



Road Trip: Interns | July 25, 2018

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

School's out for summer is the angsty anthem of teens everywhere. No more grades, no more homework... But when it comes to our faith, we should never stop learning.

Key Verses

Proverbs 27:17 (NIV)

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

Discussion

One of the best parts about summer for young kids is that it marks the "end." No more homework, no more getting up early, no more tests for a few whole months. But summer also brings excitement about new beginnings as well... graduations, open houses and weddings. There is a reason to celebrate making it to the "end" of a season like graduating from high school. And there is great excitement and possibility in new beginnings like when a couple says I do. Whether it's an ending or beginning (or both at once!), however, each brings incredible opportunity to learn.

1. What do you think of when you reflect on summer vacation as a child? Did you do anything special to commemorate the beginning of summer vacation?
2. What is the most recent "new beginning" you have celebrated, either for yourself or for someone else? Did you sense excitement and possibility?

The "school's out" mentality kind of lends itself to believing that at some point, we can afford to stop learning. It's like we've paid our dues and that season is over. Contrary to this mentality, however, we should actually treat life and our faith more like an internship. An internship is a really cool opportunity to learn something that we actually want to learn, from people who have gone before us. When it comes to our faith, many of us live like we've already got the learning box checked. But our faith journey is much more intended to be like an internship, where we are excited to keep learning and growing alongside people who have more experience than we do.

3. What is wrong about having a "school's out" mentality with our faith? Is this your current mindset?
4. What does it look like to live out your faith like an internship? How would it change the way you are living it out now?

In Proverbs 27:17, the Bible says that just as iron sharpens iron, friends sharpen friends. Our faith is meant to be a give and take journey. We learn from others who have more knowledge and experience than we do, and then we flip the script and teach those who are younger or less mature than we are. Internships are not always easy, but we stick it out because we are passionate about what we are learning or being challenged to do. The same should be true of our faith.

5. Who is someone more mature in the faith that you have learned from? What did they/do they continue to teach you?
6. Have you ever flipped the script and taken someone less mature than you under your wing? Describe your experience.

What's Next?

God designed us to be in relationship with others. To learn from one another and to grow, and to in turn make the world a better place.

This week, as you live out your faith, think through what you could continue to learn in your faith journey. How could you continue to have the perspective of an intern, eager to grow and learn? Who can you follow and who follows you? Who can you invest in and what can you offer them? Reflect on these questions and pick one or two thoughts to take action on.