In the World Today

Politics

Climate Change

Other?

Racism

Family / Relationships

Other?
Youth Throughout History

Iqbal Masih
Freed 3,000 child-slaves by age 12

Jocelyn Chau
23-year-old pro-democracy district councilor in Hong Kong

Martin Luther King Jr.

Malala Yousfazi
Nobel Prize Laureate at age 16

Greta Thunberg

Arthur Zang
At 26, revolutionized medical access for people in rural areas
Buddhist View
“Some say the prevailing mood in the world today is one of powerlessness. Whatever the case may be, we are all aware that things cannot continue as they are. Yet decisions about political, economic and environmental issues all seem to be made somewhere beyond our reach . . . At the opposite extreme of this sense of powerlessness lies the Lotus Sutra’s philosophy . . . This principle teaches us that the inner determination of an individual can transform everything; it gives ultimate expression to the infinite potential and dignity inherent in each human life.”

- Daisaku Ikeda (The Wisdom of the Lotus Sutra, vol. 1, pp. 6–7)
Chanting Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo

“Maybe some of you think you don’t have courage. But all people do. Everyone, without exception, has courage inside them. The key is being able to draw it out. Everyone can do this by chanting Nam-myoho-RENGE-kyo . . . Chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo awakens the lion’s heart inside you. When that happens, you’ll feel wisdom, hope and courage well up from inside.”

- Daisaku Ikeda (March 17, 2017, World Tribune, p. 3)
“The SGI discussion meeting is a people’s oasis that reverberates with a spirit of determination and appreciation, where suffering turns into courage, and fatigue gives way to warm fulfillment. This small gathering is the very image of human harmony. It is a true model of democracy.”

- Daisaku Ikeda (The Wisdom of the Lotus Sutra, vol. 2, p. 95)
Brief Experience
“The ‘body and mind’ of a single individual can create waves of change that ripple out to their family members and friends, their workplace, their community, their country and the entire world. Everything starts with one person. Change starts with one person. The way forward opens with one person. That’s why it’s important to start by meeting and speaking with one person, and taking action together with them . . . One youth will in turn call forth other youth.”

- Daisaku Ikeda (May 2018 Living Buddhism, p. 20)
Discussion Questions

1. What contributes to feelings of powerlessness?

2. Referring to our theme for today—“One Youth. Infinite Hope.”—how do you want to spread hope to your friends, family and community?