



[Author Note: This message was written with the intention of being given during a live-stream meeting. There are questions throughout that were intended to be answered. We used two people for hosting, so one could monitor and interact with the students and leaders while the other spoke.]

Welcome to youth group live! We're sorry that we can't be together in person, but we're glad we can at least hang out with each other online. We will play a game together tonight, and I will send out prizes to the winners. But we will also be posting stuff for you in our Instagram and Facebook stories all week. We'll play "How Long Did it Stick?" every day. Respond to the story post with a DM. We'll draw a name from those that got the correct answer and send out prizes every day. We'll be posting some devotional stuff for you to read and interact with, as well.

[Author Note: We played a game here. It was just a trivia game, but we incentivized it and made it fun. Any game from the DYM store will do if you make it fun.]

Tonight, we're talking about being stuck which seems like a good topic, since you're stuck at home right now. You won't be going to school, some of you have jobs but you won't be going in to work, either. It seems like a dream come true for now, but it may begin to wear on you.

**Question: Share a story about a time when you were or felt stuck in the comments. While you type yours, I'm going to share a story from my life.**

[Teacher Note: share a story of a time when you were literally stuck, or at the very least, were in a circumstance that made you feel stuck.]

I never felt more stuck than when I was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. I got back-to-back-to-back ailments that kept me out of school for nearly three weeks straight. It started with bronchitis. I missed an entire week, Monday through Friday, with that. I tried to go back to school Monday, but it hurt too much to walk. I came home midway through the day, and my mom took me to the doctor. It turned out that I had pulled muscles in my stomach and back from coughing so hard and so much. The doctor said I needed to just lay down

and rest for a few days, so I did, costing me a second straight week of school. Another Monday rolled around, and I went back to school. I was fine all day! Tuesday morning, I woke up and threw up. I was out again. I ended up missing all but two days in a 3-week span!

Three weeks off of school may sound good to you now, and if given the choice, I would have signed up for it, but it wasn't great. I was stuck at home! My parents were strict: if you didn't go to school, you didn't leave the house to go anywhere else, unless it was to the doctor. I went to the doctor three times, but I was otherwise stuck at home. We didn't have a computer at home yet, if you can believe that, so I didn't talk to anyone but my mom during the day and my siblings when they got home. I wasn't texting anyone, because phones didn't do that back then, and since I was sick, I didn't feel like sitting up in the kitchen, the only room the phone was located. It was ancient times, and it wasn't any fun being stuck during them.

What about you? Let's read some of what you posted.

[Author Note: Take time to interact with the comments that were posted while you shared your story. Don't feel the need to read everything out loud, as they can already see the comments. Just pick a few to highlight and respond to them.]

The Bible talks about people's getting stuck plenty of times. Paul spent a lot of time stuck in prison. The people of Israel were stuck in the wilderness. If you ask me, the worst case of being stuck had to have been Jonah. I do not like the smell of fish. I can't imagine living inside of one for any period of time. We do see that often, when someone in the Bible was stuck, they turned toward God. In Jonah's case, he prayed and repented, as he was only in that fish because he had run from God. In the case of Paul, we see that he continued to praise God even though he didn't do anything wrong to justify his being stuck. Good or bad, we can turn to God when we are stuck.

**Question: How do you think turning towards God when you're stuck can change things for you?**

[Author Note: share a story about a time when your attitude didn't change your circumstances, but it helped shape how you experienced those circumstances. We switched and had the second teacher lead through this part.]

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