

STAND UP

PART
TWO

STAND UP FOR YOUR FAITH AND THEIRS

ONE LIFE

Get hold of a film clip your group really like. As the group are watching press pause, then fast forward, and then rewind. Finally stop the clip.

One life. We get one crack at it. There's no remote to rewind. No replay. Let's not waste it. You have a choice - to live for yourself and your culture or to live for something bigger - to live for Christ as your passion.

Show a picture or a Youtube clip of someone famous, like Michael Jackson, one of the most famous people on the planet; he was amazingly talented, had masses of devoted fans and yet he died with millions of debt. What a waste.

GROUP ACTIVITY

Bring along a selection of magazines like Heat, Sugar, Stuff, and newspapers. Split the young people into small groups and give them each a few magazines and ask them to rip out pictures or headlines that sum up our culture's values, and the choices they as young people have to face. The groups could make them into a large collage so get hold of A3 paper, glue and scissors for this activity.

Ask the group: What are the biggest choices and challenges you face in your faith?

Write the responses on a flip chart of a large sheet of paper.

TALK

Around you are people filling their lives with short term fixes - chasing after the latest relationship, the latest gadget, pursuing popularity and money. The danger is you can easily be sucked into this lifestyle; where living for Jesus soon comes somewhere near the bottom of your priorities.

God's passion is to see you live a life that counts: "I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." (Philippians 3:8)

Share a couple of stories of young people from the persecuted church who despite risking so much want to keep living for Jesus, email youth@opendoorsuk.org for up to date stories.

Persecuted Christians remind you it is possible to swim against the tide of our culture, to be someone who stands up and makes their life count no matter how hard it gets. They say with their lives "for me to live is Christ, to die is gain." (Philippians 1:21).

They have their hope in a person and a place; the person is Jesus the place is Heaven. Their hope isn't something fuzzy and improbable, like 'I hope I might win the lottery this week'. It's a hope that is unshakeable that is reality

REFLECT:

Hand each person a 'Challenge card' and the questions below (you can download up to date Challenge cards from www.youth.opendoorsuk.org). Have some quiet music playing in the background and have the room dimly lit with candles/fairy lights.

- Write out some words to God saying how you feel right now.

- Does the story you read move you, inspire you to take Jesus more seriously?

A disciple is someone who's passionate, devoted and loving Jesus with everything they have. We become Christians but Jesus calls us to become disciples...Jesus calls us to journey with him, and not to turn back when life gets tough, and other things crowd him out.

What things do you love more or give more priority to than Jesus?

STAND UP TOGETHER:

After a few minutes bring the group back together, maybe stand in a circle. Explain that you're going to pray for each person in the group to stand up for their faith, and then ask if people are up for it to pray out loud for the person on the Challenge Cards.

Show the **Stand up video** and hand out the **Stand up pledge cards**. Email youth@opendoorsuk.org for these resources.