



Study 2



These bible studies are designed to be used as simple ways of helping connect God's story with the world, experiences and stories of young people.

They comprise some simple reflective questions and exercises focused around a biblical passage.

They are designed to be used in small group settings, but could be adapted for use in other environments.

Feel free to use all or elements of them as appropriate for your setting.

The heart of the matter

"People look at the outside appearance, but God looks at the heart." 1 Sam 16:7

So often people form an opinion about us because of how we look.

Some adults will jump to conclusions about young people because of what they wear. Equally, some young people will jump to conclusions about adults because of what they wear!

Can you think of a time when you jumped to a wrong conclusion because of what someone was wearing? What happened?

The good news is that God doesn't jump to conclusions!

Whilst He might be interested in what we wear, He is more interested in the heart and our motivations - that bit inside of us which only we and God know about. This is how God goes about His business.

He isn't put off by colour, labels, language, which team we support or which music we like. Perhaps it would be a good idea if we adopted the same attitudes and began to see others as God sees them.

Has anyone ever judged you by the way you look? If so, how did you feel when this happened? Why do you think we tend to make these judgments and choices about how people look?

In many churches, the young people don't talk to the older people and vice versa. Maybe this is because we don't look at each other's hearts. Perhaps if we did, we would be able to better understand each other and the idea of a generation gap would be a thing of the past.

What could you do in your community to encourage the type of intergenerational dialogue that is genuinely heart to heart? Why not turn this into positive action and do some of things you have thought about?

If you have the resources buy some chocolate hearts or 'love hearts' and close the study by inviting the members of your group to share them with each other, praying for each other as they do.

Adapted from *Inspire Too!*, Pimlott, Pimlott and Wiles. Frontier Youth Trust 2005.