



# **Week One:** ***Discussion Guide***




#YQ21

# Main Session One: UNDER PRESSURE

With AJ Crocker



## Discussion Questions:

-  What has been the hardest part of the last year for you?
-  Where have you seen God show up and take care of you in the past year?
-  What time of the day will I read scripture?  
What's my plan?

## Main Points:

1. This year has been so hard.
2. God shows up for His people in the hard times.
3. Relieving the pressure we are under looks like walking in-step with Jesus every day.
4. Letting Him help carry our burdens, and guide our lives.

## Key Passage:

**Matthew 11:28-30**

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

## Supporting Passage:

**Exodus 13-14**

## Concluding Song:

**Egypt**



# Youth Seminar One: FOCAL PRACTICE

With Joel Houston

## Discussion Questions:

- ❓ Where do you see “focal things” in your lives?
- ❓ Where do you see “devices”?
- ❓ How is life improved when we willingly take on the “burden” of focal things?
- ❓ Devices have given us much convenience, and have save us much time—but are our lives \*better\* as a result?
- ❓ Name one “device” in your life that you might be able to replace with a “focal thing” how might that change your life?
- ❓ How might centering our lives on “focal things” draw us closer to God?

## Main Points:

Our lives are run by technology, and we’re well aware of the benefits and drawbacks of this reality. Instead of just bemoaning our state, how do we think fruitful about how to move forward?

Albert Borgmann is an American Philosopher who has proposed the idea of a difference between “Devices” and “Focal Things” “Focal Things” are practices and instruments in life that require our engagement and attention in a sustained and meaningful way. They are things that draw us beyond a “commodity” and into the world in a deeper way.

Focal things place “burdens” upon us, but when we accept this, they give us manifold gifts as well. This can be contrasted with “Devices”. “Devices” are hidden, place no burdens on us, and do not intrude on our lives.

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# Youth Seminar Two: PRESSURE TO CONFORM



With Kevin Thiessen

## Discussion Questions:

- ❓ **Where have you felt the pressure to conform?**
- ❓ **In the past how have you responded to this pressure?**
- ❓ **Can you give an example of how you've seen or experienced either of the impulses (indigenous / pilgrim) in your life?**
- ❓ **Do you believe that being engaged with a local church is important? Why or why not?**
- ❓ **Have you ever looked into other belief systems and compared them to the Christian faith?**
- ❓ **How do you find answers to difficult or confusing questions when someone is challenging what you believe?**

## Proposed Outline:

- Scripture Reading (New Testament Passages)
- Pressure to Conform Part 1 (video)
- Discussion Time (first 3 Questions)
- Pressure to Conform Part 2 (video)
- Scripture Reading (Daniel 1)
- Pressure to Conform Part 3 and Part 4 (video)
- Discussion Time (last 3 Questions)
- Pressure to Conform Final Thoughts (video)
- Final Discussion & Close in Prayer

Approximately a 50 minute –1 hour session

## New Testament Scripture

Romans 12:2  
1 Corinthians 9:22-23  
1 Corinthians 10:32-33  
1 Thessalonians 4:11-12  
1 Timothy 2:2b  
Ephesians 5:6-11  
2 Timothy 3:12  
Matthew 6:5-6

## Old Testament Scripture

Daniel 1  
Daniel 2: 19-23; 26-30

# Youth Worker Seminar One: MATTHEW 11:28-30



With Wes Olmstead

## Discussion Questions:

- ? How does the immediate context, both what precedes and what follows Matthew 11:28-30, help us to understand Jesus' teachings here?
- ? How do followers of Jesus take 'his yoke' upon themselves? What kind of rest does Jesus promise?
- ? Jesus both calls his followers to a life of costly discipleship and says that 'his yoke is easy and his burden is light'. How would you resolve this apparent tension?

## Main Passage:

Matthew 11:28-30

**“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”**