

# J12

## Host Church information

### The Concept

American children are continually being forced to grow up more quickly. Kid's ages **8-12** are spending more money, are more technologically savvy, and are facing heavier issues than their older siblings did at these ages. They dictate the course of culture as advertisers ruthlessly market them and their discretionary dollars.

In short, they are a **target**.

They're such a target, in fact, that advertisers have already created a label for them; tween-agers, or tweens. Stuck between childhood and adolescence, tweens are straddling the line of innocence, too old for puppets, but too young for the frank discussions of teen ministry.

In the past, youth ministry has focused on teenagers, especially those who are already in trouble and in need of rescuing. Jesus at 12 is obsessed with reaching them before they need to be rescued, delivering the message of holiness and purpose during the ever-important hinge years of the life, the ages of **8, 9, 10, 11, and 12**.

**Did you know God was twelve?** In fact, the only story in the Bible that references Jesus' childhood is found in Luke 2:41-52. After fulfilling their Passover obligations in Jerusalem, Mary, Joseph and their traveling companions begin their long journey home. After a day of travel, they realize Jesus isn't with them; frantic, they hurry back to the city to find him.

A bit of searching yields results – Jesus is in the temple listening to the teachers and asking them questions. Mary asks Him why He stayed behind, He replies, "...I must be about My Father's business."

These seven words have within them the DNA to change a generation of tweens. The seven words of Jesus are the foundation of **J12**.

"Gregg Johnson's unique insight and teaching about the life of the "young Jesus" is invaluable to all believers. Young, old, and those of us in-between are nudged a little closer to Jesus by the straightforward ministry and writings."

-John Mason  
President, Insight Publishing Group

### The Encounter

**From a tween's perspective**, the J12 Encounter is like nothing they've ever seen. Exciting, physical, eye-popping, and endlessly inventive, the J12 Encounter is a 2-hour multimedia ministry event designed to hammer home the seven words Jesus spoke at the age of 12, encouraging kids to live out those words in their own lives. Each Encounter ends with a special ceremony of prayer and impartation, focusing kids on the seven words and their destiny in life.

**Through the eyes of a parent**, the J12 Encounter is nothing short of a Godsend. The J12 Encounter isn't for tweens alone; it's also for parents. Parents and kids-what a concept! As the Encounter unfolds, parents become increasingly thankful that someone has taken the time to articulate what they would all love to see their kids walk in during their early years.

And it's all aimed at helping both parents and kids walk away with the confidence of knowing a meaningful walk with Christ, is achievable at even a young, **pre-teen** age. Each child leaves knowing they're in the hinge years of their life, and that the decisions they make now will dramatically alter the course of their life. They can live holy lives. They can have more fun with their Savior than with sin. They can be about their Father's business. **They must.**

"I highly recommend Gregg Johnson and the J12 Encounter for everyone who wants to see 8-12 year olds be about their Father's business like Jesus was."

-Jerry Dirmann  
Senior Pastor, The Rock, Anaheim, CA

## The Visionary

Gregg Johnson, the formative mind of Jesus at 12, is a testament to the power of the Jesus at 12 story. His life was radically altered at the age of **14** when God spoke to his heart and called him to influence the youth of nations. It was then that Gregg completely turned his life over to Jesus, transforming his bedroom into a Bible College where he would seek God through the pages of the Bible every day.

Since then, Gregg has endeavored to fulfill God's call on his life, establishing himself as a gifted communicator both to young people and their parents. His joy, intensity, and command of the Bible give him a unique ability to speak to any age. He's led mission trips, been a youth pastor, served as the national director for youth for Foursquare, with whom he is licensed and ordained, and is a sought-after communicator in churches and conferences nationwide.

"I have known Gregg for several years now. He is extremely passionate when communicating to young people. He is one of the most effective communicators I know, not only in an entertaining way, but also challenging them to live their lives with a higher standard."

-Ron Luce  
Founder, Teen Mania Ministries

### **What is a host church?**

A host church typically is the church where the actual J12 Encounter happens. The J12 Encounter usually takes place in the main sanctuary or the most appropriate venue on the host church campus.

### **What are the host church responsibilities?**

1. To provide the venue for the J12 Encounter
2. To promote the J12 Encounter within the church and surrounding churches
3. To provide the volunteers and resources to help execute the event.

Once a church has committed to being a host church, a Host Church Guide will be made available explaining all of the responsibilities in greater detail.

### **When does the J12 Encounter happen?**

The J12 Encounter usually happens on a Sunday night (suggested 6-8pm). Gregg often ministers to the congregation in the weekend services, helping build enthusiasm and momentum for a Sunday night J12 Encounter. Ultimately, the time of the J12 Encounter is dependent on the schedule and culture of the host church and how the church might best be served.

### **Who attends a J12 Encounter?**

The J12 Encounter is for parents and their 8-12 year olds, notice the emphasis on parents. We stress the need for parents and caring adults to experience J12 along with their kids so that the anointing and message of J12 can be celebrated and nurtured in the home after the J12 Encounter is over.

### **What does the J12 Encounter office provide in terms of promotional material?**

J12 will provide the host church with a promotional DVD (approximately 2 minutes long), along with posters and brochures. A promotional brochure is available online that allows the host church to add specific information such as the date, location and time of the upcoming J12 Encounter. J12 Encounter artwork is also available online for insertion into church bulletins, flyers, etc.

### **What does it cost to host a J12 Encounter?**

While we do not have a set contract amount a J12 Encounter weekend typically requires \$2500. Because Gregg Johnson usually speaks throughout the weekend at the host church, this amount is able to be met through offerings and/or honorariums from all services, and/or special youth and leadership meetings. Additional expenses include air travel (2 airfares), lodging (usually two rooms), and meals for two people.

### **How might a smaller church host a J12 Encounter?**

Smaller churches (150-300 member churches) have been able to host a J12 Encounter by aggressively promoting to the churches in their local area and inviting them to the event. Often the fruit of this kind of invitation is dependent upon the host church's relationship with surrounding churches.

## What kinds of materials are available at the J12 Encounter?

### The J12- 21 Day Jumpstart

Designed for 8-12 year olds, this 74 page devotional manual challenges tweens to live the seven words of Jesus for 21 days in a row. Each devotion shares a true story of a life changed around the age of twelve throughout history. Each day also includes an opportunity to write out a specific Bible verse along with a challenge to live out an "I Must" activity.

### The Gateway Guide for Parents

Using the analogy of an archer, Ready! Aim! Fire! this 54 page Gateway Guide provides a model to help parents develop a positive rite of passage strategy for their sons and daughters.

J12 Merchandise will also be available, including items such as "I Must" T-shirts, glow pens, and other fun stuff that kids love.

### How do I book a J12 Encounter?

Call the office of Jesus at Twelve or submit your information online.

Information to have on hand during the phone appointment:

- Potential dates of availability that fit with the host church calendar.
- Knowledge of other churches in your surrounding area that would be interested in attending the J12 Encounter.

### Contact Info:

Tel 714-253-3274

Fax 714-253-3347

[www.j12.com](http://www.j12.com)

[info@j12.com](mailto:info@j12.com)

#### A Dad's report:

When I asked Ally what she thought about J12 on the ride home, she said, "It was awesome!" I know J12 is about 9-12 year olds, but it's also about 33 year old Dad's too! We're all excited about this journey that has begun in our lives! I can't wait to live it out!

-Jeff Cooper  
St. Louis, MO

#### A Mom's report:

I have 2 "tweens" and definitely needed a wake-up call to get them on the right track. My daughter Dannica was on the front row and really seemed keyed in to what you were saying. I truly believe she heard the Lord speaking to her tonight. Thank you for all you are doing to help our children! My Children! Wow, what a blessing I received from you today.

-Susan Marquez  
Lovington, NM