



# ***RUNNING A RAP SESSION***

**Definition:** A weekly meeting where the young people suggest a topic by asking a question, or describing a problem or a set of circumstances. In this meeting the young people come up with an answer through group discussion prompted by the rap leader's questions and comments.

**Goals:**

- To make this session the hub of the entire youth program, to blend and apply, to tie together all teaching received.
- For all the young people to express themselves, to try out their knowledge. This serves as an evaluation of the teaching in the rest of the youth program and pulpit ministry.
- To increase the communication skills of the young people.
- To help the young people become more effective in knowing where specific Bible truths are found.
- To promote leadership - teaching young people to stand up for the answers they express.

**Procedure:** The key to a successful rap is the rap leader. Some basic guidelines are:

1. Once the question is asked, the rap leader must clarify it and restate it, making sure that it is understood by all.
2. Then ask the young people, "What do you think?" This gives them an opportunity to express their thoughts even though it may not be the answer the rap leader is looking for.
3. Thank that person for his/her answer and if at all possible, praise him/her for it.
4. Clarify the answer if necessary.

5. If possible, encourage the young people to come up with Biblical support, particularly if it's an area of truth recently covered in another youth meeting or from the pulpit.
6. Move on to the next person and repeat the process, continuing around the circle as hands are raised. This process needs to take place even if the first person answers correctly, for all to express themselves, bringing up different points of view, and to see if the first person will stick to their answer or be "wishy-washy". This also allows young people who disagree with the correct answer to express their disagreements, which can then be discussed. Remember, you asked them "What do you think?". There is no wrong answer to that question.
7. The rap leader must not allow the young people to talk among themselves, even discussing their own answer, while someone else is giving an answer.
8. An attitude of acceptance must prevail. There is no such thing as a dumb question or answer.
9. As time goes on the rap leader will want to be more specific in his/her questions, asking "What does the Bible say about \_\_\_\_\_? What is God's heart regarding \_\_\_\_\_?"
10. During the discussion, if the group seems to be moving away from the original question and its answer, the rap leader needs to redirect them.
11. Then, as time draws to a close, it is necessary for the rap leader to summarize the discussion and clarify the answer through the use of scripture.
12. Finally, encourage the young people, if at all possible, to apply the truth to their own lives.

**One final thought** - remember that it may take young people a while to learn to discuss, but it will happen when the right questions are asked with the right attitudes, keeping the discussion moving from one person to another without allowing anyone to monopolize.