



2026 National Youth Conference Theme & Subtopics

Theme: HIGHER - Isaiah 55

You're constantly being asked to level up: in your grades, your sports, your social media presence. But what if there's a **higher** level than anything the world can offer? It is so easy to lose sight of what is most important in life. We can get so focused on the world around us that we fail to see the God above us. If you want a life that satisfies, you must look higher than this world. God wants to elevate our view so that He can expand our world. God isn't calling you to just "try harder" or "be better." He's calling you **higher**—to a new way of thinking, living, and seeing yourself. **Higher** than the pressure. **Higher** than the drama. **Higher** than the fear of not being enough. **Higher** than mistakes and regrets. **Higher** than the noise of social media. **Higher** than the low expectations the world puts on you. It's time to stop settling and start soaring. Get ready to go **Higher!**

Higher Ways – Isaiah 55:6-9: God's ways don't always make sense to us—and that's the point. His plans sit on a level way higher than ours. While the world pushes us to chase whatever feels good, popular, or easy, God calls us to something deeper and better. "Higher Ways" is about choosing God's direction over the world's distractions. It's learning to trust that even when God's path feels confusing, His ways are wiser, safer, and stronger than anything we could design for ourselves. When we seek Him, He lifts us higher than we could ever climb on our own.

Higher Witness – Philippians 3:12-16: You're running a race, but are you running toward the right finish line? Paul said he was pressing on toward a "higher" calling. Paul reminds us that he hadn't "arrived" yet—but he was determined to press forward. "Higher Witness" is about realizing that God can use you right now as a youth to show others who Jesus is. It's about living with purpose and owning your influence. A higher witness means being someone whose life points people upward to God's grace and power at work in you.

Higher Wisdom – Isaiah 55:10-13; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25: God's wisdom doesn't always look smart to the world. In fact, it can look strange, upside-down, or even foolish. But God's wisdom is life-giving—like rain that makes things grow. "Higher Wisdom" teaches students how to think with God instead of being shaped by culture, rumors, or group chats. It's about understanding that real wisdom doesn't come from popularity, trends, or the internet, but from God's Word and the cross of Christ. When students learn to follow God's wisdom, they gain peace, purpose, and the ability to make decisions that lead to real life—not regret.

Higher Worship – Psalm 34:1-3: Worship isn't just singing; it's elevating your view of God above everything else. When life gets overwhelming, worship helps us rise above our problems by focusing on the One who is greater than all of them. "Higher Worship" teaches teens that worship is a lifestyle—choosing to praise God not only on stage or on Sundays, but in the middle of stress, exams, friendships, and everyday decisions. When we "magnify the Lord," we don't make God bigger—we just see Him more clearly. And when God is lifted higher, everything else falls into its proper place.

Higher Work – Ephesians 2:10: You are not an accident! The Bible says you are God's "masterpiece", created for good works. You are equipped and assigned a Higher Work right now, not just when you're older. We'll explore your unique gifts and talents and talk about how to use them to serve your family, your school, your church and your community. Your life has been pre-wired for impact—it's time to stop coasting and start doing the Higher Work God prepared for you!