

Whose Space Is It? MySpace!

A Four-Part Bible Study

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About This Study

Bible Study Titles:

- MyBody
- MyAttitude
- MyLife
- MyLove

This four-part series is intended to be used in a small group context for youth. In each study, you'll notice four categories of questions or thought starters.

Inward – Connecting with my group

Upward – Connecting with God

Outward – Connecting with my world

Forward – Connecting with where God is leading

Under each category there are two or three levels of questions.



Coffee cup questions are designed to strengthen the relationships in your youth group. They give every youth a chance to begin the discussion at a level where they are comfortable.



Questions with the tree symbol typically focus on God's Word and may include additional Scripture reading.



The barbell indicates challenge questions – and the challenge might be digger deeper in Scripture – or a challenge to be vulnerable with your youth group.

Study leaders will pick and choose questions based on the dynamics of your group. Each study also includes a Forward section, which may contain an activity or action for your group to do.

I pray that this study will challenge and encourage you, as well as enhance your opportunities to live “a life worthy of the calling you have received” (Ephesians 4:1).

Part One: MyBody

Are you an artist or architect? Do you enjoy drawing, painting, or creating something from scratch? Or do you prefer finishing an already started project?

At school – do you take as many art classes as possible or do you avoid them at all costs? I must admit that I did not take an art class throughout my entire high school years...and it shows by the simplicity of the stick figures I draw!

If you're in a position to do so, take a few minutes to go outside and look at God's awesome creation. Now, look at the people in your group, and then think about the people in your life. You are in the presence of God's awesome creation.

God made you in a unique way. He wired you in a unique way. He has gifted you with certain passions, skills and abilities. There is no preferred personality, calling or God-given gifts. The section from Scripture that we're going to focus on says, "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:4). Before you can engage your mission in this world, you have to accept that the way God made you is not just okay – it is AWESOME!

But here's a key question: is it MyBody, or someone else's body?

Verse of the Week "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." 1 Corinthians 12:7

Song of the Week *If We Are the Body* (Casting Crowns)

It's crowded in worship today
As she slips in trying to fade into the faces
The girls teasing laughter is carrying farther than they know
Farther than they know

Chorus:

But if we are the body
Why aren't His arms reaching?
Why aren't His hands healing?
Why aren't His words teaching?
And if we are the body
Why aren't His feet going?
Why is His love not showing them there is a way?
There is a way

A traveler is far away from home
He sheds his coat and quietly sinks into the back row
The weight of their judgmental glances
Tells him that his chances are better out on the road
Jesus paid much too high a price

For us to pick and choose who should come
And we are the body of Christ

Jesus is the way

Featured Scripture: I Corinthians 12:4 -11

Inward



What is your favorite piece of technology and why?



A good friend of mine said that people can be either painters or pointers. Painters are those who like to process and create; pointers like to list and do. How would you describe yourself?

Upward



Begin to memorize the verse of the week. Look at its last few words. What do you understand by the phrase “manifestation of the Spirit?” (See 1 Peter 4: 10-11).



The featured reading is all about the diversity of the gifts.

- The common source behind the diversity (4-6)
- The purpose of the gifts (7)
- The examples of the diverse gifts (8-10)
- The Spirit as the source of all gifts (11)

How have you seen a diversity of gifts in your family? In your school? In your youth group? In your Church?



Look at verse 11. The Holy Spirit gives not according to the will of men, but according to his own will. The Holy Spirit determines. We receive. This theme is further developed in verses 12-26. After reading that section, consider this: What do you know of the Holy Spirit, based on this section of Scripture?

Outward



Given the diversity of gifts, even within a small youth group, how can you begin to better function as “one body?”



What can your youth group do for the bigger body of your church? Make plans for a specific way to SERVE the bigger body of which you are a part.

Forward

Have you ever taken a “Spiritual Gifts Survey?” It helps you to identify the specific ways in which God has wired you – remember, we’re all made different, we’re all made unique – but we’re all a part of the body of Christ. It’s not just about MyBody.

Ask your youth leader about making that available to every person in the youth group – you’ll be amazed at what you learn!

Part Two: My Attitude

“You have a bad attitude.”

Anyone ever said that to you?

This week will help you begin identifying specific attitudes that will come as an outflow of Christ living in you. When Christ lives in you, your life is different. Your actions are different. Your words are different, and your attitude is different.

The practical decisions that you make, whether in the classroom, on the field or at home, are the result of your internal values. But from where do you get those values?

Culture? Technology? School? Church? Family? Your relationship with Jesus Christ?

Verse of the Week_“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 2:5

Song of the Week *Strong Tower* (Kutless)

When I wander through the desert
 And I’m longing for my home
 All my dreams have gone astray
 When I’m stranded in the valley
 And I’m tired and all alone
 It seems like I’ve lost my way

(chorus)

I go runnin’ to Your mountain
 Where your mercy sets me free
 You are my strong tower
 Shelter over me
 Beautiful and mighty
 Everlasting King
 You are my strong tower
 Fortress when I’m weak
 Your name is true and holy
 And Your face is all I seek

In the middle of my darkness
 In the midst of all my fear
 You’re my refuge and my hope
 When the storm of life is raging
 And the thunder’s all I hear
 You speak softly to my soul

(chorus)

now i’m runnin’ to Your mountain

Where your mercy sets me free

You are my strong tower
Shelter over me
Beautiful and mighty
Everlasting King
You are my strong tower
Fortress when I'm weak
Your name is true and holy
And Your face is all I seek
And Your face is all I seek
Yeah" Your face is all I seek

I go runnin' to your mountain
Where your mercy sets me free

You are my strong tower
Shelter over me
Beautiful and mighty
Everlasting King
You are my strong tower
Fortress when I'm weak
Your name is true and holy
"Your name is true and holy"

You are my strong tower
Shelter over me
Beautiful and mighty
Everlasting King
You are my strong tower
Fortress when I'm weak
Your name is true and holy
And Your face is all I seek

Featured Scripture: Philippians 2:1-11

Inward



Share a high and a low from this past week with the others in your youth group.



What have you been anxious about recently? Where did you go with your anxiety? Share with your group and spend a few minutes in prayer as you begin this study.

Upward



D. Edmond Hiebert has described Paul's letter to the Philippians like "an open window into the apostle's very heart." This letter was written from prison (1:13-14), and thus we see what really matters to him. How would you characterize Paul's heart?



Read Philippians 2:1-11. Re-read verses 2-3 again. How have you done in these regards?



Now go to Philippians 4:8. The phrase "think about such things" should be understood as a continual and habitual action. Which of the values listed in verse eight are easiest and which are hardest for you to demonstrate in your life?

Outward



Paul wrote this letter to thank the Philippians for the gift they had sent him after learning of his detention in Rome. There is a thankful tone to the letter – and that thankfulness leads to Paul's ability to be content and rejoice in his situation. What type of gift can you give to someone, especially a peer, who may have difficulties rejoicing because of something happening in their life? Get specific, and make a commitment as a group to share a gift.



Sometimes the world reads Philippians 4:8 like this: "Whatever is:

- Appealing
- Sexy
- Convenient
- Successful
- Wrong but seems so right
- Pleasureable

Think about such things."

How can you model a life and attitude that reflects Paul's intended words, not the ones listed above?

Forward

One of my favorite movies is *The Green Mile*, because it holds, in my opinion, one of the most profound and memorable lines in any movie I have ever seen: Jon Caffey, played by Michael Clarke Duncan, said to Tom Hanks while in jail, "A man cannot hide what is inside his heart."

What are the things that you are allowing to fill your mind and heart? What images, what words, what pictures?

Martin Luther, nearly 500 years ago, said, "If God has actually worked in you, you should be stumbling over all the things you want to do for Christ."

As you go forward, how do you see yourself stumbling over all the things you want to do for Christ?

Part Three: MyLife

Growing up, my dad often said to me, “Don’t settle for second best!” He may have been talking about my basketball team, my school work or a girl I was dating. Regardless, the message was clear – don’t settle! Anyone ever say that to you?

The apostle Paul (before he was Paul – when his name was Saul) had everything going for him. In fact, he writes, “I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers” (Galatians 1:14). Sounds like he didn’t settle...until God made him realize he was heading in the wrong direction.

Ever feel like you’re heading in the wrong direction? Or maybe YOU don’t think you are, but a parent, pastor, youth leader or close friend hints that you might be playing with fire?

Take the time and discipline this week to let God’s Word sink into your mind and spirit. Keep the others in your group accountable and incorporate it into your youth group every week!

Verse of the Week “I did not receive it (the gospel) from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.” Galatians 12

Song of the Week *This is Your Life* (Switchfoot)

Yesterday is a wrinkle on your forehead
 Yesterday is a promise that you’ve broken
 Don’t close your eyes
 Don’t close your eyes

This is your life and today is all you’ve got now
 And today is all you’ll ever have
 Don’t close your eyes
 Don’t close your eyes

This is your life
 Are you who you want to be
 This is your life
 Are you who you want to be
 This is your life
 Is it everything you’ve dreamed it would be
 When the world was younger
 and you had everything to lose

Don’t close your eyes
 Don’t close your eyes

Yesterday is a kid in the corner
 Yesterday is dead and over

This is your life
 Are you who you want to be
 This is your life
 Are you who you want to be
 This is your life
 is it everything you've dreamed it would be
 when the world was younger
 and you had everything to lose

Don't close your eyes
 Don't close your eyes

Featured Scripture: Galatians 1:11-24

Inward



When have you been told “don't settle for second best?” When have you told someone else, “don't settle for second best?”



In a minute or less, describe your family. What are they like? What do you enjoy doing? What is something you would change, if you could?

Upward



More important in Paul's eyes than his birthplace and his Roman citizenship was his Jewish heritage. What tribe did he belong to? See Romans 11:1. Remember Paul's original name? What connection do you see between his original name and the tribe he belonged to?



Go to Acts 22:3-21. Note that Gamaliel was the leading Pharisee of his day, and that Paul received the best education possible. What “new” things do you learn about Paul from this Acts account?



Philippians 3:4-6 gives a lengthy list of reasons why Paul THOUGHT he had aspired to the best and did not settle. He relied on the “confidence in the flesh,” rather than putting his trust in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. What's the difference?



Outward

Paul's life was changed by Christ. And the change was very noticeable. Your life has also been changed by Christ. For most of us, our change has not been as dramatic as Paul's – but certainly there have been changes. Thank God for a change that you are seeing in your life right now as a result of Christ in your life. How might a similar change be a blessing to someone else in your life?

Forward

You're a teenager living in the 21st century. There are so many ways to connect your life with someone else's life through e-mail, cell phones, MySpace, Facebook, and many other means. But are you content with all of these opportunities to connect? Or are there better ways?

As a youth group, listen again to the lyrics of Switchfoot's song *This Is Your Life*. How do you agree and/or disagree with its message?

Part Four: MyLove

This is the final bible study for this series. I hope you have enjoyed the chance to discuss, ask questions and dig into Scripture with the others in your youth group. In this final study, we want to think about love and its role in Christian living.

I love peanut butter. I love Snickers. I love biking. I love the mountains. I love my wife. And oh yeah, by the way, I love Jesus too.

Isn't love the most overused word in the English language?

Verse of the Week_“Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” 1 John 4:11

Song of the Week *Our Love is Loud* (David Crowder Band)

When we sing
Hear our songs, to You
When we dance
Feel us move, to You
When we laugh
Fill our smiles, with You

Pre-Chorus:
When we lift our voices
Louder still
Can You hear us?
Can You feel?

Chorus:
We love You, Lord
We love You
We love You
We love You, Lord
We love You
We love You

When we sing [LOUD!]
Hear our songs, to You
When we dance [ROUND!]
Feel us move, to You
When we laugh [ALOUD!]
Fill our smiles, with You

Bridge:

And our love is big

Our love is loud

Fill this place with this love now [4x]

And our love is big

Our love is loud

Fill our lungs

To sing it now...

Out:

We lift our voices louder still

Our God is near

Our God is here

Featured Scripture: I John 4:7-12 Inward

Inward



If someone asks you, “What do you love?” what are the first things that come out of your mouth?



Over the course of this study, hopefully you have gotten to know some others in your youth group, maybe even someone you didn’t know that well before. Name one thing you learned about someone else that you didn’t know previously.

Upward



The epistle of 1 John can be broken up into three parts; it’s the final part that focuses on love – namely, God as love. Read 1 John 4:7-12. How does the love among people represent the nature of God?



Love for each other comes “from God.” It’s not a virtue innate in us nor is it a learned behavior – it comes from God. If God has given us a heart to know Him (Jeremiah 24:7), what must our heart reflect?

Outward



The simple but profound statement “God is love” is explained by what God did. What has been the impact of that reality on how people see you – or believe who you are?



If you haven’t listened to *Our Love is Loud* by the David Crowder Band, take a few minutes to listen to it now. In Christian living, how is it right to say that our love is loud? Or maybe, that our love SHOULD be loud?

Forward

With your group, consider watching the NOOMA video entitled *Bullhorn*. You can order it at www.nooma.com. One thing that Rob Bell, author and presenter of these videos, notes is: “How you love others is how you love God.”

Christian living is not about words. It’s about LIVING. Remember that the apostle Paul said, “I no longer live, but Christ lives in me” (Galatians 2:20b).

Close your group time in prayer, asking the God of the Universe to give you strength, perseverance, and courage to live a life worthy of the calling received in Christ.