

YOUNG LIFE CAPERNAUM IMPACT SNAPSHOT



Adolescents in NEED:



22%

Only 22 percent of youth with intellectual disability frequently see friends outside of school. (www.nlts2.org)

25%

One-quarter of youth with intellectual disability have not been invited to social activities with other youth even once during the past year. (www.nlts2.org)



24%



Only 24 percent of teenagers with intellectual disability regularly attend a church youth group. (Carter (2016))

THE IMPACT on Adolescents with Disabilities:

Everyone in camp knew which afternoon the seven Capernaum campers were going through the ropes course. At any given time there were 30-50 other campers standing by cheering each Capernaum camper on. As a result, almost everyone in camp knew these campers by name that evening in club when the video clips of the day's activities were shown.

Most of the clips were from the ropes course, and the entire club room erupted with cheers, as over 350 high school kids applauded the Capernaum campers for their courage, yelling each name out as their faces flashed across the screen. I kept thinking what a powerful experience this must have been for the Capernaum campers — something maybe that had never happened in their lives. They were the center of attention for their courage amidst a massive group of traditional high-schoolers. But I also realized what a powerful moment this was for the rest of camp — the hundreds of teens who were changed in their hearts and unified as a group, celebrating the lives of these seven courageous Capernaum campers. Having them there had a transforming power on the entire camp as we were all drawn toward the joy of these special lives and ultimately drawn to Jesus Christ.

80%



... participate in social activities more often than before Capernaum.

95%



... are meeting new people and making new friends.

84%

... now have friends who pray for them.

95%



... experience a sense of belonging.

89%

... are growing in their faith and relationship with Jesus.



— Young Life camp trip leader

Families in NEED:

29%

More than one-quarter of all families in the U.S. have a member with a disability. (www.census.gov; Wang (2005))

32%

Nearly one-third of families have left their church because their child was not welcomed or included. (Ault, Collins, & Carter (2013))

8%

... of families say respite care is available at their church. (Carter, Boehm, Annandale, & Taylor (2016))

“At Young Life Capernaum my child experiences a deep feeling of belonging. He commonly says, ‘These are my people.’” — a parent

THE IMPACT on Families Whose Sons and Daughters Participate in Young Life Capernaum:

89%

... say they receive much-needed respite care.

95%

... say it offers them a sense of community with other adults.

97%

... say it gives them a glimpse of the gospel in action.

96%

... say it provides them a sense of hope and encouragement.

“Capernaum gave my son his teen years. People were afraid of him and his health issues. No one would call him and he had no opportunities to spend time with friends. At Young Life Capernaum he was simply welcomed.” — a parent

THE IMPACT on Volunteers:

77%

... say they have gained more clarity on their career path.

98%

... say they have a greater appreciation and understanding of diversity.

99%

... say they have developed friendships with people with disabilities.

99%

... say they have experienced more spiritual growth.

99%

... say they became a better advocate for people with disabilities.

These volunteers are current and future church, ministry, and lay leaders whose vision for and attitudes toward people with disabilities will have a shaping influence on the culture.

In 2016 over 1,000 people across the U.S. were surveyed about the impact of this ministry. These included youth with disabilities, their parents, and Young Life Capernaum volunteers and staff. This infographic is a glimpse into what we have learned.

Find Out More at younglife.org/capernaum