

Intentional Conversations Pt. 1

Mandy McGraw

As a young adult leader, you know that young adults are not afraid of hard questions. In fact, they are probably asking **you** hard questions on a regular basis. With that, I have found discussion-based teaching to be effective in young adult ministry. Furthermore, I have found that young adults like to have a take-away when they leave a small group, Bible study, or service. When challenged to think deeper about their lives, they will often surprise you with their diligence in searching out answers. The bottom line is, young adults are not afraid of hard conversations, and we shouldn't be either.

Young adulthood can be a lonely time as many young adults are navigating through transition. Most of their schedules are changing frequently and they are on large college campuses, often without a close network of friends. Or, perhaps they are just beginning their career and are somewhat isolated from a familiar environment. When isolation occurs, young adults can often make choices based on what feels best in the moment. With that, as young adult leaders, it is vital that we have intentional conversations about the choices being made that will shape their futures. The more frequently we discuss hot topics with young adults, the more likely it is that they will make better choices pertaining to these issues.

Below are some examples of questions to ask young adults in a small group setting or to give out as questions to simply reflect upon to begin the conversation of what it means to have Godly relationships. These questions were developed to target single young adults. Perhaps you may want to create a Bible study tailored to the specific needs of your young adult group based on the questions below. Regardless of the method of implementation, the questions below have served as catalysts of meaningful conversations and have often led young adults towards establishing healthy relationships in my husband and I's experience in working with single young adults.

1. What are some characteristics of a "healthy" relationship?
2. How does the Bible characterize a "healthy" relationship?
3. What are you currently working on in your personal life that is better equipping you for your current or future relationships?
4. How would you describe your primary relationships (with your caregivers) as a child? How would you describe those relationships today? How do you think they have shaped your relationships with others?
5. Who are your closest friends? What do you do to intentionally invest in these relationships?
6. What do you do when you are lonely? To whom do you reach out?
7. What ideal traits do you look for in a spouse?
8. What traits do you think your "ideal spouse" would be looking for in an individual?
9. How would you describe your relationship with God? Is it consistent, healthy, and your primary source of security?
10. What are 3 areas you could work on to improve your relationship with God and others? What role does God play in your relationships with others?
11. What role does God play in your relationships with others?