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Young people are discovering how Jesus changes lives



Christian Discovery sessions are a key component of every Youthworks Christian Outdoor Education (COE) program. Every student at camp has the opportunity to spend small-group time with Ministry Leaders who open the Bible with them – every day!

The sessions facilitate a safe space in which, no matter where they are on their journey, campers can explore the Christian faith, then reflect, ask questions, and respond to the call of the gospel.

Sometimes this can be challenging. One recent Christian Discovery group of Year 9 students from the Riverina in regional NSW refused, on day one, to engage in group discussion at all.

But your support helps provide faithful, well-trained COE Ministry Leaders who can rise to the challenge and get creative ...

Ministry Leader James Blackwell led a Christian Discovery session as a Q&A presentation to generate more engagement and better gospel opportunities. James says:

"I see my role when facilitating Christian Discovery as to help kids have a truer understanding of Jesus. When preparing a Christian Discovery, I'm thinking about how I can present the Bible faithfully whilst being accessible to the whole group."

On day two, after James and other leaders on the team had genuinely engaged with ...

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Thank you for supporting and helping to equip leaders like Indira for ministry.

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... students in the Q&A session and shared their own stories of trusting in God, a flood of questions came through from the youth. One student said:

"Thank you for treating us like adults ... you guys genuinely care about us ... Your personal stories about your walk with God got me thinking: 'Oh, God really changed your life!'"

Thanks to your gospel partnership, young people are being introduced to Jesus, getting their questions answered, and being nurtured in their faith through this fruitful ministry.



How your support creates servant-hearted disciples of Christ

Indira Courtness, youth minister at Roseville Anglican and current Youthworks College student, used a recent youth camp to develop young people's faith by encouraging them to serve others. She says:

"I decided to bring in an element of serving: gospel-minded acts of service and doing something practical for people in our community ... to help young people be outward-focused [and] seeking to love others as Jesus loves them."

With your support, leaders like Indira are being equipped to help young people wrestle with what it means to be Christ's disciples:

"We looked at the book of Jonah and got stuck into thinking about God's merciful character ... We questioned whether we are prepared to go out and share the message of God's mercy towards us with other people."

Thank you for generously equipping leaders so young people can learn how to grow, serve others, and share their love for Jesus!



You help SRE teachers connect young people with Jesus – and with other Christians!

Kirk Watkinson, children's and youth minister at Kingswood Anglican, first met Luke* when he taught his primary school SRE class, and has witnessed Luke's faith journey from the beginning:

Thanks to your generosity and prayers, young people like Luke are being oriented to Christ for life.

"He was in the right age group to join our primary age boys' group. He and one of his mates started to attend the group ..."

Luke's home life wasn't easy, but his friend (and the friend's dad) became great role models. Kirk says:

"[The two boys] started coming together to the kids' ministry and, as they got to high school, they started doing both the boys' group and the youth group together, and then at the end of youth group they got into young adults' ministry."

Now in his 20s, Luke leads primary-school-aged boys

at church. He runs games and memory verses, and Kirk hopes to mentor Luke in teaching God's Word in the next few months:

"I've asked him to think about doing talks ... that'll take a bit more time and we'll have to meet up a bit through that process."

Thank you for generously supporting SRE in schools. You're helping young people be nurtured in their faith, connect with gospel ministries, and share their faith with others!

**Name changed to protect privacy.*

From Craig's Desk



Dear Friend,

It's exciting and wonderful to see how your support and prayers are continuing to make it possible for young people to be impacted by the teaching of God's Word – through SRE in schools, through camps, or through youth ministry activities.

Because of this, children and youth are understanding the extravagant love that God has for them in Christ, and are growing up to be servant-hearted leaders.

I'm so grateful that, as a faithful partner in this essential gospel work, you understand just how important it is to continue investing into young people's lives, helping them in their faith journeys.

Your support is helping Ministry Leaders disciple young people well. It's equipping those leaders to provide the resources young people need to live for Jesus and share the gospel hope they have with others.

Thank you for valuing young people and supporting them to grow in their walks with God.

Canon Craig Roberts
CEO Youthworks

Prayer Guide

If you would like to request more copies of the latest Prayer Guide, please contact **(02) 8268 3325** or **info@youthworks.net**



Teaching SRE to a special-needs high school class

– Linda Stephens

Psalm 139 says that we are all 'fearfully and wonderfully made'. God took care to knit together a person born with disabilities or fully-abled babies – '... all humans bear the image of God, and we don't carry less of this image when we have a physical disability or a mental illness' (Delbridge, 2017).

Additionally, every member of Christ's body is necessary and needed. Whether or not they are weaker than others, they are still worthy of great honour (1 Corinthians 12:12–27). It is God's heart that all people can have access to the gospel, community, and worship. Breaking down barriers (real or imagined) enables us to come alongside those with disabilities and to share the love of Jesus. We know that love takes sacrifice such as in Mark 2 and the friends of the disabled man ...

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