wider community. They had the following view: if I have it and you do not, and you need it, then here, have it. The Christian community in action is a serving community whether it is visiting a grieving friend or providing financially for someone in need.

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 2:7 (NIV)

Rather he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

Matthew 20:25-28 (NLT)

But Jesus called them together and said, ‘You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Galatians 5:13 (NLT)

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But do not use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

MAIN POINT

In that scripture from Matthew, Jesus makes it very clear that serving is not discriminatory. Serving does not depend on the colour of your skin, on what you have done in your life, or what your sexual orientation is. Serving is about the nature of

the heart - a heart devoted to God serves the people around it with joy! Why? Because when we love God, we love people too as that is how he has created us to work. This is how we can “serve one another in love” as it says in Galatians.

No one is saying serving is easy, but it is always worth it. Serving might seem like a big word, but when we place someone else’s needs above our own out of love, we are serving. There are so many stories from within the life of church in Crews, for example, one group pitched in money together to buy a plane ticket for someone whose relative had just passed away in their home country. Also, stories of people paying for youth to attend conferences who otherwise would not have been able to afford to go. People in church who before, during and after the service hang out with some rough sleepers around church and treat them with dignity.

Serving is not only financial. Serving can be giving up your time, talents, attention, focus and money. This is great news because it means everyone qualifies to be a servant. We can all help - no matter how big or small. So, start somewhere. Start helping a host team on Sundays or start serving at that homeless shelter near your home. Serve in church and in your community! This month in Crews we are going to take some time to serve our wider community, so take some time to think about where you feel you can make an impact!

QUESTIONS

- 1) Why do you think serving is so key to our walk as believers?**
- 2) Why would Jesus ‘take the very nature of a servant’ and ‘be made in human likeness?’**
- 3) If servanthood is key to who we are, why is it so hard?**

FEBRUADAY 2020

WEEK 3 // COMMUNITY IN ACTION

TAKEAWAY POINT

We often focus on the importance of giving time and money into our church community. But, let us not forget the importance of serving people and places that might not be able to pour back into us at all.

OUR SOCIETY

INTRO

We have previously touched on servanthood and community, but this week we will be diving head first into the importance of practically helping in your local area.

This month we want you to organise a day of pouring into your community with your whole Crew. You can use the time that you would normally meet or choose a completely different day where you will all be available to serve. This could be anything from donating items to a foodbank, helping to serve food to the homeless, volunteering for the elderly, litter picking, offering additional help to nearby charities and so on.

SCRIPTURES

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching.

1 John 3:18 (NIV)

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Isaiah 58:10 (NIV)

If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

Proverbs 14:31 (NIV)

Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God.

MAIN POINT

Some of our own local social justice initiatives include helping with homelessness (Greenlight), youth (Schools Project, Amplified Arts Academy), the elderly (Regenerate-Rise partner) and human trafficking (A21). We are big on social justice as a church because Jesus was big on social justice.

OUR SOCIETY

We should aim to see people as God sees them as unique and valued sons and daughters. Otherwise, we can get caught in the cycle of grouping strangers and those on the fringes of society as nameless faces in a crowd. Extend that same personal grace that we have received from God to others and serve them as purpose filled individuals. Serve to serve, and not for the accolades.

QUESTIONS

- 1) How can we encourage each other to frequently help members of our community?**
- 2) With so much poverty and homelessness around us, how can we stay compassionate and empathetic towards everyone we come across?**
- 3) Is it enough to love others in thought and word alone?**
- 4. What social justice initiatives inside and outside of church do you want to be a part of?**

WEEK 4 // KINGDOM CULTURE IN SOCIETY

TAKEAWAY POINT

It's easy to get lost in the mess and darkness of society but we are called to be a light of the world. We are called to change the atmosphere.

OUR SOCIETY

INTRO

This week we are looking at how we can bring Kingdom culture outside of our Christian communities. After all, the gospels are referred to as the good news, and who does not like to share good news?

SCRIPTURES

MATTHEW 6:10 (NIV)

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 5:14–15 (NIV)

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

John 14:27 (NIV)

In Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

MAIN POINT

Being a Christian is more than attending the occasional Christian conference and church on a Sunday. It's an identity and a lifestyle that should emulate Christ in everything we do. For some people the way you live your life and your identification with Christ may be the only Bible they ever read. So, avoid being a bare minimum Christian that gives a tainted view of the Kingdom. People should know that you are a Christian first and foremost by the way you love others and not because you have a Bible verse in your Instagram bio or a cross tattooed on your arm. Do not reduce a God encounter to a one-off zealous event, and do not be afraid to share your testimonies because they can have a life changing impact on others and shift the atmosphere in society.

QUESTIONS

1. How can we serve and care for the world whilst not having a worldly outlook?
2. What is God's vision for society?
3. How do you hold on to a profound spiritual encounter outside of conferences, worship nights and other Christian events?
4. Is there a difference in how you conduct yourself inside church vs outside of church and should there be?

OUR SOCIETY