

XP3 Students

GROW UP SESSION 1: Big Faith

High School Small Group Dialog

Bottom Line: The foundation of how much you grow in your relationship with God is based on your trust in Him.

Scripture References: Matthew 8:1-10

At the heart of this series is a desire to be somewhere “farther” than where you are now. And the teenage years are all about reaching certain milestones—middle school, high school, driver’s license, prom, graduation, college. Growing up isn’t easy, and we can probably all think of some adults who still need to grow up. But growing is a big desire of God’s. He wants to see us become more than who we usually settle for—not in the worldly sense of accomplishment, but growing in our relationship with Him, growing our character and even growing in the way we relate to ourselves and the world around us. Today, spend a little time identifying this basic desire to be “more.” Some students will easily identify this area of discontent. Others may need to dig a little deeper to find it. And then let today’s lesson help you transition into a discussion about what keeps us from getting to that place where we want to be.

Create meaningful conversation. Adjust questions as needed, and don’t feel like you need to answer all of them.

1. Can you think of anyone you know personally or someone you know of, whose faith seems big, alive and strong? Why do you admire this person’s faith?
2. Does this kind of big faith seem accessible to you? Why or why not?
3. Think of the people you trust most in your life. What about them has made them trustworthy to you? Are these people you are close to? Do you think having a close relationship with someone makes that person more trustworthy? Why or why not?
4. Read Matthew 8:1-10. What about the Centurion’s faith stood out to Jesus? Besides faith, what are some other characteristics about the soldier that stand out from reading this passage? (Humility, servanthood, compassion for his servant). What are some other characteristics that you think might go along with having a big faith?
5. Why do you think this soldier was such an unlikely candidate for such big faith? Do you ever think of yourself as being an unlikely candidate for that kind of faith? Why or why not?
6. The next several weeks we are going to spend some time talking about what makes our faith “grow up”. What are some of the things that you believe have grown your faith in the past?
7. Imagine what it would be like to trust God completely—to have the kind of faith the soldier from Matthew had. What would look different in your life if you had this kind of faith?
8. What do you think is keeping you from having this kind of faith? Are any of those things you can change?
9. What are some words that describe your current relationship with God or faith in God?
10. What are some words that you wish would describe your relationship with God, or your faith in God?

11. What can you start doing this week to begin to “grow up” your faith?

NEXT STEP: This week, contact students who shared about their trust issues with God, and encourage them with Scripture. For help on finding verses that may speak to each student’s particular issue, go to www.biblegateway.com and do a search on that topic.