

JJM BASICS INTRODUCTION

Welcome to JJM BASICS!

This curriculum was written as a direct response to Juvenile Justice Ministry leaders from all over the field expressing the need for resources that will help connect them with incarcerated young people in engaging and relational ways.

As you read through this material, we want you to be able to catch the vision so that you may use this curriculum to its fullest potential:

1. Each lesson is "Gospel-centered" and will benefit young people at all stages, short or long term.
2. We have made this curriculum "modular". Each lesson has 1.5-2 hours of programming with multiple videos, games, activities, art projects, etc. Pick and choose which activities you want to include to accommodate whatever best fits your setting and timeline.
3. These 5 lessons can be used as is or divided into 10 weeks of curriculum. Because we've included multiple videos for each lesson, you can rotate the same topics. Changing the videos helps "change up" the discussion.
4. Keep a facilitator mindset versus teacher mindset. Focus on facilitating discussion with your young people over teaching. Resist the urge to be task oriented (if you only get through half of the discussion questions but the young people are engaged in the conversation- this is what we want!)
5. Language matters. We've avoided the "church-ese" as much as possible. Be aware that your young people may not know basic biblical terms (i.e. sin, the enemy, the word, etc).
6. Authenticity breeds authenticity. We've included an opportunity for the leader to share a personal story in each lesson. We encourage you to include this in each meeting because we know our young people tend to open up when the adults open up first.
7. Divide and conquer. Consider assigning different lesson tasks or sections to different leaders.

Our hope is that this resource will be an asset to you as you share the Gospel in juvenile justice settings. We thank you for your compassion and dedication to reaching young people in tough places!

May the Lord bless you and keep you,

JJM Curriculum Team,

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