



SPREAD THE GOSPEL  
ONE CHALLENGE AT A TIME

# YOUTH SERIES

SERMONS AND SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS



# CONTENTS

Introduction.....2

## **PART I - Launch Series // A Challenge...**

Week 1 // ...to spread the Gospel .....3

Week 2 // ...to be Gospel-centered .....5

Week 3 // ...to be Spirit-empowered.....7

Week 4 // ...to be personally responsible for the mission of God.....9

Week 5 // I dare you to put your faith in Jesus.....11

## **PART II - Monthly Messages // I Dare You...**

Late Summer // ...to have a conversation with me.....13

September // ...to pray with us.....15

October // ...read the Bible with me .....17

November // ...to count your blessings .....19

December // ...to serve with me.....21

January // ...to change.....23

February // ...to love like Jesus .....25

March // ...to go to church with me.....27

April // ...to explore your doubts.....29

May // ...to talk to God and listen for His answer .....31

June // ...to go to camp with me .....33



# INTRODUCTION

## Welcome

Jesus understood the persuasive power of challenging people—of daring them to believe in Him. Although He left the earth approximately 2000 years ago, He is still daring the world to follow Him. *I Dare You: Spread the Gospel One Challenge at a Time* is an opportunity to share Jesus by daring others to open the door to faith. This accompanying Youth Series is designed to bring the challenge of the book into your youth or church ministry. Your group will be challenged to be **Gospel-centered, Spirit-empowered, and personally responsible for the mission of God** as they help their friends open the door to faith in Jesus. The *I Dare You* book and Youth Series was written by Youth Alive Missionaries from across the nation, all of whom are experts in missional discipleship. We all pray this series propels your ministry efforts and challenges your students to share Jesus like never before.

Blessings,

Lee Rogers, *Youth Alive of PennDel*  
Series Editor/Lead Author

## Using This Series

The *I Dare You* book and series have been written with both an intentional design, as well as the ability to customize and tailor the usage according to your own groups' need and schedule.

A **5-part series launches the *I Dare You* concept** by challenging students to spread the Gospel by being Gospel-centered, Spirit-empowered, and personally responsible for the mission of God. These three values and outcomes are also found in every sermon of this series, as well as in the chapters of *I Dare You*. The launch series concludes with the ultimate dare: I dare you to put your faith in Jesus. The launch series can be done at any time of the year, but we recommend using it in the late summer, as a new school year is getting underway.

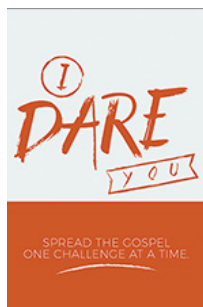
In addition to the launch series, **a sermon for each month of the school year is also included.** The concept is to challenge and equip your group to dare their friends in a new way every month, keeping the momentum and conversations going throughout the school year. The monthly dares are designed to coincide with cultural traditions and holidays, so students can have timely and relevant conversations with their friends. Of course, you can substitute any of the sermons, switch them around, or use them in a different pattern as you see fit.

**Sermon Design** - The sermons are largely topical and follow a simple outline style, largely providing the main points and Scripture references. Introductions and conclusions are included, but we recommend you add to these with your own vision, heart, and style. You will need to provide illustrations from your life, ministry, or from other sources. The *I Dare You* book is also a great place to find illustrations, drawing from the chapters for each corresponding sermon. Depending on your communication style, you may also consider adding to, or modifying the messages to suit your needs.

**Small Group Discussions** - Each sermon is followed by small group discussion questions. These discussion questions are designed to spur conversations from the messages, but also to help students begin to process and practice how they will proceed with the challenge of daring their friends to open the door to faith. This is not a fully formed small group curriculum; rather it is designed to enhance your existing small group structure and reinforce the sermon and book material.

## The Book

This series teaches and reinforces the principles and methods found in the book *I Dare You: Spread the Gospel one Challenge at a Time*. Each sermon and small group discussion corresponds to a chapter in the book. We highly recommend you utilize the series alongside the book; it is filled with illustrations and nuance that will broaden your ability to present the sermon material and lead small group discussions. Additionally, we recommend you give a copy of the book to each student willing to take on the challenge to spread the Gospel. Copies can be purchased at a bulk discount at [www.initiateconversations.com](http://www.initiateconversations.com).



## The Shirt

The companion to the *I Dare You* book is the T-shirt. The shirt is one of the simplest and easiest ways to get a friend, or really anybody, to ask "what do you dare me to do?" Equipping your students with shirts will help them spark conversations, and give them a sense of purpose and belonging to the mission behind *I Dare You*. Challenge them to wear the shirt on a regular basis, and train them each month for the appropriate dare. Help them think in advance of what they will dare when asked, and about having a conversation around the subject of the dare. You can get an "I Dare You" T-Shirt at [www.initiateconversations.com](http://www.initiateconversations.com)





# A challenge... to spread the Gospel.

By Lee Rogers  
Youth Alive® of PennDel

## **Texts – Matthew 4:19; Luke 9:23; John 8:10-11**

### **Introduction**

We are launching a new series, a new initiative, in order to share Jesus with our friends. It's called "I Dare You," and we will take on challenges to dare our friends to put their faith in Christ. A dare is a challenge. There is something unique about a challenge, and something even more powerful about *being* challenged. We want to be challenged; we desire to be dared. (Give an illustration about a time you took a "dare" to do something challenging.)

God dares us to believe in Him; He engages our tendency to take on a challenge to draw all humanity to Himself. Jesus understood the persuasive power of challenging people, of daring them to believe in Him. He dared fishermen to leave their nets and become His disciples; He dared the crowds to take up their crosses and follow Him; and He dared a fallen woman brought before Him to leave her life of sin. Through the resurrection, Jesus dared the world to believe that He is God and has conquered the grave. Jesus left the earth approximately 2000 years ago, but He is still daring each person in the world to follow Him. In this same way, we are going to learn how to dare our friends to put their faith in Jesus, or to open to the door to faith in their lives.

- I. Jesus is the Master of the Dare.
  - A. He dared with purpose. (Matthew 4:19)
    1. He dared his disciples, disrupting their lives with a challenge, "Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people."
    2. He challenged them with a vision; they would learn to capture the hearts and minds of people. Jesus dared them with purpose, and they accepted his dare with enthusiasm
  - B. He dared with the cross. (Luke 9:23)
    1. Jesus was meeting privately with His disciples when He challenged to deny themselves, carry their cross, and follow Him.
    2. In those days, when someone took up a cross it meant they were sentenced to execution, and the cross would be the instrument of their suffering and death. Jesus was daring them to give up their lives to follow Him.
  - C. He dared with grace. (John 8:10-11)
    1. One day Jesus was teaching in the temple in Jerusalem when some religious leaders brought a woman who was caught in adultery before Him.
    2. He challenged the accusers to throw the first stone, but only if they were without sin; all of the accusers gradually walked away.
    3. Then Jesus dared her, "Go now and leave your life of sin." According to the law she deserved death, but Jesus dared her with grace.
  - D. Illustration - Give an illustration of a time when Jesus challenged you.
- II. We can dare other's as Jesus did, and in doing so we can can the door to faith.



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- A. Most people surrender their lives at the foot of the cross because of the persistent love and friendship of someone close to them (see page 15 of *I Dare You*).
  - B. This persistence is key, because most people must hear the Gospel at least seven times before they develop faith to believe in Jesus.
    - 1. Daring our friends to place their faith in Jesus may be just one of several encounters they need to have in order to believe, so what we are really trying to do is *open the door* to faith in Jesus.
    - 2. They may be ready to walk through that door, or they may need to be dared a few more times.
  - C. Illustration - Talk about some of the steps towards Jesus in your own life; those special occurrences that opened the door to faith in Jesus.
- III. Opening the door to faith means challenging others to a life-altering encounter with Jesus through our everyday interactions.
- A. Daring our friends to place their faith in Jesus is the ultimate dare, and it can be life changing.
  - B. Sharing the Gospel is about our everyday encounters with our friends, not just the big events and moments.
    - 1. It's about challenging them through our own commitment to Jesus by being Gospel-centered, Spirit-empowered, and personally responsible for the mission of God.
    - 2. If our lives are lived through the filter of the Gospel, with the power of the Holy Spirit, and attuned to God's mission, then there is a sense in which everything we do becomes a dare to our friends to consider Jesus.

## **Conclusion**

We aren't just going looking to open the door to faith in Jesus for our friends; we will also be challenged to grow in our own faith as we participate. You will be dared to be Gospel-centered, Spirit-empowered, and personally responsible for the mission of God. I dare you to take up this challenge. I dare you to spread the Gospel.

(Close with a time of prayer by daring your students to come to the altar as a sign of accepting the challenge to spread the Gospel.)

## **Small Group Discussion Questions**

1. In what ways was Jesus the Master of the dare? What has Jesus done to challenge you?
2. What opened the door to faith in your life? What challenges led you to the cross?
3. What do you think it means to be Gospel-centered? Spirit-empowered? Personally responsible for the mission of God?
4. What are some ways in which you can challenge your friends to follow Jesus?
5. What is God challenging you to do, to change, or to sacrifice?



# A challenge... to be Gospel-centered.

By Lee Rogers  
Youth Alive® of PennDel

## **Texts – Ephesians 2:8-9; Ephesians 1:22-23; Psalm 119:105**

### **Introduction**

Daring our friends to put their faith in Jesus begins when we take on the challenge of being Gospel-centered. (Give an illustration of Gospel-centeredness in your own life. Or illustrate this by using an object lesson such as a french press—see pages 23-24 of *I Dare You*.)

Being Gospel-centered is like having our entire lives filtered by and through the Gospel. Everything that goes in, flows out, or takes place in our hearts and minds passes through the filter. Our dreams, hopes, and ambitions pass through the filter. Our attitudes, speech, actions, and relationships pass through the filter. Everything is changed because of Jesus. Being Gospel-centered is not about working to live according to a set of rules, it's about fundamentally allowing the Gospel to shape who we are inside and out so that we are supernaturally shaped by its power. There are many things that help us be Gospel-centered, but three major points we will talk about are being focused on grace, belonging to the Body, and being immersed in the Word. If you want to dare your friends to place their faith in Jesus, then I dare you to be Gospel-centered

- I. Focused on Grace. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
  - A. It is only the grace of God, by the sacrifice of Jesus, that saves us.
  - B. Grace should affect our entire mindset, changing how we think about our friends, family members, and communities.
    1. Knowing that we cannot save ourselves, but that we are saved by God's love and compassion, must determine our attitude.
    2. Grace enables us to have good relationships with others, because it teaches us that we aren't better than anyone else.
  - C. Grace should also affect our speech; we should be talking about the Gospel on a regular basis.
    1. The Gospel should be present in our everyday conversations; thanking God for our blessings, talking about what happened at church or youth group, or praying with our friends when difficulties come their way.
    2. The more more we talk about the Gospel, the less awkward it becomes; soon it becomes natural to talk about Jesus.
  - D. Illustration - Talk about how grace has affected your attitude towards others, or shaped your everyday conversations.
- II. Belonging to the Body. (Ephesians 1:22-23)
  - A. The church is the body of Christ, and it is something Jesus always intended us to be a part of.
  - B. The church is a gathering of believers that exists to experience the life of faith in Christ as one body, one family, one community.
    1. Jesus told his disciples He would begin the church through them, we are the descendants of that promise. (Matthew 16:18)



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2. The purpose of the church is to share Jesus with the world, to worship God, to build or disciple a body of believers, and to demonstrate God's love and compassion to the world.
3. The church is a Gospel-centered body, and it is a body we must belong to.
- C. Illustration - Talk about how the church has made a difference in your life and empowered you to live a Gospel-centered life.

### III. Immersed in the Word. (Psalm 119:105)

- A. The Bible is verbally inspired by God; it is God's recorded revelation to mankind.
  1. The Bible is the guide for our faith, it is never wrong, and it teaches us how to live and respond to life's challenges. (2 Tim. 3:15-17, 1 Thess. 2:13, 2 Peter 1:21)
  2. God's Word is our guide, and our correction when things go wrong.
- B. The Scriptures light our way as we move through life.
  1. It doesn't just give us specific guidance for specific situations, it lights up our entire walk, our entire path, our entire life.
  2. We must allow the light of God's Word to penetrate the darkness of our lives, then allow that light to spill into the lives of others.
- C. Illustration - Talk about the ways the Scriptures have transformed your life.

### **Conclusion**

Do you allow everything that flows in and out of your life to be filtered by and through the Gospel? Do you allow the grace of God to fundamentally change your thinking, relying on His grace for your salvation? Do you value and embrace church life, and respect the authority of the body? Is learning and memorizing Scripture one of your priorities? Do the words of the Bible, the language of the Gospel, find their way into your everyday conversations? If you want to share Jesus, to dare your friends to place their faith in Him, you've got to be Gospel-centered; focused on grace, belonging to the body, and immersed in the Word. I dare you to do it! I dare you to be Gospel-centered!

(Close with a time of prayer by daring your students to come to the altar as a sign of accepting the challenge to be Gospel-centered.)

### **Small Group Discussion Questions**

1. What does it mean to be Gospel-centered?
2. What does grace mean to you? In what ways has grace changed you? In what ways does grace affect your attitude toward others? Your speech?
3. What does the church mean to you? What does it mean to belong to the body?
4. What does it mean to be immersed in the Word? In what ways have the Scriptures shaped you and transformed you?
5. What needs to change in your life in order for you to be more Gospel-centered?



# A challenge... to be Spirit-empowered.

By Lee Rogers  
Youth Alive® of PennDel

## **Texts – Gal. 5:22-23; Acts 1:8, 1 Cor. 12; John 15:26, 16:8**

### **Introduction**

(Give an illustration of Spirit-empowerment in your own life. Talk about your dependence on the Spirit to be an effective witness for Christ to others.) We need the Holy Spirit if we are going to effectively dare our friends to put their faith in Jesus. The Holy Spirit enables us to do things beyond our natural abilities, and even works alongside us accomplish the goal of leading our friends to faith in Christ. Jesus called the Holy Spirit a “Helper,” who would be with us and in us. The Spirit transforms our character from within—this is the fruit of the Spirit. Not only that, but the Holy Spirit also works *through* us, enabling us to discern what God is saying and to speak to our friends on God’s behalf—these are the gifts of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit also works *with* us, alongside us, to lead our friends to Christ—this is the mission of the Spirit.

If you want to dare your friends to place their faith in Jesus, then I dare you to be Spirit-empowered!

- I. The Holy Spirit works in us: the Fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23)
  - A. The Holy Spirit transforms our character.
    1. The Apostle Paul called the transformation of our character the “fruit of the Spirit.”
    2. Fruit grows on trees, but Paul is referring to a *spiritual* fruit that grows within us, developing our character to be more like that of Jesus.
  - B. The fruit of the Spirit empowers us to live out the character of Christ beyond our own ability.
    1. When challenges and frustrations come our way, we are able to stay calm and focused.
    2. The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to supernaturally love others, to be patient, to show joy, to exercise peace, to be good and humble towards those around us, and to be self-controlled.
  - C. Illustration - Talk about how a time when the Holy Spirit’s work in you was evident through the Fruit of the Spirit.
- II. The Holy Spirit works through us: the Gifts of the Spirit. (Acts 1:8, 1 Corinthians 12)
  - A. Jesus called the Holy Spirit a “gift” from God the Father, a “promise” that would baptize the disciples in a new and different way.
    1. The result of that new baptism—the baptism in the Holy Spirit—was the power to be a witness for Jesus.
    2. That same power is still available and waiting for us today—and it remains the power to be a witness!
  - B. The power of the Holy Spirit includes gifts to help us tell others about Jesus.
    1. Five of the Spiritual gifts deal directly with speaking: the message of wisdom; the message of knowledge; prophecy; tongues; and interpretation of tongues.





# A challenge... to be Spirit-empowered.

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2. The Holy Spirit can give you words to say and help you have a conversation.
- C. Illustration - Talk about a time the Holy Spirit empowered you to be a witness, or share Savannah's story from Chapter 3 of *I Dare You*.

### III. The Holy Spirit works with us: the Mission of the Spirit. (John 15:26, 16:8)

- A. The Holy Spirit is the original evangelist—declaring Christ and the Gospel, daring every person in the world to put his or her faith in Jesus.
  1. Jesus said the Holy Spirit “will testify” about Him.
  2. The Holy Spirit is daring all humanity to believe in Jesus!
- B. The Holy Spirit convicts our friends of their sins, of God's righteousness, and of his coming judgement.
  1. To convict means someone is *convinced* beyond all doubt of their own guilt.
  2. This is the impossible task the Holy Spirit does for us!
  3. Illustration - Talk about a time when the Holy Spirit drew you or a friend to Jesus, or a time when the Holy Spirit convicted you.

### **Conclusion**

Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to work in you and through you? Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to work with you, alongside you? Is the fruit of the Spirit evident in your life, your daily conversations and friendships? Are you desiring and praying for spiritual gifts? Are you open to the Holy Spirit speaking through you? Do you allow the Holy Spirit to convict your friends? Or do you put yourself in the Holy Spirit's place by pointing out their sin? If you want to share Jesus, to dare your friends to place their faith in Him, you've got to allow the Holy Spirit to work *in*, *through*, and *with* you. I dare you to do it. I dare you to be Spirit-empowered!

(Close with a time of prayer by daring your students to come to the altar as a sign of accepting the challenge to be Spirit-empowered.)

### **Small Group Discussion Questions**

1. What does it mean to be Spirit-empowered?
2. In what ways is the Holy Spirit working in you? What is it like when you experience the Fruit of the Spirit at work? When was the last time you recognized the fruit and what was that experience like?
3. What do the gifts of the Spirit mean to you? What is it like to experience the gifts? What is it like when God speaks to you through another person working through the gifts?
4. In what ways did the Holy Spirit draw you to Christ? In what ways is the Spirit drawing your friends to Christ? What is the difference between the Spirit's convicting power and our convicting power?
5. What needs to change in your life in order for you to be more Spirit-empowered?



# A challenge... to be personally responsible for the mission of God.

By Lee Rogers  
Youth Alive® of PennDel

## **Texts – 2 Cor. 15:18-20; Matt. 20:28; Rom. 10:13-14; Ecc. 4:9-10; Matt. 28:18-20**

### **Introduction**

We've been talking about challenging our friends to believe in Jesus. Daring our friends to put their faith in Jesus requires that we take personally responsibility for God's mission within our circle of friends, our family, our school, and our community. (Give an illustration of how you are taking personal responsibility for God's mission in your own life. Then read 2 Corinthians 15:18-20.) Paul calls us "Christ's ambassadors," an unmistakable title and assignment. More to his point, Paul used the verb form of "ambassador, meaning we aren't just to *be* ambassadors, we are to *do* the work of an ambassador. An ambassador represented the king or ruler in action, in speech, often to establish or strengthen relationships, and often held one of the highest ranks in the kingdom or nation. To be an ambassador for Christ means we are an important part of God's mission, we establish or strengthen connections to Jesus in our friendships, our actions represent Christ's character and intentions, our mouth speaks the message of Jesus. We can take personal responsibility for the mission of God through sacrificial service, uncompromised proclamation, powerful teamwork, and a commitment to make disciples. I dare you to do it!

- I. Sacrificial service. (Matt. 20:28)
  - A. Jesus served all mankind by sacrificing His life on the cross for our sins; it cost Him *everything*.
  - B. If we are going to share Jesus and represent Him accurately, we should also be serving our friends in a sacrificial way.
  - C. Sacrificial service can gain us an opportunity to share the Gospel.
  - D. Illustration - Talk about how you are sacrificially serving to share Jesus with others.
- II. Uncompromised proclamation. (Romans 10:13-14)
  - A. We are not the message—*Jesus is the message*, and the message is only communicated when we speak His name.
  - B. Our sacrificial service opens the door for us to share the Gospel, but it can never replace the *necessity* of sharing the Gospel.
  - C. We must open our mouths and speak the name of Jesus, share the Gospel, and proclaim the message of reconciliation.
  - D. Illustration - Talk about a time you verbally shared the Gospel with a lost friend.
- III. Powerful teamwork. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)
  - A. Something supernatural happens when Christians join together to accomplish the goals and visions God has given them!
  - B. Not only does teamwork generate better and faster results, it also helps us keep one another encouraged when things get difficult.



# A challenge... to be personally responsible for the mission of God.

By Lee Rogers  
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- C. When several Christians proclaim the message of the Gospel in a school or community, it becomes so much easier for people to believe in Jesus.
- D. Illustration - Talk about how you are working alongside other believers in order to share Jesus.

#### IV. Making disciples. (Matthew 28:18-20)

- A. The Great Commission centers on two words—*make disciples*.
- B. We aren't just inviting our friends to place their *faith* in Jesus, we are also helping them become fully committed *disciples* of Jesus.
- C. We we are following Jesus, and those we are discipling are following our example.
- D. Illustration - Talk about how you are discipling others now and what it looks like.

#### **Conclusion**

Have you taken personal responsibility for the mission of God in your school, neighborhood, family, or community? Are you serving others sacrificially? Are you proclaiming the Gospel without compromise? Do you speak the name of Jesus and invite your friends into the life of the church? Do you work together with other believers to accomplish God's mission? Or do you only work alone? Are you making disciples? Do you help your friends become fully devoted followers of Christ? If you want to share Jesus, to dare your friends to place their faith in Him, you've got to sacrificially serve, proclaim without compromise, work as a team, and make disciples. I dare you to do it. I dare you to be personally responsible for the mission of God

(Close with a time of prayer by daring your students to come to the altar as a sign of accepting the challenge to be personally responsible for the mission of God.)

#### **Small Group Discussion Questions**

1. What does it mean to be personally responsible for the mission of God?
2. In what ways can you sacrificially serve those who need to know Jesus in your life? What makes that service a sacrifice?
3. What is uncompromised proclamation? What are you doing to verbally share the Gospel? What can you do to verbally share the Gospel this week?
4. In what ways are you working together with other Christians to share Jesus? What can you do to create these kinds of opportunities?
5. What are you doing to make disciples? What can you do to make this more effective in your life?
6. What needs to change in your life in order for you to become personally responsible for the mission of God?



# ...to put your faith in Jesus.

By John Ginnan  
Youth Alive® of New York

## Text - Romans 1:16

*Note: Although this dare comes later in the book, as the ultimate dare it is best to talk with your group about it early, so that they are prepared to share the Gospel when the opportunity presents itself.*

### Introduction

Tonight we are talking about daring our friends to put their faith in Jesus! We all have friends who, once they hear and believe the good news about Jesus, will be saved! We will focus on the Gospel—the power of God for salvation—what it is, how it works and what we should do about it. This is the ultimate dare: to put one’s faith in Jesus. Every other dare we will discuss in the coming weeks and months leads to this!

- I. The Gospel is the power of God (Rom. 1:16). (Gospel-centered)
  - A. A Gospel-centered life begins by accepting a Gospel-centered dare—to place one’s faith in Jesus as the way to salvation, the embodiment of truth, and the source of life that comes from God.
    1. Jesus said He is the way, truth, life, and the only way to God. (John 14:6)
    2. Putting faith in Jesus means He becomes our way of living, our source of ultimate truth, and the origin of our purpose and fulfillment. (2 Corinthians 5:15)
  - B. Daring our friends to place their faith in Jesus means challenging them to follow Jesus, which is impossible if not for the Gospel.
    1. The Gospel is good news because Jesus makes the impossible possible.
    2. Jesus traded places with us—he got it right in our place. We can’t earn it by our actions; it’s grace given to us on the basis of our faith in Him.
- II. The work of the Gospel is powered by the Holy Spirit; “...the power of God for salvation...” (Romans 1:16). (Spirit-empowered)
  - A. The Holy Spirit draws people to believe the Gospel.
    1. The Spirit convicts us of our sin. (John 16:8)
    2. The Spirit changed Paul from Christian-hater to Christian leader. (Acts 9)
    3. Illustration - Consider telling a story of how the Holy Spirit drew you to Christ, or how someone you know was drawn by the Spirit.
  - B. The Holy Spirit deals with our heart as we believe the Gospel.
    1. The Spirit makes us righteous before God by justification. (Rom. 5:1-2)
    2. The Spirit makes us more like Jesus in character through sanctification. (Galatians 3:3)
- III. We must dare our friends to put their faith in Jesus; “...to everyone that believes...” (Romans 1:16). (Personally responsible for the mission of God)
  - A. Believing means having faith and trust. “Believe” here is the Greek word *pisteuō*, and it is the same word used for “believe” in John 3:16.



# ...to put your faith in Jesus.

By John Ginnan  
Youth Alive® of New York

1. To believe means having faith and confidence, as well as trusting that Jesus saves.
  2. Belief is both something we have (faith/confidence), and something we do (trust). Belief is not just in the mind; it also affects our actions.
  3. Illustration - Talk about how your belief in Jesus affects your mind as well as your actions.
- B. Believing includes confession—a response of agreement with the Gospel. (Rom. 10:9)
1. You can help inspire your friend's belief by sharing your story of placing your faith in Jesus. This is a form of confession, and it is a personal demonstration of our need for God.
  2. When you dare your friend to place their faith in Jesus, you can ask them about their belief. Ask them about their own confession of faith.

## **Conclusion**

Our friends cannot obtain the life God wants them to live without first believing—placing their faith and trust in the good news of Jesus. Good actions and mature living are both useless without a reliance on the Gospel. When they believe they will gain salvation, growth, and a life of gratitude and mission! So in humble response to the Gospel's work in our own lives, let's open our heart to the Gospel's work around us, looking for opportunities to open our mouths and dare others to believe. This is the ultimate dare: to put one's faith in Jesus. Every other dare we will discuss in the coming weeks and months leads to this!

(Close with prayer for students as they prepare to dare their friends to place their faith in Jesus. Consider calling them to the altar and praying for a specific friend, or asking the Holy Spirit to direct them to a specific friend)

## **Small Group Discussion Questions**

1. What difference has faith in Jesus made in your life? What would you say to a friend to explain it to him or her?
2. What “fun” dare could you give to your friends before you dare them to put their faith in Jesus?
3. What will you say to your friend when you dare them to put their faith in Jesus?
4. What will you say to your friends when they ask you why? What are some of the questions they might ask you, and what will you say to answer them?
5. What will you say to explain the Gospel? (*The Bridge Card*, *Life in 6 Words*, etc.)
6. What will you do to follow up on this dare to your friends? What next steps will you take if they respond positively?

(Have the students break off into groups of 2 or 3 and practice daring one another. Have them take turns, role-playing and asking challenging questions of each other)



# ...to have a conversation with me.

By Lee Rogers  
Youth Alive® of PennDel

## **Texts – Colossians 4:6; Luke 12:12; John 15:26, 16:8**

### **Introduction**

This month you will dare your friends to have a conversation with you. The goal is to have a conversation that leads to Jesus, because having conversations is the best way to share the Gospel with others. Most people who make a meaningful, lasting commitment to Jesus do so through a friend who explains the Gospel in a conversational way. So we've got to have as many conversations with our friends as we can, and listen to the Holy Spirit along the way so we can connect those conversations to the Gospel. It's only a matter of time until those conversations connect with the Gospel, church, or the Scriptures. If those things are major parts of our lives, it's natural that our conversations would touch on these subjects from time to time.

(Give an illustration about a conversation you had that naturally connected to the Gospel.)

In order to challenge our friends to have an effective conversation that connects to the Gospel, let's take a look at how God works through conversations.

- I. Our conversations should reflect the grace and intrigue of Jesus Christ (Colossians 4:6). (Gospel-centered)
  - A. Jesus often engaged others in conversation, and when He did He usually found a way to impart grace or proclaim the Kingdom of God.
    1. In John 4, Jesus had a conversation with a Samaritan woman at the well.
    2. Jesus dared her to have a conversation by asking a simple question, "Will you give me a drink?" As the conversation continued they spoke together about living water, eternal life, and He revealed Himself as the Messiah. His conversation was centered on the Gospel He'd come to proclaim.
  - B. The Apostle Paul wrote that our conversations should be full of grace and seasoned with salt.
    1. This type of conversation reflects the truth of the Gospel.
    2. Faith is an intriguing topic for conversation; we can't be afraid to talk about it.
  - C. Illustration - Consider giving an illustration of a powerful conversation you had that turned towards faith, or use the story from the beginning of Chapter 5.
- II. The Holy Spirit speaks through us and informs our conversations. (Spirit-empowered)
  - A. The Holy Spirit works through our voice and speaks to our mind by giving us words to say, even if we think we've got nothing to say. (Luke 12:12)
  - B. Conversation also creates an opportunity for the person you're having a conversation with to experience the power of the Holy Spirit.
    1. The Spirit is probably already speaking to you friend. The Spirit testifies about Jesus throughout the world, and convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgement (John 15:26; 16:8)



# ...to have a conversation with me.

By Lee Rogers  
Youth Alive® of PennDel

2. The Holy Spirit is continually conducting a case for Christ throughout the whole world, speaking to every person about Jesus.
- III. Conversation is the most effective way to lead someone to the Cross, so we must dare our friends to have a conversation! (Personally responsible for the mission of God)
  - A. Even Billy Graham, whose legacy in ministry is speaking to large crowds about Jesus, has stated that mass evangelism is not as effective as when two people have a conversation and one shares about Jesus (see page 57 of *I Dare You*).
  - B. Every time we start a conversation with our friends, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us, we're taking personal responsibility for the mission of God.
  - C. Illustration - Give an illustration of a time you shared the Gospel through a conversation.

## **Conclusion**

Daring our friends to have a conversation with us is a great opportunity to talk about Jesus. It's best if you choose something you want to have a conversation about, and make it something that easily connects to your faith in Jesus. So you might say, "I dare you to have a conversation with me about your...(best memories, favorite books, favorite activities, greatest sacrifice, biggest challenges, favorite historical person or event)." Whatever you choose to talk about, give some thought ahead of time to how you will connect it to your faith. Remember, the Holy Spirit is at work in the midst of that conversation, so listen to the Spirit's leading. We need God's help in this, because having an effective conversation is a critical part of everything we will dare our friends to do. In that sense, this dare is foundational to all other dares. Let's ask for God's help!

(Close with prayer for students as they prepare to dare their friends to have a conversation with them. Consider calling them to the altar and praying for a specific friend, or asking the Holy Spirit to direct them to a specific friend)

## **Small Group Discussion Questions**

1. What conversational topic will you dare your friend to discuss with you? What is your view of that topic? What will you say to explain it?
2. What "fun" dare could you give before you dare your friends to have a conversation?
3. What will you say to your friend when you dare them have a conversation with you?
4. What will you say to your friends when they ask you why? What are some of the questions they might ask you about the topic, and what will you say to answer them?
5. What will you do to follow up with your friend once the conversation is over?

(Have the students break off into groups of 2 or 3 and practice daring one another. Have them take turns, role-playing and asking challenging questions of each other)



...to pray with us.

By Dave Freeland  
Youth Alive® of Potomac

## Text – Matthew 18:19-20

*(Note: this is a great dare for the month of September, as See You At The Pole takes place on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Find resources for See You At The Pole at [www.syatp.com](http://www.syatp.com).)*

### Introduction

What if revival broke out in your school? Daring your friends to pray could be the spark that sparks a fire and ignites a movement. That fire could turn into a revival! It all starts with you being gutsy enough to dare your friend to pray. Prayer is the key to help us understand God's Will (His authority, power, and purposes). Every time you dare your friends to pray you're inviting them to encounter Jesus, to experience a move of the Holy Spirit, and to be transformed by God. When people pray together it opens up their heart to God's purposes.

- I. When we dare others to pray with us, Jesus is present. (Gospel-centered)
  - A. Jesus is there with us when we pray. He is actually present on our school campus every time we gather with another believer in the name Jesus. (Matthew 18:19-20)
    1. Because He is with us, he hears us. (1 John 5:14-15)
    2. Because He hears us, he answers us. (Jeremiah 33:3)
  - B. Illustration - (Share about a time when God answered you when you prayed).
- II. When we dare others to pray with us, the Holy Spirit moves. (Spirit-empowered)
  - A. Be confident when you step out and dare your friends to pray, because the Holy Spirit will work through you. (Acts 1:8)
    1. Ask the Spirit to lead you. (Matthew 7:7)
    2. Listen to the Spirit's direction (1 Samuel 3:10). God wants to use you! He is trying to speak to you, so keep your heart open to what the Spirit is saying.
    3. Step Out in Obedience (Luke 11:28). God grows our faith each time we act in obedience.
  - B. Illustration - Share about a time when the Holy Spirit moved through a student to reach another student, or about time when he Spirit moved through your own prayers.





## ...to pray with us.

By Dave Freeland  
Youth Alive® of Potomac

- III. When we dare others to pray with us, God can transform their lives. (Personally responsible for the mission of God)
  - A. You are created to be used by God to transform lives. (Acts 9:15 and John 15:16)
    1. (Acts 9:15) God uses us as instruments to proclaim His name!
    2. (John 15:16) God chooses us! He does it so that we can bear fruit as we go into the world and amongst our friends.
  - B. There is a saying, "You are either the missionary or the mission field."
    1. You are personally responsible to live a life that God is calling you to live – to be a witness.
    2. Illustration - Share your heart to see God move through your students on their school campus. Feel free to share the story of Kaylee & Kenzie in the opening of chapter 6 of the I Dare You book.

### **Conclusion**

Re-Read Matthew 18:19-20 and challenge your students to think about how God can move through them on their school campus to transform the lives of other students. Challenge them, "What if your dare becomes the transformational moment in your friends life? Daring your friends to pray with you could be the spark that ignites transformation on your school campus. Because when we pray Jesus is there, the Spirit loves, and God can transform lives!

### **Small Group Discussion Questions**

1. Do you remember the last thing God spoke to you when you prayed? What was it?
2. What is it like to hear God's voice; how would you explain that to your friend?
3. Can you share about a time when the Holy Spirit moved through you because of prayer to have a positive impact on another students life?
4. What are some potential roadblocks you may encounter with this dare? How will you confidently navigate through those challenges? (Not everyone will want to pray... Come up with some confident loving gentle responses)
5. How will you follow up with your friend in regards to the dare?

(Have the students break off into groups of 2 or 3 and practice daring one another. Have them take turns, role-playing and asking challenging questions of each other)



...to read the Bible with me.

By Jessica Riner  
Youth Alive® of Georgia

## Text – Acts 8:26-40

### Introduction

This month the dare you will be giving out to friends is the dare to read the Bible with you. The Holy Spirit speaks to us through the Word of God. When we read the Bible our hearts are exposed to the truth of the good news of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit also convicts our hearts as we are reading the scriptures and draws us towards a personal relationship with Jesus. I know through this specific dare the Holy Spirit will help you to have anointed conversations with friends as you read and study the Word of God together.

I am reminded of a story from a passage of scripture in Acts 8:26-40. An Ethiopian eunuch was reading a few scripture verses from the book of Isaiah. He asked Philip to explain the meaning of those verses. Philip gave insight to the verses and explained the good news of Jesus Christ with his new friend. Immediately this guy wanted to get baptized because he chose to believe in Jesus.

Reading the Scriptures opened the Ethiopian's mind to having faith in Jesus. I believe your friend's hearts and minds will be opened to having faith in Jesus also as you read the Word of God together. God's Word has the power to change lives.

- I. God's Word penetrates our hearts.
  - A. The Word of God is living and active. Hebrews 4:1
    1. The Word of God causes us to examine our hearts.
    2. The Word of God convicts us of our sins.
  - B. The Word of God will not return empty. Isaiah 55:11
    1. The Word will accomplish what God desires.
    2. The Word will achieve God's purposes.
- II. God's Word was written so we would put our faith in Jesus.
  - A. Reading the Bible will help us believe in Christ. John 20:31
    1. According to the Evangelical Commentary on the Bible the word *believe* in John 20:31 has two meanings here: *to begin to believe* and *to continue to believe*.
    2. It is important to put our faith in Jesus and encourage our friends to do the same.
  - B. Illustration - Kelsey's story (or substitute an illustration of your own).
    1. Kelsey, a campus missionary from Rincon, GA, has handed out over 200 Bibles to classmates at school and in her community.



# ...to read the Bible with me.

By Jessica Riner  
Youth Alive® of Georgia

2. One day at school Kelsey got together with 10 of her friends with their new Bibles and she led a Bible study at break. At the end of her lesson she gave an opportunity for her friends to accept Christ into their hearts and 3 friends prayed for salvation.
- III. Take action to dare your friends to read the Bible with you.
- A. Wear your *I Dare You* t-shirt.
    1. Be ready to give out a fun dare.
    2. Transition to the real dare to read the Bible with you.
  - B. Pray for opportunities for the dare.
    1. Pray daily for the friends God sends in your path.
    2. Pray for your friend's heart and mind to be opened to the truth of God's Word.

## **Conclusion**

Remember God's Word is powerful and it will change lives. The Holy Spirit is always working in each of our lives to bring us to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. However, some people may try to avoid taking you up on your dare to read the Bible. Be ready to share how the Bible has made a difference in your own life. Share that the Bible gives us practical advice, helps us have self-control, change habits we would like to overcome, and make good decisions. Most of all, reading the Bible helps us learn the truth about Jesus. Help your friend see value in reading the Bible. The book of John is a great place to begin because John gives great insight about the life of Jesus.

Close with prayer for students as they go back to school on a mission to dare their friends to read the Bible.

## **Small Group Discussion Questions**

1. In what ways has reading the Bible made a difference in your life?
2. In what ways are you bringing the Bible into school with you?
3. What will you do to dare a friend to read the Bible with you?
4. What are you most excited about with this dare?
5. How do you think your friends will respond to this dare? What questions will they have, or what challenges will they present?
6. What will you say to answer those questions or challenges?

(Have the students break off into groups of 2 or 3 and practice daring one another. Have them take turns, role-playing and asking challenging questions of each other)



# ...to list your blessings.

By Kent Hulbert  
Youth Alive

## **Text – Colossians 2:6-7; Galatians 5:22-23; Colossians 4:2-6**

*(Note: this is a great dare for the month of November because of the focus on Thanksgiving.)*

### **Introduction**

This month the dare you will be giving to your friends is the dare to list their blessings—what they are thankful for. Being thankful is a hallmark of a follower of Christ, but it is also important for any person. Research indicates that people are happier, healthier and have deeper relationships when one makes thankfulness a part of their lifestyle. The conversations you can have with this dare will be powerful as you ask your friends to list their blessings.

We can even be thankful for the bad things that happen in our lives. We don't often think of the tough times or bad situations we've gone through as blessings. They don't typically make it onto the list; why would they? The pain from the bad moments can seem overwhelming and never-ending. How could you ever find something good in those moments that are shameful, hurtful, embarrassing?

(Give an illustration from your life where you can look back and be thankful for a tough situation. Emphasize how you can look at the situation now and see positives and how any healing occurred. How has the situation become a blessing?)

To challenge our friends to list their blessings and be thankful, we need to understand how being thankful impacts us as a follower of Christ, so we can adequately and passionately dare our friends to join us.

- I. Thanksgiving reminds us that Jesus is active in our lives. (Gospel-centered)
  - A. Every good thing is from God. (James 1:16-17)
    1. God is blessing us every day, wither we recognize it or not.
    2. When you challenge other to list their blessings, you are really helping them to list the things God has blessed them with, whether they realize it or not.
  - B. As we continue to walk with Jesus, He can turn all things to our good – even the bad things. (Romans 8:28)
    1. God turns our difficulties and troubles into blessings.
    2. God does His work of changing our problems to blessings as we love Him.
- II. Giving thanks allows the Holy Spirit to work in our lives and circumstances. (Spirit-empowered)
  - A. It takes humility to realize even the simplest things come from God, not from our own power.
  - B. Humility is one of the signs that the Fruit of the Spirit working in our lives. (Galatians 5:22-23) *Note: “gentleness” can also be translated as “humility.”*



# ...to list your blessings.

By Kent Hulbert  
Youth Alive

- C. *When you challenge others, you'll create space for the Holy Spirit to awaken the same humble realization in them—that so many of the blessings in our lives are beyond our control and come from our Creator.*
- III. Thanksgiving enables us to stay ready to share the Gospel (Colossians 4:2-6). (Personally responsible for the mission of God)
  - A. A thankful heart helps you to proclaim the Gospel clearly.
  - B. A thankful heart helps you to live wisely around those who don't know Jesus.
  - C. A thankful heart helps you to make the most of every opportunity.

## **Conclusion**

God has entrusted us to share His great love with others. A thankful heart makes you more sensitive to God's work in you, and also to God's desire to save all people. Be thankful that He has placed you in your school, in your community, and in your home. Let that thankfulness flow out of you as you challenge others to consider their own blessings from God.

Daring your friends to list their blessings is very relational and could be a deeply personal conversation. Some may struggle at first but say, "Big or little, list your blessings in your life—what are you thankful for?" This conversation could allow you to share the greatest thing you are thankful for; who Jesus is and what Jesus has done for all of us—our salvation! We are blessed!

(Close with prayer for students as they prepare to dare their friends to list their blessings. Consider calling them to the altar and praying for a specific friend, or asking the Holy Spirit to direct them to a specific friend)

## **Small Group Discussion Questions**

1. How can being thankful make a difference in others' lives? What would you say to a friend to explain how Jesus has made you thankful?
2. What "fun" dare could you give to your friends before you dare them to list their blessings?
3. What will you say to your friends when they ask you why? What are some of the questions they might ask you, and what will you say to answer them?
4. How will you answer those who can't see any "good" possibly ever come from the bad things in their life?
5. Be prepared to answer your friends if they ask you what you are thankful for, make your own list, what are you thankful for?

(Have the students break off into groups of 2 or 3 and practice daring one another. Have them take turns, role-playing and asking challenging questions of each other)



# ...to serve with me.

By Jason Forsman  
Youth Alive® of Michigan

## **Texts - Luke 4:38-39; John 13; Matthew 5:16; Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 2:4-5; Romans 10:13-14**

*(Note: This is a great dare for the month of December because of the emphasis on Jesus' birth, and the higher number of opportunities to serve others.)*

### **Introduction**

This month we will dare our friends to serve with us. We are called to serve others. Serving does something in our hearts that is unmistakable. When we serve, it helps us focus on someone else's needs, and when we focus on someone else's need we are imitating the character of God. When you invite someone to serve with you, you are inviting them to open their hearts to the character of God, and that will present you with opportunities to talk about Jesus.

- I. Through serving others we become more like Christ. (Gospel-centered)
  - A. Everywhere Christ went He served. He cared about people's needs.
    1. Luke 4:38-39: Jesus healed Peter's Mother in Law.
    2. John 13 – Jesus washed the his own disciples' feet
  - B. When we reflect Him, people will be interested in seeing more.
    1. Matthew 5:16 – Let your light shine.
    2. Illustration - Tell a personal story about letting your light shine.
  - C. When we invite our friends to serve with us, we will be inviting them to also experience Christ's nature and His light.
- II. Serving demonstrates the fruit and power of the Holy Spirit. (Spirit-empowered)
  - A. We can't serve in God's strength without the Holy Spirit, it's just not in our nature.
    1. It's the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives that grows the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)
    2. As you serve alongside your friend the Holy Spirit will empower you to demonstrate the true nature of Christ through the fruit of the Spirit.
  - B. It is in serving and weakness that the Holy Spirit's power is made known to our friends.
    1. The Apostle Paul frequently chose to serve others in weakness so that the Holy Spirit's power could be the main factor in convincing them to believe in Jesus. (1 Corinthians 2:4-5)
    2. The same thing will happen when you serve alongside your friend in Christ-like humility—the Holy Spirit will clearly and persuasively draw him to faith in Jesus.
  - C. Illustration - Share a personal experience of how serving opened up an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to work.



...to serve with me.

By Jason Forsman  
Youth Alive® of Michigan

- III. Serving together gives us the opportunity to have a conversation about Jesus (Personally Responsible)
  - A. While the Holy Spirit draws your friend toward faith in Jesus as you serve together, you must also speak the name of Jesus and talk about your faith in Him.
  - B. Serving together is not enough to lead your friend to Jesus, you must look for an opportunity to share the Gospel. (Romans 10:13-14)
    - 1. Everyone who calls upon the Lord will be saved, but they must first hear about Jesus in order to call upon Jesus.
    - 2. In order to hear about Jesus, someone has to tell them. Be that person—the one who tells them about Jesus.
  - C. Illustration - Talk about a time you told someone about the Gospel.

### **Conclusion**

When we serve the way God has taught us to, we please Him. When we invite people to serve with us, we invite them to experience Jesus' nature and and light. We also give the Holy Spirit an opportunity to work. Finally, we gain the opportunity to talk about Jesus and how He ultimately served us through the Cross. I challenge

### **Small Group Discussion Questions**

1. What are some things you can do in the next few weeks to serve others? Is there someone you can dare to serve alongside you?
2. What serving opportunities can we create as a youth group or Bible club to invite our friends to be a part of?
3. What makes serving is so important to God? What does it say about His character? What would you say to explain this as you serve with a friend?
4. In what ways does the Holy Spirit work through us when we serve? In what ways can we expect the Holy Spirit to work through and on our friends? In what ways can we discuss it with them?
5. What are some ways of starting a conversation about Jesus as we serve with our friends? What will you say to explain Jesus' service to all the world on the cross?

(Have the students break off into groups of 2 or 3 and practice daring one another. Have them take turns, role-playing and asking challenging questions of each other)



...to change.

By Ben Russell  
Youth Alive® of Alabama

## Texts – Acts 13:9; John 14:25; Mark 16:15

*(Note: this is a great dare for the month of January because of the focus on New Year's resolutions and goals oriented around change.)*

### **Introduction**

This month the dare you will be doing is daring others to change. To start with a change in life and see how God might use that as a starting point towards faith in Jesus. To change means to become different or become altered, modified, etc. The person's change might be better grades or to stop breaking curfew but regardless of what they attempt to alter in their life you can be key in helping cultivate it. No matter where the change may start in them remember it is only because of the grace of God that we have been altered & modified through Christ Jesus.

(Give an illustration of something about your life that changed along the way as you matured in faith)

For us to dare others to change there are a few key things we need to look at that will help us along the way.

- I. The Gospel brings change. (Gospel-centered)
  - A. One great example in the Bible of someone who truly changed was Saul, who was later known as Paul.
    1. Saul persecuted the church, and he was feared by many Christians
    2. God verbally spoke to Saul! He changed and began to do great things for God.
  - B. God can change anyone.
    1. As the Gospel changed Saul, his name also started to change—to Paul. (Acts 13:9)
    2. The Gospel also changes us. Never think that someone you know can't change, even if it's the "roughest" person in your school or a family member who seems closed off to God.
  - C. Illustration - Consider giving an illustration of how the Gospel has changed you, or how it has dramatically changed someone you know.
- II. The Holy Spirit helps us change. (Spirit-empowered)
  - A. Jesus told us He would send Holy Spirit, our advocate, and that the Spirit would teach us and remind us of what Jesus has said. (John 14:26)
    1. If the Holy Spirit is our advocate then He is here to help when friends, family, and classmates are trying to change.
    2. It is essential that we remember it is by His help that change happens in our lives and in the lives of others.
  - B. We all need help when trying to change.





...to change.

By Ben Russell  
Youth Alive® of Alabama

1. There is nothing the Spirit of God cannot do in us, as long as we are willing to change.
  2. This is not only the promise we have in our own lives, but also the promise we get to share with others.
- III. It is our job to encourage change. (Personally responsible for the mission of God)
- A. Jesus gave clear instructions to His disciples before He returned to Heaven; to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to everyone. (Mark 16:15)
    1. As Jesus' disciples, the Great Commission is to all of us.
    2. We are personally responsible to challenge others with Jesus' words; to challenge them to change.
  - B. As we encourage change, we must also be respectful of others. Daring a friend to change something in their life can allow God to reveal His power to change us, and that power can be the entry point to faith in Jesus.
  - C. Illustration - Consider giving an illustration of a time you were challenged to change, or of a time when you challenged someone else to change.

### **Conclusion**

They say timing is everything, and although I'm not sure who "they" are, it is a very wise statement. Pray the Holy Spirit would nudge you at the right time. When daring others to change the Holy Spirit will lead you in the discussion, but you should prepare yourself ahead of time for how the conversation might go. God has not called us to come across judgmental, but He has called us to be an avenue that He can work through to help those around us. We speak life into others when talking to them about change.

(Close with prayer for students as they prepare to dare their friends to change. Consider calling them to the altar and praying for a specific friend, or asking the Holy Spirit to direct them to a specific friend)

### **Small Group Discussion Questions**

(Have the students break off into groups of 2 or 3 and practice daring one another. Have them take turns, role-playing and asking challenging questions of each other)

1. If you could change one negative thing in your life, what would it be? What do you need to do to start changing?
2. What are some things you need to eliminate in your life in order to change?
3. What are some things you need to add in your life in order to change?
4. In what ways could God help you change?
5. What can I do to help you change? Can I pray with you?



# ...to love like Jesus.

By Wes Sheley  
Youth Alive® of Oregon and Idaho

Text - 1 Corinthians 13

*(Note: this is a great dare for the month of February because Valentine's Day.)*

## **Introduction**

This month the dare you will be giving out to friends is the dare to love like Jesus. The Bible has a clear description of what Love is and it describes how Jesus has loved us. One great way to share the Gospel with your friend is to talk about the love of God, which was expressed through Jesus' willing sacrifice of Himself. By daring your friends to love like Jesus, we are inviting them to have a conversation about what love is. Is love a feeling? Or is it a choice? Or is it both? This month you will have life changing conversations about what love is, how Jesus is the perfect example of love, and how can we reflect that love on others. In order to challenge our friends to love like Jesus we need to understand that love is not just a feeling, but it's also a choice. Jesus chooses to love us despite what we have done. (Share a personal story in which you had to demonstrate as a choice, not as a feeling. This could be in ministry, your spouse, a parent, a co-worker/employer, etc.)

- I. Jesus demonstrates His love for us in many ways. (Gospel-centered)
  - A. 1 Corinthians 13 is known as "the love chapter," and it continuously reminds us what true love is. (read 1 Corinthians 13)
  - B. Love is not just a feeling or an emotion; it is also a choice.
    1. The choice is to sacrifice our self-interest for the benefit of someone else. This is the choice Jesus made when He chose to go to the cross for us. (John 15:13)
    2. When we dare our friends to love like Jesus, we'll be daring them to sacrifice as He did, and to consider how Jesus loved the world.
  - C. Illustration - Consider sharing a story of how someone chose to love you when you had done something to them, or how you chose to love someone despite what they have done.
- II. The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to Love like Jesus. (Spirit-empowered)
  - A. Apostle Paul places love first in the list of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23)
    1. The other fruits of the Spirit are dependent on love, and flow from love.
    2. When the Holy Spirit is moving in us, Christlike love becomes evident.
  - B. When you love like Jesus, you are committing to allow the Holy Spirit grow in you.
    1. As you dare your friends to love like Christ, you are challenging them to do something that is impossible without the help of the Holy Spirit.
    2. The Holy Spirit helps us to love sacrificially, so we are daring them to have an encounter with the Holy Spirit.
    3. Illustration - Use a story of how your youth group has shown sacrificial love. This could be a form of community service project, ministry opportunity or a missions trip. Emphasize the movement of the Holy Spirit in that moment.
- III. We must choose to love like Christ. (Personal Responsibility)



# ...to love like Jesus.

By Wes Sheley

Youth Alive® of Oregon and Idaho

- A. Choosing to love like Christ is ultimately our personal responsibility.
  - 1. We must choose to love our friends.
  - 2. In doing so we must allow the Holy Spirit's influence to grow in our lives.
- B. We should dare our friends to love like Jesus, but we must also first make sure we are loving our friends like Jesus does.
  - 1. Taking personal responsibility doesn't just include speaking to them about Christ's sacrificial love; it's equally about demonstrating Christ's sacrificial love.
  - 2. When we take personal responsibility to love first, and talk second, our words become more trustworthy and credible.
- C. Illustration - Share a story about a time that you were able to demonstrate the love of Christ through your actions or kind words.

## **Conclusion**

Daring our friends to love like Jesus means inviting them to allow the Holy Spirit to move in their lives. We cannot love like Jesus without the help of the Holy Spirit, and neither can they; it is impossible! One of the greatest evidences of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives is the overflow of sacrificial love out of us. In fact, I dare you to choose to love a friend sacrificially, and talk second, so your words become more trustworthy and credible. Take the monthly dare even further than just a conversation. Ask your friend to join you in picking a mutual friend that needs Christ's love, then figure out a way to work together to do demonstrate that love. Can you imagine not only having a conversation about loving like Jesus, but also being able to demonstrate that love side by side with them?

(Close with prayer for students as they prepare to dare their friends to love like Jesus. Consider calling them to the altar and praying for a specific friend, or asking the Holy Spirit to direct them to a specific friend. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide each student.)

## **Small Group Discussion Questions**

- 1. How has someone demonstrated sacrificial love to you? How will you describe sacrificial love to your friend?
- 2. What "fun dare" can you give to your friend before you dare them to love like Jesus?
- 3. What will you say to your friend when you dare them to love like Jesus? What are some of the questions they might ask you, and what will you say to answer them?
- 4. What are some ways you can show your friend love without using words to become more trustworthy and earn credibility?
- 5. What can you do to help your friend understand what it means to love like Jesus? What are some things you can do together to demonstrate what it means to love like Jesus?

(Have the students break off into groups of 2 or 3 and practice daring one another. Have them take turns, role-playing and asking challenging questions to each other)



# ...to go to church with me.

By Lee Rogers  
Youth Alive® of PennDel

## **Texts – Matthew 18:20; 1 Cor 12:4-7 ; Ephesians 4:11-13**

### **Introduction**

This month the dare you will be giving out to friends is the dare to go to church with you. The Bible calls the Church the “Body of Christ,” and each of us is a part of it. Belonging to the body of Christ is a critical part of being Gospel-centered, and it’s an important part of every growing believer’s life. By inviting our friends to go to church with us, we are inviting them to encounter Jesus through his Body, which is us. This could powerfully change their lives. That’s because church is more than just an event or a service; the church is God’s primary agent of mission on the earth, a body that worships him, that builds one another up in Christ, and that demonstrates God’s love and compassion.

(Give an illustration here about how the church has made a difference in your life. Maybe have a student give a testimony about how coming to church changed them, or made a big impact on their life.)

In order to challenge our friends to go to church with us, we’ve got to understand the power and purpose God has for the church, so we can adequately and passionately dare our friends to join us.

- I. Christ is present in the midst of the church. (Gospel-centered)
  - A. Jesus told his disciples in Matthew 18:20, “For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them” (NIV).
    1. Each time the church gathers together in the name of Jesus, He is present.
    2. Daring your friends to go to church with you means inviting them to encounter Jesus in the presence of His followers.
  - B. Jesus also told his his disciples that He would build the church through them (Matthew 16:18).
    1. The church is always something Jesus meant for us to be a part of.
    2. It is not something we attend, it is something we belong to.
  - C. Illustration - (Consider giving an illustration of how you’ve encountered Christ in, at, or through the church.)
- II. The Holy Spirit works in and through the Church. (Spirit-empowered)
  - A. The Holy Spirit is also present when the church gathers in the name of Jesus, often speaking to and through believers. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)
  - B. Whenever the church gathers together, if it remains open and sensitive to the Holy Spirit, an experience with the Holy Spirit is sure to follow.
    1. When you dare a friend to come to church with you, you are daring them to have an experience with the Holy Spirit.
    2. Illustration - (Consider giving an illustration about a time when the Holy Spirit moved in your life during a church service or activity.)



# ...to go to church with me.

By Lee Rogers  
Youth Alive® of PennDel

- III. The church is God's agent for making disciples. (Personally responsible for the mission of God)
  - A. Daring your friends to go to church isn't just about getting them into a position to hear the Gospel, it's also about moving them into discipleship.
  - B. Part of our personal responsibility is to make disciples, and the church is most often the place where discipleship occurs; it is part of the purpose of the church. (Ephesians 4:11-13)
  - C. Illustration - (Consider giving an illustration of your own discipleship experience through the church.)

## **Conclusion**

Daring our friends to go to church with us with means inviting them to an encounter with Christ, an experience with the Holy Spirit, and into a disciple-making environment. The church is the Body of Christ, and we shouldn't hesitate to invite our friends to come with us. In fact, I challenge you: don't just invite your friend to come to one service, but to come to many services. Invite them to come for a month or two! Challenge your friends! Say, "I Dare you to come to church with me for one month—or two months—and see if it makes a difference in your life!" Being part of the church has made a difference in your life, and it will make a difference in your friends lives, so dare them without fear.

(Close with prayer for students as they prepare to dare their friends to go to church with them. Consider calling them to the altar and praying for a specific friend, or asking the Holy Spirit to direct them to a specific friend)

## **Small Group Discussion Questions**

1. What difference has the church made in your life? What would you say to a friend to explain church to him or her?
2. What "fun" dare could you give to your friends before you dare them to come to church with you?
3. What will you say to your friend when you dare them to go to church with you?
4. What will you say to your friends when they ask you why? What are some of the questions they might ask you, and what will you say to answer them?
5. What are some of the fun church activities you can invite your friend to, in addition to services?
6. What can you do to help your friend get to church, enjoy the time at church, and keep returning to church?

(Have the students break off into groups of 2 or 3 and practice daring one another. Have them take turns, role-playing and asking challenging questions of each other)



# ...to explore your doubts.

By Kevin Zurriga

Youth Alive® of Southern New England

## Text - John 20:24-31

*(Note: this is a great dare for the month when Easter occurs, whether March or April, because the resurrection is one of the key parts of the Gospel that people doubt.)*

### **Introduction**

This month, our challenge is to dare our friends to explore their doubts about faith with us. In our culture of information, exploring doubts has never been easier! At the same time, many of those we will dare to walk with us will have heard and been exposed to very difficult questions about the faith. Some have walked away from faith, others have never sought out faith, and still others are on a journey of discovery about faith. In each situation, our responsibility is not to run away from questions and doubts, but to explore them and find answers to the questions that our friends have. Exploring doubts is a very difficult, but very necessary, part of spiritual development. Both you and your friends will benefit from exploring doubts about the faith.

(Share a story about how exploring doubts about faith impacted your life. Or consider having a student come up and share about how exploring their doubts helped them grow.)

- I. Exploring doubts will lead us to Jesus (vs. 24-25). (Gospel-centered)
  - A. Exploring doubts is central to the Christian faith. Jesus commands us to love him with our our heart, soul, *MIND*, and strength!
  - B. On their journey of exploring doubts, many were brought to Jesus.
    1. Thomas, a disciple, had to explore his doubts by touching the wounds of Jesus.
    2. Nicodemus came to Jesus at night to ask questions about his doubts.
  - C. When you dare your friends to explore their doubts, you are inviting them to discover who Jesus is.
- II. The Holy Spirit helps us to know the Truth (v. 26-27). (Spirit-empowered)
  - A. It is not our job to convince others of the truth, it is God's.
    1. Regardless of your friend's response to the dare, trust that the Holy Spirit will help you respond with love.
    2. There's no record of disciples arguing about Thomas' doubts, but we see that they continued their relationship with him.
  - B. When exploring doubts, the Holy Spirit will guide us into truth (John 16:13).
    1. Keep in prayer and rely upon God; allow the Holy Spirit to do the difficult work of lifting the doubts and convincing your friends' about Jesus.
    2. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide your own answers, but also be willing to study and research as you walk with your friends through their doubts.



# ...to explore your doubts.

By Kevin Zurriga

Youth Alive® of Southern New England

- III. We must help others overcome their doubts (v. 28-29). (Personally responsible for the mission of God.)
  - A. Exploring doubts, with the help of the Holy Spirit, removes barriers to faith.
    - 1. Sharing your own story and experience of faith can help inspire your friends to move beyond their doubts.
    - 2. Remember, we are exploring doubts about “faith,” not “fact.” Your own experience and story is a powerful aid in helping a friend develop faith.
  - B. The Apostle Paul considered this a normal part of his activities when sharing the Gospel. (2 Corinthians 10:5)
    - 1. Being personally responsible means must challenge the doubts of others.
    - 2. We must be ready to address warped philosophies and tear down barriers to faith in Christ.
  - C. Illustration - Talk about a time when you discussed someone’s doubts or misconceptions about faith in Jesus.

## **Conclusion**

Daring our friends to explore their doubts may seem daunting. It is a scary thought because we might be intimidated by their questions. Some of you are asking yourselves, “What if I don’t know an answer to their questions or doubts?” It is okay to not know an answer. The point of exploring doubts is discovery. Journey with your friend to discover answers. Seek the Holy Spirit to guide you and them to the Truth. Jesus calls us to be His witnesses. By giving testimony of what we have seen, heard, experienced, or learned about the faith we are witnesses of the Gospel. When someone asks you the question, “What do you dare me to do?” respond with, “I dare you to explore your doubts about faith in Jesus!”

(Close in prayer, asking that your students would have boldness and the courage to dare their friends to explore their doubts, and to walk with their friends through the journey of discovery.)

## **Small Group Discussion Questions**

1. How has/does asking questions and seeking answers help us grow in the faith?
2. What “fun” dare can you give to friends before daring them to explore their doubts with you?
3. In what ways can you connect the fun dare to daring them to explore doubts?
4. What are some doubts about faith in Jesus that you know your friends have?
5. In what ways can we equip ourselves to be ready for those doubts/questions?

(Have the students break off into groups of 2 or 3 and practice daring one another. Have them take turns, role-playing and asking challenging questions to each other)



# ...to talk to God and listen for His answer.

By Brad Keller  
Youth Alive® of Missouri

## **Texts - Jeremiah 33:3; 1 Corinthians 2:14-16; 2 Timothy 4:2**

### **Introduction**

This month we are daring our friends to talk to God and then listen for His answer. Listening is something of a lost art. Do you remember when you were a little kid and your mom called out to you to do something? You either responded or not. Sometimes you didn't even "hear" her...because you chose not to. Then your mom would come into the room and ask: "Did you hear me John Jacob Jeffries?!" The truth was you didn't want to do what your mom was asking you to do; you were too busy and occupied with your own interests. The same thing happens today; we are so busy and occupied with our own interests that we often don't hear God speaking to us. However, God's voice has the power to change us, and we must take the time to listen, and we must dare our friends to listen.

In order to challenge our friends to go to talk to God and listen for His answer, we've got to understand a little bit of how God speaks, so we can adequately and passionately dare our friends to join us.

- I. Talking to God is an exercise of faith in Jesus (Jeremiah 33:3). (Gospel-centered)
  - A. Jesus talked with God on a regular basis.
    1. The Gospels record how he frequently withdrew and prayed. (Luke 5:16)
    2. He often shared his deepest feelings and emotions with God. (Matthew 26:38)
    3. When we challenge our friends to talk to God, we are challenging them to do what Jesus did.
  - B. Listening for God's response is an exercise of faith.
    1. When we challenge others to speak to God and to listen for His reply, we are encouraging them to test God's promises. (Jeremiah 33:3)
    2. God keeps his promises, so we can be sure that when we challenge our friends to listen to God that He will respond to them. (2 Corinthians 1:20)
    3. Illustration - Share a story of a time when you prayed and God answered.
- II. The Holy Spirit plays a powerful role as we communicate with God (1 Corinthians 2:14-16). (Spirit-empowered)
  - A. The Holy Spirit helps us when we are too overcome by our circumstances to focus our prayers. (Romans 8:26)
    1. The Spirit helps us in our weakness.
    2. The Spirit intercedes when we do not know what to pray for.
  - B. The Holy Spirit helps us hear God's response to our prayers.
    1. The Spirit teaches us (Luke 12:12), reminds us of what Jesus said (John 14:26), and gives others the ability to speak God's word to us (1 Corinthians 12:7-10).
    2. Illustration - Talk about a time when the Holy Spirit clearly spoke to you or helped you to discern the voice of God.
    3. When you dare your friends to pray and listen to God, you'll be challenging them to engage with the Holy Spirit!





# ...to talk to God and listen for His answer.

By Brad Keller  
Youth Alive® of Missouri

- III. We are the ones who must challenge our friends to talk to God and listen to Him (2 Timothy 4:2). (Personally responsible for the mission of God)
  - A. Our friends may only connect with the One True God if we take personal responsibility to lead them in that direction.
    1. Most people in the world believe that a higher power exists.
    2. The religions of the world are a response to that belief in a higher power, and unless we challenge our friends to talk to the One True God, they will be easily misled or confused.
  - B. Taking personal responsibility for the mission of God is simple and easy when we challenge others to pray to God and listen for his response—God does the work, and His voice is powerful and unmistakable.
  - C. Illustration - Share a story, personal or otherwise, of God's powerful voice changing the lives of those who listen.

## **Conclusion**

God wants to speak to us, and He also wants to speak to our friends who have not yet placed their faith in Jesus. In fact, God is probably already speaking to them. The more difficult part of prayer is listening, but it's also the most important part. God speaks in many ways; through His voice, through the Bible, through others, through the church, and even through dreams. Challenge your friends with the idea that God may speak to them through any of these means.

(Close with prayer for students as they prepare to dare their friends to talk to God and listen for His answer. Consider calling them to the altar and praying for a specific friend, or asking the Holy Spirit to direct them to a specific friend)

## **Small Group Discussion Questions**

1. What difference has prayer made in your life? What would you say to a friend to explain this to him or her?
2. What “fun” dare could you give to your friends before you dare them to talk to God and listen for His answer?
3. What will you say when you dare your friends to talk to God and listen for His answer?
4. What will you say when your friends ask you why? What are some of the questions they might ask you, and what will you say to answer them?
5. What will you say to explain the different ways God speaks? What can you do to demonstrate them?
6. What will you do to follow up on this challenge?

(Have the students break off into groups of 2 or 3 and practice daring one another. Have them take turns, role-playing and asking challenging questions to each other.)



# ...to go to camp with me.

By Forrest Rowell  
Youth Alive® of Rocky Mountain

## Text - Exodus 3 & 4

(Note: this is a great dare for the month of June, as summer camp approaches.)

### Introduction

This month the dare you will be giving out to friends is the dare to go to camp with you. All throughout scripture there are many different times and places where people met with God. One of those unique passages that is similar to many camp experiences is Moses and the burning bush; this is where Moses encountered God in an undeniable way. By inviting our friends to go to camp with us, you are inviting them to encounter Jesus in a similar, undeniable, and life-altering way. Imagine that—one of your non-believing friends connecting with Jesus in a very real and powerful way.

(Give an illustration about how camp, a retreat, or a conference has made a difference in your life. Maybe have a student give a testimony about how coming to camp changed them, or made a big impact on their life.)

- I. Camp can provide a powerful opportunity to get into God's presence. (Gospel-centered)
  - A. When we are in God's presence, He can call us by name. (Exodus 3:4)
    1. Did you know that God created you and loves you? (Psalm 139:13-15)
    2. Did you know that God has plan for you? (Psalm 139:16)
  - B. When we are in god's presence, He can challenge us. (Exodus 3:5-8)
  - C. When you dare your friends to go to camp with you, you are daring them to encounter God through His presence!
- II. Camp can be a great place to hear the voice of God. (Spirit-empowered)
  - A. God's voice is undeniable because *He is God*. (Exodus 3:6)
  - B. God voice changes us because He has something to say to us. (Exodus 3:7-8)
  - C. His voice is life altering because he wants to use us. (Exodus 3:10)
  - D. When you dare your friends to go to camp with you, you are inviting them to encounter the Holy Spirit through the voice of God!
- III. Our friends will only get to camp if we take the initiative and invite them. (Personally responsible for the mission of God)
  - A. Why did Moses keep trying to excuse himself from doing what God had asked?
    1. Because he was insecure (Exodus 3:11 and 4:1), inadequate (Exodus 4:10), and incapable (Exodus 4:13).
    2. Have you ever felt that way? (Consider giving a personal illustration.)
  - B. Why did Moses finally do what God was asking?
    1. Because God is entirely secure (Exodus 3:12a), beyond adequate (Exodus 3:17), ultimately capable (Exodus 4:11-12).



# ...to go to camp with me.

By Forrest Rowell

Youth Alive® of Rocky Mountain

2. We must submit our will to God as an act of obedience; God is not looking for our abilities, but our obedience! (Consider giving a personal illustration.)
- C. Moses chose to obey God; he took action to do the things God had asked him to do (Exodus 4:20).
  1. He took personal responsibility for God's mission. We must do the same.
  2. God wants to use you to invite your friends to youth camp!

## **Conclusion**

Moses was challenged by God to do something daring, and in the end he did it (Exodus 4:20). Daring our friends to go to camp with us with means inviting them to experience God, like Moses did at the burning bush, or like you have in your life. Invite them to come to camp with you and believe that God will do what God does—the miraculous! Challenge your friends! Say, “I Dare you to come to camp with me and experience God for yourself!” Going to camp has made a difference in your life, and it will make a difference in your friends lives, so be bold and courageous as you dare them to come.

(Close with prayer for students as they prepare to dare their friends to go to camp with them. Consider calling them to the altar and praying for a specific friend, or asking the Holy Spirit to direct them to a specific friend)

## **Small Group Discussion Questions**

1. What difference has the camp made in your life? What would you say to a friend to explain camp to him or her?
2. What “fun” dare could you give to your friends before you dare them to come to camp with you?
3. What will you say to your friend when you dare them to go to camp with you?
4. What will you say to your friends when they ask you why? What are some of the questions they might ask you, and what will you say to answer them?
5. What are some of the fun camp activities you can invite your friend to, in addition to the services?
6. What can you do to help your friend get to camp and enjoy their time at camp?

(Have the students break off into groups of 2 or 3 and practice daring one another. Have them take turns, role-playing and asking challenging questions to each other.)

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