

**Positively  
Shaping  
My People**

Hey Guys,

Hope everyone had a good time going through last month's theme "Future Society", there was loads of amazing conversations coming out of our youth crews and across the UK!

We are embarking upon a new series in YxYA! Introducing "Same but different" standing on the same eternal message of hope found in Jesus but outworked differently to what we may be accustomed to. Although many of us can't meet physically, it doesn't mean we can't stay connected spiritually, zoom fatigue is a real thing but it's also been a game changer in making sure people stay connected during this season.

As we move into October, this month we will be talking around the idea of "Positively Shaping My People", in the midst of the challenges we may face in society, our role this month is to share the good news with the people in our world. God has placed value on each person within our youth community, and he has assured us through his Word that there is no need to worry about the future!

We are of course going to be spending the month of October looking ahead to Young Leaders Lab Conference, which is all about creating and stepping into opportunity to change the narrative for young people in society. With Young Leaders Lab Conference happening this month, we've decided to take the conference online and make it more available for more people to join the conversation about young people in our society. This online conference is for all people, about young people.

We hope you enjoy unpacking this month's theme which has been set up to help you plan ahead, have healthy and productive conversations on how we can positively shape the people in our world.

Hillsong YxYA Teaching Team



As Christians, we have the responsibility to reflect God and His essence in all the spheres of our lives. There are many people who are yet to meet God and understand what it is like to be loved unconditionally, just like you have encountered.

People matter to God so much, yet we sometimes unintentionally keep God and all His goodness to ourselves when we have been commanded to actually share it. The common misconception is that we can only do so when explicitly speaking about God and His gospel or when we hold a Bible and a microphone in a pulpit to multitudes, but you'd be surprised with how much our actions and behaviour can draw people in our society to God right now. Kindness, humility, compassion, gentleness, patience and forgiveness are characteristics of God's essence that we should aim to incorporate into our own lives because they can literally be the only glimpse of God that someone in your world could have access to.

Don't allow your age to be something that makes you undermine your influence either. The Bible tells us that we have been championed by God to go out into the world and be the light. You needn't be afraid because He actually has given you the authority and paved the way for you so that you may share the Good News, whether you are 15 or 50.



**Matthew 5:13-16 (ESV)**

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

**John 15:13 (ESV)**

“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

**Jeremiah 1:7-8 (NIV)**

“But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the Lord.”

**Joshua 1:9 (NIV)**

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go”

**Colossians 3:12-13 (NIV)**

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

**1 Timothy 4:12 (NLT)**

“Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.”

**Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT)**

“Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 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.”



**Daniel 1:8-16 (NLT)**

“But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods. Now God had given the chief of staff both respect and affection for Daniel. But he responded, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who has ordered that you eat this food and wine. If you become pale and thin compared to the other youths your age, I am afraid the king will have me beheaded.” Daniel spoke with the attendant who had been appointed by the chief of staff to look after Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. “Please test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water,” Daniel said. “At the end of the ten days, see how we look compared to the other young men who are eating the king’s food. Then make your decision in light of what you see.” The attendant agreed to Daniel’s suggestion and tested them for ten days. At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier and better nourished than the young men who had been eating the food assigned by the king. So, after that, the attendant fed them only vegetables instead of the food and wine provided for the others.”

**Daniel 3:28-30 (NLT)**

“Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel to rescue his servants who trusted in him. They defied the king’s command and were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. Therefore, I make this decree: If any people, whatever their race or nation or language, speak a word against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they will be torn limb from limb, and their houses will be turned into heaps of rubble. There is no other god who can rescue like this!” Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to even higher positions in the province of Babylon.”

**Matthew 5:44-47 (NIV)**

“But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?”



1. Who are 'your people' or 'your sphere'?

2. What have we been called to do?

3. What is the message of the Gospel?

// Suggested Answer: We have been saved from death in sin, because of God's love and mercy, through the grace of Christ alone, by faith in Christ alone, not as a result of works, but as a gift from God; undeserved, unmerited and unearned, so that He may show to us the vast riches of His grace, and so that we may be set apart and free to walk in the good works already prepared for us, with the promise of eternal life, for His glory alone. (Ephesians 2:1-10 // John 3:16-18 // Romans 3:21-25 // Romans 12:2 // Galatians 5:13)

4. What should we be telling the people around us?

5. What is a disciple?

// Suggested Answer: It is someone who commits their life fully to following, learning from, and serving a master or teacher. In our case, that master is Jesus. (Luke 9:23)

6. How can we help our friends or family members become disciples?

7. How can we best share the Gospel to the people around us?

8. What should we do if they don't want to listen?

9. How can we keep on sharing the Gospel when it gets tough, or nobody listens?

10. What advice can we give our friends if they decide to follow Jesus?



The Gospel is good news. We now get to know God, we get to walk with Him. When the prophets and disciples would be worried about what to say to share His message, God would reassure them that when it was time to open their mouths, He would put His words on their tongue, we can put our faith in God for this too. As our relationship with Him deepens and this familiarity grows we become more prepared and trusting in such an authentic way that when the door is opened for us to speak about Him all we need to do is speak about our journey with Him and anything else He will add. We should never feel pressured to add to the Gospel or to sound “smart”, we should trust God and share what we know to be true and allow those close to us have a window into what it truly looks like to have a relationship with Him. Whether we have been Christians for 5 years or 5 minutes, sharing the power of His name, the power of His Gospel will always be our privilege and our responsibility.



What is the Gospel? By Matt Chandler (YouTube) - [https://youtu.be/qSUAGm\\_J5dM](https://youtu.be/qSUAGm_J5dM)

The Essentials of the Gospel by Paul Washer (YouTube) - [https://youtu.be/UaZSko\\_M-zw](https://youtu.be/UaZSko_M-zw)

Multiply by Francis Chan (Book)

Spiritual Discipleship by J. Oswald Sanders (Book)

Making Disciples, Not Just Converts by Matt Chandler (YouTube) - <https://youtu.be/S8EgHAsZHd8>



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