
January 21 - 22, 2020 | Lake Avenue Church | Pasadena, California

LIVING A BETTER STORY

SUMMIT #1



Fuller Youth Institute

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Living a Better Story (LABS) SoCal January 2020 Summit Schedule



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Contact Jane if you are lost or need help: (562) 754-6101

SUMMIT GOALS: (what we hope your team will know and feel when you leave)

1. We need to listen to young people (and the leading of the Holy Spirit)...and we are equipped to do so.
2. We trust FYI (and our coach) to guide us through this process...and we have a plan for next steps.
3. We're a bit unsettled...but hopeful. While we have room to grow in our existing youth discipleship efforts, we believe a more effective approach is possible.

SCHEDULE:

Tuesday, January 21:

- 8:45 am: Registration Opens
- 9:30 am: Welcome & Opening Session
- 11:00 am: Break
- 11:15 am: Living a Better Story
- 12:30 pm: Lunch
- 1:15 pm: Church Snapshots
- 1:30 pm: Young People's Current Narratives, Part I
- 2:35 pm: Break
- 2:50 pm: Young People's Current Narratives, Part II
- 4:00 pm: Break
- 4:15 pm: Church Snapshots
- 4:30 pm: LABS Training Cohort Content Arc
- 5:30 pm: Dinner
- 6:00 pm: Dismiss

Wednesday, January 22:

- 8:00 am: Doors open
- 8:30 am: Breakfast
- 9:00 am: Church Snapshots
- 9:15 am: Listening Plans
- 10:00 am: Break
- 10:10 am: Mixed Messages?
- 11:30 am: Group Photo
- 11:45 am: Lunch
- 12:30 pm: Church Snapshots
- 12:45 pm: Jesus-Centered Narratives
- 1:45 pm: Break
- 2:00 pm: Stories of Youth Ministry...The Current Landscape
- 3:00 pm: Break
- 3:15 pm: Next Steps
- 4:45 pm: Closing Session
- 5:00 pm: Dismiss

Welcome & Opening

Tuesday 9:30 am



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Opening session notes & ideas:

Coaching group notes & ideas:

Coaching group church introduction questions:

- Point person, please share your church name, location, and names of participants.
- What is one unique dynamic of the young people in your neighborhood/community?
- What are they (young people) struggling with?
- What are the assets that the young people and your church bring to the youth and youth ministry?

Living a Better Story

Tuesday 11:15 am



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Stories of identity, belonging, and purpose:

Mapping our search for answers

Identity

Who am I?

Belonging

Where do I fit?

Purpose

How will my life matter?

Young People's Current Narratives, Part I

Tuesday 1:30 pm



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Notes and ideas:



THE 3 BIG QUESTIONS¹

IDENTITY | BELONGING | PURPOSE

Based on the cross-section of 25 young people our research team interviewed from across the US (three 1.5-hour interviews each) and our broader literature review of today's adolescent reality, we've described a landscape of some common ways today's teenagers are answering big questions of identity, belonging, and purpose (IBP).

*Note: First responses in each list seem to be the most common; others are listed in no particular order.

IDENTITY: Who am I?

I am ...

- A. WHAT OTHERS EXPECT*
- B. NOT _____ ENOUGH
- C. MY PERSONAL BRAND
- D. MORE THAN MY LABEL
- E. STILL CHOOSING WHO I AM

BELONGING: Where do I fit?

I belong ...

- A. WHEN I FEEL SAFE TO BE ME*
- B. IF WE SHARE _____.
- C. IF I KNOW I'M NEEDED

PURPOSE: How will my life matter?

I matter ...

- A. WHEN I'M HELPING OTHERS*
- B. IF I FOLLOW THE RULES
- C. IF I MAKE REAL CHOICES
- D. WHEN I'M HEADED TOWARD A GOOD FUTURE
- E. IF I'M DOING GOD'S WILL

The teenagers in front of you might find one or more of these statements familiar, or they may not. We're sharing these to help build understanding and empathy. The next step is to listen well to a young person for the IBP narratives they're sharing, or perhaps not sharing but believing.

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Young People's Current Narratives, Part II



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Tuesday 2:50 pm

This session focuses on how we can listen well and introduces a practical guide for listening to the teenagers in your church. Please record your insights on listening below.

Insights from young people's narratives:

- What stood out to you from these stories?
- What questions would you want to ask these young people?

Insights from practice interview:

Insights from panel discussion:

How can I listen with empathy?

LABS Training Cohort Content Arc

Tuesday 4:30 pm



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Four big questions that shape this project:

- Q1: What are the _____ of identity, belonging, and purpose that define young people's lives?
- Q2: What is the content of better _____?
- Q3: What _____ might help churches and families instill these Jesus-centered narratives?
- Q4: How can _____ to begin implementing these new programs, approaches, and practices?

Two-year timeline and content overview:

LABS Training Cohort goal: To help your church develop a new (or significantly revised) approach or model to disciple high school-aged teenagers.

Following is the arc we anticipate over the next two years...which is subject to change:

- **January – March 2020:**
 - Orientation to the cohort process
 - Summit #1 (primary focus on Q1+Q2)
 - Build team
 - Listening project
- **April – September 2020:**
 - Summit #2 (primary focus on Q1+Q2...introducing Q3)
 - Process listening projects
 - Design and launch a smaller ministry experiment
- **September – December 2020:**
 - Summit #3 (primary focus on Q3...introducing Q4)
 - Reflect on smaller experiment
 - Design a larger new (or revised) approach to discipling high school-aged teenagers

- **January 2021 – June 2021:**
 - Summit #4 around March 2021 (focus is integration of Q1+Q2+Q3+Q4)
 - Launch of new/revised ministry approaches
 - We anticipate that by this point the paths of each church will diverge slightly and the focus of the training may become more flexible and personalized.

- **July – December 2021:**
 - Summit #5 anticipated in fall 2021 (focus is continued integration of Q1+Q2+Q3+Q4)
 - Continued implementation (or perhaps re-launch) of new/revised ministry approaches
 - Evaluation and assessment
 - Making necessary adjustments
 - Anchoring your new/revised ministry approach in your overall church culture

How we'll guide and support your church over the two years:

- Developing your team:
 - Point leader
 - Primary team of 4-6
 - Task force/advisory team of 8-12

- Five in-person summit gatherings

- Coaching

- Webinars

- Occasional readings, other assignments and exercises

What do I hope or dream for the teenagers in our ministry/church? What do I want them to know, to feel, or to experience as a result of our efforts?

LABS Listening Plans

Wednesday 9:15 am



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Please review the “LABS Listening Project” guidelines (separate handout) before answering the questions below and refer to the project document as needed for ideas and greater clarity.

Who will conduct interviews for our listening project? *Please provide specific names of who will be involved, and consider if it will only involve your primary team or others.*

When will we meet as a team (in February, March, and April) to keep this process moving forward? *We recommend 1-2 team meetings per month.*

Who will we listen to? *Please provide specific names of the teenagers you will listen to. Depending on the size of your church and context, decide if you will focus on one-on-one interviews or will conduct focus groups (group interviews with 4-10 people in each group). Consider if you will listen to any other demographic in your church or wider community. If possible, assign names for who from your team will conduct each interview or lead each group.*

What additional questions will we ask? *Please refer to the list of potential questions from the LABS Listening Project document to get you started. You are welcome to modify these questions or create your own questions. Specific team members may also want to ask unique questions depending on who they are talking to.*

What questions do we have about this process? Are there any other next steps we need to take or other considerations to keep in mind?

Mixed Messages? Exercise [Part 1]

Wednesday 10:10 am



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In this exercise, consider how different aspects of the church (such as sermons, communication around participation inside and outside the church, and adults' interactions with young people) shape young people's quests for identity, belonging, and purpose (IBP). In light of the various ways in which your church engages teenagers, what are the explicit and implicit IBP messages communicated by your church to young people?

Step 1: Reflect Individually

Explicit Messages: With your church's explicit messaging in mind (you may wish to refer to your church's belief statements, teachings, etc.), complete the following phrases:

Example: You belong... to the family of God and our church family

1. Identity: You are...
2. Belonging: You belong...
3. Purpose: You matter...

Implicit Messages: With your church's implicit messaging in mind (focus on ways your church's implicit messaging may contradict its explicit messaging -or- may reinforce incomplete answers to young people's quests for IBP), complete the following phrases:

Example: You belong... to our church family IF you attend midweek programming regularly.

1. Identity: You are...
2. Belonging: You belong...
3. Purpose: You matter...

Stories of Youth Ministry... The Current Landscape

Wednesday 2:00 pm



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Notes and ideas:

Trends and insights from pre-surveys:

Creative and faithful approaches:

We are looking for diverse churches or faith-based organizations, primarily in the United States, that are faithfully and creatively discipling high school-aged teenagers. These organizations go beyond popular or well-established youth ministry approaches. They are imagining new or perhaps revised ways to minister to and with teenagers that reflect their unique contexts.

Next Steps

Wednesday 3:15 pm



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February – April detailed timeline:

- February
 - Listening project
 - Build your team(s)
 - 1-2 team meetings
 - Webinar
- March
 - Listening project continues
 - 1-2 team meeting(s)
 - Coaching call
- April
 - Summarize and submit listening project work to your coach
 - Group calls (all churches together in your coaching group) with coaches
 - 1 team meeting
 - Prepare for and attend summit #2

Advice for your work between now and summit #2:

- Build your team(s)
 - Primary team (4-6 people)
 - Task force/Advisory team (8-12 people)
- Listen to young people
 - Refer to LABS Listening Project guidelines
 - Growing Young Team Assessment
- What to do at team meetings

Team discussion questions:

- Who is not currently involved in this work that we should consider involving? How might they be involved?

- Who else needs to receive an update about this work? How will we update them?

- When will our team meet over the next 3 months (1-2 meetings per month are recommended)?

- What is most likely to sideline or get in the way of our work? How will our team maintain disciplined attention?

- What are our remaining questions? What do we need to clarify or get on the same page about to move forward?

Other Notes and Ideas



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Other Notes and Ideas



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