

Experiences

- ✚ What will a 15-year old have experienced in their life?
- ✚ Define the Kenyan experience- home, school
 - Form 2s have nothing to lose!
 - Rites of Passage
- ✚ Politics and events
 - 2007/2008
- ✚ Parents and friends
 - Peer pressure – positive, negative or neutral; need to influence the gang leader

Exposure

- ✚ What music, movies and books are the youth exposed to?
 - 'Invincibility' – Teenagers think they cannot die – boys will watch action movies, listen to violent/sexual music and join the army; girls will watch soaps, read romantic novels and have unprotected sex
- ✚ What are their weekly and holiday highlights – in school and at home?
- ✚ Who are the idols?
 - identify with winning team, movie actors, radio presenters, singers – those who are pushing the moral limits

Expectations

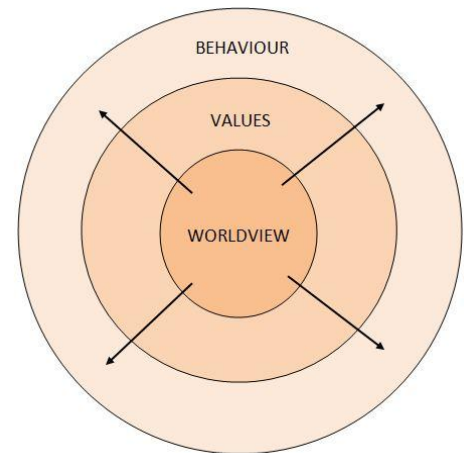
- ✚ What then do they expect of the church and the minister?
 - Coming to a youth event – fun, dancing, artists, entertainment, laughs, opportunity to showcase their skills, discussion of an exciting topic (e.g. sex), to be 'on their side', less prayer and preaching, motivational speaking, **big name, big PA system, food, pocket friendly.**
 - But the world can do that and can do it better than the church

Engagement: Being relevant and holistic

- ✚ R – Relationships are the key not programs and events - Programs are just to gather young people – these are forums to listen to them, know their names, their plans – you must relate at all costs – buying them lunch, sharing time and space, start sharing substance, sharing Jesus
- ✚ E – Expectations need to be high, don't lower the bar so it is achievable, raise the bar so it drives them to Christ; don't lower the bar in content (dumb down) but make them think
- ✚ A – Anchor - Direct them to Jesus (not to ourselves) – the storms of life will come and they need to figure their identity in Christ.
- ✚ C – Culture – Jesus comes before culture – reverence before relevance – but no excuse for not being culturally relevant – know where the generation is at – be a student of culture- what you read, what you listen to, events that you attend
- ✚ H – Heart – Passion – know what you believe and be willing to die for it – Age of recruitment for military – Passion is contagious – youth ministry must be an overflow of your passion for their passion

Expression:

- ✚ How best do we minister? Word & Prayer
- ✚ Highlight the message of Genesis 39:6b-23 – work through it
 - Observation – e.g. Genesis 39:6-23
 - A slave (Gen. 39:1), handsome (v6), successful (v8-9, 22-23), perfect integrity (v8-12)
 - Persistent advances from the tempter (v7,10,11)
 - the righteous one who is tempted in every way as we are (as Judah was –Gen. 38) yet without sin
 - the one who is treated unjustly, suffers innocently, again (cf. 39:16 and 37:32)
 - the presence of God in suffering (v21)
 - Find an example, illustration, tell me a good story that works in the culture – what are your highlights? Interest, shock, humor, lesson
 - Be real –e.g. “Imagine you are that guy Joseph with a woman offering herself!”
 - Visual Aids – PowerPoint, videos, dresscode, drama, music, take homes
- ✚ Cultural onion – comment on behavior, engage on the values, **create the worldview**
- ✚ Depth – do not steal from the kids - engage them intellectually too - teenagers can do calculus and listen to a lecture so they can do Bible study and listen to an exposition



Expansion: The necessary partnerships

- ✚ Parents – respect them - you can never substitute them or their role - the time pie-chart
- ✚ Church – These kids are supposed to grow into adults, into families and bring their families into the knowledge of the Lord and discipleship. The church is a constant institution and located permanently – it is where they must grow longterm.
- ✚ Para-church organizations – [NAYNET](#) (Nairobi Area Youth Work Network), FOCUS, KSCF – They diversify the ministry focus and opportunities
- ✚ Teachers – the best lot to mix with since they have the best access to students. Cultivate goodwill with them. Train them also on adolescent development and world. Respect them.
- ✚ Seminars and materials – NAYNET conference, [Fearless Summit](#), CPYU (Centre for Parent Youth Understanding)