

# LIFE Meeting

## Messages in the Media

### September 18, 2013

Emcee: Hannah

1. Opening Prayer  
Hannah
2. Icebreakers: People Bingo
3. LG: Music Lyrics  
Hannah
4. Small Group
5. LG: Social Media/Rebecca Black  
John/Hannah/Joe
6. Small Group
7. Closing Prayer  
Victoria

Next Meeting: October 9<sup>th</sup>

Vala's: October 19<sup>th</sup>

- Bring \$4 and sign up with Mike, Maggie, or Myself
- You still need to buy a ticket to get in
- We can carpool, but need to get picked up at Vala's

## Meeting Intro

- Welcome to Our September LIFE meeting!
- Our lives are busy and we get caught up in what's going on in the media.
- The media can be good
  - School, friends, music, movies, magazines
- But it can also be bad.
- Tonight we are going to take a look at that media and see what it is actually saying and what kind of messages it is giving to us teens.
- It can affect us in many ways.
  - 66% of teenagers in America say that they have thought about having sex after watching someone have sex before marriage on tv.
  - Teens are twice as likely to have sex or engage in sexual acts if they see similar sexual behavior in the media.
  - ABC's *Desperate Housewives* is the most popular broadcast-network television show with kids aged 9-12
  - Facebook and twitter
    - 55% of teens have given out personal info to someone they don't know, including photos and physical descriptions
    - 39% of teens have posted mean info, embarrassing photos or spread rumors about someone
    - 39% have been stalked or contacted by a stranger or someone they don't know
    - 34% have had private or embarrassing info made public without their permission
  - 65.3% of teens say that the news stresses them out or makes them worry about not being cool enough or good enough.
- So let's get started.

## Opening Prayer

The World I know  
Collective Soul

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sI0J0K-Tjlc>

Has our conscience shown?  
Has the sweet breeze blown?  
Has all kindness gone?  
Hope still lingers on.  
I drink myself of newfound pity  
Sitting alone in New York City  
And I don't know why.

Are we listening?  
Hymns of offering.  
Have we eyes to see?  
Love is gathering.  
All the words that I've been reading  
Have now started the act of bleeding  
Into one.

So I walk up on high  
And I step to the edge  
To see my world below.  
And I laugh at myself  
While the tears roll down.  
'Cause it's the world I know.  
It's the world I know.

Lets face it, everyone here has at least a somewhat busy life. Between practices, homework and meetings, us high-schoolers still manage to find time check out the latest things within the media. These days, whether it is twitter, facebook, instagram, or even the latest magazine, people check the media daily. What we do not always realize though is that within all of this modern media, there is so much immorality mixed in with it. Sometimes, if we just step back and examine all of it, we can realize how it is affecting us. So this evening we ask God to help us do just that!

## Icebreaker: Human Bingo

Make up different Bingo cards with different attributes about people (someone that has been to Disneyworld, someone that has a pet...etc.) and hand one out to each person. Each person's task is to get a blackout on their card by having people sign their name in a box that relates to them. No one person can sign more than two boxes on a BINGO card. First person to get done wins!

### Large Group

Read each segment of lyrics and ask if anyone can guess the song. Then play the segment of the song.

#### **1. Candy Shop - 50 Cent**

"Soon as I come through the door she get to  
pullin on my zipper  
It's like it's a race who can get undressed  
quicker  
Isn't it ironic how erotic it is to watch em in  
thongs  
Had me thinking 'bout that ass after I'm gone

#### **2. Party Rock Anthem-LMFAO**

In the club party rock, lookin' for your girl,  
She on my jock (huh) non-stop when we're in  
the spot  
Booty move the weight like she owns the  
block  
Where I drank I gots to know  
Tight jeans, tattoos cause I'm rock and roll  
Half black half white, domino  
Gain the money Oprah Doe!

#### **3. S&M-Rihanna**

'Cause I may be bad, but I'm perfectly good  
at it  
Sex in the air, I don't care, I love the smell of it  
Sticks and stones may break my bones  
But chains and whips excite me

#### **4. Addicted- Saving Abel**

I'm so addicted to  
All the things you do  
When you're going down on me  
In between the sheets  
Or the sound you make  
With every breath you take  
It's unlike anything  
When you're loving me

#### **5. Gas Pedal- Sage the Gemini**

Lead her to the bathroom, she askin' where  
you takin' me  
Uh, tell her slow down baby  
I'm too turned up it's finna go down baby  
When you hit the stage the people do a 180  
When I hit the stage man the club wanna  
pay me  
Uh, you niggaz so fugazzi got a white bitch  
with me call that hoe slim shady uh  
Nigga 'su so crazy  
Got two hoes with me make my old bitch  
hate me, uh  
All about my payment, you say we gettin'  
money that's an understatement uh

#### **6. Touchin on My- 3 oh 3**

Cause some like fast and some like slow  
Ladies come and ladies go  
Skip the tell and let's just show  
Cause I wan't you to know...

Girl I gotta go, I'm finished with the show  
If you wanna \*\*\* me, I won't say no  
T-t-t-touchin on my \*\*\*  
While I'm touchin on your \*\*\*  
You know that we are gonna \*\*\*  
Cause I don't give a \*\*\*

### **7. Kisses Down Low- Kelly Rowland**

You put in over time, over night, doing  
everything I like, go so right yeah  
You hold me close, squeeze me tight, look  
me deep inside my eyes, baby you know I  
love it  
But nothing can compare to when you kiss  
me there  
And I can't lie when I lie in your arms baby I  
feel so sexy

So boy just take your time, send chills down  
my spine  
You're one of a kind, I swear I gotta make  
you mine

Boy you turn me on, got me feeling hot  
Now I'm really going

### **8. Body Part- Ciara**

You can't keep your hands off me, touch me  
right there, rock my body  
I can't keep my hands off you, your body is  
my party  
I'm doing this little dance for you  
You got me so excited  
Now it's just me and you  
Your body's my party, let's get it started

### **9. Take you Down- Chris Brown.**

Pretty girl let's take it off in this room,  
No time to waste girl you know what we  
came to do,  
We got all night to try to get it right girl,  
(hope you ready, hope you ready, hope you  
ready)  
I hope you're ready, babe,  
'cause here we go, we know how we do

It ain't my first time but babygirl we can  
pretend,  
Hey let's bump and grind girl tonight we'll  
never end

### **10. Last Name- Carrie Underwood**

Today, I woke up, thinking about Elvis  
somewhere in Vegas  
I'm not sure how I got here  
Or how this ring on my left hand just  
appeared outta nowhere  
I gotta go take the chips and the Pinto and  
hit the road  
They say what happens here, stays here, all  
of this will disappear

There's just one little problem  
I don't even know my last name  
Oh My momma would be so ashamed  
It started off, "hey cutie where you from"  
And then it turned into "oh no, what have I  
done"  
And I don't even know my last name

When I hit 'em I make 'em say (ohh)  
Sex be my day (job)  
I hit 'em in the back of my (car)  
Make 'em ride like a see (saw)  
I make 'em laugh and giggle  
Cuddle a little  
Suckin' on the nipple  
Lick the whip cream from the middle  
Girlfriend I'll never go (raw)  
I rip off panties and I pop off (bras)

**Questions:**

1. Did any song surprise you with the actual lyrics? Which one?
2. When listening to songs do you actually listen to the lyrics or just listen to the music behind the words?
3. Did you learn anything new from actually hearing the lyrics?
4. What was one song that really stood out to you?

**Bad Music Summary:**

- Teenagers listen to an average of nearly 2.5 hours of music per day.
- One in three popular songs contains explicit references to drug or alcohol use, or sexual images.
- That means kids are receiving about 35 references to substance abuse for every hour of music they listen to

**Conclusion:**

Pushing the boundaries for artistic expression has always been a part of popular music. It has been since the 60s. Nowadays however, some artists have taken it too far. As you guys have just seen, the popular music today is mostly about sex, drugs, and other immoral acts. The sad thing is that no one realizes how it affects us. For example, most people don't even realize what the words they are singing mean. So when children hear songs like this on the radio and sing along, that is teaching them words and phrases that they do not need to know. So next time you sit down to listen to your favorite Pandora station or even just to turn on the radio, think about this activity and what you are listening to. I am not asking you to change your whole music library, I am just simply asking you to be aware of what kind of messages the songs you listen to are saying.

## First Small Group

### **Scripture**

Hold hands and interlock fingers so that all the weaknesses in the group are covered by each other's strengths.

### **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body."

### **Reflection:**

A large portion of our society's media is centered on immoral things. Bad lyrics in songs, over-sexualized ads, glorifying sinful characters in TV shows and movies, unrealistic expectations for how we should live, it goes on and on. These are only a few examples of the messages we hear and see every day. A large portion of the media focuses on promoting the body, but not in the way God wants us to. Instead of envying the perfect body or associating products with sex, we should treat not only our bodies, but our attitudes with respect. If we focus constantly on "the perfect body" we may distance ourselves from the idea that our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. We should never take advantage or be ashamed of this beautiful gift God has given us.

### **Introductions:**

Very briefly go around the circle and have everyone introduce themselves.

### **Adds:**

Then look at the adds that are found on the Goggle Docs and answer the questions.

1. What is your favorite commercial or magazine ad?
2. In any way, is your favorite ad provocative or suggestive? If so, how?
3. After seeing the pictures, what did you notice about them?
4. Why do you think ads are displayed like this?
5. Do you think that advertisers influence the way we are supposed to act and look in society?
6. In what ways can we change or fix the way things are advertised?

## Large Group

Here's some examples of mean tweets. These tweets would not leave a good impression with employers or college advisors

RT @jakeamick5: How the fuck does a foreigner win miss America?  
She is a Arab! #idiots

[Collapse](#)   [← Reply](#)   [↻ Retweet](#)   [★ Favorite](#)   [⋮ More](#)

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**7** RETWEETS   **2** FAVORITES



way to hungover to do anything today.....

[Collapse](#)   [← Reply](#)   [🗑 Delete](#)   [★ Favorite](#)   [⋮ More](#)

No one likes you and you are a slut. Just sayin!

You're  
Collaps

n bitch don't tell me what to do, and you're a joke

sation   [← Reply](#)   [↻ Retweet](#)   [★ Favorite](#)

i woah you can go rot in hell now   4 Sep

i both of you bitches are fugly and smell   4 Sep

Is it bad that I think black people shouldn't go to school?????

[Collapse](#)   [← Reply](#)   [🗑 Delete](#)   [★ Favorite](#)   [⋮ More](#)

## **Colleges and Twitter:**

Today we are going to talk about how the things you post can affect your college application process. Many people will tweet things or post things on facebook and not think about who can see them. It's so easy just to look up a students' name and see what they have been posting. According to aKaplan Test Prep survey of 350 admissions officers more than 25 percent of school officials have looked up applicants on facebook or Twitter. Also many private scholarship organizations have acknowledged that they research their applicants online. At the University of Georgia, when an admissions officer discovered an applicant's racially charged Twitter account, he took a screenshot and added the tweets to the student's application. That's just one example of how just tweeting things can affect you getting into a certain college. So make sure that whatever you have on your profile is something that you wouldn't mind a college seeing. The next time you think about tweeting something or posting a picture from a crazy party, think about what a college could find.

## **Social Media and Jobs:**

Here are some examples of people getting fired for what they post:

- 13 Airlines crew members were fired after posting on facebook that certain cabins were infested with cockroaches. They also insulted other passengers in their posts
- A teacher in Charlotte, North Carolina was fired because she posted about how she was "Teaching in the most ghetto school in Charlotte"
- Another teacher was fired for creeping on a student's facebook profile and commenting on photo saying they were sexy.
- Also a student from Gross, I'm not going to name names, was fired because he tweeted about how another coworker was fired.
- A person got a DUI after posting on Facebook that he was out drinking.
- So the moral of the story is don't post about work on social media websites.

## **Social Media and the Law:**

- Man was arrested after he posted a Vine video of himself kicking a cat.
- According to Terrance King's Facebook account, he's a heroic firefighter. According to reality, he's a dude who stole firefighter gear. The 21-year-old convinced real firefighters to show him around and take him for rides, and used the photos to pretend he was one. And he probably would've gotten away with it, except they noticed their gear was missing — and he left a very robust evidence trail on his account.
- The frat brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha at Florida International University have landed in big trouble for their Facebook page, which clearly depicts drug dealing and hazing rituals — as well as non-consensual naked pictures of women.
- A teenager got arrested when he bragged about clipping another car while under the influence on his Facebook page.
- A teenager was detained after she made a video bragging about her exploits called "Chick Bank Robber."
- Craig "Lazie" Lynch escaped from prison and taunted the police with Facebook updates. And then he got caught.

- If you're wanted for participating in a riot, don't 'Like' a photo of yourself doing so on a police department's Facebook page. They might check out who liked the photo and ARREST YOU.
- A man boasted about being a criminal and actually posted evidence of it on Instagram. He posted photos on Instagram that not only got him arrested — they helped police uncover an extensive gun trafficking ring.

### **Rebecca Black Video**

[http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DzwSfIBfu\\_Nc&h=vAQHcvusB](http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DzwSfIBfu_Nc&h=vAQHcvusB)

### **Reflection**

After Rebecca Black made Friday her life exploded. She made her music video Friday on January 6 2011 when she was only 13. The video ended up on Tosh.0's blog making fun of the lyrics and video. Rebecca talks about how she cried about it because of some of the mean comments on her video and on the blog. Rebecca's life then officially blew up. She had just recently gone to a bigger school and had already been overwhelmed the year before. She had finally found a place in drama and made lots of friends. Eventually she became so overwhelmed Rebecca dropped out of school and became home schooled because she couldn't keep up with all her recording and all of her homework. After this she drowns herself in her recording and preparation for her first live show. When she finally runs out of things to do she talks about how lonely she becomes. She has a divorced family, no friends, is home schooled, receives terrible comments on her video daily and she is only about 14 years old. Imagine if how lonely you would be if you were in that situation. Sometimes we just don't realize the effect the things we do or say have on other people. Rebecca Black was just a normal girl who made a video for fun. She didn't write the song or plan the video. She did it just as a fun thing to do and so she could say she had recording experience. I know all of us have been lonely at some point like Rebecca and probably will be in the future. I am similar to Rebecca in the sense that I drown myself in activities and clubs to sometimes push these feelings back. I have had my fair share of being lonely and can definitely relate to Rebecca Black. The video to me is a great reminder that we should always watch what we say and do to other people whether it be online or in person. What we do affects people more than we know and we should always try and show respect for everyone.

### **Small Group**

1. Have you or anyone you know ever been victims of online bullying?
2. What did you do to help this friend or help yourself?
3. Do you think you can help prevent online bullying?
4. Have you ever said something to a friend or enemy online that you regret?
5. If you have why do you think you did this?
6. Do you think you or other people would have the courage to say these things in person?

## Closing Prayer

### Unwritten

Natasha Benningfield

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TtGY4G7II6s>

I am unwritten  
Can't read my mind, I'm undefined  
I'm just beginning  
The pen's in my hand, ending unplanned

Staring at the blank page before you  
Open up the dirty window  
Let the sun illuminate the words  
That you could not find

Chorus:

**Reaching for something in the distance  
So close you can almost taste it  
Release your inhibitions  
Feel the rain on your skin**

**No one else can feel it for you  
Only you can let it in  
No one else, no one else  
Can speak the words on your lips**

Drench yourself in words unspoken  
Live your life with arms wide open  
Today is where your book begins  
The rest is still unwritten

I break tradition  
Sometimes my tries are outside the lines  
We've been conditioned  
To not make mistakes, but I can't live that  
way, no

Staring at the blank page before you  
Open up the dirty window  
Let the sun illuminate the words  
That you could not find

**Chorus**

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Today is where your book begins  
The rest is still unwritten  
The rest is still unwritten  
The rest is still unwritten

**Reflection**

For us teenagers, it is hard to not listen to the messages that songs send us and the harmful things people may say online. But the truth is that none of that really matters. You do not have to be what all the songs say and you do not have to make yourself exactly what everyone else wants you to be. Tomorrow is a new day and you can do what you want, be who you want, and begin a new day in the book of your life. It is unwritten and no one is going to write it but you.