

Discussion Questions



Youth for Christ Kingsville — Reaching the Next Generation

Introduction for Group Leaders

This guide is based on a presentation from representatives of Youth for Christ Kingsville, who shared about their mission, their programs, and the needs of young people in the local community. The session centered on Mark 2:1-12 and the example of four friends who creatively and persistently brought a paralyzed man to Jesus. Use this guide to help your group reflect on what it means to be the kind of community that carries others to Christ.

Key Takeaways

- Youth for Christ exists to see every young person living fully in Christ, and their work in Kingsville is already reaching teens facing hunger, homelessness, and mental health challenges.
- Mark 2:1-12 provides a compelling picture of the church's calling — to be friends who notice need, act with compassion, get creative, and bring people into the presence of Jesus.
- The needs of young people in our own local community are significant and immediate, and the response required is not passive.

- Partnership in ministry takes three practical forms: prayer, volunteering, and financial giving.
- Commissioning and sending people into local mission is a legitimate and important expression of a church's calling.

Take a few minutes to let everyone respond briefly before moving into the main discussion.

- Think back to when you were a teenager. Who was an adult outside of your family who made a meaningful difference in your life? What did they do that mattered?

Discussion Questions

On the Passage — Mark 2:1-12

1. Grant highlighted that in Mark 2:1-12, the paralyzed man had both needs and friends. What stands out to you most about how those friends responded to his situation?
2. The friends in the story faced a real obstacle — the crowd — and chose creativity and persistence over giving up. Where in your own life have you been tempted to give up on bringing someone to Jesus because the path felt too difficult or inconvenient?
3. Grant pointed out that Jesus did what only Jesus could do — he addressed both the physical and spiritual need of the man. How does that shape the way we think about serving others? Why is it important that programs like YFC point people toward Jesus and not just toward practical help?

On the Local Need

4. Tim described serious challenges facing youth in the Kingsville area, including food insecurity, mental health struggles, and youth homelessness. Were any of those

realities surprising to you? How does learning about them change the way you see your community?

5. Tim said that as he met with local leaders, the common theme was the massive needs present in Kingsville. Why do you think it can be easy for people inside the church to be unaware of what is happening just outside its doors?
6. Annie shared that research shows adolescent girls are reporting significant mental health challenges at higher rates than boys. How does that information shape the kind of ministry and presence that is needed in our community?

On Personal Calling and Community Response

7. Both Tim and Annie described a process of sensing God's call, sitting with uncertainty, and eventually taking a leap of faith. Have you ever experienced something similar? What made it difficult, and what helped you move forward?
8. Annie said, "I can't do this alone, and that's where you guys come in." What does it look like practically for a church community to genuinely share the weight of a local missionary's work?
9. Pastor Ike noted that it is possible for people to leave church ministry and back away from serving people altogether, but that Annie still carries passion for both Jesus and people. What keeps that kind of passion alive over time? What tends to wear it down?

On Partnership and Sending

10. The church commissioned Annie as a local missionary during this service. What does it mean for a church to commission someone, and why does that act matter — both for the person being sent and for the congregation doing the sending?
11. Grant described three ways to partner with YFC: prayer, volunteering, and giving. Which of those feels most natural to you, and which feels like more of a stretch? Why?

Practical Applications

Consider choosing one or more of the following as a group or as individuals before your next meeting.

- Pray specifically for the youth in Kingsville and the surrounding communities this week. Ask God to open your eyes to the young people already in your own circles who may be carrying hidden burdens.
- Consider whether volunteering at a drop-in program, mentoring a young person, or contributing to a meal program is something God might be calling you toward.
- If your group is in a position to give financially, discuss whether a collective contribution toward YFC Kingsville's general fund or toward Annie's support raising might be something to pursue together.
- Identify one young person in your life — a neighbor, a relative, a student — and commit to praying for them by name every day this week. Ask God to show you one concrete way to care for them.