



youthmissionco.org

"163" Study Guide

5/13/16

1. Among Stefanie's challenges for teens, she also provided several challenges for those of us who work with teens. Some of the things she said we must do in order to help teens prevent sexual assault are:
 - Teaching them what consent means and how to ask for it. She said Our VOICE's motto is, "Only 'yes' means 'yes.'"
 - Making sure they understand how prevalent sexual assault is.
 - Teaching them about healthy relationships and healthy boundaries, and that it is okay to set personal boundaries.

Talk with other adults and youth advisors in your congregation about what these efforts might look like in your context. Our VOICE has a list of resources, curricula, and educational opportunities on their website:

(<http://www.ourvoicenc.org/programs/prevention-education-outreach/>). Find out what organizations in your community might offer similar resources.

2. Do you know the statistics on the backlog and sexual assault in your community? Endthebacklog.org has an excellent US map with info on the backlog in every state.
3. Once your youth are aware of the backlog in their own communities, have them brainstorm ways that they can speak out against it. For Nora, spoken word poetry was an outlet to shed like on it. What are some ways they can use their gifts and talents to creatively draw attention to the fact that there is a backlog?
4. Nora tells us in her interview that "many teenagers don't want to hear about this sort of thing either because it makes them uncomfortable because it's about sex, or because it's a thing that they're afraid of, or don't think happens very often." Our YMCo theme for this year is Fear Not Love All. We know from 1 John 4:18 that when we love one another we are free from fear. What are some reasons we might be more afraid to talk about this issue than others? How can our love for God, for one another, and for the survivors of sexual assault, drive out that fear?