

BRAVE NEW WORLD



1. What are **three hopes and dreams** that you have for the future?

2. Put an X on the scale below in the area that best describes your outlook about your **personal future**.



Place an X on the scale below in the area that best describes your outlook about the **future of the church**.



Place an X on the scale below in the area that best describes your outlook toward the **future of the country**.



3. Put an arrow by the items you think will be the **top three problems** for the world in the future.

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| Crime | Selfishness | Energy crisis |
| Friction between generations | Violence | Animal and plant extinction |
| Poverty | Child abuse | Economic depression |
| Drug abuse | Global warming | Sexually transmitted diseases |
| Racism | Environmental pollution | Homosexuality |
| War | Pornography on the Internet | Corruption and dishonesty |
| Sexual or physical abuse | Increase in the occult or New Age religions | Rape |
| Decline in moral values | | Other— |
| Divorce or family fighting | | |

4. What does God have to offer for **your future**?

5. What can you do to influence the future for **Christ**?

6. Check out one of the following passages from the Bible—what does it have to say about the future?

Proverbs 19:21
Luke 12:16-20

1 Corinthians 13:12
James 4:13-17

THIS WEEK

The future holds a lot for the young people of today. Some have mixed feelings about it—maybe some are worried about the economy or moral standards, while some are just concerned about their personal lives and what will happen to them. This TalkSheet offers an opportunity to discuss the future, its hopes and dreams—and promise of hope that Christ gives Christians for the future.

OPENER

This activity works as an opener, but is also a good way for your students to get to know each other better. Pass out paper and pens to everyone and then ask your kids to take a couple of minutes to describe how they see themselves in 10 years. Remind them not to give their identities away, but to make their predictions as realistic as possible. Afterwards collect the descriptions and read them aloud one at a time. After you read each one, ask the group to guess the identity of the person. Then take a vote and let the group come to a consensus about whose future seems to be the most accurate and why. Why did the person describe why they see their future that way? You may want to talk about how setting goals ties in with the future. How does setting goals affect one's future?

THE DISCUSSION, BY NUMBERS

1. You may want to your kids and keep track of their answers on the board, then take note of the most common hopes among the group. Why do they hope for these things in their lives? How do they think their non-Christian friends would answer? Would they have the same hopes? Are the dreams of Christians any different from the dreams of those who aren't? Should they be different?
2. Some kids view their futures as brighter than others. Others rate their personal futures brighter than the country's. Talk about why there is a difference. Focus on how the group feels it can influence the church positively and thus influence the country on behalf of Christ.
3. What problems do your kids see in the future? Why did they choose the problems they did? You may want to spend some time talking about why some problems are more of a threat than others. See if you can reach a group consensus about the top three problems.
4. Many young people believe that economic prosperity will be their security for the future. Contrast this with the Bible's message, which

points to a relationship with Christ as the only hope for the future.

5. Some kids think—based on TV or movies—that everyone has the right to a happy and financially secure future. Spend some time talking about the future for Christians and what your kids can do to make the future better.
6. What did these verses say to your group? You may want to go through each one and talk about how it relates to the future.

THE CLOSE

God is the God of the past, the present, and the future. He's in control of eternity! In serving God, people may not know the future, but because they know the God of the future, they can be confident that it will all work out according to God's plan (Romans 8:28). Sometimes the future is uncertain and scary, and things don't always go smoothly. That doesn't mean God doesn't love his children. It means he gives each person unique trials and challenges to bring them closer to him and make them stronger in their faith.

You may want to go back to the most common hope of the students. Was it their relationship with Christ? Challenge the group to hope and work toward a serious commitment to Christ both today and tomorrow. After all, what sort of future would they have without him?

MORE

- You may want to choose a problem from question 3 and decide how the group can make a difference for Christ in that area—right now. You may want to brainstorm with your group and come up with a fundraiser or group activity, such as visiting a homeless shelter, contributing money to an organization, or simply committing to pray for a problem in the world. Give your kids tangible ideas of what they can do and then remind them that they can make a difference through the small things—letting God work through them to make a difference.
- Encourage your kids to make a list of their goals, hopes, and dreams for the future. Have them make a list of 10 things that they'd like to do within the next 10 years. How about within their lifetime? You may want to let them share these items with the group. Challenge them to pray about each of these goals and dreams. How can God help them achieve these? How tangible are their goals? Why or why not? Why are setting goals and challenging oneself important?