



April 2024

Easter | Steve Pausch

The world seems to have forgotten what Easter is all about. I saw another commercial for the Easter bunny the other day but it wasn't a bunny, it was a dog with fake ears used to sell a chocolate egg. Not only has the world around forgotten Easter, they have really confused it now.

In this ministry to teens, it is Easter all year long. Everything we do with young people from going to watch them in concerts, games, musicals, sporting events, and even hanging out in their lunch room is for the purpose of being able to tell them about what Easter is really about. This time of year it makes it just a little easier to share the Gospel, because it is so confused in the world around us. Many times a day this time of year, I ask teens the question...

"What does a bunny have to do with Easter"? Society has provided us with a great opening question to get the discussion going about the true meaning of Easter, and we have these discussions just about everywhere with kids.

Recently, I asked some of the middle school teens in our Brunswick ministry that question. They had some interesting answers. Here are a few.

"Bunnies lay eggs in the spring so we have lots of baby bunnies"

“Bunnies bring eggs to kids, but I’m not sure how they carry the basket.”



“Bunnies are cute and help sell eggs.”

“Bunny eggs are empty and that has something to do with Easter, right?”

The mission of YFC is all about communicating the life changing message of Jesus Christ to every young person, not just around Easter time but every day of the year. Thank you for making this possible with your prayers and support. The next time you are in a store and see a bag of candy meant for a basket with weird grass, or a commercial with an animal with fake rabbit ears, think of our team of staff and adult leaders who are telling teens about the message of Easter. Easter is about Jesus.

Return of the Leadership Group | Matt Mountjoy

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best of the time, because the days are evil” – Ephesians 5:15-17

“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape”

– 1 Corinthians 10:13

Lately, we have noticed a lack of student leadership at our Thursday night group at our Wadsworth ministry site. For many years, we had students that grew into those roles, but as I’ve shared before we are VERY young right now. Recently though, we decided that there are

few students who have showed growth and maturity, and I felt it would be a good time to start up our discipleship/leadership group. The goal of this group is to foster spiritual growth and leadership skills in the kids who have shown a desire to grow deeper. When I brought up the idea to Laurie, she had the exact same six kids in mind to invite to the group that I did! Of those six kids invited, four of them have shown to be committed to the group. Over the past few weeks, we've looked at what it means to be a leader in general, and what that could look like for them to put into action at The Garage. We've given them some ownership in having input on structure of club nights. At the last meeting, they said they'd like to have ability to do to in-club things that involve leadership like reading scripture for the lessons. This group also gets opportunities to do some extra fun things as well with plans to do a day trip to Cedar Point this summer. It's been cool to see them step up, and we are even seeing results in the overall group as they have taken some ownership in inviting new kids to The Garage. Recently I gave them "homework" and explained to them the idea and purpose of "life verses," I encouraged them to carefully consider some areas of their life that they would like to research scripture on and see if they could come up with a verse they could daily apply to their lives. This past week, they came prepared, and the two verses above are two of the ones that they chose! One young lady had been already reading through 1 Corinthians and came across that verse. The other found the verse in Ephesians by topically finding verses using some internet sources. I encouraged them to print them off or put them as their phone backgrounds and make them something they see and reflect on daily. I'm really excited about the potential of the kids in this group and what God is doing in their lives! Please pray specifically for them that they may grow in their relationship with God and that He will use them to impact the other students!

Their Words | Steve Pausch

I recently asked students what they thought about our ministry site in Brunswick called That Place for Teens. We're located in the plaza across from the new middle school. So, these are quotes from some of our middle school students.

"It feels like a family here."



"I like the food and games and the adults are nice"

"I don't like the music they play." (we play Christian music at our center)

"The food is 'fire'." (In teen speak, this is good!)

"It's a great place to be with friends and talk" (We have discussion questions for each table as we sit and eat together family-style)



"I wish it was open everyday"

(We are open Tuesday and Thursday after school)

"They help me."

"I like it here a lot."

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