

## Teen Devotion

Year C – Proper 9

God's Word Possess God's Power



**One truth shared:** The ministers that God sends to us are the mask by which he proclaims his Word to us. It is good for us to put ourselves under them. They are a gift from God to us.

*In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."*

**1 Peter 5:5**

### God's Gift to You

He didn't look like much. He wasn't all that impressive. He was dressed in a gunny sack with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached in the wilderness. He didn't look like much, but God sure used him. I'm talking about John the Baptist.

They didn't look like much either. None of them had a whole lot of training, but still they had left everything to follow Jesus. They didn't look like much, but when they went out Satan fell like lightning from heaven and demons submitted to them. Jesus used them; he spoke to people through them! I'm talking about the seventy-two disciples whom Jesus sent out as missionaries.

He doesn't look like much. His clothes may not be trendy, and his speech might be old fashioned. He might try too hard to be cool when he's around young people. He might make things really awkward; but really, are adults supposed to do anything less when they are with young people? He doesn't look like much, but God sent him for you. Your pastor is God's gift to you.

- God gave him to you to pray with you when you are overwhelmed and stressed.
- God gave him to you to listen to you when you are trying to make sense of your life.
- God gave him to shepherd you, to care for you, and to lead you to Jesus.
- God gave him as an example for you that you might learn from him and seek to imitate his faith.

He isn't perfect, but he is forgiven. He may not be cool (let's be honest, he probably isn't!), but he is God's gift to you to care for you. This is the call God has given him.

It will be good for you to hear him even if he isn't cool. It will be good for you to confide in him. He is given by God to you to walk with you in faith and in life until you reach your eternal good.

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank you for the pastors you have given to me. They aren't perfect, but they are from you. Help me to honor them as I honor you. Through them, help me to lean on you. Amen.

## Foundations Teen Facilitators Guide

### Year C – Proper 9

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### God's Gift to You

**Starting the Discussion:** *This first section is intended to be light and easy, to engage and get the conversation going. Have a little fun with these questions.*

Watch this video and discuss. I know that it's a Christmas video, but it will help us see things in our life differently. [https://bit.ly/Thankful\\_Little\\_Things](https://bit.ly/Thankful_Little_Things). What is the message of the video? What are some things that look differently in your life now that you've watched the video?

**Connecting:** *This section serves as a bridge between the opening conversation and the body of the study/discussion. It should get the group thinking about the topic/text even before they've looked at it.*

If the script for the video was written at your church, what things would be wrapped up? Explain.

**Digging In:** *Here we want to dig into some texts or the text for the day and see what Scripture says. The questions are meant to be open ended to give a beginning of a scriptural conversation. These are a guide for a spiritual and scriptural conversation.*

- **Read Ephesians 6:1-4.** Martin Luther taught that God takes care of us through the work of other human beings, whom Luther called "masks of God." A mask hides someone's face. For example, God could make food miraculously appear in your refrigerator. Instead, God provides you food by "hiding" in the work of farmers and grocers. Those people serve as God's masks, hiding who it is that really feeds you. So, how are your parents a mask through whom God cares for you?
- **Read 1 Peter 5:1-5.** How is your pastor and other spiritual leaders a mask through whom God cares for you?
- What responsibility has God given to your pastors and other spiritual leaders?
- **Read Luke 10:16.** When we listen to our parents and our pastors, who is speaking to us?
- Make a list of all the ways your pastor(s) can support and walk with you through life and to eternity.

**Conclusion:** *Here we want to wrap up the discussion, perhaps circling back to the "connecting question" above.*

Write a note of thanks to your pastor for one of the ways in which he has supported you in your faith and brought God's Word to you.