

You can't **QUARANTINE** the **GOSPEL**

Small Group Curriculum

WEEK 2 - WE CARE

OPENING DISCUSSION:

1. How was this last week for everyone? Is it getting easier or harder to adjust to all that has changed?
2. Let's hear from 3 volunteers: How did it go praying for people in your Cause Circle every day last week?
3. By a show of hands, how many of you watched Greg's video, *"You Can't Quarantine the Gospel: We Care!"*?
Say something like: Thanks to everyone who watched the video. Even if you didn't, we're glad you're joining us online for youth group this evening. You'll still be able to participate in our discussion, but I really encourage everyone, with all of the extra time we have on our hands, to watch each week's video in preparation for our time together.
4. One more quick reminder before we jump in: Download the *Life in 6 Words* app! You can find it wherever apps are available or you can go to li6w.com and download it from the website. *If the platform you are using for Youth Group Online has a chat feature you can type the li6w.com web address into it so your group can easily access it.*

TRANSITION INTO THE LESSON:

Ask a volunteer to read Mark 1:39-42:

"So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed."

Remind your students that despite our current circumstances, "You Can't Quarantine the Gospel!" This week we are taking a look at Care.

LESSON :

In what ways did Jesus set the pace for caring in this passage from Mark 1:39-42 (have a student re-read if needed)?

Jesus set the pace for caring.

- He cast out demons.

Many teens are wrestling with literal and figurative demons right now. How can we care for them?

- He healed the leper.

How can we call on God to heal in this time?

Christians set the pace throughout the ages by caring.

Greg mentioned the ways Christians cared for the lepers in Hawaii and the pandemic in Rome around AD 250.

What are some ways you've seen Christians setting the pace for caring in your own life or in history?

Greg shared with us that there are four ways to set the pace for caring. Does anyone remember what those four ways are?

1. Hygiene (wash your hands/don't touch your face)
2. Wisdom (social distancing)
3. Peace (calm them down)
4. Encouragement (encourage means to infuse courage into someone else)

We are going to focus our next 15-20 minutes talking through specific ways to care for others using these four different ways.

(Here are a few ideas on leading the four ways to set the pace for caring time. Pick the ones that work best for your group, or come up with your own idea.)

As Christians, set the pace for caring by:

1. Hygiene

- » Encourage your students to be diligent in washing their hands and not touching their face, or their little brother's face.

- » Challenge students that as they wash their hands to sing a little song to the G.O.S.P.E.L (see <https://www.instagram.com/p/B99e16jnfp6/?igshid=b2fyj3gwbkje> for details), so they can practice getting it memorized!
- » Ask a volunteer to read Psalm 26:6-7 *"I wash my hands in innocence, and go about your altar, Lord, proclaiming aloud your praise and telling of all your wonderful deeds."* Encourage your students to remember, as they wash their hands, the innocence Jesus won for them on the cross and to praise God in the midst of this pandemic.

2. Wisdom

- » Remind your students that following the recommendations for social distancing is a way to honor God, our leaders and their parents.
- » Share that even in quarantine God can help us grow in wisdom if we let him. Even though we can't be as close physically, we can still care for others at a distance.
- » Ask a volunteer to read James 1:5 *"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."* Encourage your students to ask God for wisdom this week as they care for others.

3. Peace

- » Ask your students to think about the ways they've noticed panic, fear, and anxiety in others and themselves this last week and have a few share.
- » Have your students share (in the chat feature of your online youth group) what truths about God help them stay peaceful. Remind them to pass on these things to others as a way of caring for them.
- » Slowly read John 14:27 *"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."* have your students meditate on the words as you read them. Remind them to look to Jesus for their peace as you read the passage out loud for them.

4. Encouragement

- » Have students share in the chat feature any specific stories of people they know who are facing extra difficulties in this time, and then have a student pray for those needs. Remind your students to be praying for and encouraging people in their life going through struggles and sickness.
- » Challenge students to encourage others in their home and to use their social media, gaming interaction, and other digital communication to encourage others.

CARE DARE:

Have students send an encouraging text (or make a phone call) to each of their three friends in their Cause Circle. Instruct your students to let their friends know (through these texts) that they are praying for them. Have your students go into their Cause Circle section of the app, click on the number in the middle of the circle, then click on the individual names and shift the focus to care after you send the text. If they don't have a smartphone, then they can go to www.dare2share.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Cause-Circle-Prayer-Care-Share.pdf and view a Cause Circle for themselves. If the student has a printer at home, they could download it, print it and write the names on it. If they don't, then they could just draw a simplified version and write the names on it.

Give the gospel and prompt students who make a first time decision to message you or call you afterwards:

GOD created us to be with Him.

OUR sins separate us from God.

SINS cannot be removed by good deeds.

PAYING the price for sin Jesus died and rose again.

EVERYONE who trusts in Him alone has eternal life.

LIFE with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.



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