

Using Intersection

Intersection is a youth Bible study resource that features four primary components:

- (1) This Teaching Guide provides options for both younger and older youth.
- (2) Youth Pages are weekly full-color handouts for youth, available separately.
- (3) An Internet site features free support resources for teachers *and* youth.
- (4) Weekly updates of new information can be received by fax or E-mail.

Every session involves action and reflection with the goal of helping young people learn how to think deeply and to reflect as Christians on their life experiences. When the lives of young people intersect with the Bible, youth are called to live, act, think, and feel differently. Let us know how *Intersection* can be more helpful for your ministry. An evaluation sheet is located in the back of this book. Your ideas matter!

PREPARING TO TEACH

We recognize the importance of helping teachers communicate the relevance of the Bible, so each session features two pages of teacher preparation and Scripture background materials.

Learning Tension

Each session begins with a “learning tension,” a question that focuses on an issue with which youth struggle. Though an answer may seem obvious, try to avoid the temptation to solve the problem or provide an answer. Learning is more meaningful for young people when they discover insights for themselves. Teachers can act as guides for teenagers searching for truth and relevance.

Session Preparation

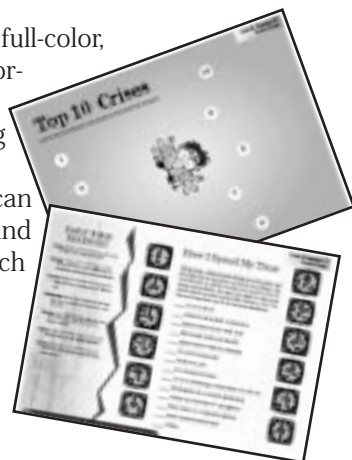
Most sessions require a little preparation. *Teacher Resource Pages* follow each session and may need copying or preparing. In addition, some options require gathering and preparing materials. You may find it helpful to have Bibles, pencils, paper, markers, and a board of some sort available.

Informative Symbols

Miniature symbols help the teacher know how an option is connected to the ways youth learn, if an option is part of the suggested Teaching Plan, or whether an activity is a low preparation option.

YOUTH PAGES

Intersection Youth Pages are full-color, take-home sheets in a pad format, each pad containing enough sheets for five young people. *Intersection* Youth Pages are designed so they can be used during the session and at home. (Samples follow each session.) A **Daily Bible Reading** section provides reflection guides that correspond to the sessions in this Teaching Guide.



INTERNET SUPPORT SITE

Our Internet site has information for both teachers *and* youth. New material is updated weekly. In addition to the articles, Web links, and activities, you can download a sample session, offer feedback, or locate other helpful Smyth and Helwys resources.

<http://www.helwys.com/youth/intersection.html>

Teacher Support Articles

Posted on our Web site, the articles correspond to the sessions in this Teaching Guide. They focus on Scripture, a concern of youth, or a creative teaching technique. All articles are archived for quick reference.

Link of the Week

A new Internet site is featured each week and highlights helpful articles, research, activities, and ideas.

Outersection

Posted on our Web site are suggestions for ways your group can enhance learning by taking it outside the classroom. The suggestions may be unique ideas or interesting twists on something more traditional.

Youth Reflection Article

Posted on our Web site, the articles correspond to the sessions in this Teaching Guide. They provide insight and guidance on issues where many teenagers struggle.

Daily Bible Readings

Posted on our Web site are reflection guides that correspond to the sessions in this Teaching Guide.

Internet Youth Discussion Board

The *Intersection Youth Discussion Board* is a cool place to meet other youth, talk about life, and try to make sense of the world.

WEEKLY UPDATES


Weekly Support for Youth Intersection offers additional teacher support. New information can be received by fax or E-mail and is available through subscription.

Here's How It Works

Intersection has these major components: **Why Does it Matter?**, **Teaching Plan**, **Hearing the Scripture**, **Life**, **Bible**, and **Intersection**. Each session follows a process designed to help teens experience meaningful Bible study.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Preparation materials include these components: **Why Does it Matter?**, **Teaching Plan**, and **Hearing the Scripture**.

- **Why Does It Matter?** focuses on how the session is relevant for youth.
- **Teaching Plan** is a practical five-step guide for session preparation. Look for this symbol  to use the suggested Teaching Plan.
- **Hearing the Scripture** provides biblical commentary. It seeks to answer, "What do these Scriptures mean?"

TEACHING OPTIONS

The teaching portion of the session includes procedures that fit the way youth learn: **Life**, **Bible**, and **Intersection**. You can follow your chosen options or adjust them to meet your group's specific needs. All options are clearly labeled with informative symbols.

- **Talk about Life** launches the session. The activities are suitable for a large-group opening.
- **Talk about The Bible** offers choices for teaching Scripture. There are options for both younger and older youth.
- **Intersection** closes the session and helps youth form their own response.

FOUR WAYS YOUTH LEARN

Youth learn in four basic ways, and *Intersection* intentionally weaves these learning styles into the teaching options.

ACT

"I can't understand this until I've actually done it."

Youth who best learn through touch and movement will:

- be more concerned in being active and in doing.
- be fascinated by handling objects or by activities involving body movement.
- find projects interesting while they are happening, but not while being planned.
- offer their best insights after activity, not before it or without it.

Challenge: This learner may need help reflecting on what they've done.

Insight: Provide occasions for them to do things and to reflect on their activity.

FEEL

"I can't understand this if it doesn't feel right."

Youth who best learn through feelings and intuition will:

- examine decisions, actions, and beliefs through the filter of feelings.
- know something because it "feels right" or because they have a "gut feeling" that it is best.
- be capable of saying or doing moving and insightful things.
- offer opinions based on stories of experiences and relationships.

Challenge: They need to evaluate their intuitions and feelings.

Insight: Include expressive activities (drawing, creating, writing, etc.), story sharing, and personal surveys.

REFLECT

"I can't understand this until I've had a chance to observe and figure it out."

Youth who best learn through watching and reflecting will:

- discover more through observing others and reflecting on what they say and do.
- seldom take leadership or initiative during an activity, even though they may participate willingly.
- not learn much from involvement in an activity, even though they may participate willingly.
- offer their best insights toward the close, and maybe afterwards.

Challenge: You may become frustrated as this learner watches and waits to form a response.

Insight: Assign tasks that help them reflect such as recording or reporting duties. Also, assign post-session activities, such as completing personal inventories, journaling, or gathering information.

THINK

"I can't understand this if it doesn't make good sense."

Youth who best learn through processing information will:

- be accustomed to gathering information and thinking about it.
- likely be those who excel in schoolwork.
- be gifted with the ability to visualize and analyze information.
- remember facts quickly, and be able to use them in solving problems or answering questions.

Challenge: This learner needs help moving from knowledge about a scriptural fact to the application of its meaning.

Insight: Include dilemmas and facts that don't seem to fit. Provide problem solving tasks. Use techniques like fill-in-the-blank, comparing stories, and finishing stories.

Core Curriculum Components of Intersection

Scripture is the central point of study for *Intersection*, and related subjects are brought into conversation with the biblical text. *Intersection* considers Bible study as the most healthy arena for the discussion of missions, spirituality, ethics, church history, church life, and theology.

BIBLICAL STORY

The revelation of God is the organizing center of *Intersection* with attention given to major biblical themes. Scripture tells God's story for the purpose of shaping human life. Though the central truth and message of the Bible never changes, *Intersection* guides youth to understand portions of Christian Scripture in their original contexts, and then to interpret and apply the Scripture texts to the contemporary life situation.

MISSIONS

Intersection understands missions to be the call of God upon the life of every Christian to a personal ministry in the world. Youth are called to a global view of the world's community and encouraged to give witness to their commitment to Jesus Christ.

SPIRITUALITY

The pressures of family, school, and community life leave young people with little space for quiet moments of reflection. *Intersection* encourages the development of spiritual disciplines such as prayer, meditation, public and private worship, and the development of the use of gifts through practical application of appropriate Scripture texts.

CHRISTIAN ETHICS

Instead of avoiding difficult questions or settle for oversimplified scriptural proof texts, *Intersection* addresses various dilemmas with respect for varying interpretations of Scripture and the need for individual choice. Where Scripture is unclear on an issue, the biblical text is not reconstructed to force-fit a particular position.

CHURCH HISTORY

Knowledge of the history of the Christian faith from its inception to the present is vital for the informed living of young Christians today. *Intersection* calls upon the insight, wisdom, and understanding of the great champions of the faith who have traveled before us. As youth recall their heritage, they are better able to make wise decisions about their future.

CHURCH LIFE

Intersection views the local congregation as the primary entity for nurturing the spiritual formation of young people. Therefore, youth should understand the responsibilities of church membership, the functional roles of the church, the role of various church leaders, and the relationship of the local church to the community.

THEOLOGY AND DOCTRINE

Instead of imposing various theological and doctrinal positions on Scripture passages, *Intersection* deals with broad topics in these areas as they arise from the study of the biblical story. Acquiring a basic knowledge and understanding of theological and doctrinal themes can be a practical pursuit that affects the Christian lifestyle and worldview of young people. When approaching theological and doctrinal issues, *Intersection* does so in ways that are appropriate to the developmental stages of older and younger youth.

