

40 Days of Listening to God's Word

YOU'VE GOT THE TIME

A Journey of Biblical Faithfulness

By David Woody

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

God's Word in an audio format is ideal for teenagers. Most teenagers have an iPod or MP3 player, listen to CDs in the car, and surround themselves with sound in their rooms. The You've Got the Time: A Journey in Biblical Faithfulness is an exciting opportunity for our teenagers to spend intentional time immersed in Scripture.

Sometimes, though, the initial excitement of a new venture wears off quickly. Here are 15 suggestions for teenagers to participate and respond to You've Got the Time.

1. Covenant with yourself to listen every day for 40 days. If you need the extra incentive, promise to treat yourself to something special if you meet your goal. Take the necessary steps to approach seriously this life-changing opportunity.
2. Listen to the day's reading and update your Facebook status with a sentence about what you heard.
3. Keep a written journal, reflecting on each day's reading. Fill your journal with affirmations you heard, questions you have, words that stick out, and anything else that is significant to you.
4. Find an accountability partner in your church youth group. Covenant together to listen daily and then discuss the readings with each other at least once a week.
5. Find an out-of-town accountability partner. From your social connections through youth camps, mission trips, or other social networks, covenant with someone to listen daily and then e-mail your thoughts or ideas to each other. Do this daily or weekly.
6. Find an older accountability partner. Work with your youth minister or pastor to find an adult in your church who is willing to spend time each week reflecting on the spoken Word. You gain the insight of an older generation; they gain the insight of the younger generation.
7. Blog your reflections. Incorporate your reflections in your blog, or start a blog using your reflections on the spoken Word as the first 40 entries. Tell your family and friends about your blog site.
8. Form a coffee-chat group. (Coke works too!) Gather five or six friends who will commit to meet on a weekly basis at a regular place and time. Listen daily to the spoken Word and then discuss what you've heard when you gather together.
9. Start a Facebook group. Invite some of your Facebook friends to join your 40 Days group. Each day you can write your reflections on the wall and respond to others' reflections.
10. Have creative responses. Listen each day and then let your creativity flow! Draw, paint, play with clay or play clay, make, build, take photographs, etc. Do something in response to what you have heard. Share your creations with others.
11. Give a testimony about your experience in youth group or in worship. Ask your minister to help you make it happen.
12. Share your MP3 disc with a friend who is not in your church, and especially with someone who is not involved in any church. Listen separately, then get together to talk about what you heard and what it means to both of you.
13. Commit as a family to listen each day. During the 40 days, set up a regular time where you gather together and talk about what you are hearing and what the words mean to you.

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14. Connect Scripture to pop culture. After listening each day, make a list of contemporary movies, songs, TV shows, etc. that speak to the Scripture. You will be amazed at how many biblical themes are in front of us, even when they aren't specifically from the Bible.
15. Multitask! Carve out time each day to listen to the spoken Word and read along at the same time. You won't be able to do this while driving or operation heavy machinery, but hearing and seeing the Word will help make Scripture come alive.