

Do You Ever Wonder if You're Making a Difference?

by Josh Griffin

Training Notes

Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. Brothers and sisters, pray for us. Greet all God's people with a holy kiss. I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-27 (NIV)

Take care of those who are weak

Be patient with everyone

Never stop praying

For He who calls you is faithful

You don't serve alone!

? Reflection questions:

To get the most out of your online video experience we encourage you to take some time to answer the following questions:

- Do you ever ask the questions that Josh said is regularly asked, “Do I have what kids need?” If so, how often do you ask that and what are your answers?
- How might you be able to give care to those who are weak in your youth ministry? Be specific.
- Who is that “one kid” who tests your patience? How might you be able to express patience with this one student? Why is patience with teenagers difficult/easy for you?
- How often do you find yourself praying for the teenagers entrusted to you? What about praying for your own inadequacy?
- Josh said, “I used to talk to my kids about God, now I try to be better at talking to God about my kids.” What do you think of that statement? Empowering? Convicting? Helpful? Challenging?
- Josh said, “You don’t have to worry about your ministry results because God is faithful.” Agree? Disagree? What are your thoughts about this statement?
- How do you feel knowing that there are tens of thousands of caring adults like you who are coming alongside teenagers all over the world? You’re not alone!
- Josh ended his teaching by saying, “God has put you in this youth group for this moment...” What moment do you think you’re currently in as a youth worker? Why do you really think you’re working with teenagers in your setting?



If you'd like to receive a DYMU certificate at the end of this course, be sure to answer the questions online.

💬 Talk it over:

- Consider sharing what you’ve learned with others.
- Process this information with another leader on your team.
- Write out specific questions you want to ask someone on your leadership team.
- Leave a comment in the space below the video window and engage with other DYMU participants.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Josh Griffin

Josh Griffin is known as one of the leading voices in youth ministry with over 20 years’ experience in the trenches, most recently as the High School Pastor at Saddleback Church. He’s the co-founder of DownloadYouthMinistry.com where he serves and trains youth workers and hosts a youth ministry podcast with Doug Fields. He’s created more than 50 youth ministry resources and authored several books.