

✘ High Expectations ✘

YOUNG PERSON SERVES IN THE COMMUNITY ONE HOUR OR MORE PER WEEK.

By Leah Jarvi


Edited by Lyle Griner and Marie Sundet © 2006 EveryDay LLC, Bloomington, MN

Leah grew up in the booming metropolis of Sauk Centre, MN - well...in reality it is a small farming community. She is still adjusting to city life and the choices Minneapolis offers on a weekend instead of the same old options back home - movies or cow tipping. Both can get redundant!!! (Don't worry...no animals were harmed!!! Leah never tipped over a cow, so she grew to love movies!!!)


Exodus 3:7-21 and 14:21-22, 30-31 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go..."

- How did you feel when I told you the instructions? Was it scary or intimidating that no one could help you? This is opposite from what it was with Moses in the Bible passage, God was there the entire time helping, encouraging, and guiding Moses to accomplish his task.
- Tell about an expectation someone has/had that seems to be unfair. Why is this unfair??
- How would you define high expectations?
- Is it good or bad to have expectations? Why? What are some reasons?
- What else is included when people set expectations for you?
- Did you have anyone in your life set high expectations for your life? What were the expectations? Were they realistic?
- How did these high expectations impact your life and the decisions you made?
- Who (yourself, parents, teachers, friends) impacted you the most with high expectations? Why/how did they motivate you more than the others?
- How did these people help you accomplish the expectations?
- How has having or not having expectations for your life affect how you lived?
- What are the most effective expectations in your life?
- What expectations for your life been forgotten, achieved, changed, or added to?
- What is your role in setting expectations for people who look up to you?



So What? 

What is one expectation or goal you want to achieve?

Candle Time 

Write your expectation or a goal that you want to achieve on a piece of paper. Hold this piece of paper in the palms of open hands as short prayers are said followed by the words, "Lord in your mercy - Hear our prayer." Encourage everyone to place the paper somewhere that it be will seen everyday as a reminder to ask God to help you succeed in reaching your goal.

EXPLORE

Genesis 22:1-18	After these things God tested Abraham....
Psalms 5:3	in the morning you hear my voice;...
Matthew 9:21-22	"If I only touch his cloak, I will be..."
Haggai 1:1-11	...to live in your paneled houses,...
Matthew 14:25-33	...if it is you, command me to come to you...
Mark 2:2-5	bringing to him a paralyzed man,...



▣ *Leader Page* ▣

Discussion Goal

Set or reach an expectation.

Background

Expectations. They are an everyday occurrence, but they have a bigger impact on our lives than we realize. There are little expectations...like we expect people to abide by driving laws and we expect the news reporters to do their jobs to find out the next big story to keep us informed. There are also expectations set for us everyday by various people. We are expected to go to school or work, pay bills, take care of where you live, etc. Although these expectations are important, these are not the only expectations that people have. As kids, adults set expectations for us to succeed. We achieve these goals and expectations by continuing and doing well in school, getting a well paid job, etc. As well as the other expectations for our lives set by other people, we need to set our own expectations for ourselves. These are the most important goals and expectations for our lives (besides God's goals and expectations for our lives) because we know what we are capable of and what is really challenging for us. Without these goals and expectations being set, there is less of a chance that we will be successful.

Most people naturally feel like they are not adequate to do anything challenging. The way we overcome these feelings is by succeeding at reaching goals that people have set for us. In Exodus, Moses feels inadequate to do what God asks him to do. This does not stop God from setting high expectations for Moses to free the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt. God continues to push Moses along and encourage him until he is successful in reaching all of the expectations God set for Moses. God and the other important people in our lives continue to encourage and push us to succeed on a daily basis.

Motivate

This exercise is designed to help students understand a couple things. The first is that some expectations are unrealistic and the other is sometimes people cannot understand what is expected because it is like they are speaking an entirely different language. Go to a free translator online and type in whatever sentence you want. Do that for however many people will be participating and be sure to pick a variety of languages and sentences. When handing out the slips of paper with a sentence as well as the language it is in, make sure you do not give someone a sentence in a language they know. Tell them (and do not be too nice about it) they have a couple minutes and you expect them to have it translated into English by that time without the help of anyone. From this point, you can lead into the questions with, "How did it feel to have such an unrealistic expectation placed on you?"



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Je veux aller à la plage pour m'étendre au soleil. French 1

I want to go to the beach to lie in the sun. English 1

Eu necessito fazer meu homework antes que eu possa prestar atenção ao filme. Port. 2

I need to do my homework before I can watch the movie. Eng. 2

Gradisco bere l'acqua anziché spremuta. Italian 3

I like to drink water instead of juice. Eng 3

Ich mag Zeitschriften anstelle von der Zeitung lesen. German 4

I like to read magazines instead of the newspaper. Eng 4

Prefiero la época del verano en que el tiempo es soleado y caliente. Spanish 5

I prefer summer weather when it is sunny and warm. Eng 5

Die Farben Pink und Braun gehen gut zusammen. German 6

Les couleurs Pink et brun vont bien ensemble. French 6

Tengo gusto de perros mejores que tengo gusto de gatos. Spanish 7

J'aime des chiens meilleurs que j'aime des chats. French 7