

## Just Kids

By

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### Theme:

This play encourages discouraged youth workers. It can also be used to inform the audience of the emotions and concerns that run through most youth worker's heads when they are concerned over the youth that they work with. It is also a call to true devotion for all youth workers.

### Biblical Reference:

Galatians 6:9

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

### Approximate Running Time:

10 minutes

### Cast of Characters:

**Peter:** A Christian youth worker who has lost his first love when it comes to working with his youth.

**Steve:** A Christian youth worker who is struggling over the lives of the youth that he is working with. As the play progresses he becomes less concerned with his youth and more concerned over the ideas of his fellow worker.

### Notes:

The names of this play can be changed to those of the performers. The characters do not have to be male.

### Scene:

Steve is sitting down thinking. It is obvious that he is distressed - even angry. Peter walks in and senses Steve's distress.

Peter: Hey Steve, are you all right?

Steve: Yeah, I guess so.

Peter: What do you mean by 'I guess so?'

Steve: [*Irritated*]. I guess so.

Peter: Sorry. It's just that you look like you're really struggling over something.

Steve: Well, actually, I am.

Peter: [*Tentatively*]. Would you like to tell me about it?

Steve: You see, we took the kids in our youth group to the amusement park last weekend and I'm still not over it yet.

Peter: Oh, I get it. You mean the roller coasters. Yeah, it usually takes me a couple of days to be able to walk straight after riding them too. Don't worry about it. You'll get over it soon enough.

Steve: Actually, that's not it. I love the roller coasters, it's those spinning rides that I hate. Around and around and around and around and around, it seems as if they never stop.

Peter: Well, don't worry you'll be over it in a couple of days. I don't know how some of those kids can go on ride after ride, eat a big lunch and go right back on. It makes me wish that I was young again.

Steve: Well, actually, it isn't the rides that are bothering me, it's the kids.

Peter: Did they do something to embarrass your church?

Steve: No. It's just that there were a couple of kids there that weren't Christians. I spent some time talking with them and I couldn't help but see that their lives were in such a mess.

Peter: Were they into smoking and drinking and drugs and sex?

Steve: [*Turning to Peter*]. Yes, they were.

Peter: I see. I know how you feel. We've had some kids like that come to some of our youth group events too.

Steve: Well, I'm glad to see that I'm not alone. What do you think that I should do?

Peter: Well, whenever we run across those types of kids, we just ignore them. I have learned that there is little that we can do for them. Actually, I don't even think that anyone can do much for them. They're beyond help. They're hopeless.

Steve: Are you serious? I can't believe what you just said to me. Is that how you really treat those kids?

Peter: Yeah. What do you expect me to do? Any time that I spend on them is just a waste of my time.

Steve: I thought that you knew how I felt. I thought that you had been feeling this same way with the kids that came to your youth group. You should be ashamed of yourself. That is no way for a church to treat kids who need the church. Even if there wasn't a church involved, that's no way for a Christian to treat those kids.

Peter: But don't you think that all the time and effort that you put into them is just a waste of time? No matter how much I preach about a changed lifestyle they just don't seem to get it. I try and I try, but I'm just not getting the results that I'm expecting.

Steve: It doesn't matter if we think that it is a waste of time. God doesn't ask us to create the results. He just looks for our effort. He rewards our efforts with results, sometimes. Besides, for the most part, all that those kids lack is love. By ignoring them you are just adding to the problem. Think about it. All they need is your time. I mean, how can you go wrong? You give a little of your time, take a chance or two, and you never know. It may turn out that you wind up giving exactly what that kid needs, attention. And that little bit of attention on your part may turn their life around forever.

Peter: Well, your intentions sound good, but do you really think that you can actually change the life of even one of those kids?

Steve: Okay, here's proof. Last weekend I took some of my spare time and spent it with a kid who I felt was in need of it. Even though this kid had been coming to our youth group for a few years I was finally able to find out what his problem was. I could spend all the time in the world with this kid while he was with a group of the other kids and I wouldn't learn a darn thing about him. He wouldn't open up in a group setting. He was afraid to tell all of his friends that he was hurting. I spent a couple of hours with him one on one and now his world is opened up to me in a way that I could have only dreamed of. I found out that this kid had no one in his life that loved him. No one. I spent some time listening, asking, caring, crying. My heart was breaking for this kid and he could tell that it was real.

Peter: Yeah, my heart used to hurt too, but you get over that. Steve, I don't care how much time you put into his life, you cannot provide what that kid needs.

Steve: No, but I may be able to lead him to it. I took some of my time to tell this kid that I care and that I'm not the only one who cares, I told him that God cares too.

Peter: Yeah yeah, I've done that too. But did it do any good?

Steve: I asked myself that question too and I found out that I had reached through to let this one kid know that there is hope. I told him that I was there for him whenever he needed someone to talk to. He understood that. I didn't say, "Well, that's too bad. You'll get over it." I said, "I'm sorry that this has happened to you. It's not all your fault. This isn't the end of your life. You can get past this problem." I looked him right in the eyes and told him "Look, if you need someone to talk to that will really listen, you call me. Anytime."

Peter: And did he buy it?

Steve: What's to buy? That was an honest, real promise. He was able to see that I meant it. It really touched him. I could see that it did. My heart still cries out for that kid. I want to help him. When we were just about finished talking together I asked him if he thought that I had done anything worthwhile that day.

Peter: And what did he say?

Steve: He said that I did. He told me that he appreciated the fact that I did something outside of the church to show him that I meant what I said all those times that he listened to me preach inside the church.

Peter: Well, I don't know if I believe you or not.

Steve: Why wouldn't you believe me?

Peter: I never had that happen to me.

Steve: Do you have any idea why it wouldn't have happened to you?

Peter: When my ministry first started I wanted to change the life of each of the kids that I came into contact with. I guess that through the years I have had enough bad experiences to change my attitude for the worse.

Steve: Do you feel that the time has come for you to change your attitude back to how it was when you started out?

Peter: Truthfully, I don't know.

Steve: You might not be able to, but I know that there is someone who can help you do it.

Peter: It's a good thing that all things are possible through Christ.

Steve: I don't want to even think where I would be if it wasn't for Christ.

[Pause.]

Peter: Sometimes it's scary to think of all that they have been through. I don't always know what to say.

Steve: I know how you feel. I try to think like they do. Think back to how you felt when you were their age. After all, they're just kids. You can't expect them to react as you would now. They won't react as if they were adults.

Peter: You're right. They are just kids.

Peter: Come on, let's go and love these kids all that we can. You never know, it may be the only love that they see this week.

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