

## Unit II

# PEER LEADERSHIP



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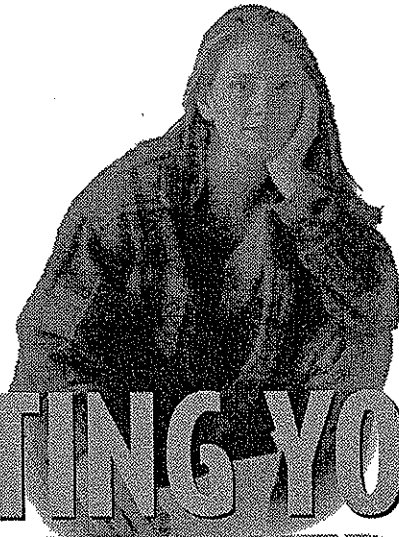
## LEADER'S PEP TALK

Ministry to students is best done by other students, not by you. One of the most exciting trends in youth ministry today is a move toward a very effective peer-ministry approach to youth work. What we've learned over the years is that students can be leaders and basically, with adult mentoring, they can do most any of the tasks and ministries in youth work.

I see your job in this section as one of building the peer-leadership philosophy into the lives of your students. As they get their priorities straightened out and live lives of integrity, they can be heroic leaders amongst their friends. The peer-leadership traits in this section are life-changing opportunities for your students to catch the vision of being spiritual leaders with their friends. Let's pray we can instill an uncompromising lifestyle of Christian service and integrity into the lives of our students. Challenge your kids to stand above the crowd and lead the way.

As you put these wonderful truths in front of your students, let me remind you of a wonderful verse where I often go for strength:

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint (Isaiah 40:29-31).



# GETTING YOUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT

## KEY VERSE

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33

## BIBLICAL BASIS

Matthew 6:25-34; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17

## THE BIG IDEA

You can make important decisions to get your priorities in line with God's principles.

## AIMS OF THIS SESSION

During this session you will guide students to:

- Examine the practical issues of getting their priorities in proper perspective;
- Discover God's priorities for their lives;
- Implement a decision to put God first in their lives.

## WARM UP

### IN 30 SECONDS—

Students quickly complete statements about themselves.

## TEAM EFFORT— JUNIOR HIGH/ MIDDLE SCHOOL

### HOW ARE YOU SPENDING YOUR TIME?—

A look at the average time spent on average activities.

## TEAM EFFORT— HIGH SCHOOL

### PUTTING YOUR PRIORITIES IN ORDER—

Students prioritize their priorities.

## IN THE WORD

### PUTTING GOD FIRST—

A Bible study on what it means to put God first in our lives.

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT (OPTIONAL)

Questions to get students thinking and talking about putting priorities in order.

## PARENT PAGE

A tool to get the session into the home and allow parents and young people to discuss the family priorities.



## LEADER'S DEVOTIONAL

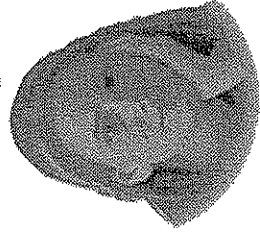
**“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him”  
(Colossians 3:17).**

Whenever I met with prospective youth leaders for our ministry team, I'd ask them two very important questions: 1. What are your most important commitments at this time? 2. What are your most important priorities? Those two questions often seemed to confuse the young, eager people ready to get involved with our youth ministry. Their response, “Well, aren't my commitments and priorities pretty much the same thing?” Well, yes and no.

We all have commitments and we all have priorities. Commitments are the people and tasks we give our time and energy to. Priorities are the way we rank the importance of our commitments. Over the years, I have had a few youth staff members who had a strong commitment to serving students, but who didn't make youth ministry a very high priority with their time schedules. It seemed that their commitments were based upon convenience and not their priorities. To be an effective youth worker, I'd explain to new staff members, there needs to be a clear balance between your commitments and priorities in serving young people.

In youth ministry, as in all of life, your best investment of time will be with your most important commitments. Youth ministry is an area of service that deserves a strong commitment. To be an effective youth worker means making youth ministry a strong commitment and a high priority. That doesn't mean you have to be out five nights a week with teenagers. It simply means taking your ministry seriously, whether it's just sitting down with young people once a week for a Coke or helping to lead a weekly youth event. People who take on too much burn out too quickly. As you serve young people in the name of Jesus, whether a little or a lot, finding a balance between your commitments and priorities can make for an effective, long-term ministry of service. (Written by Joey O'Connor.)

**“A man ought to live so that everybody knows he is a Christian...and most of all, his family ought to know.”—D.L. Moody**



Using Matthew 6:33 and Colossians 3:17, how can you help Laurie?

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What are other principles to help her get on track with God?

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**SO WHAT?**

Given the reality of these Scriptures and the conversations in your group, what growth principles do you need to apply to your own life to get your priorities straight?

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**THINGS TO THINK ABOUT (OPTIONAL)**

• Use the questions on page 85 after or as a part of "In the Word."

1. Why do you think it is difficult at times to put our priorities in order?

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2. What is the most difficult priority for you to put in proper order?

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3. How can other Christians help you put your priorities in order?

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**PARENT PAGE**

• Distribute page to parents.

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## THE BIG IDEA

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## WARM UP (5-10 MINUTES)

### IN 30 SECONDS

- Divide students into groups of four.
- Have each person in the group complete the following statements in 30 seconds.

My life story is...

I feel like...

My favorite vacation would be...

One of my most embarrassing moments was...

## TEAM EFFORT—JUNIOR HIGH/ MIDDLE SCHOOL (5-10 MINUTES)

### HOW ARE YOU SPENDING YOUR TIME?

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
- Give each student a copy of "How Are You Spending Your Time?" on page 79 and a pen or pencil, or display a copy using an overhead projector.
- Students complete their pages.

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

The average person, who lives to be 70 years old, will spend:

- 20 years sleeping
- 16 years working
- 7 years playing
- 6 years eating
- 5 years dressing (4 1/2 years for bald-headed men like me!)
- 3 years waiting for somebody
- 1 1/2 years in church
- 1 year on the telephone
- 5 months tying shoes

1. What can you do with your time today that will make a positive difference in your life?

2. What priorities could you develop to help you live life to the fullest?

3. What do 1 Corinthians 10:31 and Colossians 3:17 mean specifically for your life?

## TEAM EFFORT—HIGH SCHOOL (15-20 MINUTES)

### PUTTING YOUR PRIORITIES IN ORDER

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
- Give each student a copy of "Putting Your Priorities in Order" on page 81 and a pen or pencil, or display a copy using an overhead projector.
- Students complete their pages.

List the 10 most important priorities in your life in the order that you believe they best glorify God.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

Why are these your priorities? What makes them important to you?

## 1 IN THE WORD (25-30 MINUTES)

### PUTTING GOD FIRST

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
- Give each student a copy of "Putting God First" on page 83 and a pen or pencil, or display a copy using an overhead projector.
- Students complete the Bible study.

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33).

#### Conversation One

Dean: I'm really confused about my faith. I can't seem to get my priorities straight.

Cristy: You're not alone. We all feel that way at times.

Dean: I just wish there was an easy answer, or I'd get a handwritten message from God telling me what to do.

Cristy: We do have the Bible, ya' know.

Dean: I know, but it's confusing, and I've heard it's even controversial.

Cristy: Have you ever read it?

Dean: Not really. I really do want to put God first in my life.

Cristy: Then why don't you look at what Jesus said about putting God first.

Dean: Okay. Where do I start?

Cristy: Read Matthew 6:25-34.

Read Matthew 6:25-34.

With Matthew 6:33 in mind, what are Dean's issues?

What's it going to take for Dean to put God first?

#### Conversation Two

Laurie: You just don't understand. I do try to get my priorities straight and live for God.

Herb: What's holding you back?

Laurie: I don't know. I just don't feel God's presence in my life very often.

Herb: You know, Laurie, doing some of the stuff you do isn't going to help in getting your spiritual life together.

Laurie: I know, Herb, but it's really difficult.

Herb: Nobody said it would be easy. Let me give you a few suggestions to help turn your life toward God and walk in His ways.

**T** TEAM EFFORT

**HOW ARE YOU SPENDING YOUR TIME?**

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

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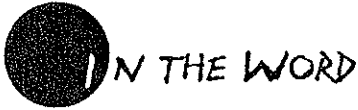
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GETTING YOUR  
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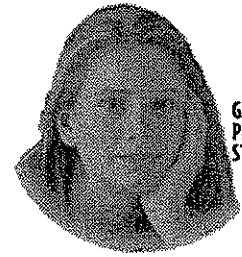
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GETTING YOUR  
PRIORITIES  
STRAIGHT

## LIFE PRIORITIES

Listed below are 15 items. Your job as a family is to rank each priority in order, with 1 being the highest priority and 15 being the lowest priority.

- ..... Having a wonderful family life without any hassles
- ..... Walking closely with God
- ..... Being physically attractive
- ..... Knowing God's will
- ..... Being a great athlete
- ..... Having all the money we need to be happy
- ..... Serving others
- ..... Reading the Bible and praying daily
- ..... Owning a beautiful home
- ..... Owning a vacation home
- ..... Never having pimples
- ..... Never being sick
- ..... Having close friendships
- ..... Getting good grades
- ..... Having a real hunger to live for God



Session 5 "Getting Your Priorities Straight"  
Date .....