

WHEN "CHRISTIAN" IS JUST ANOTHER IDENTITY YOUNG PEOPLE PUT ON

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SHIFTS TO MAKE:

From Church-Centred to Young Person-Centred

From Performance to Practice

From A 'Belonging' Faith to A 'Being' Faith

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Understanding young people's world

Where do our young people feel they have to "adapt" who they are?

How might our ministry spaces encourage that same adaptive behaviour?

How do young people connect with God outside the church?

Evaluating our current approach

In what ways is our discipleship model church-centred?

What signals might we be sending that reward performance over authenticity?

Re-imagining discipleship

What would a young person-centred model look like in our context?

How can we explicitly help faith transfer beyond our sessions?

How can we develop the spiritual practices that young people are already engaging with?

For leaders themselves

Are we modelling spiritual identity extends beyond the church?

How can we share our own faith stories and struggles more transparently?

ACTIVITIES

Identity Wardrobe

Purpose: To explore the "identities" young people carry and how "Christian" fits among them.

How: Give everyone a picture of multiple t-shirts. Ask them to draw 4-5 identities they "wear" in life.

Discuss: Which identities are context specific? Which feel most "real"? When does "Christian" feel like an outfit rather than a part of self?

Circles of Belonging

Purpose: To visualise where belonging is strong and where being is challenged.

How: Draw three concentric circles: Inner Circle (deep belonging), Middle Circle (partial), Outer Circle (distant).

Discuss: Where do you feel you belong most as a Christian – in youth group, school, home, online? Reflect on how belonging changes across spaces. Reflect on how encounters with Jesus in the Bible happen in the world not the places of worship. What might that mean for us?

FURTHER READING

Bauman, Z. (2000). **Liquid Modernity.**

Pete Ward (2002). **Liquid Church.**

Collins-Mayo, S., & Dandelion, P. (2010). **Religion and Youth**

Andrew Root (2017). **Faith Formation in a Secular Age**

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