

Notes to Share With Youth

You are going to Care Facilities where you will meet many seniors. In Care Facilities, they call the seniors “residents.”

Each resident in the care facility was made by God and for God. And so were you! God has long-range plans for each of our lives. We are going to spend more time on the other side of life than on this side. The reason we are on this planet is to get ready for the next. It's a kind of dress rehearsal before the real show begins. The real show that will go on forever and ever is worshipping God in Heaven.

To relate to the residents in Care Facilities, let's first know that these residents have experienced many losses, such as their homes, cars, independence, and sometimes spouses and families.

Some residents in memory care may struggle with remembering things, like how to brush their teeth, bathe, or get dressed by themselves.

Because these residents have many losses, something inside of them can get lost too. Isolation can cause the light inside of them to go dim, and they can forget who they are in Jesus. When we look at them in their eyes and tell them, “God loves you,” something wakes them up!

And here is something you may not expect, it wakes something up in us too!

I once heard Rick Warren say some people think God is only smiling at them when they are doing spiritual things like going to a Care Facility, feeding the poor, praying, helping the sick, going to church, giving the tithe, or being generous. And yes, all these things are good, but what you may not realize is that God gets much pleasure in just watching you breathe. God gets pleasure in watching you be you. When you do something so typical of you, God says, “That's my girl! or that's my boy!”

Allow yourself to feel God's tenderness and compassion for the person right in front of you, and you may discover something in yourself that you did not realize was there.

There may be a talent or gift that has lain dormant for way too long. “God has a win-win for us when we go in His love.

Even though some residents may struggle to remember many things, they never lose what they have learned about God's love. Our gentle words to remind them are just what they need to hear. God's Word brings them great peace.

This is the importance of Contagious Joy: to remind people who they are in Jesus. It stirs hearts to say, "Thank you for coming to tell me about Jesus." They smile and dance for the first time in a very long time. There is a connection that happens. You don't make it happen. The residents don't make it happen. God makes it happen.

The Holy Spirit allows the beauty of who He is to light up the room. He makes Jesus real in their hearts, and passion comes alive. They see that Jesus really does love them, and we are there in His name to represent His love. We come in the name of Jesus and give His love. We can't give a better gift than that!

A Few Things to Remember About Your Visit

Don't worry about your skills. You don't have to be the most talented singer or the best actor. God will use the talents you have to touch others. You being there is the most important part. Just show up, and let God handle everything else.

It's totally normal to feel shy, but you can be 100% confident that the residents will be overjoyed to spend time with you and hear the Good News about Jesus. God's word never returns to Him empty.

"It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it." Isaiah 55:11

Did you hear that? God will accomplish all He wants to, so we don't have to worry; we just take His word out and He will do the rest!.