



NOVEMBER

IMPORTANT DATES:

11/21 - optional hike

11/21 - no tnl

happy thanksgiving!

12/8 - light mtng



NOVEMBER 13TH

Influence

SPEECH PT ONE

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

1 Timothy 4:12

1. One responsibility Godly leaders have is they must be good Christian influences. This month we will be looking at how to be a good, Godly influence. To start, find the memory verse in your Bible and highlight it. Then answer this: why is this verse important at your age?

2. As junior highers, sometimes we feel like we can’t make an impact because we aren’t adults yet. However, in this verse, the Apostle Paul tells the young Timothy that he can in fact make a difference. The first thing Paul tells Timothy is to set an example with his speech. Find 3 Bible verses that tell us how Christians can set an example with their speech and write them down:

3. Cussing is definitely something Christians shouldn't do. However, there are other ungodly things that can come out of our mouths. What do you think are some things Christians shouldn't say?

4. If we are to set a good example with our mouths, then we must start using it for good. Read Ephesians 4:25 and 4:29. Why is it important to “speak truthfully”? Also, how can our mouths “build others up according to their needs?”

5. This week, you must encourage 2 other Christians. (about their faith, their value, something good they did, etc). Write their names down here:

NOVEMBER 16TH

Influence

SPEECH PT TWO

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

1 Timothy 4:12

Read the attached article, 3 Ways to Pray for Your Tongue. As you read, highlight anything that stands out to you.

Wrap Up

After you have completed the 2 sections on “Speech” (homework and article), complete the following sentences in the space provided:

One thing I learned this week about speech was...

One question I still have about speech is...

LIES *Young* WOMEN BELIEVE

3 Ways to Pray for Your Tongue

I love to enjoy a beautiful day by the water, lazily watching boats sail by. Some boats are small and can be manned by a single sailor. Other ships are five-stories tall and have large crews working tirelessly to keep the ship in top-notch shape. But from dinghies to cruise ships, there is one small but mighty part of the boat that is unseen—the rudder. It is the rudder that determines the course of the entire ship and crew.

James uses the picture of a ship's rudder to describe what our tongues are like. Check it out:

For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. If we put bits in the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder, wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things (James 3:2–5).

Have you ever said something and then immediately wanted to snatch your words right back out of the air and stuff them back in your mouth? Yup, I have, more times than I can count. Just like the small rudder can send a giant ship on a collision course with tragedy, our tongues can quickly get us into trouble and can throw our relationships crashing against the rocks.

That's why James goes on to say, "With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God" (3:9).

So what can we do to tame our tongues? Bits and bridles may work for horses, but they aren't really practical, attractive, or comfortable to bridle our human tongues. So how do we control this "rudder"?

Let's circle back and take a second look at James 3:

If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. . . . Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder, wherever the will of the pilot directs.

Did you notice the pilot the second time around? God is the One at the helm of our lives, our hearts, and yes, even our speech when we surrender ourselves to Him. Because we are human and have a sinful, fallen nature, we will stumble with our words, but there is hope in Jesus! By His power, He can transform our will and pilot our ship. He can actually help control our words and make them obedient to Christ. All through His power and grace!

This month, every time we see a boat or a ship, let's remember to ask God to help us tame our tongues. How about we pray these three, short prayers for our small "rudders"?

1. Let us only speak words that will build others up, not tear them down (Eph. 4:29).
2. Let our speech be gracious toward others (Col. 4:6).
3. Let the words of our mouths and the thoughts of our hearts be acceptable to the Lord (Ps. 19:14).

What are some other specific ways we can ask God to take the wheel in the area of our speech? Write out your prayers for God's help below.

Taken from Christi Fredericks' blog post 3 Ways to Pray for Your Tongue. Used with permission from www.LiesYoungWomenBelieve.com.

Fredericks, C. (2016, August 3). 3 Ways to Pray for Your Tongues [Blog Post]. Retrieved from <http://www.liesyoungwomenbelieve.com/3-ways-pray-tongue/>

NOVEMBER 20TH

Influence

CONDUCT PT ONE

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

1 Timothy 4:12

This week we are going to learn about our conduct, the second thing Paul tells Timothy to set an example in.

1. Conduct is all about behavior. What do you think the behavior is like of an ungodly person?

2. As “young” people, we often times find ourselves under the authority of other people (our parents, our teachers, our coaches, and of course, the police). As Christians, how should we act towards people like this?

3. Read Romans 13:1-3. In context, this verse is talking about the government. However, the principles still apply to everyone above us. Why do you think it’s important to listen to others above us and show respect?

4. Why is it hard for us to always respect our parents, teachers, coaches, etc.

5. How can we show respect and be a positive influence toward other Christians or even non Christians?

6. This week, we only talked about respect regarding Christian conduct. Find 1 other Bible verse that doesn't have to do with respect, but has to do with another aspect of Christian conduct:

NOVEMBER 22ND

Influence

CONDUCT PT TWO

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

1 Timothy 4:12

Read the attached article, Submission Isn’t for Sissies (Why God Calls us To Do It Anyway). As you read, highlight anything that stands out to you.

Wrap Up

After you have completed the 2 sections on “Conduct” (homework and article), complete the following sentences in the space provided:

One thing I learned this week about conduct was...

One question I still have about conduct is...

LIES *Young* WOMEN BELIEVE

Submission Isn't for Sissies

In my book, *Submission Isn't for Sissies: Why God Calls Us to Do It Anyway*, I tell a story about a girl that was in my student ministry (we will call her Crystal).

Crystal had met with one of her coaches to tell her that she was going to be missing a basketball game because of a church event. To her surprise, her coach was outraged and benched Crystal for the next two games as punishment. After much prayer, Crystal approached the coach who explained that only the truly committed girls get to play on her team, and that she might even bench Crystal the rest of the season. Crystal knew that the coach was not a Christian but was shocked at this outwardly hateful reaction.

When she was done describing the heart-wrenching events, I couldn't help but ask her the obvious question: "So . . . what did you do?"

Without hesitation Crystal looked up, and with tears streaming down her face said, "The only thing I could do. I did everything I could to talk highly of my coach to my teammates, encourage her, and to work hard at practice."

I must admit I was so shocked by the answer that I couldn't help but ask, "Why? Why would you do such a thing when she is so horrible to you? She clearly doesn't deserve it!"

It was then that she gave the response that was such a perfect example of true submission: "It doesn't matter if she deserves it or not. I'm not really doing it for her anyway. I'm doing it for God."

Did you catch it? When Crystal was faced with a difficult situation with an authority, she followed the steps that Jesus showed us in Matthew 26.

Step 1: She prayed.

Crystal could have first ran to her friends who would have immediately taken her side, but instead she prayed before doing anything. After talking to God about it, she felt like approaching her coach would be the right thing to do.

Step 2: She was honest about what she wanted.

Crystal went to her coach, face-to-face, to tell her that she felt it was unfair that she be seated on the bench. Even when her coach reacted harshly, Crystal was respectful in how she talked to her.

Step 3: She submitted to what her coach decided.

Crystal knew that she could probably throw a huge fit, get a lot of people on her side, and even try to campaign to get the coach fired. But she didn't. She finished the season and worked as hard as she could to respect her coach.

Here is the reality: It is easy to throw fits. It is easy to demand that you get your way. Submitting to an authority that you do not agree with is hard, but we shouldn't forget another big reason why we submit: for the gospel.

First Peter 3:1–2 shows a great picture of this. Notice the reason why the wife is encouraged to submit:

“Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct.”

Did you catch it? Your submission points others to Christ! Why? Because it is so radical and so crazy in the world's eyes that, when you do it, people take notice. It also shows people what Christianity truly is: Giving up your own life and desires and letting God take the lead. Your submission is the perfect illustration of this deep spiritual truth.

Instead of running away, God called Crystal to stay and submit. Crystal obeyed, and God used that tough year in her life to teach her so many things. Crystal continued to show love to her coach and refused to gossip about her. After much prayer, she decided to stay on the basketball team anyway, hoping for more opportunities to share Christ with her coach. She got those opportunities, including a time when she was able to share the gospel because her coach was so shocked at how this teenage girl treated her in spite of sitting her on the bench.

In the midst of the hardships that submission can bring, don't forget the impact you can have on someone's life. The dates, dances, and pep rallies will all fade away, but you will never forget the life change in which God allows you to be a part.

What about you? Are you willing to embrace God's call to submit in order to shine the white hot spotlight on Him?

Taken from Kelly Wehunt's blog post [Submission Isn't for Sissies: Why God Calls Us to Do It Anyway](http://www.liesyoungwomenbelieve.com/submission-isnt-sissies-god-calls-us-anyway/). Used with permission from [www.LiesYoungWomenBelieve.com](http://www.liesyoungwomenbelieve.com).

Wehunt, K. (2014, December 4). [Submission Isn't for Sissies: Why God Calls Us to Do It Anyway](http://www.liesyoungwomenbelieve.com/submission-isnt-sissies-god-calls-us-anyway/) [Blog Post]. Retrieved from <http://www.liesyoungwomenbelieve.com/submission-isnt-sissies-god-calls-us-anyway/>

NOVEMBER 27TH

Influence

LOVE PT ONE

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

1 Timothy 4:12

The third thing Paul tells Timothy to set an example in is LOVE.

1. Read Matthew 22:34-40. What does it say are the 2 most important commands in the Bible? How do you think you love God and others (specific things)?

2. Now, read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Is there anything on this list that seems easy for you to do? Is there anything on this list that seems hard for you to do? Are there any that you are confused about?

3. Love is a BIG DEAL to God. Read 1 John 4:7-12. Which verse here is most important for you to remember and why?

4. Loving people we like can be easy. Loving people we don't like can be very hard!
Find the verse that tells us to love our enemies. Highlight it and write it here:

5. Why do you think it's good to love our enemies? How can it be a good influence to other people to do this?

6. This week you must show love to someone you don't like, are in a fight with, or are mad at. Write what you did on the back. If you aren't mad at anyone right now, do it sometime this month. There will probably be sometime your mom or dad makes you mad 😊

NOVEMBER 30TH

Influence

LOVE PT TWO

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

1 Timothy 4:12

Read the attached article, Is Love Boring?. As you read, highlight anything that stands out to you.

Wrap Up

After you have completed the 2 sections on “Love” (homework and article), complete the following sentences in the space provided:

One thing I learned this week about love was...

One question I still have about love is...

LIES *Young* WOMEN BELIEVE

Is Love Boring?

Patient.....Kind.....Content..... Humble.....Sweet

If I'm honest, I glossed over that list without giving it a second thought. There's nothing flashy there. Nothing that makes my heart race. No buzz words or descriptions worthy of a Pinterest picture. It might as well read:

Plain vanilla

Nothing special

Boring

But perhaps you recognize that first list from somewhere. I bet you've already figured out that it's a description of something that most of us see as the polar opposite of nothing special. A word that is guaranteed to make your eyes light up and your pulse race—love.

The Bible gives us a clear description of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4–7. Take your time as you read it. Wrestle with the familiar. Let God's Word challenge what you think you know about love.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

I don't know about you, but I need frequent reminders about what true love really is. Because if I was writing a description of love, it would sound a lot more like this . . .

Love is everything. It's butterflies in my stomach. It's finding someone who I can't live without and knowing that he can't live without me either. Love is exciting. It's endless romantic dates punctuated by frequent trips to Bali and Paris. Love feels good, always. It's an overdose of warm fuzzies. Love makes me feel pretty. Love comes with endless kisses and hugs. Love never hurts. It never takes effort. It never disappoints.

Some of those things are part of the experience of loving and being loved by others, but they are not love. Warm fuzzies and exciting moments may be an occasional byproduct of love, but they are not love itself. I am prone to chase the feeling love gives me instead of true love. (You, too?) That wreaks havoc on my relationships with God and others. It forces my heart to continuously break. It keeps me from loving others well.

My choice is this: Either I will continue to try to grab the version of love I see in the movies, or I will be satisfied with the description of love that God offers in His Word. Though painful, I am forcing myself to choose the latter. Here's what that really looks like in three areas of my life.

I Will Worry More About Being A Good Friend and Less About Having Good Friends

I like to think I'm a low-maintenance friend. I only require:

- Constant availability
- Lots of long talks about my feelings
- Weekly sushi dates
- Monthly pedicures
- No drama
- Effortless connection
- Lots of strokes to my ego

Again, I want the warm fuzzies. I want feel-good friendship. I want the point of my friendships to be, well . . . me.

But then I have to take a hard look back at God's definition of love, and I find that true friendship love is rooted in mutual respect. Yes, my friends should have my back, but I also need to have theirs. When the road gets rocky, we work through it and forgive instead of parting ways. Friendship that doesn't look like consistently caring for each other isn't rooted in love.

I Will Celebrate Romantic Love That Requires Much of Me and Is Not All About Me

I've been married a long time, and I still have this thought at least once a week . . .

Why doesn't he send me flowers?

I want my husband to think about me 24/7. I want him to tell me I am beautiful every hour on the hour. I want him to whisk me away on romantic dates. Deep down in his bones, I want him to feel that cheesy movie line about me . . .

"You complete me."

But none of that business makes God's list of what love is.

My husband is patient and kind. He is not envious or boastful. He isn't rude. He doesn't insist on his own way. He is not irritable or resentful. He doesn't want to hurt me. He bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

In other words, he loves me.

It's not always flashy, but it is love. The question I have to ask myself is, will I let it be enough or will I constantly chase after something that feels more significant? In your own love life, will you be satisfied with true, lasting love, or will you keep looking for something more exciting?

I Will Measure God's Love by the Cross, Not My Fickle Feelings

I worry almost constantly that God will change His mind about me. I convince myself that I've committed one sin too many for Him to continue to love me. I get anxious if I haven't had that feeling for awhile—you know the one you get during a great worship service or a quiet prayer time where you just know that you know that you know that He loves you?

But God's love for me isn't based on His moods. (Praise Jesus!) He doesn't have to prove His love over and over by making me feel good. He proved it once and for all by going to the cross for me. When I stop chasing an experience with God, I am free to enjoy the presence of God.

If you feel like you just can't live without that loving feeling, don't sweat. God's love for us is more extravagant than we can ever imagine. His love isn't drudgery. He wants to fill our hearts to overflowing. His love for us is so much better than the Hallmark card version we try to make it.

I Wanna Know What Love Is

Go back, and re-read God's definition of true love from [1 Corinthians 13:4-7](#).

How would you define love differently?

In what areas of your life are you looking for a different definition of love?

What impact does that have on your relationship with God and others?

DECEMBER 4TH

Influence

FAITH PT ONE

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

1 Timothy 4:12

This week, we are going to talk about faith.

1. What do you think faith means?

2. A good definition of Biblical faith is this: Trusting God enough to do what he says...even when it’s hard. We are going to read a story where God asks Abraham to do something REALLY hard. Read Genesis 22:1-19. How did Abraham show that he had faith in God in verse 8?

3. What did God provide as the sacrifice in place of Isaac? What does this show about God?

4. What happened to Abraham because of his faith? What did God do because he obeyed?

5. Do you think that God would tell someone to do this today? Does He ask us to be faithful in different ways? Think of some examples of how God might test our faith today and write them down.

6. Is there anything God is asking you to do in your life right now that is going to take a lot of faith? If so what is it and do you trust him enough to follow through?

DECEMBER 7TH

Influence

FAITH PT TWO

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

1 Timothy 4:12

Read the attached article, Are You Hot?. As you read, highlight anything that stands out to you.

Wrap Up

After you have completed the 2 sections on “Faith” (homework and article), complete the following sentences in the space provided:

One thing I learned this week about faith was...

One question I still have about faith is...

LIES *Young* WOMEN BELIEVE

Are You Hot?

“I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.”

These are God’s words to the church in Laodicea recorded in Revelation 3:15–16.

It might be tempting to think that they don’t apply to us (where is Laodicea, anyway?) but actually this passage is loaded with truth about how we should be living out the Christian faith.

Let’s dissect the word picture God paints here.

Imagine a mouthful of room-temperature water for a moment. Blech. Now think of ice-cold water on a hot day. Yum! What about a steaming cup of hot tea on a snowy afternoon? Now you’re talking! But lukewarm water? There’s nothing thrilling about that.

But that’s exactly how God describes the people in the Laodicean church—like lukewarm water. Sure, they went to church. They even did some good stuff for God, but they had no passion. They didn’t stand out. They loved business as usual. Clearly, God does not.

The church in Laodicea reminds me of some of the girls I interviewed for my new book *My Name Is Erin: One Girl’s Plan For Radical Faith*.

These girls were a lot like you. They were great girls, growing up in big cities and small towns. They were Christian girls. Many of them were involved in their church youth groups. They wear Christian T-shirts; they listen to Christian music. But to be honest, most of the time their lives look just like everyone else’s.

These girls had a sideline mentality about doing big things with their faith. They read their Bibles and went to church, but that didn’t result in radical change.

So many girls I know have settled for lukewarm living. They read the Bible, but they don’t tie their lives to it. They figure they will do big things for God “someday” but for now, they’re wrapped up in the small stuff.

I get it.

I wrestle with my own tendency to want to just coast, to live like a cup of room-temperature water instead of being on fire for God. Sigh.

But if God's response to so-so, humdrum, average faith is so strong He wants to spit up, I guess we should get serious about having the kind of radical, on fire, dramatically different faith that the Bible really calls us to.

We're going to be looking at radical faith all week on this blog. My hope is that by the end of the week you'll have a better idea of what radical faith looks like and the tools to live it out.

So what's your spiritual temperature right now? Are you hot—fired up and living a radical faith? Are you cold—burned out and living a faith that needs refueled? Or are you lukewarm—simply coasting through life lacking passion or excitement for the life God has called you to?