



**2019 Franciscan University of Steubenville Youth Conference  
Small Group Discussion Questions**

**Small Group Tips:**

- Remember to keep your questions open ended. (Avoid yes/no questions.)
- Silence is okay in a small group. Sometimes the youth need time to process the questions before answering them.
- As the leader of the small group, avoid talking too much. This is a time for the youth to process their thoughts. If they have questions or need mentoring, give a shorter answer and let them know you can talk more together after the small group.
- The questions below are meant to be a springboard for you to ask further questions and facilitate conversation among the group. You do not need to ask every question. Choose the ones you think are best for your group. Feel free to ask follow-up questions as they process. You can ask even more specific questions from the keynote content.

**Friday Evening Small Group Discussion Questions:**

*Friday Night Keynote Scripture: Matthew 9: 9-13*

- What two words would you use to describe your relationship with God the Father right now?
- What makes it difficult to believe that God is your Father?
- What attribute of the Father's love is most difficult for you to believe or grasp? Why?
- What does it mean to you that you are loved by God and that you belong to Him?
- Can you describe a time when you felt God's love?
- Compare your journey with Matthew's journey in the Gospel story. What point in his story most closely relates to where you are now? What stuck out to you most in the Gospel?
- In what ways have you experienced belonging to God as His child?
- Who is the Holy Spirit to you? Have you every prayed to Him before?
- What was your experience of worship and prayer for the Holy Spirit?
- What is one thing you would like God to do in your life this weekend?

**Saturday Afternoon Small Group Discussion Questions:**

- From Mass this morning, what struck you about celebrating Mass with a large group of people?
  - *Follow-up this question with an encouragement on how to participate more fully in Mass at their home parish. Also, help them to see the connection between the Mass and Eucharistic Adoration.*
- Men's Session Questions (prior to the session):
  - The men's session will cover friendship, what do you think are characteristics of a good friendship?
  - *Note: You can also use some of the questions below to help them begin to consider the content that will be presented.*
- Men's Session Questions (after the session):
  - *Men's Session Scripture: Sirach 6:14-16*
  - As men, what does a good friendship look like?
  - How can we live our friendships with Jesus at the center?
  - What are some challenges you have had in friendships?

- Are there any current friendships in your life that are not good for you? If so, why?
- If you do not have a lot of good friendships in your life, how can you go about building new friendships?
- Describe a friendship in your life that helps you to be holy and the best version of yourself.
- What particular virtue/gift do you feel called to grow in? How can you grow in this virtue through the good friendships?
- Women's Session Questions:
  - *Women's Session Scripture: Luke 1:39-45 (The Visitation)*
  - How can we live our friendships with Jesus at the center?
  - What are some challenges you have had in friendships?
  - Are there any current friendships in your life that are not good for you? If so, why?
  - If you do not have a lot of good friendships in your life, how can you go about building new friendships?
  - Describe a friendship in your life that helps you to be holy and the best version of yourself.
  - What particular virtue/gift do you feel called to grow in? How can you grow in this virtue through the good friendships?

#### **Saturday Afternoon Small Group Discussion Questions:**

*Saturday Afternoon Keynote Scripture: Matthew 12: 46-50 (and specifically vs. 50)*

- *Note: It is important to remember the fact that some youth in your group may come from broken families. We need to meet the youth where they are and give them hope. Help them to see they belong to a broader family, God's family.*
- What is your relationship like with your family?
- Are there people in your life that are not biological family members, but are like family to you? If so, how are they like family to you?
- What does it mean to belong to God's family?
- How have you seen God's love revealed in your family?
- How might you be able to improve relationships with your family members?
- What are some ways you can fully participate in and love your family?

#### **Saturday Dinner Small Group Questions**

- What workshop did you attend? What stood out to you most from the presentations?
- What are some practical take-aways from the workshops?
  - *This is a good opportunity for the youth to share with one another about the content of the workshops. They can learn about the workshop they did not attend by hearing from those that did attend.*
- What is the greatest obstacle in your life to recognizing that you belong to God the Father?
- What are some ways you feel you are being called to change?
- What is one additional thing you want Jesus to do in your heart this weekend?

#### **Saturday Evening Small Group Discussion Questions:**

*Saturday Night Keynote Scripture: John 11:17-44 (The Raising of Lazarus)*

- What about the Saturday night talk most impacted you? What area of your life did the talk most make you consider?
- Has there been a time in your life that you experienced a sincere need for God, His love, mercy and help?

- What did you learn about hope? Do you have a different perspective on what it means to have hope?
- What does hope in Jesus mean to you?
- Why can we have hope in Jesus and persevere in suffering?
- How can your suffering impact and benefit you and others?
- What stood out to you in the Scripture story of raising Lazarus from the dead?
- How did God give hope in Mary and Martha's suffering?
- What "tomb" (darkness, sadness, struggle, etc.) does God want to call you out of?
- What cross have you carried that ultimately led to an experience of victory/hope by uniting yourself with Christ?
- What did God do in your heart tonight during Eucharistic Adoration? Did he speak anything specifically to you?
  - *Help the youth understand that even if they didn't feel anything, God is still working in their lives and calling them to an intimate relationship with Him.*
- Do you have any questions about what you experienced tonight?

### **Sunday Small Group Discussion (maybe for the ride home):**

*Sunday Morning Keynote Scripture: Romans 12:4-5 (Belonging to the Body of Christ)*

- What about the Sunday morning talk most impacted you? What area of your life did the talk most make you consider?
- What did you learn about the Church?
- What is one thing you can do to foster your relationship with Jesus after the conference and every day?
- Why is it important to pray every day? How will you strive to pray every day?
- What is one thing you can do to foster your relationship with the Church, the Body of Christ, after the conference?
- How will you stay connected with youth group, friends, community who are striving to live as followers of Christ?
- How can you be a witness of Jesus Christ and share your faith with others?
- How can you help others know that they too belong to the Body of Christ?
- What are some ways you can serve Jesus and the Church?
- Why is it important to have a relationship with the Holy Spirit?
- How can you pray for more of the Holy Spirit in your life?
- In what areas of your life do you most need the Holy Spirit to help you and be with you?
- If you could ask the Holy Spirit for two things to be a better disciple, what would they be?
- What did your experience at this conference show you about God's love and His plan for your life?
- What are some challenges you are going to face in going home?
- What will you do if you struggle to live your life in Christ or the circumstances at home make it challenging to live your faith?
- How can you bring this conference experience back to your parish, youth group, high school, family, etc.?
- What did you hear this weekend that gives you hope for going back home today?
- *Continue to ask questions based on what you know about each of the youth in your small group and how they experienced this weekend conference.*