

Greetings friends and fellow youth leaders! I am so glad that you have chosen to take advantage of the Ohio Teens for Christ Resource Hub! We are so glad that you are taking this journey with us. Over the course of the coming months we will continue to update this site with additional resources and materials for you to use, leading up to the return of the convention in 2021, so make sure to check back often.

The following guide has been designed to help you lead your group through the initial resource drop as it goes live. Feel free to use the video content and teaching materials any way you like, in whatever order you like, or follow along with us as we run through the resources from beginning to end. This guide will lead you through the materials as follows:

- *Worship with Render The Hearts session 1*
- *“Just Listen” song by DJ VERS3S*
- *Change Your Perspective message by Caleb Baumgardner*
- *Worship session 2 with Render The Hearts.*

Our prayer is that these resources will enrich and bless your group.

-Dodger Vaughan

OTFC Planning Team Member

“Just Listen” song by DJ VERS3S

Take a moment and get students talking before starting the music video by encouraging them to consider their own actions and attitudes towards people who think, act, or even believe differently than they do. Here are a few questions to help with that.

- *Have you ever been guilty of speaking without thinking about the consequences of your words? What happened?*
- *We’ve probably all heard the old saying “sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” In reality though, sometimes words can inflict a great deal of hurt. Why do you think our words can carry so much weight?*
- *A story is told about a teacher and a student. The student came to the teacher and admitted that he had been guilty of spreading gossip and talking bad about someone else, but felt remorse, and wanted to make things right. When asked what he needed to do to make amends, the teacher directed the student to go to the top of a hill with a pillow and when the wind blew, to cut the pillow open and release all the feathers to be carried off in different directions by the wind. The teacher went on to instruct the student to then go and attempt to collect each of the feathers, one by one, and put them back in the pillow. What do you think the teacher was trying to teach the student?*
- *Do you think our written words on social media are any more or less damaging than our spoken words? Why or why not?*

<Play “Just Listen” music video>

- *What lyrics stood out to you from the video? Why?*
- *If you had to sum up the message of the video, what would you say it’s about?*
- *In one verse Lyle raps “Setting fire to bridges, relationships burned down” referring to how our words can sever even important relationships in our lives. Have you ever experienced something like this?*
- *In another verse Lyle says “you think it’s funny and fun that hot takes run the game, but small sparks set off flames, and if you burn it all down and it lands on you, what did you gain?” Have you ever been guilty of saying something to be*

funny that caused a lot of damage to someone else? Or has something you said without thinking got away from you and caused harm?

- James talks about the destruction that can come from our words in James 3:1-12. Take a moment and read that now.
- What stood out to you about the power of our words, or as James calls it “our tongue?”
- Let’s follow this up with what Jesus himself says about our words. Read Matthew 12:35-37.
- Jesus’ words here are haunting. That our words are a reflection of either the good or bad stored up inside us and one day we will have to give an account of every word we have said. Does this make you want to go back and delete some tweets? In all seriousness, what does this convey about the weight of our words?
- The video we watched addresses the weight of our words and what happens when we are careless with them, but there is some solid advice on how to safeguard against our words being used as a weapon against others. What is some advice that the song gives us?
- What are some practical steps we can take to make sure our words are life giving and not destructive?
- Author Bob Goff is quoted as saying “I don’t want people to meet my opinions, I want them to meet Jesus.” How can our opinions get in the way of people meeting Jesus?
- While we can’t take back things we’ve said that have hurt others, we certainly can seek forgiveness and reconciliation. Is there anyone that you need to seek forgiveness from due to some careless words you’ve spoken? Maybe today is the day to do just that.
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Change Your Perspective- Teaching by Caleb Baumgardner

Before you begin the video, consider starting off with some discussion questions that center around the theme “Perspective.” Here are a few that you may want to choose from.

- What was something that challenged you or encouraged you from Caleb’s message?
- Have you ever been asked to share your perspective on something? (Maybe it was what you thought about a new restaurant in town, the newest Marvel movie, a political issue, or even what your favorite coffee drink is.) What issue was it?
- Why might someone be interested in your perspective? What motivates them to ask?
- Have you ever changed your perspective on something? (Maybe you used to dislike broccoli as a kid but now it’s your go to snack after school, or you went from disliking a certain band to paying to see them in concert.) What was it that led you to change your perspective?
- Have you ever changed your perspective on something that impacted the way you live? (For instance, maybe your perspective on being healthy changed and you cut out fast food.)
- How can our perspective influence or shape our actions?
- How can our perspective on who Jesus is, and what He wants for our lives impact our actions?
- In this case, why is it so important to really know Jesus?

These are some of the questions that we are going to be wrestling through today as Caleb Baumgardner shares with us about our perspective on our lives, faith, and what Jesus wants from us.

<Begin teaching video>

Feel free to use the following guide to help your group debrief Caleb's teaching.

- Caleb mentioned how much we enjoy instant gratification. In addition to the things that he mentioned, (text, Amazon delivery, etc.) what are some ways that you pursue instant gratification?
- It's not that any of these things are inherently wrong, but as Caleb mentioned, we have to be cautious to not allow them to shift our perspective solely on ourselves where what we want most drives our actions and decisions. How can instant gratification lead us to this type of thinking?
- Similarly, how can we avoid this type of thinking in a culture built upon instant gratification?
- In the video, Caleb shared with us that in order to live like Jesus, we have to shift our perspective. Why is this shift necessary?
- How have your perspectives changed since you began following Jesus? How do you view the world differently, treat others differently, make decisions differently, etc.?
- In the video Caleb said "To live like Jesus means we have to change our perspective... we must now live with a purposeful perspective." He then goes on to define this purposeful perspective as the mission that Jesus lays out for his followers in Matthew 28:18-20. Take a moment and read that now.
- Put yourself in the shoes, or sandals, of Jesus' followers as they heard this command. How did the realization that Jesus had indeed been raised from the dead, and was now standing in front of them giving them a new purpose change their perspective?
- This passage of Scripture is commonly referred to as The Great Commission, and has led countless Christians to live purposefully to fulfill this calling. What does this passage of Scripture reveal to us about God's purpose for our lives? Are our lives ultimately given to us for our own pleasure and gratification or for something greater?
- Caleb also mentioned the old "WWJD" or "What Would Jesus Do" bracelets. Is anyone familiar with those? Anyone ever own one? The idea is simple enough. It was to serve as a reminder that we aren't to live for our own purposes but for Jesus'. But how do we know What Would Jesus Do in any given situation?
- The obvious answer is that we can't know what Jesus Would Do if we don't know the character of Jesus. What are some ways we can learn about the character of Jesus?
- One thing that's clear from Jesus' life and ministry is that His perspective and purpose were focused on people. Caleb illustrates this by referring to Mark 8:34-38. Take a moment and read that passage of Scripture now.
- How does Jesus' demonstrate a different kind of perspective in this passage?
- In the video Caleb mentions that self-denial means letting go of our self-determination. Why is self-denial such an important part of the Christian life? Why would Jesus explain that it is necessary to "take up our cross" if we want to follow him? How might taking up our cross change our perspective?
- As Caleb closed out the video he challenged us to consider what might change around us if our perspective changed. How might the following change if your perspective about what Jesus' wanted for your life changed...

- Your youth group / small group / church
- Your friend group
- Your school
- Your community
- Your future plans
- Your relationships
- Others?