

*"Man, that verse was exactly what I needed at that very moment that you texted it to me. I was standing on the ladder at work thinking to myself how hard this is. How hard it is to stay off the pot and I was almost flipping out, wanting it so bad. And then your verse was text messaged to my phone and it hit me like a hurricane. 'You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free.' That was a turning point for me in further realizing the truth relating to Jesus and me and the downward spiral I was on."*

(quoted from a Scriptalk participant)



I created the image to the left for Scriptalk. This has been an excellent way to connect with youth on a weekly basis as we meet to discuss a different verse each week. We usually meet at Dairyqueen and enjoy DQ Blizzards, burgers and cakes.

Sometimes you don't know what kind of impact your words can have. It's a reminder to me to not hold back when I have a chance to use my words to love, care or instruct. May God grant me more boldness and conviction with the use of my words.

A current theme amongst YFC staff is the importance of creating space for "discipleship communities" with the youth we're in contact with. To have a group of connectedness in a society of disconnect. This has been leading me to focus more on meaningful interaction with fewer rather than brief, on the surface, moments with many.

There is still an important role for larger group events and opportunities, especially for the purposes of promoting and artistic expressions. Station X recently held an arts exhibit called "CREATIVE WORKS - Downtown Youth Poetry, Art and Music Expressions." We wanted to give the opportunity for the youth, particularly those who are faced with more obstacles in life, to express their creativity and accomplishments. It was a privilege to put on this event in cooperation with a number of other downtown youth organizations. The event was a huge success with 20 youth participating in showcasing their creativity and many members of the community coming to check it out.

On another night at Station X, I was talking with a small group about goals in life and how we can achieve them. The goals ranged from going to post secondary school to selling clothing that they've made. Many of these youth come from a place where they have little or no family support or they have other huge obstacles in the way such as poverty or developmental challenges. I see a ton of potential in each one of them and I believe that God has a future and a hope for their lives. We talked about the purpose that God has for them and helped them to think outside of their self-imposed box. In many ways, the world that they live in, holds them back and makes them think that their life is not going anywhere. We, at Youth Unlimited, are trying to lift them up and help them realize how much God loves them.

Those youth and I are now working through a program called Dream Launch which takes them through an extensive process to help them create a game plan for their lives. It empowers them by helping them sort through the mixture of ideas in their head and then translating that into a practical plan of action. This game plan should help them achieve their dream and become what they believe God is calling them to be. I have completed the process with one young man who wants to go to Bible college this September. He feels like he's accomplishing something important and he's now working with the Admissions Officer of the college. Before we started, he was spinning his wheels in frustration and wasting a lot of time being discouraged.

Station X is a very rich time. There are so many opportunities to get to know the youth and minister into their lives. We're currently looking for volunteers to assist us in this important work. If this interests you, please let me know!

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Want to get in on it?***

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