

HOW TO SERVE YOUTH INDIVIDUALLY?





OUTLINE

- ☐ Why Do We Care So Much?
- ☐ Challenges Facing the Youth
- ☐ Factors Affecting Youth Development
- ☐ How to Know / Serve Youth Individually?

Why Do we Care So Much?

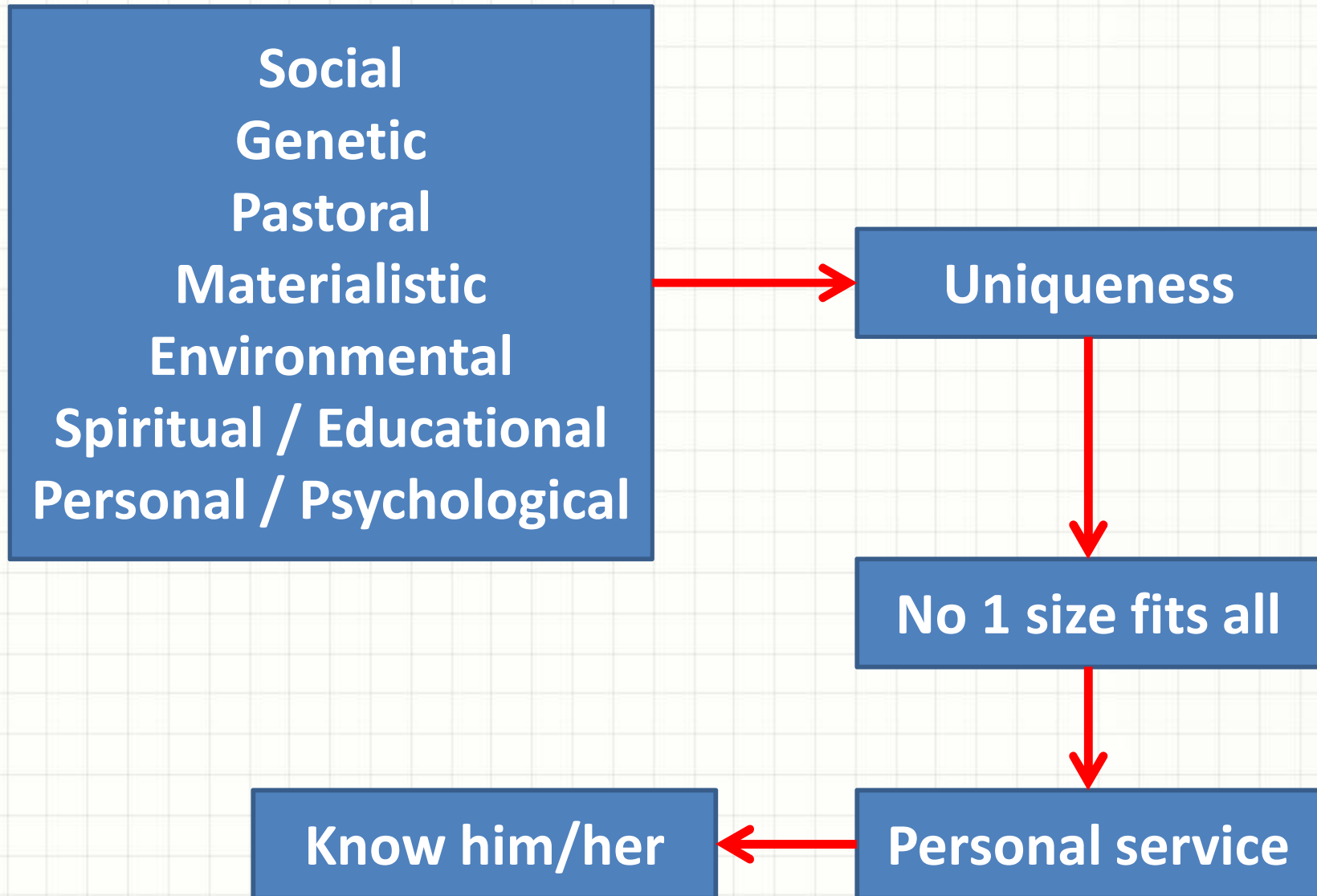
- ❑ Because the Lord Christ paid a full price for every soul
- ❑ Youth are typically rebellious and tend to explore more even what they almost know is wrong and harmful
- ❑ Not much thought about long-term consequences
- ❑ It is a stage of big decisions (e.g., education, career, where to live, who to marry, is it marriage or celibacy)
- ❑ Stage of skepticism and questioning, even what they once considered “givens”



Factors Affecting Youth Development

- ❑ Genetic Factors: Intelligence, health, physical shape, appearance
- ❑ Materialistic Factors: poverty vs. wealth
- ❑ Spiritual / Educational: What are the spiritual, cultural, ethical standards the youth was brought up with?
- ❑ Environmental: growing in a village or a city, which area within a city, Egypt or USA...etc.
- ❑ Personal / Psychological: what did he/she face along the way (experience)
- ❑ Social: Who are his/her friends? What type are they? What is the extent of their effect on him/her?
- ❑ Pastoral: Grew up in a church? What is the depth of previous church care for him? Is he hesitant to attend or does not at all? Is he offended by some religious figures?

And Therefore....



How to Know / Serve Youth Individually?

1. Pray for him / her

- ☐ **1 Samuel 12: 23** *“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.”*
- ☐ I am handing the matter over to the One who can really have an impact
- ☐ I am busy with him/her
- ☐ Asking God to open a way to get access
- ☐ Seeking God’s wisdom (what to say or do)
 - ☐ Fr. Tadros Ya3kob’s response to the widow

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How to Know / Serve Youth Individually?

2. Love and Take the Initiative to Reach out

- ☐ Gal 4:5 *“Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”*
- ☐ This is the expression of true love and care
- ☐ Put yourself in his/her shoes
- ☐ Pick it up from where he is
- ☐ And so...encourage
- ☐ Work on loving everyone
- ☐ Flexible approach



How to Know / Serve Youth Individually?

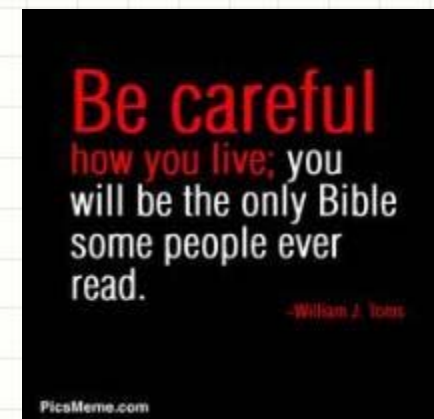
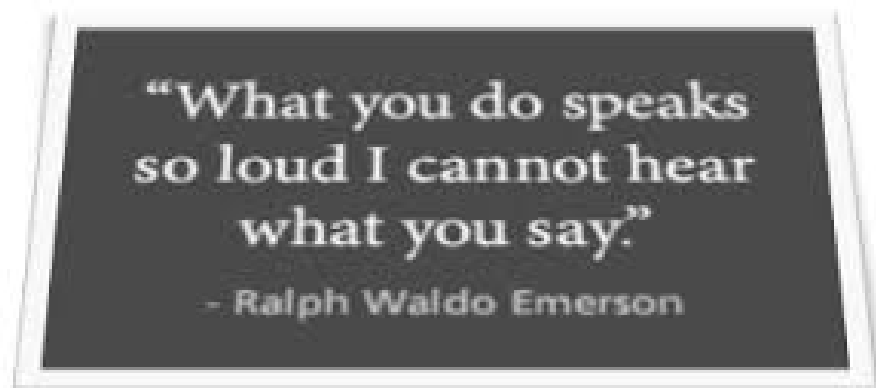
3. Keep Breaking the Ice



How to Know / Serve Youth Individually?

4. Leading by Example

- ❑ **Titus 2:7** *“in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility”*
- ❑ **Matthew 5:16** *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*
- ❑ Not being an example is extremely dangerous (smoking, drinking, watching inappropriate materials...etc.)



How to Know / Serve Youth Individually?

5. Practical (Reasonable) Guidance

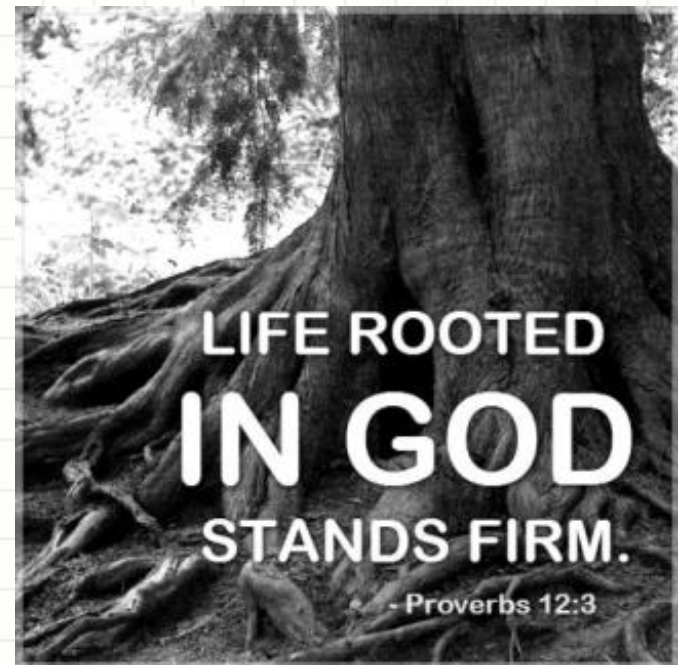
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- ☐ H.H. Pope Shenouda’s comment when he listened to his own sermon about the “Just Judge”
- ☐ Dr. Magdy Ishak comments on a servant’s response to a question about love
- ☐ How about “I don’t know” sometimes?
- ☐ What would you focus on when you talk about St. Athanasius?



How to Know / Serve Youth Individually?

6. Firm

- ☐ **1 Corinthians 16:13** “Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.”
- ☐ Nothing can be an excuse to participate in / accept a wrong-doing (this is damaging)
- ☐ Has to be on the basis of mutual love and respect (you are not a manager)
- ☐ One-on-one basis



How to Know / Serve Youth Individually?

7. Be convincing (everything is questionable)

- ☐ In Elementary School: inform
- ☐ In Middle School: inform and explain
- ☐ Youth: inform, explain and ready to discuss
 - ❖ Difference between criticism and being judgmental
 - ❖ Balance between adornment and modest apparel
 - ❖ Wisdom in giving
 - ❖ Balance between silence and talking
- ☐ Address contemporary issues



How to Know / Serve Youth Individually?

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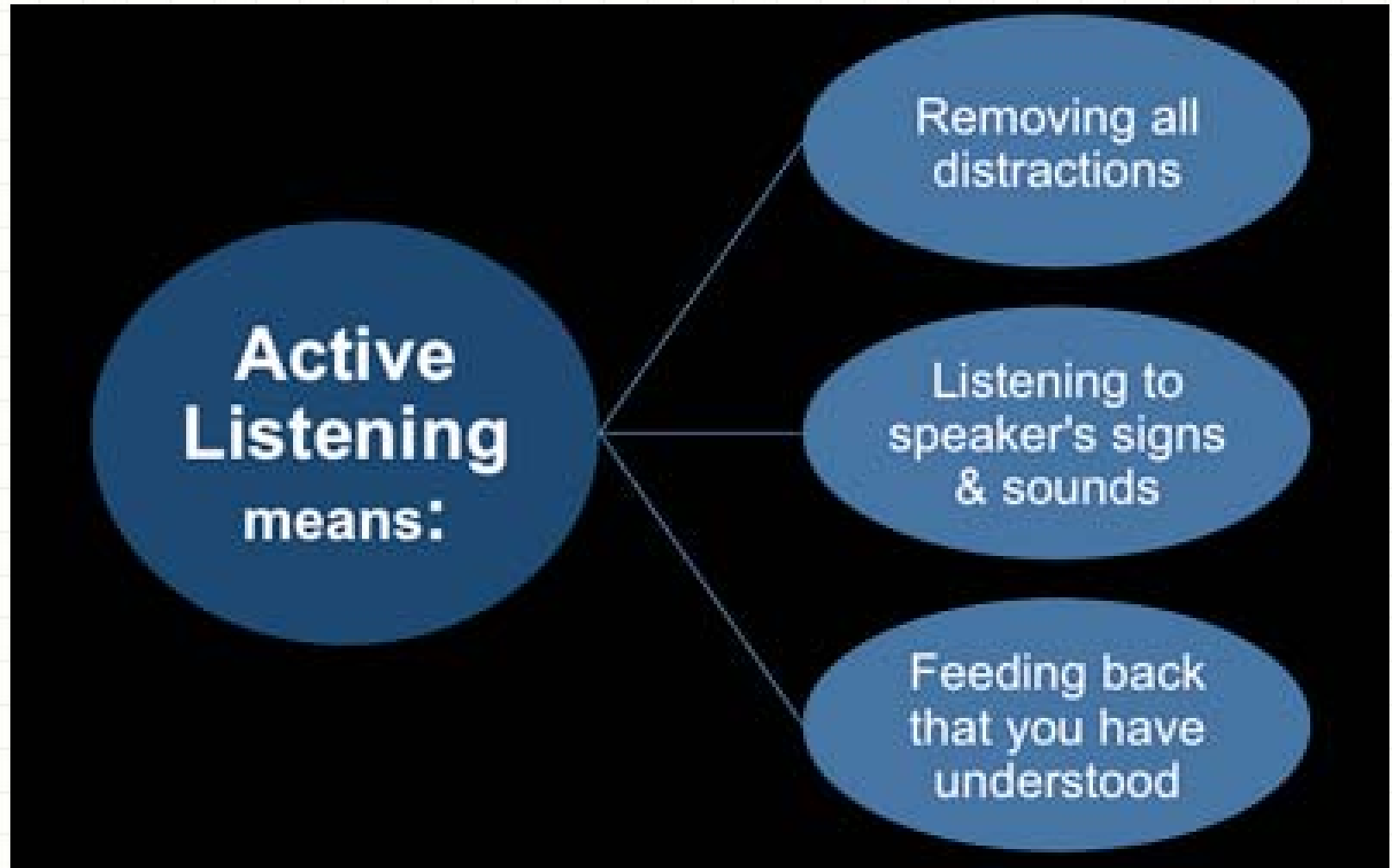
□ Concepts:

- ❖ Constrained freedom (does it make sense?)
- ❖ Strength (intellectual, physical, humility, will, self-control, strife against sin, endurance, forgiveness, service, giving)
- ❖ Self-realization (pleasure, bragging, stepping on others to get somewhere?)
- ❖ Love vs. Lust



How to Know / Serve Youth Individually?

8. Active Listening



Summary

- ❑ **Why Do We Care So Much?**
- ❑ **Challenges Facing the Youths**
- ❑ **Factors Affecting Youth Development**
- ❑ **How to Know / Serve Youth Individually?**
 - ❖ Pray
 - ❖ Love and Take the Initiative to Reach out
 - ❖ Keep Breaking the Ice
 - ❖ Leading by Example
 - ❖ Practical Guidance
 - ❖ Be Firm
 - ❖ Be Convincing
 - ❖ Active Listening