

# suicide

## introduction

Prior to the meeting gather statistics on teenage suicide. The most recent stats are available on the Internet. Present a few of them to introduce today's study on suicide. If time permits, let a few students comment on your research. One note of warning: Suicide is a very emotional issue. Consider inviting one or two local youth pastors to attend the meeting to help answer questions.

## message

1. Why do young people attempt suicide?
  - Lack of self-esteem. A low self-esteem often results from relationship problems with parents, problems that may have begun in early childhood.
  - Being too concerned with weight.
  - Lack of close friends
  - "Failed" attempts to do well. This causes teens to doubt themselves and eventually lose trust in friends and family.
  - The work of Satan. He loves to destroy young people. Suicide is a spiritual battle in which Satan attempts to eliminate hope.
2. How should we respond if a classmate threatens to kill himself?
  - Always respond with compassion.
  - Take all threats seriously. Even if a person is not really considering suicide, at the very least he/she is sending you a message that he/she is hurting.
  - Take time to listen. Ask, "What is the thing that is bothering you the most?" and "How can I help you?"
  - Encourage the person to talk to a caring adult. Suggest your youth pastor or a teacher.
  - Make an appointment to meet with the person again. Pray for an opportunity to share the good news of Christ at this next meeting.

## salvation appeal

If you are contemplating suicide or have a deep personal problem, there is a Savior whose name is Jesus Christ. He is the first person you should go to. He can deliver you. Have you accepted Jesus as your personal Savior? If not, do so today. He will fill the void in your life with peace and love, and He will give you a new reason for living.

## challenge

Suicide is just one of the many problems that affect students across the country on a daily basis. It is our job as student missionaries to be the salt and light of our campus. We won't always know what to do to help. That's why it's so important to follow the direction of the Holy Spirit. As you are talking with hurting people, ask the Holy Spirit to give you the words to say, words that will minister comfort and peace.

