

## Youth Sunday – “Stories”

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Good morning! Today is Youth Sunday, the day of the year that we celebrate what God is doing through our students. Today’s message is entitled “Stories - What he’s done, what he’s doing.” And that is exactly what we hope to accomplish today. We would like to tell you some stories about what God has done over the last year and the exciting things we are looking forward to him doing in the future.

I’d like to take a moment to give you a short overview of what the scope of Student Ministries. Student Ministries ministers to 5-12<sup>th</sup> grade. We do that in three separate ministries. Edge 56, Edge 78, and Petra High School. Last summer we were asked to create a ministry program for our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Under Dan and Alicia Jensen’s leadership that ministry has been extremely successful. They meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month during both services. Also, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday nights of the month. These Monday night meetings we call them combined nights. It’s when Edge 56 and 78 will join in the oasis for worship and then separate to their individual teaching environments. On these nights we have on average 100 students joining us for worship and teaching.

Our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders just finished their first year in this ministry which has the goal of surveying every major story in the old and new testament. This first year they completed the old testament and they will move into the new testament this fall. In addition to surveying the scripture students are being trained in the seven habits of happy children by Sean Covey. The seven habits are extremely practical life skills that cultivate leadership, motivation, responsibility, and more. Edge 56 also breaks students up into small groups to begin to cultivate a culture of small group involvement.

Our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade is also where our Student Ministries Missions strategy begins. Yesterday our students traveled to a local packaging plant to work with Gain ministries. Gain is an organization that sends food to third-world countries. The students’ task was to take large bulk containers of beans and rice and repackage them into single meals to be distributed to families in need. For many of our students this is their first hands on experience with missions. We encourage parents to come along on this mission’s outreach to ensure our students are comfortable as they begin a very exciting mission journey with Student Ministries.

Edge 78 is our ministry designed for our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. They meet every Monday night. We alternate worship and teaching night with activity and teaching nights. Edge 78’s curriculum is based on grade appropriate lessons. Recently our theme has been “if you can learn this now.” Edge 78 also has an emphasis on small groups, but also introduces student to another core value which is ministry teams. Student sign up to be involved with worship, snacks, icebreakers, and connection teams where they get to use their gifts to minister. This is an exciting part of this ministry! To create for our students’ environment where they can grow in their giftings.

Edge 78 invites students into the next phase of our Missions strategy which is K-Teams. K-teams are a week-long missions trip in Lancaster City working with refugee students. They stay in a facility and

receive missions training and then get to help run the program for the students. We have tripled the number of students participating in the mission outreach from last year. Last year we had 7 students this year there are 20 that is almost half of our group in participating.

Petra High School Ministry serves our 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade students. We have four major curriculum goals for our high school students. Conflict resolution, sexual purity, leadership, and apologetics.

Our High school ministry invites students into the next phase of our mission's strategy with will one day have 4 tiers to it. this year is our second year implementing our strategy so we are excited to launch our second tier this summer. Tier 1 is focused on evangelism. We travel to Orlando and partner with YWAM Orlando. The students receive training and engage the tourist attraction to spread the gospel. Our second-tier team will travel to Orlando as well. After a few days of training they will then fly to Puerto Rico to aid in disaster relief. We will develop the next two tiers in the next two years. Our hope is to give our students a sample of all of the different types of mission that are available so when they graduate from high school their mission life is not over, but it has just begun.

Our ministries all have retreats and special events to keep them exciting. One additional ministry that we are really excited about applies to our edge 78 and high school ministry is bible quizzing.

(Graphic)

Young Adults - August 23 launch date 7 p.m. in the Oasis.

Stories

- Edge 56 Darci Musselman worship team, VBS, Thailand
- Edge 78 Emalie Stoltzfus FCA
- High School: Witnessing at the mall, moving across the cafeteria, Emilie Howe 80 blankets 340 dollars

I would like to tell you another story:

### **Genesis 37:1-10**

Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan.

<sup>2</sup>This is the account of Jacob's family line.

Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.

<sup>3</sup>Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate<sup>[a]</sup> robe for him. <sup>4</sup>When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

<sup>5</sup> Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. <sup>6</sup> He said to them, “Listen to this dream I had: <sup>7</sup> We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it.”

<sup>8</sup> His brothers said to him, “Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?” And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

<sup>9</sup> Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. “Listen,” he said, “I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”

<sup>10</sup> When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, “What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?” <sup>11</sup> His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

### **1.) Young enough to dream it.**

Jesus said unless you have the faith as a child. Unfortunately, it seems that it's our children who are able to hold on to the wonder of God and the greatness of God. Maybe it's their station of life. We teach our children be young enough to dream it!

Joseph is young enough to dream it.

### **2.) Young enough to say it.**

Even if we did have a dream, or a song, an idea, a ministry, a book in us we would never say anything about it. In fact, even Joseph speaking here seems out of place. He's young enough to say it. We will teach our children be young enough to say it.

### **3.) Wise enough to hear it.**

Jacob is listening to his son at the dinner table. A table that he no doubt limped over to. Why because Jacob wrestled with God, Jacob spoke with God. Jacob had been with God. Jacob knew about the youngest receiving the blessing a ruling over the oldest. And even though his first response was to rebuke him, there was something strange about that dream. It sounded kind of strange but also kind of familiar. Parents, one of the reasons God has spoken to you is for you to walk in the plans he has for your life. But another reason he has spoken to you is so that you can recognize his voice in the dreams of your children. We are asking our leaders and our parents to be Wise enough to hear it.

Story about Mark T and his letter

**4.) Strong enough to endure it.**

Here comes the dreamer “sound like how they mocked Jesus” – Jacob’s story of Potiphar’s wife and prison.

**5.) Humble enough to Honor God for it.**

Genesis 50:20 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>20</sup>As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

**Closing**

Prayer of Blessing with students and parents.