

# Interactive Ideas for You've Got the Time with Youth



By Jeremy Colliver

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

The prayer, preparation, and promotion have been done; and you've got a pile of MP3s sitting on your desk waiting to be passed out to your youth, but you wonder if they will listen once they take it home. Will the discs just sit there unheard as teenagers are bombarded from all of their other information outlets? Will they start listening consistently because of the initial push and then gradually forget to listen because of everything else they are doing? Are you racking your brain to figure out what else you can do to help your youth interact with the audio New Testament? Here is a list of ways to create interaction among the group over the next 40 days of listening to the New Testament that will help ease your questions and anxieties. By no means is this list complete; in fact, we encourage you to share your ideas with us so that we can, in turn, continue to share them with others.

1. ***Tweet it out.*** You only have 140 characters so you can't tweet out word-for-word the passage of the day, but you can tweet out a reminder of what the section of Scripture is for each day. The youth won't have to worry about keeping up with what day they are on if they can just check their Twitter account. If you don't use Twitter, you can do the same thing by using your status update on Facebook.
2. ***Stream it.*** Upload a day, week, or the entire 40 days of listening sessions to your youth group's Web page. This way they won't even have to worry about the disc because they can listen online.
3. ***Create groupies.*** Start a group page on Facebook for your listeners to join. With the group page you can send out messages reminding the youth what day and section of Scripture they should be listening to, provide more detailed information about the emphasis, moderate a discussion board for youth to ask questions or leave comments, and list some trouble-shooting ideas if they are having difficulty.
4. ***Blog it.*** Hearing Scripture provides a new perspective on familiar passages and shines light on passages of Scripture that are sometimes skipped over. As you listen, note your aha moments, write down some questions you have from hearing Scripture, or maybe just reflect on what you have heard. Whether you put these thoughts in a journal or blog about them online for others to read, record your thoughts. They can help you talk with teenagers, provide devotional times together, and spark ideas for Bible studies.
5. ***Perform spontaneous drama.*** Acting out Scripture is a great way for youth to internalize and interpret Scripture. The acting does not have to be formal and is easily done through spontaneous dramas. As they listen to the Scripture, they can simply act out what they hear. The New Testament MP3 provides the sounds of the setting of Scripture to make the acting scene complete.
6. ***Win a Bible Stick.*** The chance to win anything gets people excited. Hold a New Testament scavenger hunt or contest where the winner receives a Bible Stick (a dedicated MP3 player available from Faith Comes By Hearing). Some of the events of the scavenger hunt might be: listening to the New Testament in the most obscure place, getting the most people to listen to at least one section with you, acting out one passage of Scripture for each day, or reciting the books of the Bible in order and reverse order as fast as possible. Videotape these experiences and share them with the group.
7. ***Listen together.*** Having an accountability partner while listening to the New Testament is a

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- good idea, but why not get a group of people to listen together as a group. After they have listened to the Scripture for the day, have participants reflect on what they have heard and share their thoughts with the group. Another way to listen as a group is to have each member follow along with a different version of Scripture as they listen.
8. **Provide quizzes.** Whether you offer a quiz daily, weekly, or for the entire New Testament, this is a great way to interact with your group online. You can post quizzes on your home page, your Facebook groups, or create a separate Facebook quiz that can be shared with people outside your group. Add some competition to the quizzes by tweeting or posting a question on Facebook and see who can correctly answer your question the quickest. Here are some possible questions for the quizzes you create: Which character was not in today's Scripture (list several characters)? Which book of the Bible comes before and after the Scripture for today? How many times was the word *Jesus* spoken in today's Scripture?
  9. **Create a time line.** We know the stories of Scripture, but how well do we know how these stories chronologically fit together? When listening to chunks of Scripture, you start to hear how stories fit and flow together and how the disciples grow from being chosen to forming the early church. Follow the Scripture as a group by plotting a time line of events around your group's room that they can refer to when hearing these Scriptures at a later time. Encourage each group member to keep a time line of events so all can come in and share with the group each meeting time. You can even create a virtual time line on your group's Web site so it will be available to them at any time.
  10. **Mix and match.** Each of these ideas can stand alone, but they can also be used together. Why not have a Hear-a-thon where the Scripture is acted out using spontaneous melodrama or a time line is created. Develop a month of curriculum from the questions that come from the quizzes you created and from the questions that came from the small-group listening sessions. Be creative, and let your imagination go!

We hope these ideas promote a deeper interaction with Scripture and among your group, but whether you use any of these ideas, we know the 40 days of listening will be a transformative time for your group as they listen to the entire New Testament.