

CBF STUDENT MINISTRY (6TH-12TH GRADE)

IF CHRISTIANITY IS A JOURNEY, WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

"This hill, though high, I covet to ascend;

The difficulty will not me offend.

For I perceive the way to life lies here.

Come, pluck up, heart; let's neither faint nor fear.

Better, though difficult, the right way to go,

Than wrong, though easy, where the end is woe."

-John Bunyan, The Pilgrim's Progress

The preceding quote is from John Bunyan's epic depiction of the Christian walk in his book, *The Pilgrim's Progress*. All too often, difficulty and strife are often seen as signposts that we are headed in the wrong direction or made some mistake along the way. One of the beautiful truths from John Bunyan's work is to preach against this reality that life is going as it should as long as the path and journey is filled with ease and comfort. The pilgrim, Christian is told time and time again to stay on the path and walk towards the light regardless of how things appear. It is this resolute perseverance and steadfast faithfulness that has marked believers for centuries as they engaged the troubles of their times.

It seemed right and appropriate for our youth to consider these truths by taking a brief aside into the *Pilgrim's Progress* movie recently made. As we have watched Christian's journey, it has provoked discussion and introspection on our own proclivity to choose what appears to be most pleasurable or easy instead of what is right. The world is tugging at all of us to conform into its pattern and be willing to be tossed to and fro as the culture shifts in its thinking on the issues of our day. How much do we truly need a heart that seeks the Celestial City? We must allow that hope to buoy us in our pursuit of Christ that is becoming less and less popular sticking close to God's Word and leading. If we are rejected by others in that pursuit, then we can know with confidence that it is not we who are truly being rejected. However, we must resist getting pulled into the muck and mire of these earthly battles and so losing sight of the one true mission and hope we have been called to. What does it look like for our youth to engage the culture around them without being dragged down by it? What does holiness, being set apart, look like when you live in a world that is telling you to fit in and go with the tide of cultural reform?

YOUTH GROUP 6 TO 7:30PM IN THE FLC

We have fun, we eat unhealthy food together, we study God's Word and then seek to help one another apply it to our lives. Right now, we are in a series on *The Pilgrim's Progress* that seeks to engage and address the the Christian walk and the nature of what it means to follow Christ and stay on His path!