

# Community Values Youth

**YOUNG PERSON PERCEIVES THAT ADULTS IN THE COMMUNITY VALUE YOUTH.**

By Anna Gotschall

Edited by Lyle Griner and Marie Sundet © 2006 The Youth & Family Institute, Bloomington, MN

Anna Gotschall, who enjoys squashing mushrooms, dodging flying ducks and bullets, collecting coins, and slamming her fist into bricks, so she can acquire enough free lives and fire power to defeat Kuppa and save the Princess. When she is not engulfed in playing Mario Brothers, she likes spending time with her community of friends and family.

1 Timothy 4:12 – Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.



- *What would a community look like that really wanted youth to be “caught-up” in every aspect?*
- *How are youth sought after? How are they ignored?*
- *What are all the aspects that make a community work well? Or not work?*
- *How does the Bible verse pertain to the community’s interaction with youth?*
- *In what ways does your community set examples in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity?*
- *How do you set an example for others in your community?*
- *How does your community show that you are valued?*
- *Why do some people have negative views of kids?*
- *Why do you have negative views of your community?*
- *What are some other ways that your community could show that you matter to them?*
- *What are some things that discourage you from getting involved in community?*
- *What happens to a community when no one participates?*

## So What?

Pick one of the following that best describes your reflection on this discussion and complete the sentence with your own thoughts.

- I need...
- I hope...
- I learned...
- I will pray...
- I am still wondering
- I am feeling...
- I will take action



## Candle Time

Stand in a close circle with each person praying one thing he or she is thankful for in his or her community.

As each person prays, his or her hand is extended to the middle of the circle. Hands pile up one on top of another. Conclude with a loud “Amen” raising hands into the air.



## EXPLORE



- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Deuteronomy 15:7-8   | If there is among you anyone in need...                 |
| 1 Peter 2:17         | Honor everyone. Love the family of believers.           |
| 1 Corinthians 1:10   | ...be united in the same mind and the same purpose.     |
| 1 Thessalonians 5:11 | ...encourage one another and build up each other...     |
| Titus 2:7            | Show yourself in all respects a model of good works...  |
| Ephesians 6:23       | Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith... |



## Leader Page

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### Discussion Goal

Value being involved in community.

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### Background

Community is a group that forms a distinct segment of society who create fellowship through similar interests. Examples are family, neighborhoods, cities, schools, etc.

If youth are to value community, communities must learn to value their youth. Youth need to feel that their community values their ideas, gifts and talents, encouraging them to be fully involved. If a community neglects its youth, high-risk behaviors become manifest throughout the society. The community needs to interact with its youth, and show that what youth do matters to everyone.

I Timothy 4:12 says, "Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." There are numerous reasons why youth don't want to get involved in their community and most of those reasons are centered on the attention they receive from the community. If the community does not show that they love their youth or have faith in them, it will no longer be integrated, but will become devoid of youth altogether.

Encourage youth to look at their various communities and understand how their involvement is crucial for the well being of everyone, especially themselves.

Remind them that one day they will be adults in their community. Ask how they want the outreach to young people to change. Jesus' ministry was primarily focused on youth. Jesus proclaimed that whoever becomes humble like children and welcomes them in his name welcomes him (Matthew 18: 1-4).

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### Motivate

Play a round of Blob Tag. Have 2 people be "it" and hold hands. The rest of the group must play within a defined perimeter. As a person is tagged he or she joins hands linking with the group that is considered "it."

Play until everyone is part of the group. Let the game become the background for discussion imagining a community that wants it's youth to be included. After talking about how the game may relate, read I Timothy 4:12. Use this verse as a reference to your discussion.

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