



Life's Challenges in Secondary School – Part 1

Facilitator – Dwayne Peace
(3 hours) – Grades 8-12

Explore the complex world of social pressures faced by teenagers today through the stories of 11 high school kids struggling to fit in with peers ... while dealing with bullying, harassment, stereotypes, teasing, drugs, depression, violence, family problems, and more. Viewers get an in-depth look at these teens' lives as they reveal their true selves to each other, emerge from their cliques and isolation, and begin practicing a mature acceptance and respect in their daily interactions. Viewers also see the teens' honest encounters with Keena Turner, a former San Francisco 49er who relates how he became a Super Bowl Champion without the use of steroids, and with Magali Amedei, a model who recounts her painful battle with bulimia.

Bullying, the power of words, showing respect for others, and the impact of media on youth are key components to this presentation. The use of the Surviving High School video, which is a compelling, searing video, dares teens to examine vital issues and motivates them to make positive changes. Watch as these 11 teens take what they have learned back to their school where they invite 50 peers, teachers and administrators to participate in a daylong event called "Challenge Day". Dwayne has personally participated in over twenty Challenge Days, three Next Step Workshops and one Leadership Empowerment Training Workshop.

"I used to tease people all the time. You say it to get chuckles on the surface. But you have to think about it in your heart, about what it does. I had to think truthfully because I picked on so many people: Did I say anything to him? Did I do anything that affected his life?" A teen's reflection after the suicide of a fellow student, in Surviving High School.

A component of this presentation also includes charges under the Criminal Code of Canada that are applicable to those who chose to bully others in various ways.