

Youth Service - 15th November 2009

Reading:

1 Timothy 4:1-16

Hebrews 13:5b-8

Andrew Bradley

Rosie Taylor

Darren Street

Angelique Bellot

- **Being a Christian is Boring?** - Some of the images we have looked at are people describing the church as boring or Christians as boring people. So Rosie, assuming you disagree with that point of view, why would you say being a Christian isn't boring?
 - **Being a Christian can be a lot of fun, mainly because it opens doors for you. There are things you can do as a Christian, like Soul Survivor and Leading Edge that you wouldn't have if you were not a Christian / were not involved in church**
 - **Leading Edge is like a big festival similar to Glastonbury or V-festival except that it's more than just music.**
 - You get to meet new people, make new friends
 - Camping, which is always fun
 - Loads of activities such as African drumming, drama workshops,
 - there's another event like Leading Edge called soul Survivor which Angelique is going to tell us about.
 - **Soul Survivor (Angelique)**
 - **Becoming a Christian, strangely enough makes you feel happier in yourself. It feels like no-one judges you any more and you are free to be yourself.**
 - **Before I became Christian I was quite shy and when I started coming to the church I found it hard to talk to people. But when I realised that the people around me were just there to listen I felt more confident in talking about my faith, which then made my self confidence grow in everyday life.**
- **Is it just about events, you could get that at Glastonbury or Download, is there anything else that makes being a Christian so good?**
 - **Becoming a Christian, strangely enough makes you feel happier in yourself. It feels like no-one judges you any more and you are free to be yourself.**
 - **Before I became Christian I was quite shy and when I started coming to the church I found it hard to talk to people. But when I realised that the people around me were just there to listen I felt more confident in talking about my faith, which then made my self confidence grow in everyday life.**

- So what is it about being a Christian that gives you more confidence in yourself?
- Well no matter what anyone else thinks of you, you know that God will always love you. And I think that the way he can show us this through the church. I know when I come to church I won't be judged and that I will be accepted for who I am and for the faith I have. The Bible says that we won't always have an easy ride in life and in teenage years they can be particularly difficult. We might argue with friends and find yourself feeling upset and lonely. We also find that family don't always completely understand or that there are somethings that we don't feel comfortable talking about with family. However in Paul's letter to the Hebrews he says
- (Reading Hebrews 13:5b-8)
- In the first part of the reading it's saying that the Lord is stronger than anything this world can throw at us and we needn't fear anything. So we should have confidence that God will help us. Now me personally I had quite a difficult time since becoming a Christian at school but no matter how bad things got outside these doors I found that I feel at more peace and happier here through the things people have said to me. And one the best ways I think God can give us the confidence to trust him is through other people and the belief they have for you from God
- That passage tells us that Jesus doesn't change but people do so why do you think people at church accept you for who you are?
 - The Bible says that Jesus accepted people for who they were and as Christians we try to model ourselves on Jesus, which means we should accept people for who they are. This shows God's love and so as church members, we try to follow Jesus' example. There are people who are unsure if God exists, so our example as Christians (e.g. living like Jesus) should draw people to God.

- Rosie's mentioned others modelling themselves on Jesus; as a young person Andrew do you think it's possible for you to model Jesus to others?
- Yes, like the passage we looked at earlier when Paul said to Timothy that he could be an example to people even though he was a much younger pastor than Paul. Timothy had taken over the church where Paul had been pastor and some people had been criticising him for not being like Paul. Paul says not to listen to them and be an example to others and show God's love to them.
- What do you find difficult as a young person trying to be a Christian?
 - I think the hardest thing about keeping your faith strong is people trying to steer you away from church because they have an image that the church is boring or old fashioned. But people assume when they think about Christianity they have an image of Simpsons or the Vicar of Dibley and get the wrong end of the stick. They see us as part of a stuffy-old out-of-date institution, not as someone who has a living relationship with Jesus.
- But hopefully we have convinced you that being a Christian isn't boring, it's a lot of fun. And with God's help we can face any challenge no matter if we are young or old. You should come to God as yourself and not like everyone else.