

Youth Links weekends - what the young people think...

What is important about meeting up with young people from different cities?

To see who else believes

To form bands

Make friendships

So we can recognise we are all one church and we all have to work together to make it grow

Sharing ideas about faith

Build on old friendships with God in mind

Why is it important to stay for a weekend together?

To form friendships

Because one day is not long enough

Time to get to know each other

So our relationships can have time to grow and develop so God can work through us

It is separate from the rest of life so you can forget other things going on

What have you enjoyed about the July and November weekends?

Meeting new people

The activities that we did

The junior leaders

Seeing the same faces again

Relaxing away from school

Silent Disco, playing music and spending time praying

The walk

Why is it good to have the junior leaders leading sessions?

They are closer to our age

So they can relate to us

Relevant role models

It is easier to talk to someone you don't know if they are closer to your age

To have a range of views on the Bible

Youth Link; Weekend - a young leader's perspective

1. What did you enjoy about the weekend?

I enjoyed pretty much everything, but, as always, the great feeling that is watching so many different people from all different walks of life come together and have a weekend of devotion. The relationships which are standing the test of time and are growing stronger than ever, and the new ones that formed this weekend, all in the eye of God.

2. What did you enjoy most about leading the group?

For me, what I enjoyed most was the changes in how I viewed the members of my group and in my relationships with them-all for the better. In my group was someone I had come to consider challenging and thought would be difficult to handle. Over the sessions, I came to realise that not only was I capable of dealing with them if need be, but that my perception of that person wasn't accurate and that if I gave them the chance, they could offer some excellent spiritual insight, which I hadn't thought possible from them. As well as this, just the friendships that formed within the groups and watching people learn and get a bit further on their spiritual journey.

3. Why do you think it's important for young people to lead young people?

In the past, I have led others and been led myself, so I think I can safely say that this is important for both leaders and group members. From a group member perspective, having someone closer to your age takes away the feeling of a "school" situation (e.g. being "told off" when corrected etc). It can be easier to open up to someone younger, and it may be the case that they can relate to some ideologies more easily than someone older and may have even experienced a similar situation themselves. Being a leader also brings out the best in people and can really build them up and show them what they are capable. Because of the informality and closeness of the groups, problems may be more obvious to a young person and can therefore be nipped in the bud and resolved more easily.

4. Why do you think different activities are good for bringing young people to know more about God?

Everyone connects with a concept and learns differently-not only will different activities add variety; they also give everyone a chance to try a different approach and consider different perspectives. With something as personal and intimate as one's relationship with God, I think to treat everyone's spiritual journey as homogenous would be unfair and even potentially damaging. I also think that with lots of smaller, shorter activities, young people might retain more overall as there is less chance of prolonged boredom- if they don't enjoy one activity or find it useful, they can move onto another sooner rather than later.

-Rachel