Growing Young Teens through *Junior Youth Challenge*®

I. What is JYC™?

Junior Youth Challenge® is an evangelistic and discipleship ministry for young people ages 11-15. This ministry bridges the gap between *Good News Club*® and the *Christian Youth in Action*® program and encourages young people to go on to serve in *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® ministry through *Christian Youth in Action*® and other *CEF*® ministries in the future.

Three words express the focus of JYC clubs:

A. Knowing

B. Living

C. Serving

II. Why is the JYC program needed?

A. The JYC age group needs to know and grow in Christ!

> *Child Evangelism Fellowship* is a Bible-centered, interdenominational, worldwide organization, composed of born-again believers whose purpose and mission are to evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, disciple them in the Word of God, and establish them in a Bible-believing church for Christian living.
>
> "The 4 to 14 window is a term used to describe the age when people are most likely to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, and a crucial consideration for those in children's ministry."[1]

B. The JYC age group is facing unprecedented challenges.

[1] Teach Kids Articles. July 3, 2023. "What is the 4 to 14 Window? Why Children's Ministry is a Priority." https://www.cefonline.com/articles/teach-kids-articles/the-4-to-14-window-why-childrens-ministry-is-so-important-cef/.

1. Social media influences
   A recent study found that 68% of 11- to 12-year-olds use social media apps, despite the minimum age requirement being 13 years old.[2]
2. Pornography exposure
   "By age nine, 10% had seen pornography, and 27% had seen it by age 11. Children who see pornography for the first time at age 11 or younger are likely to have lower self-esteem as young adults."[3]
3. Gender confusion
   "Gender identity is no longer a 'hot topic' so much as it is just a normal topic for this generation."[4]
4. Mental and behavioral health conditions
   "In 2023, more than 5.3 million adolescents [in the USA] ages 12-17 years (20.3% of adolescents) had a current, diagnosed mental or behavioral health condition (anxiety, depression, or behavior/conduct problems).[5]

C. The JYC age group is transitioning to adolescence.
   1. They experience brain remodeling
   2. They experience volatile emotions
   3. They experience underdeveloped executive functioning

      "Think of it this way: Your teen is driving a neurological car with a hot accelerator (emotions) and spotty brakes (executive functioning)."[6]

D. The JYC age group represents a "gap" between *Good News Club*® and *Christian Youth in Action*®.

[2] OneHope. (October 2024). *Gen Alpha: The Next Generation*, page 29.

[3] The Children's Commissioner of England. (February 2023). Growing up with pornography: advice for parents and schools. https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/blog/growing-up-with-pornography-advice-for-parents-and-schools/.

[4] OneHope. (October 2024). *Gen Alpha: The Next Generation*, page 38.

[5] National Survey of Children's Health. (October 2024). Adolescent Mental and Behavioral Health, 2023. https://mchb.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/mchb/data-research/nsch-data-brief-adolescent-mental-behavioral-health-2023.pdf.

[6] Focus on the Family. "How Your Teen Thinks." https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/how-your-teen-thinks/#h-a-massive-construction-zone.

III. How are JYC clubs different from Good News Clubs?

A. Bible teaching

1. Topical rather than narrative
2. Interactive discussions with key questions drawn from the Bible passage rather than straight teacher-talk

B. Prayer

Student-led rather than teacher-led, if possible

C. Scripture memorization

1. Teaching a memory verse in JYC is similar to teaching a memory verse in *Good News Club*, but in JYC, the leader asks questions and encourages discussion when explaining and applying the verse.
2. The leader encourages the JYC teens to make personal applications to their life situations.
3. Repetition games are used sparingly in JYC.

D. Music

1. The music used in JYC clubs needs to be contemporary.
2. Accompaniment for JYC songs is necessary.
3. Words for JYC songs can be projected, or songbooks may be used.
4. JYC young people typically prefer to sing without motions.

E. Missions

Missionary stories and giving projects can be used in both club settings; however, encourage the JYC teens to determine and develop the details of their mission project. Let them take ownership.

F. Quiz Time

JYC review games, and the questions included, can be more complicated. The JYC quizzes need to be competitive, fair, fast paced, and fun for young teens.

IV. Who teaches the JYC clubs?

A. Those with a strong spiritual life

1. Personal salvation
2. Good testimony
3. Growing knowledge of God's Word
4. Gifts and talents committed to God
5. Those with a heart for missions

   "The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to him, the more intensely missionary we become."[7]

B. Those with a good attitude toward the 11-15 age group, demonstrating:

1. Love and understanding
2. A good sense of humor
3. Authenticity
4. Patience

C. Those who communicate well with the 11-15 age group

1. Through their teaching
2. Through their informal interactions

D. Those with a commitment to the JYC ministry, having:

1. A sense of calling
2. The strength of endurance

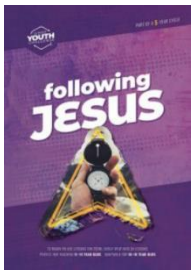
V. How are JYC clubs conducted?

A. Clubs typically meet every other week, but a weekly schedule is also an option.

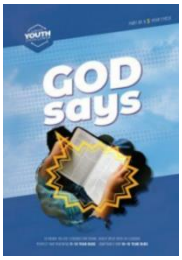
B. Clubs can meet in community centers, churches, homes, or schools.

[7] Indiana Baptist. Rick Hillard. "The Spirit of Missions." https://indianabaptist.org/2020/02/04/the-spirit-of-missions/.

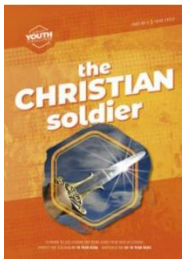
VI. What materials are used in the JYC clubs?



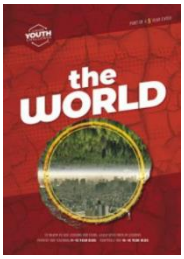
1. *Following Jesus*
   Lesson 1: Why Follow Jesus?
   Lessons 2-3: *Peter:* Changed Forever, Failures and Victories
   Lessons 4-5: *John:* A Devoted Follower, Looking Forward
   Lessons 6-7: *Judas:* Pretending to Follow, On the Road to Ruin
   Lessons 8-9: *Andrew:* Bringing Others to Jesus, Sharing the Message
   Lessons 10-11: *Mary:* Freed From Sin, Empowered to Serve
   Lesson 12: Being a True Believer



2. *God Says*
   Lessons 1-2: *God Says this is My Word:* Why Study the Bible?, How to Study the Bible
   Lessons 3-6: *God Says these are My commandments:* The Ten Commandments
   Lessons 7-10: *God Says Christ is the answer:* His Deity, His Life, His Death, His Resurrection
   Lessons 11-12: *God Says what is your response?:* Are You Saved? Are You Growing?

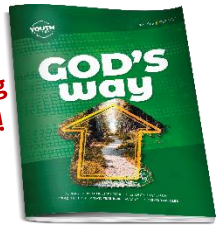


3. *The Christian Soldier*
   Lessons 1-4: *The Battle*: Spiritual Warfare, The Enemy's Strategy, Joining the Army, and Ready for Battle
   Lessons 5-11: *The Equipment*: The Belt of Truth, The Breastplate of Righteousness, The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace, The Shield of Faith, The Helmet of Salvation, The Sword of the Spirit, and Praying Always.
   Lesson 12: What is your response?



4. *The World*
   Lessons 1-2: How in the world did we get here?
   Lessons 3-4: What in the world is wrong?
   Lessons 5-6: Where in the world are you?
   Lessons 7-8: In the world but not of the world.
   Lessons 9-10: Who in the world is right?
   Lesson 11: Why in the world am I here?
   Lesson 12: Where in the world should I go?

Coming SOON!



5. *God's Way*
   Lessons 1-4: The Way to God: The True God; Barriers and Blessings; The Bridge of Salvation; Justification
   Lessons 5-10: Living God's Way: Fruit of the Spirit; Authority; Possessions; Morality; Time
   Lessons 11-12: Final Challenge: Choose God's Way; Trust God on the Way

The JYC curriculum can be supplemented with the *Go and Tell* training, Party Club lessons, missions teaching, and other special activities and events, extending the JYC club throughout the school year.



Cookie-Baking Devotional

Before making cookies, it is important to wash your hands! The Bible has a LOT to say about being clean. God is pure. Uncleanness cannot be near Him.

- Psalm 24:3-4

It is only through the blood of Jesus that we can be made clean from sin.

- 1 John 1:7; Acts 10:43

After you have trusted Jesus to forgive you of your sin (Acts 10:43), you can continue to trust Him to clean you from sin!

- 1 John 1:9

God's Word will help you to STAY clean!

- Psalm 119:9 (Direct students to go wash their hands.)

Cookies, like our lives, include distasteful things that we don't like. But those distasteful ingredients in cookies (raw eggs, shortening, flour…) are needed. If you are one of God's children, you can be sure that He will cause the distasteful things in your life to work out for your good and His glory.

- Romans 8:28

It is important to preheat the oven to a certain temperature so that your cookies will bake properly, and the finished product will be complete. God will sometimes "turn up the heat" in your life. Don't be surprised by that! God knows that for His work in you to be complete, heat is required.

- 1 Peter 4:12
- James 1:2-3

(Bake the cookies and let them cool.)

Now that the cookies you baked are ready to eat, what's next?

- 1 Corinthians 10:31

(Thank God for the cookies and the lessons learned.)

ENJOY!

VII. How is a JYC club schedule formatted?

To allow the club leader flexibility in planning the JYC club meetings for their unique group of young people, no pre-planned schedules are provided. The lesson content is determined, in part, by whether your JYC club is weekly or every other week. Be creative! Below is the schedule used for the Black Hawk Middle School club that meets every other week. Lesson 1 of the *God Says* curriculum, titled "Why Study the Bible," was taught in its entirety.

JYC - Black Hawk Middle School September 25, 2024

Team: Gui, Erica, Faith

3:10 Sign in at the office. Set up a table with snacks & flyers.

3:20 (School dismissal bell)
Team—greet and interact with youth as they arrive
Faith—collect permission slips…

3:30 Faith—Jenga game activity, snacks…

Erica—"Jenga" is taken from a Swahili word meaning "to build." One of the goals of JYC is to help you build and balance the character qualities you need in your life so you can be a God-honoring example to others in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.
Lead students in saying 1 Timothy 4:12, using the visual.

3:45 Gui & Faith—Lead the 1 Timothy 4:12 song…
Repeat with five flashcards…

Gui—lead in prayer, asking God to help those who have believed in Jesus to live for Him and to be an example for others.

3:50 Faith— "Why Study the Bible?" Lesson
(Include the Gospel and give an Invitation.)
Explain the worksheets.

4:15 Gui—Lead group in singing "God is So Good" (English and Portuguese)

4:20 Erica—distribute JYC pencils and worksheets.
Team—Help club members complete the worksheet.

4:40 Erica—Review 1 Tim 4:12. Distribute verse tokens.
Next club is 10/9! Encourage teens to take flyers and invite friends. Close in prayer.

4:45 Dismiss