

# Reflections On Our Fall Youth Retreat

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By Justin Morton

Last weekend our young people and several adults spent the weekend in Pigeon Forge studying about the Great I Am. We had a wonderful weekend praising God as well as spending time enjoying each other's company. This past week I spent some time reflecting on our weekend together and the things I learned. I thought I would share some of these with you.

This past weekend I learned how awesome our young people are. I already knew this, but it was great to be reminded of it in such a profound way. Our periods of worship were very uplifting and heartfelt. The singing was fantastic and everyone's attention to the lessons presented were unmatched by any group I have ever been around. I was reminded of how blessed we are here at Karns to have such amazing teenagers. I am truly blessed to be able to work with this fine group of young people.

I also learned how much our adults and parents care for our youth. Sending your kids on this retreat showed how much you care about them. It showed that you are invested in the spiritual well-being of your children. However, the care and concern this congregation has for young people also was seen in the number of chaperones willing to help with the weekend. We had a good number go and help serve in so many ways. I was reminded of why God placed emphasis on the older men and women teaching those who are younger (Titus 2). Our young people need to see adults who exemplify Christ in their actions.

One of the things I was reminded of which most people may not realize is that the hearts of young people are tender. Time and time again, I witnessed the tender hearts of our young people in action. I watched as they cried together, hugged each other and rejoiced with one another (Rom. 12:15). People who think young people do not care about others or the message of the Gospel have got it all wrong. They care tremendously. The impact the Gospel can have on their lives is evident in our teens. Young people have such tender hearts!

I am grateful to all the young people and adults who attended the retreat. Each one helped contribute to a wonderful and uplifting experience. I know last weekend was a blessing for me. I hope the same can be said for all those who attended after they take time to reflect upon our weekend serving God together.