

# ✘ Positive View of Personal Future ✘

**YOUNG PERSON IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT HER OR HIS PERSONAL FUTURE.**

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Kaja Heinecke is 5'9" and has blue eyes, and blond curly hair. She is currently a senior at Concordia University in St. Paul, Minnesota. She is number three in a four person household. When she grows up, besides living on a cruise ship, her heart's desire is to work with youth and their families in a church setting.

## When I Grow Up

Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for...

- When I was 5 or 6 years old I wanted to be...
- When asked, "What do you want to be?" what do you say?
  - I plan to live (location) \_\_\_\_\_.
  - I plan to live in (dwelling style) \_\_\_\_\_.
  - I will be working (type of job) \_\_\_\_\_.
  - I will own (positions) \_\_\_\_\_,
  - and \_\_\_\_\_,
  - and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - In my spare time I will \_\_\_\_\_.
  - My family status will be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - I will be known for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - I will be happy because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - My purpose in life will be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - My life and faith will be \_\_\_\_\_.
- What is your most optimistic view for the future?
- How does your view for the future motivate you now?
- What expectations do you have of yourself?
- What are some expectations that others have for you?  
Parents? Teachers?
- Why should you have a positive view of your future?
- Is it possible to have a positive view of the future given all the worlds problems?
- What expectations might God have for you?
- What happens to your future when life brings problems, dismay, frustrations, disaster, pain, loss, or the desire to yell at that co-worker?
- What is it that gives you hope when bad things happen?
- How might a Christian view of hope differ from a worldview?
- What values, quotes, verses, or experiences guide your life?



**So What?**

As a result of our discussion three words that describe my future are...

- 1.
- 2.

**Candle Time**

God is near!  
Read the following verses when instructed by your group leader.

Psalm 46:10a  
"Be still, and know that I am God; I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."  
Read Isaiah 41:10  
"Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."

## EXPLORE

Jeremiah 29:11  
Luke 6:20-31  
Job 8:7  
Proverbs 24:14  
Ecclesiastes 7:14  
Jeremiah 31:17

For I know the plans I have for you.  
Give to everyone who asks of you.  
It may seem rough at the beginning of change but God has...  
Wisdom is sweet, there is hope now and in the future.  
Rely on God for your future for He knows all.  
Hope for your future.



## ▣ *Leader Page* ▣

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### *Discussion Goal*

God is present leading us towards a future of hope.

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### *Background*

In the midst of this discussion, youth may discover that a hope-filled future is about more than jobs, money, positions and typical views of success. Youth may also recognize that life cannot always be controlled, that part of life may also bring disappointment, tragedy, disaster and pain. God does not promise that bad things will not happen, for indeed they will. Still, God does offer hope with a bright future. The Isaiah 41:10 verse silences the fears, and encourages faith in the midst of distress. Perhaps the verse is originally intended for the support of God's Israel who in captivity needed patience, comfort and hope. No matter how positive, or how seemingly hopeless, Israel or a youth's view of the future may be they may know a God who offers a reason to live a positive hope-filled life.

In response to God's love and God's promise of hope, we can obtain a vision for our lives that encourages us to trust and serve. In the midst of God's love, hope and grace we have every reason to work for a bright, purpose-filled life.

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### *Motivate*

Begin by telling your own story of what you wanted to be when you were 5 or 6 years old. Afterwards invite everyone to share their own memories completing the following:

- When I was 5 or 6 years old I wanted to be...
- 

### *Candle Time*

Begin with stillness.

Leader: God ...is near.

[Flip the switch! Have cued up some very loud fast music ready to play.]

Leader: [Read loud, almost screaming] God, in the midst of cars honking, radio's blaring, advertisers telling me to buy, everyone's expectations, negative attitudes, wars, crime, drugs, pain, confusion, deadlines, pollution, hopeless voices, in the midst of it all...

[Flip the switch off. Pause]

Help us to hear your small still voice...

[Read in a whisper together] Psalm 46:10

[Pause in silence.]

[Read together] Isaiah 41:10

Thank you for being a God of hope! Amen

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