



## Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - January 29, 2012

### Sermon

Responding to Today's

Issues:

*"Teenage Issues Today"*

Jeremiah 1:4-10

by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember  
about this sermon...

Monday 1/30/12

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Do you remember being a teenager? What were the important issues of your life back then? If you are a teenager today, what issues are you currently facing? What matters to you? Do you have a sense of direction in your life or are you wandering around somewhat aimlessly? Jeremiah thought he was too young to make an important difference. God did not agree and set Jeremiah up to make a huge difference even though he was young. Teenagers can and do make a difference. Have confidence and be one that does!

Tuesday 1/31/12

1 Samuel 17

David slew Goliath. Most of us know this story, but do you remember that David was almost overlooked for this because of his size and age? He was the youngest brother and no one expected he would have the courage or the strength to be able to defeat the giant Goliath. As a matter of fact, the armor was too big and heavy for him to wear, so he went into battle with his trusty slingshot and no armor! God can do mighty big things with young teenagers!

Wednesday 2/1/12

Joel 2:27-29

"Young men will see visions..." This is the prophecy of Joel. Apparently the young people of Joel's day were not only counted as important, but they received visions from God, too! Sometimes we attribute young people's dreams and visions to their naivety. I wonder how many times those of us who are more "mature" miss out on some of these dreams and visions? Today, find a way to listen to a teenager. Really listen to them. Don't judge them or dismiss them. Listen to them and their dreams!



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

*How many teenagers do you know?*

*Do you know the specific issues that teens face today?*

*How can the church support and listen to teenagers today?*

*Take the time to really listen to a teenager and the things they are concerned about.*

Thursday 2/2/12  
Job 32:6-10

Elihu was hesitant to speak his mind to Job but he had a burning within. He made the connection that not all older persons are always wise and sometimes young people have very good things to say, too. It took courage and strength for Elihu to speak. I wonder how many times young people in the church have good things to say but keep them to themselves. Does the church give them an opportunity to voice their opinions? What can we do to encourage our young people to share their thoughts with us?

Friday 2/3/12  
Psalm 148

Worship is a place that should be welcoming to people of all ages. The congregation should include all from young children to seniors. Is our worship experience attractive to the young people? What can we do to make sure that worship elements are attractive to people of all ages? What types of music should be played and sung? Are we accepting of those who are different ages with different interests? How can we be more open and include them in worship?

Saturday 2/4/12  
Mark 10:13-16

We are all children of God; are we not? And yet, like the disciples we sometimes neglect, avoid, and even complain about the younger ones around us and even in the church. Our thoughts and comments make huge impressions to these young ears. They are watching and listening to see if we will accept or reject them. Be careful what you say. Find positive ways to support the young persons around us and in the church. We might only have one chance to make a good impression. Try hard and keep trying. Find ways to interact with the young persons around you.