

108

OBJECT

LESSONS

*Illustrate the Bible's teachings using
simple, everyday objects*



All for Jesus

Written by a nobody, so anybody could tell everybody about *Somebody*.

*¹⁷And whatsoever ye do in word or deed,
do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*

Colossians 3:17 (KJV)

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THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 30:19, Romans 8:1

Objective: To have youth familiar with commandments and understand commandments are there for our protection not restriction.

Objects: Hand motions or objects like a wedding ring or skit to communicate each commandment. *Example:* The ring is symbolic of a commitment and faithfulness to one person for life. The index finger up and the thumb out represent “L” for Lord, as in the third commandment: Do not take the Lord’s name in vain. Flip the “L” upside down to get a “7” which is the 7th commandment of remember the Sabbath to keep it holy.

Lesson

Every problem in society can be traced back to the refusal to do life God’s way. It all started back in Garden of Eden when Adam made a choice and his consequences have ripple effects. God has set standards we all have broken but should strive to keep. God gave the nation of Israel as an example to the rest of the world on how to live in peace as a society as well as have a moral standard. We cannot break God’s laws, we can only break ourselves against them. Since we have all broken God’s laws it shows our desperate need for a Savior for we have all failed to pass God’s perfect standard of holiness.

Questions

1. What commandment have you ignored to your own harm?
2. Why do some people see 10 commandments as the 10 suggestions?
3. Can you quote the 10 commandments by memory to a friend?



Read: Psalm 119:1-8 and discuss.

Prayer: Lord, give me the strength and will today to obey all you have written in your Word. Show me the areas I need to change so I can become like Christ in all my ways. Amen.

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 26:16, 1 Samuel 15:11

Objective: God's Word does not bend to our ways of thinking.

Objects: Steel bar or crow bar, hanger

Lesson

Many would like for the Bible to have 10 suggestions to follow instead of the 10 commandments and bend like this hanger. When it is convenient, we all have a tendency to want to bend the commandments just a little. But as you can tell, the crowbar **does not bend**, and God wants us to trust and obey, even when it is difficult. The rules are there for our protection and the sooner we understand this, the quicker we will be to obey out of our loyalty and love for God's protective commands.

Questions

1. What would happen in the world if everybody obeyed and kept the commandments? What if they were eliminated? What is a command that many will bend today to get God to fit into their agenda?
2. Has something bad ever happened to you because someone else broke God's commands?
3. Have you ever done something that you didn't want to do, but your parents told you to do it? And later, were you happy you obeyed because you realized that they were right and were trying to protect you?



Prayer: God, I will admit that I have broken your commands but as a Christian I want to obey you. Even when it is painful for me I know I need to be serious about your commands. Thanks for caring about me and giving me a bedrock foundation to live my life by. Amen.

BOUNDARIES

Exodus 20, Psalm 91:1-7

Objective: Youth will understand the protection God places around his people.

Object: A jig saw puzzle

Lesson

As you can see I am putting a boundary around the outside of this puzzle. From this border I will begin to put the rest of the missing pieces in place. God has given us 10 commandments that help us be secure with life and begin to understand his perfect will for our lives. God commands are not there to restrict but to protect me. If these pieces are not in place as a part of my life I will wander hopelessly trying to make sense of life and cross boundaries where great harm is waiting. There is perfect peace when youth know where the boundaries of life are.

Questions

Read through the commandments and discuss the importance of each.

1. Do you feel there is one command that is more important than others?
2. If we obey God in the areas we do know how do you think God will direct you in the direction of your life that you do not know?



Prayer: God, I know that I have broken your commands and your heart and I am so grateful that you are a forgiving and merciful God. Your commands show you want to protect me from harm and regrets and I want to do my best in following your ways in my life starting with these ten. Amen.

FORGIVENESS

Hebrews 10:17, Isaiah 64:6, Luke 15:11-32, Romans 8:1

Objective: To teach that the prodigal son was forgiven and the dad went out to meet runaway son.

Objects: Put on a ring and a robe, pour a coke and celebrate, write sins on whiteboard and erase

Lesson

Sheep like us have a tendency to stray and God waits patiently for us to return to our senses and come home where we belong. God tells us there is a perfect plan for all who come to Jesus—then there is the ultimate party when we get to heaven. When God forgives he forgets like the delete key on your computer. Our job is to stop remembering the past and fix our eyes on Jesus who is waiting with out-stretched arms.

Questions

1. What is a sin that you continually reflect back on?
2. How did the prodigal son feel when his father forgave and forgot his past actions?
3. What steps do you need to take to let go of the past and take hold of the future God has for you?



Prayer: Thank you, Jesus, for not remembering my sins and for giving me a clean heart and a brand-new start. Help me to forget the past and keep focused on the future and the plans you have for my life from this day forward. Amen.

PURITY

Isaiah 64:6, Psalm 24:4

Objective: Teach that it doesn't take much to contaminate a vessel.

Object: A glass of water, food coloring

Lesson

God empties our dirty and unclean ways so we can be used by him as a clean vessel. He then fills us up with the clear and living water of His Spirit. We need to be pure to be used by God. When a movie has an unclean scene it doesn't take much to discolor the entire glass, it can cloud it. Just like one drop of poison can contaminate the entire glass. When we have a sinful mental picture, we need to come to God and ask for forgiveness. We need to remove the thought before it becomes familiar and starts feeling normal and acceptable. When we ask for God's forgiveness and remove the thought (pour colored water out and pour clear water in), then our mind becomes clear again.

Questions

1. How does one contaminated thought turn into something deadly? Cain/Able
2. Can you watch parts of movie or book and just close your eyes for the evil part?
3. What is the wiser choice when we sense something is evil or impure?



Prayer: Lord, teach me to see sin approach from afar and instantly respond when I see danger. I never want to compromise my convictions or beliefs for a small amount of pleasure. Keep me pure in an impure world. Amen.

PURE IN HEART

Matthew 15:1-16

Objective: God wants us confessed up, ready and willing to do His will. He will only work through people who are empty of self so he can fill us with His power, love and passion.

Object: A glove

Lesson

A glove by itself on a table can do nothing. When Jesus is invited in and fills us the glove comes alive and can do amazing things like a surgeon doing heart surgery. If our prayer is: Here I am Lord, use me," He will allow your hands to serve, wipe away tears, give, pray, hug, or serve. We need God's hand to work through us and in us. Be available.

Questions

1. Why can't God use a dirty glove for Holy work?
2. What did your hands do this week where God worked through you for help or healing of another?
3. Describe the feeling you had when you knew God was working through you.



Prayer: Lord, I know I need to be ready at all times to be used by you. Help me to walk in a continual state of forgiveness and fill me daily as a clean glove in the hand of the Master. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Mold me, make me, fill me use me. Amen.

— LESSON 7 —

PURITY

Psalm 51:7,10, II Timothy 2:21-22, Matthew 5:27-30, I Thessalonians 4:1-8,
Romans 8:5-8, Proverbs 22:11, Matthew 23:25-26, I Samuel 16:7

Objective: Youth need to understand it doesn't take much to pollute their mind.

Objects: Two glasses of pure water and a little bit of mud

Lesson

Soap cleans us on the outside but it cannot clean us on the inside of our mind. We are all born with clean minds. It's our responsibility to keep them that way as Christians. One movie, book, video game, text, or television show can pollute your mind. This is why it is so important that we guard our minds and be very careful about what we watch or listen to. As you can see a little bit of mud can contaminate the entire glass of water. Which glass would you like to drink from?

Questions

1. When is the last time you turned the television program off to keep your mind from being polluted?
2. How hard is it to get a bad thought out of your head?
3. Why is it so important to confess your sins to God quickly?



Prayer: God, I know that you say in scripture that men look on the outside but You look in the heart. It is my desire to keep a clean mind and a pure heart and to remain uncontaminated by the unwholesome things of this world. Amen.

GROWTH

John 15:1-5, John 10:10

Objective: God says we need to abide or continually walk with Him in the Spirit. When we do our life will produce fruit and we will experience the abundant life God promised His followers.

Objects: Fresh-cut flower, a plant in a pot

Lesson

Looking at this flower and the plant you cannot tell which is alive. This flower looks alive but really it died when it was cut from the stem. In just a few days it will wilt and dry, while the plant flourishes. A person separated from God, because of their sins, is separated from God and will never bloom into God's plan for their life or reproduce themselves as Christ's followers. A person who is following Christ will reproduce and have fruit. A Christian will bloom, have seasons and reproduce with new seeds.

Questions

1. What would be the visual signs of a Christian walking with Christ?
2. What does it mean to abide in Christ daily?
3. What steps could a person, who is not connected to the Vine, take?



Prayer: Lord, help me to walk as you would walk in my thoughts, actions and words. I want to live out the abundant life and produce fruit so mouthwatering that many will seek to find the source of my fruit. Help me to recognize quickly when I am out of step with you. Amen.

SPIRITUAL MATURITY

I Peter 2:2, Hebrews 5:13-14, I Corinthians 3:2

Objective: God wants us to grow up in our faith.

Object: Serve beef jerky, cotton candy, milk, meat

Lesson

Physical growth is natural but spiritual growth is totally up to us. We start out with simple truth and a little scripture. As we grow we are discontent with just the basic truths of the Bible and long for more. There comes a time when we put down the milk bottle and choose to eat meat instead.

The deepest growth is represented by beef jerky where you wrestle with difficult passages and chew or meditate. Cotton candy represents those who come to church for the food and games but leave when it is not fun. Beef jerky Christians desire the deeper truth of the Bible.

Questions

1. When was the last time you discovered a meaty truth?
2. Have you ever wrestled in discussion or thought with very difficult to understand passages?
3. Who's on milk? Meat? Do you feed yourself or expect others to feed you?



Prayer: Lord, thank you for the Word that I have to grow strong in my faith and love for you. My desire is to know the deep truths of scripture so I can be strong in times of testing and rich in sharing my faith with others. Give me wisdom as I drink and feed on your precious Word. In Jesus name. Amen.

THE TRINITY

John 3:8, Psalm 119:11, Acts 1:8, Luke 3:22

Objective: To teach the youth that the Trinity is three persons in one.

Object: An egg

Lesson

This egg shell explains the concept of the Trinity. The shell represents Jesus, who walked the earth 2000 years ago. The unseen part (break egg) is like this yoke who is like God and the clear white is like the Holy Spirit who we cannot see but is there. The Trinity can also be compared to the sun. The sun produces heat, light, and gravity for the earth. Life cannot exist on earth without the sun, just as spiritual life cannot exist without God The Father, The Son, and Holy Spirit.

Questions

1. What happens when you are filled with the Holy Spirit at the time of accepting Christ?
2. In Acts 2:1-21 what can you learn about the Holy Spirit? How important do you think it is to be filled with the Spirit each day?
3. What did Jesus do for all mankind?



Prayer: God, I know that I will never fully understand the mystery of the Trinity. I trust You and know that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are always working in me on earth to accomplish your perfect will. Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT SEAL

Ephesians 4:30, Romans 8:38-39, John 14:26

Objective: To know that God gives us an assurance of our salvation.

Objects: A rubber stamp or wax seal, envelope

Lesson

God has told us in scripture that He seals us with His Holy Spirit. When a king wanted to show that a letter was officially his and not a counterfeit he would place a wax seal on the envelope that let everybody know it was his letter to be read. God said he placed his Holy Spirit inside us as a seal that we belong to Him. This gives us assurance that we belong to God and he belongs to us.

Questions

1. Have you ever wondered if you were really saved?
2. How can we know that the Holy Spirit is inside us?
3. Mention a time when you felt the presence of God in your heart and life.



Prayer: God, thank you for placing in me your still small voice to help me feel your love. Scripture teaches that your banner over me is love and now I *know* your Holy Spirit is a seal inside me as well. Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22, Ephesians 4:30

Objective: To show how God can work through us if He works inside us.

Object: A surgical glove

Lesson

God promised us that He would indwell every believer and fill them to capacity. We need to realize that apart from God we can do nothing. He comes inside a life and when he works through us He can wipe a tear, give a hug, write a note, or serve a table. The Master Physician wants to work with a clean glove. Be available and ready as God works through you.

Questions

1. When was the last time you knew God was working through you to make a difference for eternity?
2. What is something you did with your hands? Your words? Your deeds?
3. What does Scripture mean when it says we are to have a clean hand and a pure heart?



Prayer: Lord, give me hands that are about the Father's business so I can make a difference with my life. Thank you, Lord, for equipping me with your Holy Spirit. I will remember not be might, not by strength but by thy Spirit says the Lord. Amen.

SATAN DEFEATED

Isaiah 12:2, I Corinthians 15:55, Romans 8:37

Objective: To teach youth that Satan has no power over them.

Objects: A snake puppet, a sword or sharp stick

Lesson

When Jesus was resurrected from the dead, He defeated hell, sin, and death. Satan lost his power over Christians and knows that his destruction is near. God has told us that we are more than conquerors. So Christians need to walk and talk victoriously. Stand on the snake and put a sword or a stick through his head to symbolize victory.

Questions

1. Why does Satan tempt us when he was defeated at the cross?
2. Why would a Bible believing warrior living out the faith make Satan fearful?
3. If sin has no power over us why do Christians sin?
4. What steps could a Christian take to become a stronger Christian?



Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for giving me hope and confidence in my great future. Help me to resist Satan and remember that he is a defeated foe. Amen.

DEVIL

II Timothy 4:18, II Corinthians 4:4, II Corinthians 11:4, II Corinthians 10: 3-5

Objective: Satan blinds the people of this world and fools them into thinking a lie is the truth.

Objects: Handkerchief, Monopoly money, and real money (Blindfold a youth and have them guess what is real or fake money.)

Lesson

Satan is the father of lies and his main goal is to deceive individuals. Christians must be so familiar with the word of God that they can recognize and discern between lies and the truth. The older you get, the more discerning you should be. Satan always has a counterfeit for the real thing. (Idol vs. God; Lust vs. love; gangs vs. friendship; and pleasure vs. purpose.)

Questions

1. What would be common lies youth fall for in today's culture?
2. Why is it important to use scripture when you are refuting a lie?
3. Deception is thinking you know the truth but, instead, believe a lie. Discuss with the group.



Prayer: Lord, give me eyes to see through the false philosophy of the world and let me see clearly what Your truth is. Give me razor-sharp discernment in making decisions and give me wisdom when refuting lies that youth so easily fall for. Amen.

ARMOR OF GOD

Ephesians 6

Objective: God gives youth battle equipment for every day of life.

Objects: Shin guards, helmet, football pads, elbow protectors

Lesson

When you play sports we usually put on protection and would not think of going out on hockey or football field without it on. Why? For protection! Did you know God has given you equipment to put on every day? It's a battle, you are in it and the stakes are high. The playground and classroom at school is actually a battlefield and the minds and soul of youth are at stake. Each piece of armor you wear has a specific purpose behind it.

Questions

1. Do you armor up each morning and prepare yourself for battle?
2. What does each piece represent in (Ephesians 6)?
3. Why do we have so many wounded warriors in church today?
4. How come there is no armor made for the back?



Prayer: Lord, each day is an opportunity for me to fight for you. I need your armor daily for what you have in store. Let me faithful in battle and gentle as well as I share, serve and give in the name of my Commander and Chief. Help me to stand firm and pray always, for You are my shield and protector. Amen.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Ephesians 6:16, Genesis 15:1, Psalm 91:11, Romans 8:37

Objective: To help youth understand that many trials are ahead for them and they need to armor up every day.

Objects: Spear, sword, rock, arrow, cardboard shield (Each item should be marked, for example: rock = fear; arrow = discouragement). Hang a shield and describe specific emotions or attitudes Satan attacks our faith with.

Lesson

Satan will always attack or tempt you, so your shield of faith needs to be raised at all times. Your faith comes from the promises of God and the strength He gives you to daily resist the attacks. No weapon raised against you will succeed.

Questions

1. When did you last feel you were under attack?
2. Did your shield of faith increase or shrink?
3. What did God's promises come to your mind?
4. How important is prayer in resisting the evil one?



Prayer: Lord, let my mind go quickly to Your promises when the daily attacks come. Let me always remember that You are with me and have fully equipped me to resist temptations and overcome anything that Satan throws at me. Give me courage to stand and resist. Amen.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Ephesians 6, I Peter 5:8

Objective: Help youth see that armoring up daily is crucial to survival.

Objects: PVC pipe, styrofoam head, newspaper, clothes, baseballs

Lesson

Today we will be throwing these balls as hard as we can to see if your armored up with the shield of faith, helmet of salvation and breastplate of righteousness. You have created mannequins which represent you on the battle field. God tells us that fiery arrows are being shot at us daily by the devil. These weapons come in the form of lust, jealousy, dishonest, despair, loneliness, anger, and unforgiveness—to name a few. Those who wear the armor will survive the assaults of Satan.

Questions

1. Should a Christian be able to survive any attack Satan has against us?
2. Why would large faith in Christ be a huge asset in spiritual warfare?
3. Is one piece of armor important than the other?
4. Why are there so many wounded soldiers for Christ on the battle field of life?



Prayer: Lord, today I don't want to just survive. I want to thrive on the battle field. I will intentionally put on each piece of armor daily and walk in total confidence with you. Lead me on o King Eternal and give me the courage to face evil, resist the evil one and help the wounded in life. Amen.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Ephesians 6, Isaiah 54:17, I Peter 5:8, Romans 8:37, I John 3:8

Objective: Teach youth that they have an enemy to oppose.

Objects: Bow and arrow, picture of Satan

Lesson

I don't know about you, but I get tired of armoring up each day with spiritual armor and then deflecting the arrows of Satan. I think it's time we go on the offensive and give back to Satan some of our fire-power. Aim carefully, and then let fly. You say as Jesus said, "Get thee behind me Satan, no weapon formed against me will prevail." (Shout out what they want to get rid of in their life—then shoot the arrow.)

Questions

1. Have you ever made a stand against evil or a cause for Christ?
2. What does the verse mean when it says "no weapon"?
3. Do you think it is best to make a stand with other Christians who are your battle buddies?
4. What is something you think you need to make a stand for?



Prayer: Lord, Thank you, Lord for equipping me and giving me a great purpose to live for. Help me to identify the strongholds that Satan has in people's lives or my community and give me the wisdom on how best to begin taking back the town for Christ. With You, all things are possible. Amen.

BATTLE OVER SOUL OF MEN AND WOMEN

John 1:12, Ephesians 6:10-13

Objective: Spiritual warfare is real and everyone is involved.

Objects: Two swords and three people

Lesson

The two sides that are fighting represent Satan who wants to keep you on his side and the call of God that draws all men to himself. There is a tug-o-war going on over the soul of the person in between and it is real. Many see this world or their school as a playground with the souls of youth at stake. The spiritually mature see it as a battlefield. The person in the center must make their choice. What side will you be on? (Tug center person by hands as they do sword fighting.)

Questions

1. When does this battle begin?
2. How does a person choose the side they want to be on?
3. What are the results of these two choices?



Prayer: God, thank you for the choice I made to serve you. I never want to go back being a slave to sin and I am now free to serve you and make a stand against evil in this world. I pray for those who are still struggling to choose Jesus. Help me to present you, or represent you to the indecisive. Amen.

SIN

Romans 3:10, Romans 3:23, John 8:32, Romans 6:22, Galatians 5:1

Objective: Youth will understand that sin is about not hitting the mark.

Objects: A dart board or some sort of target

Lesson

God says that in our lives we have all missed the mark of “holiness.” God sent his perfect Son to show us the standard for right living. No one was perfect like Jesus was, but we can strive to be like Him.

Questions

1. When was the last time you knew you missed the mark of God’s standard?
2. Was Jesus tempted to sin at any time in His life? When?
3. What can we learn from the life of Christ about righteous living?



Prayer: God, I admit to you that I have failed many times and I know that I have sinned. Give me the strength and the power to resist sin and obey you in all my ways. Thank you for sending Jesus to show me how to live my life in a righteous way. Amen.

SINFULNESS

Isaiah 64:6, I Corinthians 5:21, Ephesians 2:8-9, I John 1:9

Objective: Youth will understand their good works not will make them clean.

Objects: A dirty rag, white robe

Lesson

God tells us that no one will ever wave their good works before a Holy God and be in right standing with God. Can this dirty rag ever clean itself? Could God ever use a person who is not forgiven and thinks he is good enough in the eyes of a Holy God? Only His righteousness can make us clean in the sight of God. God promised if we confess our sin, we will be as white as snow and He will give us His robe of righteousness in exchange for our dirty rags.

Questions

1. Have you ever seen a white sheep in a green pasture? How white does it look when it is standing against a pure white snow field?
2. What good things do we do to be religious and try to look good to God? What is different about a deed coming from the heart and not from the head?
3. Why does God say good deeds will never wash away sin?
4. What does Grace mean? (unmerited favor; getting what we don't deserve).



Prayer: Lord I never want to think that my sinful life could ever be seen as clean in your sight. Thank you for washing me white as snow and help me to stay that way in the washing of your blood and the forgiveness you offer to all who will come to you and ask. Amen.

SELFISHNESS

John 3:30, Ecclesiastics 2:1-9, Ezekiel 28:2, Isaiah 14:13-14

Objective: Teach that “I, myself, and me” should be eliminated from vocabulary.

Objects: Golf clubs and three water bottles labeled “I”, “Me”, and “Myself”. (Hit bottles off of stage with golf clubs.)

Lesson

God tells us that everything we have comes from Him. He gives us the family, background, ideas, and abilities to accomplish the things He wants us to do in this lifetime. The golf club today will tee off “I, Myself, and Me” into the distance—to remind me that these are references to me that I choose to replace with “God gave me,” “God help me” or “God show me.” To God be the glory—great things He has done!

Questions

1. What do you think when you realize “I” is the middle word in sin?
2. Why do people with pride always start their sentences with “I?”
3. What does it mean when it says “the smallest package a person will ever find is a man wrapped up in ‘I, myself and me’?”



Prayer: God, You have given me life and everything I have today. Give me humility that others will know it is all about You. Forgive me for the times I have taken the credit. Let me see Your hand in my life as I live it out for You. Amen.

SENSITIVITY TO SIN

Acts 23:1, Acts 24:16, Exodus 7:13

Objective: To know when God is speaking and not lose my conscience.

Objects: Elbow, tongue on roof of mouth, moisturizer

Lesson

God tells us we can sear our conscience if we sin continually and do not repent when the Spirit prompts us. We can actually become dead to His voice which puts us in great jeopardy spiritually and physically. When you pinch the bottom of your elbow it barely responds because the nerves are dull to touch just like a heart can become. When you touch your tongue to roof of mouth it tickles because it is sensitive. Are you responsive when the Spirit speaks? Psalm 119:11 is the perfect verse to quote as you apply moisturizer to elbow.

Questions

1. When was last time the Spirit prompted you on a situation, action, thought or sin?
2. How quickly did you respond? What did you do?
3. What happen when we become dull of hearing?



Prayer: Lord, help me to always listen and choose your way when You prompt me. I want to be sensitive to your still small voice and never to become dull to your voice inside me. Amen.

DECEPTION

II Corinthians 10: 3-5

Objective: To show youths that what we pursue will not necessarily satisfy.

Objects: Vinegar in a Coke can and a real Coke in a can

Lesson

What looks great on the surface or the outside can be a way Satan deceives us. Everybody sees popularity but on the inside there can be pride, isolation, and compromise. Satan is a master at switching the content so we will not see the consequences of what we do. Only Jesus can bring true satisfaction. The world will only leave a bitter taste in your mouth. You can pick your battles but you can't pick your consequences.

Question

1. What would be an illustration of what you thought would be a great idea but was a horrible mistake?
2. Name 5 common deceptions of youth. Example: Smoking marijuana is just getting high rather than destroying short-term memory.
3. Discuss the deception of calling a baby "a mass of tissue."
4. Does God have an alternative lifestyle?
5. Why does the world change what God calls "adultery" to "sleeping around?"
6. When God says "Don't get drunk" why does the world call it "getting a buzz?"



Prayer: Lord, help me to discern what is from You and what is a deception to tempt me to sin. Many offers will come to me over a lifetime, so give me insight to see the end results at the end of the road. I want to be on the narrow road that leads to heaven. In Jesus name, Amen!

TEMPTATION

Ephesians 6:10-12, James 4:7-8, I Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 11:25, John 10:10

Objective: Youth will understand that Satan tempts us.

Objects: A mouse trap and a piece of cheese

Lesson

Satan is tempting Christians on a daily basis to get them to sin. For every temptation, God promises to give us an exit sign out. A mouse who fixes his eyes upon the cheese will never focus his eyes on an escape route. If our eyes are fixed on Jesus, we will avoid the temptation and the pain, heartache, and confusion that come with sin. The cheese is pleasurable for only a moment. Don't be fooled—don't be trapped.

Questions

1. Why is the mouse trap so effective in killing mice?
2. Where do you think Satan places his traps for humans?
3. Why do humans repeat the same sin knowing it will result in the same consequences?
4. When was the last time you walked through the cemeteries and saw all the young ages on the tombstones of youth that died from foolish sins?
5. Discuss how Satan deceives, divides, and destroys.



Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for your protection and promise to overcome sin. Give me the strength and power that comes from your Spirit to die to sin and become alive to you. Give me discernment and the will to say no to sin and yes to Jesus the next time temptation comes. Amen.

TEMPTATION

Genesis 3:1-6, Matthew 4:3-11, I Corinthians 10:13

Objective: To realize that Satan will place tempting thoughts and people in our way.

Objects: Different fishing lures

Lesson

A fisherman knows how to catch fish. He has a tackle box with many different types of flashy metals to fool the fish into biting the hook. These are called lures. A fisherman knows where the fish are, what they like to see and what it takes to draw them out of their protection in the rocks. A Christian should instantly recognize the lures of Satan because of the warning the Holy Spirit gives as well as the clear instruction given in the Bible. Don't get hooked.

Questions

1. When was the last time you felt Satan was trying to tempt you or lure you into making a sinful choice?
2. Why does a fisherman use spinning, feathery, colorful, flashy lures?
3. Why do the big fish get big?
4. What are favorite places Satan likes to go fishing for youth?



Prayer: God, give me your wisdom to avoid the lure of Satan and help others to avoid the places where lures are bountiful. Open my eyes that I will recognize the schemes of the devil and never fall for his lures or enticement no matter what form they may come in. Amen.

SIN

Romans 6:23

Objective: Don't be a lone Christian. We need one another.

Object: Thread or string

Lesson

You can break one string easily just like Samson in Bible could break the cord Delilah wrapped around his wrist. Once you sin and continue in the same patterns it begins to bind you and becomes a habit that is very hard to break. Drugs, alcohol, and losing your temper begin with a toe hold and then a foothold and finally a stronghold that is very hard to break or stop. Good friends around you will be honest and tell you where there is known sin in your life. Confessing sin and repenting means turning in a new direction. Church is a great place to find honest fellowship.

Questions

1. What part does pride play when we sin but think we can stop anytime we want?
2. What was the example that Samson set for us in Judges 16:28. Samson played with sin and it cost him his life. What can we learn from his life?
3. Did he repent of his sins at end of life?



Prayer: Lord, teach me to know right from wrong and stay clear of the gray areas of life. May I never allow a thread to turn into a chain because I toyed with sin and ignored the warnings of my friends or family. Amen.

— LESSON 28 —

LOVE

Matthew 22:37-38, Romans 5:6-8, 1 John 4:19

Objective: Teach love is not an emotion but a choice. Love one another as I have loved you.

Object: Have youth say “I still love you” regardless of what I say or do, for example: I stole your chicken, ruined your reputation, etc.

Lesson

Love in its purest form is unconditional. God asked us to love the unlovely and give grace and mercy because of what He has done for us. 1 Corinthians 13 tells us what true love looks like. Look through the unloveliness and see the need for us to show the world what true love looks like.

Questions

1. When was the last time you felt or received love?
2. When was the last time someone mistreated you and you responded back in love?
3. Is unconditional love difficult? How does praying help?
4. What examples do you have of Jesus and His response to critical and unloving people?



Prayer: Lord, I cannot be the person you want me to be unless You are the one inside me. Give me strength, patience, and a heart to love as you would. Help me remember that love always involves sacrifice. May I not forget all you have forgiven me with Your perfect unconditional love. Amen.

GOD'S GLORY

Psalm 19:1, Isaiah 42:8, 11, John 15:8

Objective: We have a choice on whether we give God credit or take it for ourselves.

Objects: A mirror, window glass

Lesson

God tells us that he will not share his glory with another. This means when people give us praise and honor that this is a time to reflect the praise as a mirror reflects the sun and give it back to God. All the praise and glory belongs to him. Some will be like a window that receive all the praise and never give credit to God. This is our opportunity to reflect the praise to God for the gifts, talents, opportunities and ideas he gives to his beloved. Will you be a mirror?

Questions

1. When was the last time you received praise and how did you handle it?
2. Can you be grateful and acknowledge the applause but still give God the glory?
3. How would you do this in a skit before your peers?
4. When athletes bend a knee or point to the sky after a goal, what are they communicating?



Prayer: Lord I know there will be many who will applaud me on stage in my life time. I want to give you the glory and boast of the God who has given me so much. May many discover who you are as I point the way to heaven with my deflected praise. Amen.

HONESTY

II Corinthians 5:9-10, Titus 2:6-8

Objective: That youth will understand that we need to be honest in all of our ways.

Objects: Bowl of candy, and a \$1 bill left on the floor

Lesson

God tells us that if we are honest in small things, we can be trusted in the great things. Today I ask you take one piece of candy as the candy bowl is passed around. Did any of you take two pieces? Even though it's just one extra piece of candy, it helps us understand the importance of the small things. Did anyone return the \$1 bill I left on the floor?

Questions

1. When was the last time you struggled with being honest?
2. Did you go back and make it right?
3. Why is honesty such a high virtue in society
4. Would you consider yourself to be trustworthy?



Prayer: Lord, help me to be a person who has integrity in my public and private life. I want the reputation of an honest person. In Jesus name, Amen.

FEAR

II Samuel 22:7; I John 5:18

Objective: Don't be afraid—be courageous.

Objects: Burn scarecrow on a stick

Lesson

We all have fears. Some are imagined and some are real. Either way, God wants us to walk boldly to live out his purpose and not shrink back. You have all pinned on the scarecrow, the fears you have that KEEP YOU BACK FROM BECOMING ALL THAT GOD WANTS YOU TO BE. Tonight we will be done with these fears and burn the scarecrow and everything that it represents of our fears.

Questions

1. What real fears do you have when it comes to people? The past?
2. How do you walk through the fear of failure and inadequacy?
3. Why do you think God said “fear not” 365 times in the Bible?



Prayer: Lord, Thank you, Lord for taking away my fears and allowing me to be free. Help me to recognize when fear is approaching; and, with great faith, step into my fears and conquer them. Amen.

DISCERNMENT

II Timothy 4:1, I John 4:1-3

Objective: Youth will understand that God does not have alternatives to his truth.

Objects: A real coke, an imitation coke

Lesson

Today I have two drinks before you. While you are looking at the two, they are both claiming to be the real thing. Only one is authentic. Religion is the imitation of a relationship with Christ. Discernment is the ability to decide what is fake and what is real; what is true and what is a half-truth; what is the only wise decision and what is a foolish decision. Once I have tasted Jesus, other religions will never satisfy. He's the real thing.

Questions

1. What does Jesus offer that no religion or person can?
2. Why can there be only one Savior?
3. Which religions does Satan use to deceive the nations?



Prayer: Lord, thank you for giving me the truth that I will never let go of. Help me to understand how much You want to offer me so I can walk through life with my eyes wide open. Amen.

BIBLE

Psalms 119:105

Objective: That youth will understand that The Bible is a light for their life.

Objects: A Bible, a flashlight, a blindfold, obstacle course

Lesson

If we walk through life without a Bible in our life, it is like a person trying to get past the obstacles of life without sight. The Bible is God's love letter to us so that we will not stumble through life trying to find our way. It is like a compass, light house, North Star, fog horn in the night, all designed to prevent a shipwreck.

Questions

1. How is God's Word like the North Star?
2. If you are lost, why would the Bible be the roadmap to life?
3. If the Bible is truly God's Love Letter to us, how much time do we spend reading it? Name some Proverbs that give clear warnings.



Prayer: Thank you Lord for the Bible and all you have written in it so I can experience life to the full. Open my eyes that I might see wonderful things from Thy word. Speak to my heart and mind during my quiet times with you and may I never walk in darkness when you have given me light to illuminate all my ways.

BIBLE

Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12

Objective: The sword is sharp and able to reveal our true motives and heart.

Objects: Sharp sword, chicken

Lesson

God tells us that His word will reveal the true heart of who we are. It cuts through marrow and bone or the hidden motives or justifications. When Gods truth is applied to many situations, it helps us clearly see what we have never seen before. Just like this blade will cut through the bone and show the marrow.

Questions

1. When has scripture helped you see something more clearly about yourself, others, or a circumstance?
2. Why does the Bible do this and other books cannot?
3. Can the Bible be used incorrectly?
4. How does John 1:1 help us understand more?



Prayer: Lord, thank you for your Word and the truth it brings to all who want to know the mysteries of God. Thank you for the scripture that shows me the way I should go when I am uncertain and need Your direction. Help me to use the Bible accurately as mentioned in II Tim 3:16-17. Amen.

GOD'S WORD

I John 3:1, Psalm 42:1, Matthew 5:6.

Objective: We need to drink deeply from the Word.

Objects: A thimble or small cap off of a bottle, a bucket of water

Lesson

Many go through life with a sip of scripture here and a little prayer there, never realizing the tremendous blessings and benefits God gives to those who drink deeply. The thimble of water never really refreshes or covers us but it is just enough to give the appearance of being wet (pour thimble of water over head or sip from straw). When we stand under the blessing of God and drown in his promises and the Word we are drenched to the core (pour bucket of water over head). Are we sipping or being drowned and refreshed in God's presence?

Questions

1. How much time do you spend daily in the presence of God?
2. When you are done do you feel you sipped or drank deeply from God's wisdom and thoughts?
3. How would a set time, personal worship and time in prayer make you come closer to being drenched in his presence?



Prayer: Lord, I don't want to go through life sipping. I want it all but will not receive it until I invest the time with you. Today I choose to make time with you a priority so I will experience all you have for me and be covered with the living water you have stored up for me. Amen.

RESPONSIBILITY

I Peter 2:9-10

Objective: To understand that what has been given to you is priceless.

Objects: An egg, spear or stick

Lesson

Today we will go on a run with an egg (a symbol of protection) in the right hand. Christians are to protect the weak, helpless, and innocent. This is a run of endurance, as your life of 70 to 80 years is. The spear in your left hand is a symbol to defend. The scriptures will be attacked, misquoted, and suppressed. God tells us to be ready to give a ready defense of what you believe and know to be the truth. Protect and defend. Now run the race with endurance. See you in heaven.

Questions

1. What happens if you hold the gospel loosely? Why do we protect children from evil?
2. How easy would it be for someone to rip off your faith with misquotations or pulling scriptures out of context?
3. What does it mean to defend the gospel?
4. Can this be done with grace and truth?



Prayer: Lord, I will be the faithful warrior who not only protects scripture, but carries to the four corners of the world. I will defend Your name wherever I go and I will be the one who represents You well in tough and good times. Give me the strength to finish strong and pass the Good News to the next generation. Amen.

HOLY SCRIPTURES

II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:21, Isaiah 40:7-8

Objective: Youth will understand and respect the holiness of God's Word.

Object: Old book that looks like a Bible

Lesson

Today I am going to read a scripture that I don't agree with. (rip it out.) Why are you all gasping? It is only a book, right? I did not tear out a page of the Bible that I did not agree with. It was actually a page from a dictionary. Why did you respond with shock? The book I tore is just information as all other books written by man are. We call the Bible "Holy" because God authored it but 40 men wrote it. It is sacred, reliable, and has God's very words written to all mankind to read, and obey. Treat God's word with respect and understand how precious His Holy Word is to humanity. It is unlike any book in this world.

What if we treated our Bibles like our phones?

- Looking at scripture the first thing in the morning and the last thing before we went to bed.
- Saving specific verses for future reference.
- Asking God questions each day rather than Siri.
- Checked our spirit and not our phone every time the Holy Spirit prompted us.

Questions

1. What is God telling us with scriptures in this lesson?
2. Why do other religious books not even compare to the Holy Bible.
3. Should we ever disrespect someone else's religious book?



Prayer: God, so many people in past years have died to write, preserve and teach from your Holy Word. I pray that I will be a faithful warrior with your word and bring it to places and people that need to hear. Use me Lord today to bring your truth to the lost, hurting, lonely, searching and forsaken. Amen.

HIDDEN TREASURE

Jeremiah 33:3, Proverbs 8:17

Objective: You must search for hidden truth in Bible to find it.

Object: A treasure chest hidden in a room with coins and jewelry inside

Lesson

Somewhere in this room is a hidden treasure chest. If you did not search for it you will never find it. God says when we search for him with all our heart we will find him and the treasures he has in store for us.

Questions

1. How much time do you spend searching for God's promises and will for your life. God tells us to seek and we will find. Are you a casual looker or seeker?
2. When you go through your day, where do you see God? In nature? In a circumstance? In a divine encounter? In a random thought or idea?



Prayer: Dear God, I want to discover all you want me to know and see. Help me never to be lazy in seeking for your precious truth that is waiting for me to find. I want to daily dig up these treasures from the Bible you have given me. I can hardly wait to see what I will discover today. Amen.

MEDITATION

Psalms 119:97-100

Objective: That youth will understand that meditation is a slow process of thought.

Objects: Two candy bars

Lesson

Today you just saw two youth eat the candy bars. One ate slowly and the other ate as fast as possible. Reading God's Word is to be a slow, thoughtful time of absorbing His Word. A fast reading of scripture will leave you very little food for thought to process. The longer that you chew on the word of God, the deeper your thought processes will be for what He wants you to know about Him and the decisions you should make.

Questions

1. Who enjoyed the candy bar the most?
2. Why does gulping down God's Word in one minute really not satisfy your soul?
3. How much time do you spend meditating on God's Word and the deep truth hidden in scripture?



Prayer: Heavenly Father you ask me to meditate and be still so that I will know you are God. Today I want to clear my mind of all the distractions, cares and concerns that cloud my mind. Right now I want to come into your presence and hear Your voice—just me and You, conversing heart-to-heart, Father to child. Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WILL

I Kings 19:11-12, Isaiah 42:20, Genesis 6:22

Objective: God is speaking. Am I listening?

Object: Ear buds or head phones

Lesson

God is always communicating to us—through nature, circumstances, other Christians or His Word. The key is to listen. If the ear buds are not plugged into the cell phone when it is speaking, I cannot hear. The problem is not with the ear buds but me. Many will blame God and say He never speaks to me but the problem lies in us. Open our ears, eyes and heart so you can experience God.

Questions

1. What consumes our senses during the day so if God spoke He would be drowned out? (Music, TV, phone, video games, our busyness.)
2. How could we miss someone speaking into our lives if we always had music playing in our ears?
3. How can we be better tuned into the events and people God has planned for us each day?



Prayer: Lord, I admit I have very little quiet time during a busy day. I confess there are many conversations and messages you want to communicate but my preoccupation or business has robbed me of those times you speak. I choose to be more aware each day and search for times you want to speak to me throughout the day. Help me to slow down and focus on You. Amen.

MARRIAGE

Matthew 19:4-6; Hebrews 13:4

Objective: Youth will understand the differences when God designed a boy and a girl.

Objects: A coffee cup and a dinner glass

Lesson

There are big differences between boys and girls. God designed us that way. We were made to complement one another. The coffee cup is strong and the dinner glass is delicate. Girls are not weak just weaker. So boys can be rough with the boys but should be gentle with the girls. Boys and girls should complement each other with their gifts and strengths. Both are equal in the sight of God.

Questions

1. Discuss the differences between boys and girls—emotionally.
2. Why do you think God made boys physically stronger than girls?
3. What do you appreciate most about your brother or sister?



Prayer: Lord, thank you for my brothers and my sisters and help me to love them as You would if You were here. Give me understanding about how to live in harmony with my siblings and others that you will bring into my life. Amen.

PRAYER

I John 5:14-15; Matthew 6:5-15, James 4:2-3; James 5:15-16

Objective: That youth will understand that God is never too busy to hear their prayers.

Objects: Two cell phones

Lesson

When you want to talk to God, the creator of the universe will always have time for you. Here on earth we get very busy, but God will always answer your prayer. (Have a skit where a girl is talking to her friend—she keeps putting the friend on hold because she is too busy.) God looks forward to hearing our prayers throughout the entire day. (Skit: Have God in the morning sitting by the cell phone that never rings.) Have your youths keep a prayer journal of answered prayer and requests pending.

Questions

1. What is the most difficult to accept: A yes, no, or wait—as an answer to our prayer?
2. What was the last prayer request that God answered?
3. What answer to prayer that surprised you?



Prayer: Thank you, God, for never being too busy for me. Help me to let go of my time-table and receive your perfect plan for me. May I never keep you waiting by the phone. Amen.

SELF-ACCEPTANCE

Psalm 71:6, Psalm 8:2, Psalm 127:3, Psalm 139:13-18

Objective: To help youth accept the way God made them.

Objects: A painting and a paint brush (improve “a masterpiece”)

Lesson

When God made you, He did not make any mistakes. When God gave you your skin color, your height, and your family, he was not making a mistake. There are reasons why you are who you are. Can you imagine a master painter coming back and seeing how you have changed His masterpiece? We do not understand all that God was thinking when He made us, but you can be sure that when God finished making you, he said, “It is good!”

Questions

1. What do you like about yourself?
2. What have you thought about changing in your life?
3. Now that you have heard the lesson, are you content with who you are? Is it possible to reject self and accept others?



Prayer: Lord, thank you for making me a masterpiece. I do not understand all of your ways. But today I accept your perfect plan for me. I am now free to be me. Amen.

VALUE

Isaiah 43:1, 4; I Peter 2:9, I Corinthians 6:20, Exodus 19:5

Objective: Our value and self-worth are not determined by what we have or achieve.

Objects: Price tags, dollar, a trophy, a tiara

Lesson

We are precious in God's sight and no price tag could be too high for our value in God's eyes. In fact the price that God paid to have a relationship with us cost Him His only Son. The world forms a set of values—popular, good looking, athletic, rich. If someone switched tags from one million dollars to 10 cents, would you still have the same value? Yes. Anything that can be taken from you should not be where your value lies. You are precious in his sight, children of the King, adopted sons and daughters, sheep of His pasture. That will never change. (Take a \$1 and crumple it, then step on it then ask: "Did value change?") No matter what we have done or life does to us, we are still God's treasured possession.

Questions

1. How does the world establish the value of a life?
2. Are some more important than others if they are wealthy or athletic or good looking or famous?
3. What does it tell you about our value when God promises us we will reign beside Him forever in heaven?



Prayer: Lord may I never allow anyone or any circumstance make me think less of myself than what you think of me. I feel cherished, loved and valued under Your banner of love. Thank you for lifting me when I fall and loving me for who I am unconditionally. Change me to be more like you. Amen.

YOUR STORY

Jeremiah 29:11, Psalm 25:8-15

Objective: God has a plan that is personal and specific for my life.

Objects: Set of blueprints for house

Lesson

Have you ever thought about the time in history, family, talents, gifts, skills you have? God said this plan is not an accident but part of His story or history and you are in it. The friends you meet, conversations and even your thoughts, dreams and desires are all part of God's hand on your life. If we allow Jesus to live out life through us we will live out His plan and die without regrets. These blueprints tell a builder what the house will look like before it is built. God's blueprints for you are ready...are you?

Question

1. Do you think you are living out the life God intended?
2. Do you think you have taken some "rabbit trails" that were unwise choices?
3. What talents or gifts do you have that need to be re-directed into a bigger platform for Jesus?
4. Why do you think God put you in your specific family?
5. What do you wonder about when it comes to your life?



Prayer: God, I do not know or understand all the details of my life but I choose to move forward with what I do know. Let me see the full potential with my life and gifts. Give me ideas that only You could put in my mind. Give me the strength to live boldly for you. Amen.

GOD'S LOVE

Matthew 6:26, Luke 12:16, 24, 1 Peter 5:7, 1 John 2:15

Objective: To see how God is always watching and cares deeply about our lives.

Objects: Bird, strand of hair, flower

Lesson

When Jesus was here he used 3 objects to illustrate his love for us. If God sees a bird fall from a tree and notices, how much more does He care for us and our hurts? God says when you brush your hair and a few hairs come out, He knows! What a loving, personal and caring God we serve! God is acquainted with us in all our ways. Are you feeling special right now?

Questions

1. What feeling do you have as you read these verses about God's love?
2. When one hair on your head comes out, what does that tell you about God's knowledge about you personally?
3. What could possibly be more valuable than you on earth?



Prayer: Lord, my mind cannot conceive that you would be so involved in the details of my life. The feeling of security and care I feel when I know you watch over me is beyond my words. Thank you for giving me these illustrations that give me value and significance. Amen.

JESUS IN ME

Romans 8:38, John 15:5, 7

Objective: To teach youth that who we are affects every area of life.

Objects: Glass, chocolate, spoon, milk

Lesson

This is a glass of milk and we will add chocolate. What do you call it now? I see the chocolate in the bottom and milk on top. There are two separate parts. Sometimes we live two lives, one at church and the other at school. God wants our lives to be all mixed together with Jesus that our lives cannot be separated.

Questions

1. Does Jesus instantly transform a life or does He do it over time?
2. In the Christian life, what is the difference in chocolate and milk, vs. chocolate milk. “How can a Christian send confusing messages to other people?”
3. Do you know anyone who says one thing and then acts differently?



Prayer: Lord, teach me to be just like the chocolate milk and to allow you to permeate every area of my life. Help my life to be a life people crave to have because they can see through my behavior that You are inside me. Amen. (Let the youth drink the chocolate milk.)

NEW CREATION

Ephesians 2:10, Matthew 5:14, Colossians 1:14.

Objective: When God changes a person from the inside out he is a new person.

Object: Dirty pumpkin or watermelon, candle, knife

Lesson

When God finds us we are in the dirty pumpkin patch of sinners. He picks us up from the miry clay. He looks in and sees, our souls are filled with slime. He cleans us out and puts a smile on our face and that allows Him to put his light inside of us so he can shine through the smile. He puts us out on display and we shine on a dark night for all to see his handiwork.

Questions

1. What are some of the yucky things that God pulled out of your life? What did he replace it with?
2. Who was the first one to see your Jesus shine on your face and comment on it?
3. How do we stay clean on the inside after God forgives us?



Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for giving me the joy of knowing You. Thanks for putting Your joy inside and letting me shine for all to see Your light inside of me. I pray for those who still need to feel your cleansing touch and your loving hand. Show me the people I need to influence for you. Help me be so kind and loving and caring that people will want what I have. Amen.

NEW LIFE

II Corinthians 5:17, II Corinthians 6:17

Objective: God has given us a new life and lifestyle.

Objects: Butterfly and caterpillar

Lesson

When a caterpillar spins a cocoon and makes his own coffin, truly a miracle happens in spring. Out comes a new creature called a butterfly. What used to crawl as a worm is now a beautiful, light, colorful butterfly. When the butterfly was a worm, it saw the flowers and the world from a worm's eyes. Now it can see the world as a butterfly. Do you think the butterfly would ever wish to return to its old body? Neither should a Christian who has discovered a new life with Christ.

Questions

1. What are habits that are difficult to let go of as a Christian?
2. Share old habits you would never want to go back to.
3. Does our perspective change as we see things from above?



Prayer: Lord, when I look at the caterpillar I am in awe of how the transformation that takes place. I look back and remember my ways without You and thank You so much for giving me my new life. Today I re-affirm my commitment and loyalty to You to live my life in such a way that all may know who I belong to and what I stand for. In Your wonderful and powerful name above all others, Amen.

TOUGH CIRCUMSTANCES

Romans 8:28

Objective: Youths understand that we have to be patient as God allows difficult circumstances to invade our lives.

Objects: A bowl and all parts to make a cake (Youth can taste different ingredients)

Lesson

Life can get very confusing at times and we always need to keep our eyes on Jesus through it all. When you make a cake it takes a lot of ingredients. Taste one and it doesn't taste good. Mix it all up and taste at the end of the baking process and it tastes good. Every circumstance, trial, or victory works together for good—so be patient, trust God and let the mix and bake process happen under the loving eye of Jesus.

Questions

1. What has happened in your life you don't understand?
2. As you look back on things you did not understand at the time, can you see a reason?
3. Does our God ever make a mistake? When life heats up do we trust Him with all our heart?
4. Can God work through our mistakes?



Prayer: God I trust you and every circumstance that comes my way. Help me not to create a self-inflicted wound through my lack of discernment, negligence or disobedience. I will patiently wait for all the ingredients in Your recipe to come together into something beautiful. Help me to enjoy the process and to trust in You. Amen.

LIGHT

Isaiah 60:1-3; John 15:5; Matthew 5:14

Objective: We need to walk in a state of forgiveness so God can shine through me.

Objects: Lamp, lightbulb

Lesson

God tells us that we are the Light of the world. If we screw the lightbulb in half way, or live for Christ half in the world and half not, our light doesn't shine. We must be fully connected to the source of power. If the bulb is unattached to power, you can't tell if someone is a Christian or not; but when a person is connected, there is no doubt—the lights are on and Jesus is home. When we sin, we need to confess and get reconnected.

Questions

1. Have you ever had a time in your life when you felt disconnected from the Lord? Why do you think you felt that way?
2. What steps could you take to draw closer to God?
3. How many sins does it take for us to be disconnected from God?



Prayer: Lord, I want to shine as brightly as I can. I want Your power to flow through me so I can shine at the full capacity of Your power and not be limited by my lack of faith or my fears. Amen.

GOD'S POWER

Matthew 5:1-4; John 8:12

Objective: Power of God is available and is limited by our faith.

Objects: 40-watt, 100-watt, and Christmas light

Lesson

We are connected to God's power with the Holy Spirit inside us. There are 200 watt bulbs and 40 watt bulbs—all are connected to same power source. What limits the brilliance of the light bulb, the wattage or the power source? (Shine both lights.) How brightly do you shine and why? Don't limit God's light in you; the power is there.

Questions

1. Does age have anything to do with how brightly a bulb shines?
2. How can one increase their wattage? Why would a person ever want to hide their light or beliefs?
3. How important is faith? Ask a person who is mature in faith.



Prayer: God, I want to shine. I want to experience Your full power in my life. Increase my faith and give me the faith I need to do great things with my life. Shine through me. Amen.

I CAN'T

Philippians 4:13, Jeremiah 1:6-7, Exodus 4:10-12

Objective: Youth understand that “I can’t” should be replaced by “I’ll try.”

Objects: A small tree and a shovel

Lesson

Today we stand before this tree that we have planted over all your fears. Today we will bury our fears and never even think about them or dream of digging them back up. May the roots sink into our fears and thoughts that say “I can’t.” May it bring forth the fruit of courage and knowledge that says “I can.” God has given you the victory, so live it out in a large way and be eager to try the new and fresh opportunities awaiting you.

Questions

1. When was the last time you said “I can’t?”
2. Why are we so quick to say this without even trying?
3. What are some areas looking forward that YOU ARE going TO TRY? Try again?



Prayer: Lord, help me to see this tree as the tree that reminds me of a new beginning. No longer will I be kept captive by my own stubborn self-will. Today I will reach toward the new and promising, which you have personally set before me. Amen.

JESUS

John 10:11, 17, 18

Objective: We cannot bridge the gap as sinful people to a Holy God.

Objects: Two chairs, a piece of wood nailed in shape of cross

Lesson

We all have sinned and fallen short of reaching a reach a holy and just God. Nobody can reach God through their own effort. Many have tried and we all fail. We stand on this side of heaven and hopelessly look to the other side until Jesus steps in and fills the gap. He laid down his life on a cross between a holy God and a sinful mankind so we could connect with God and one day walk the streets of gold with Him. We put our faith in Him alone and walk across with confidence.

Questions

1. What did Jesus mean when he said He laid his life down and take it up again?
2. Will this bridge to God remain forever?
3. Who bears the weight of our sin on His shoulders?
4. How do humans try to bridge this impossible gap? (Youth try to jump chair to chair before laying cross down)



Prayer: Thank you, Jesus, for being my pathway to God. I know there is no other way and I thank You for the cross and all it represents. You're the way truth and life. I believe in You and You alone. Amen.

DAILY WALK

II Thessalonians 2:16, Psalm 1:1-3, Numbers 6:25, Acts 4:13

Objective: Youth should understand that it is up to us to have a daily walk with God.

Object: A glowing star or a cross that shines in the dark

Lesson

The cross glows in the night because it has been close to the light. The person who stays close to God will have a Jesus shine on their face. Some people call this “joy.” The longer the glowing cross is away from the light, the more it will fade. So walk in the light as He is in the light, and you will not fade.

Questions

1. Where do you spend quiet time? What does it look like?
2. What happens to our walk or life when we are not in presence of God daily?



Prayer: Dear God, there are times I feel distant from You and usually it is because I have not met consistently with You to receive the inspiration and strength You have for me. I want to draw close to You today. I am reminded that when I feel weak You are strong. It is my desire to stay close to You daily in all my ways. Amen.

BALANCE

James 2:14-20, Philippians 1:6, Ephesians 2:10

Objective: Our faith should equal to our works.

Object: Balloon with “faith” and “works” written on each side

Lesson

We are all saved by faith. However, the evidence of our faith should be the good works we choose to do with our gifts from above. These good works are a by-product of being saved. An apple tree produces apples and faith will produce works. We are not saved by our works but built for good works. Are our works equal to our faith or are we mostly talk when it comes to good deeds? As the balloon is blown up with air you can see that our faith should be equal to our works.

Questions

1. If the righteous are saved by faith, then why are works important?
2. What did Jesus mean when He said be not hearers of the Word but doers?
3. Do good deeds come unintentionally or intentionally? (Have youths write down on sticky-notes what they will do this week to help around the house, help a friend or neighbor, etc.)



Prayer: God you know m y heart and know I am grateful for all you have done for me. I want my life to be rich in good works when I stand before you. I want to live out the saying, when the heart is right the feet are swift. Use me this day for Your good works which You planned in advance for me to do. Amen.

PERSPECTIVE

Ephesians 5:26, II Corinthians 5:17.

Objective: God will keep our perspective right and our vision clear.

Object: Dirty window

Lesson

Windows get dirty and need to be washed regularly. Listening to the news and culture begins to influence us and shape our values. We all need to be washed in the crystal clear water of God's Word daily and hear God's voice. When you look at life through a dirty window, you see everything differently.

Questions

1. How can bad news shape your opinion of God's sovereignty?
2. How can all the Instagram posts and Twitter messages influence how you view God?
3. How can being around foul language foul up your head?
4. What does God say His word will do for you?



Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for keeping my vision clear. When I look at life through the lens of Your Word, it helps me see life for what is. Keep me clean and spotless as Your bride. Amen.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

I Corinthians 13:1-13, Galatians 2:20, John 21:15

Objective: Gifts are there for us to serve one another.

Objects: A plate of food and silverware, or a variety of fruits

Lesson

There are many gifts in the body of Christ like the parts in this grapefruit. We also have different types of fruit to use so each can build up the body of Christ. God only gives a few gifts of the Spirit to each so we all have to work together. Gifts are to serve one another not ourselves (youth take a fruit and serve someone else.)

Question

1. What gift do you have to share in the body of Christ?
2. When was last time you used it to serve someone else?
3. Discuss how many parts of body all work together to give health to body. What happens to fruit that sits?



Prayer: Lord, help me to see clearly what my spiritual gifts are so I can serve you and others. May my gifts be like a well-worn tool when I serve my last person on earth and stand before You. Amen.

PLANTING

John 12:24, Ecclesiastes 11:4, Proverbs 22:8

Objective: You reap what you sow.

Object: A pack of seeds, dandelion

Lesson

When you sow apple seeds, you get apples; and when you sow corn, you get corn. God tells us that when we sow acts of kindness that kindness will return to us. If we sow strife, then arguments will be reaped. It is so important that we are careful of what type of seeds we are planting. Love, joy, peace and patience are great seeds to sow. This is the harvest that God wants us to bring forth from the actions and deeds of our life.

Questions

1. How does a person sow seeds of kindness?
2. Where do they sow them? How would a person reap kindness in return? What can you learn from the dandelion?
3. If someone plants a bad seed can a Christian replace it with a good one?
4. Have you ever gotten a text or tweet that said mean things about someone else? What could you do to prevent the dandelion seeds from spreading?



Prayer: Lord, when I look at my day I want to plant joy, truth, love and encouragement. Help my life to produce a record-breaking harvest for you. Show me the places today to plant my seeds. Amen.

BEARING FRUIT

II Peter 1:5-8; John 15:1-6

Objective: There will be no fruit unless we stay connected to the vine.

Objects: Fruit vine growing and a cut vine

Lesson

We should all bear fruit. God gives us a list of character traits to add to our life so we will be fruitful and not barren. A vine attached to the branch should bear much fruit. Connected means to abide or have Jesus make His home in you. He should not be in a closet but in the center of home and He owns it. All my heart is Christ's home and I get to live with Him free to roam.

Questions

1. When do you feel most fruitful? What were you doing?
2. When did you feel barren?
3. What do you do or need to stop doing to be abiding once again with Vine?



Prayer: Dear God, I want to bear much fruit. A little fruit will not do. I want you to daily flow your love and power through my branches. Show me how, and give me the eyes to see circumstances where I can share my gifts. Amen.

BREVITY OF LIFE

Ecclesiastes 12:1-7, Ecclesiastes 11:9-10, Isaiah 40:7-8

Objective: Youth will understand the quotation: “Only one life will soon be past. Only what’s done for Christ will last.”

Object: A match

Lesson

As I light this match, you can see that is burning down quickly. God says our life is represented by this match. It is here today and gone tomorrow like wilting grass. We must be sure as Christians that we are spending our time wisely. This match can never be relit again—just like our lives can only be lived once. Live it well.

Questions

1. How long did your grandparents live?
2. Did they ever say how quickly time has gone by?
3. If this was your last year on earth, what would you want to do differently?



Prayer: Lord, I now realize that life is short and I need to make it count. Show me the best use of my time and use of the gifts you have given me. Give me understanding and teach me to number my days. Amen.

THOUGHTS

Philippians 4:6-7 Colossians 3:2

Objective: Guard your eye gate and mind for many want to come in.

Object: Circle of youth

Lesson

As you think so you become—your thoughts affect your behavior. If you fill your mind with negative thoughts, you act and respond negatively. Guard your minds! Be careful what you let in through eye and ear gates. (Place a youth in center surrounded by youths with signs of virtues. Then let a youth try to break through circle which is labeled racism, fear, worry, criticism, dirty jokes, etc.) Many will knock at your door. Who will you let in?

Questions

1. How can a movie sneak an idea into your head?
2. How alert are you to what goes into your head and ears from ads and music?
3. How can you effectively guard your mind throughout the day?



Prayer: Thank you Lord for giving me the power and insight I need to recognize right from wrong and guard my mind when they come knocking. I know it will always be a struggle so let me be on guard 24/7 for those unwelcome intruders that want to pollute my mind. Amen.

BATTLE BUDDIES

II Timothy 3:1-5, Proverbs 1:8-19, Psalm 1:1 Proverbs 6:12-19, Proverbs 14:15-16

Objective: We all need a battle buddy who sticks besides us and holds accountable.

Objects: Two boys, back-to-back, both have swords. One falls asleep and is attacked by an enemy.

Lesson

God never intended for us to go through life alone. We all need a loyal and faithful friend who watches out and holds us accountable when they see the enemy attacking or me wandering from the truth. When iron sharpens iron it usually produces heat. Accept it from a friend who cares.

Questions

1. Who do you have and why do you consider them a battle buddy?
2. What happens if a battle buddy lets their guard down in war?
3. What does staying alert mean to you?
4. How have you helped a friend be stronger in their faith or live out their faith in a more clear, obvious way? Are they straying from the truth or from a godly lifestyle.



Prayer: Lord give me a friend that will stick closer to me than a brother and help me be the battle buddy you want me to be. Help me be alert to all dangers that approach day or night. Help me to listen when corrected and encourage others with my words. Amen.

ANGER

Ephesians 4:26, James 1:19

Objective: Youth will understand that anger is a real emotion we should handle God's way.

Objects: Fuse, long match, flare, balloon

Lesson

We will all deal with anger issues in life. God said be slow to anger. When you burn, think of a long fuse that will give you time to extinguish emotions as you pray and hold your tongue. We also need to deal with it before the sun sets and make it right. Have a long fuse (to burn toward a flare) and ask how long their fuse is for patience. You can fill a balloon with water and put match under it. When filled with the Holy Spirit, you will not let the heat of the situation raise your temper.

Questions

1. What really gets you ticked off?
2. How have you coped with strong feelings of anger?
3. Discuss the benefits of dealing with anger God's way and the consequences of disregarding God's ways.
4. Learn how to leave a heated situation; write out your feelings on paper and then give it to God; write your anger on a rock and then throw it in the river.



Prayer: God, thank you for knowing us and understand ignoring our struggle with anger. I choose to follow Your way and keep my anger from destroying relationships. More importantly I want to be like You who forgave, turned the cheek and prayed for those who mistreated You. Amen.

LETTING GO

Hebrews 12:2; Matthew 9:5; Ephesians 4:32; Mark 11:26

Objective: We need to let go of past and look forward.

Objects: Gasoline, popsicle sticks or sticks, thread, match

Lesson

God gives us total and complete forgiveness and seals it with Romans 8:1 as a promise. God expects us to forgive and let go of the grudges that will wreck a relationship with others and God. When we forgive, we should forget and never look back or allow our past to hold back the future God has for us. (Pour a line of gas/diesel over the row of bridges youth make with sticks and thread. Have youth stand at attention with Burning Bridges music played and light with match.)

Questions

1. As the flames were rising what grudge did you leave behind?
2. Why is it so important to not only forgive, but forget?
3. Who will suffer most from resentment and bitterness?
4. Who do you need approach to make it right with so you can move ahead in life with freedom?



Prayer: Lord, teach me to quickly forgive and quickly let go. I don't want to have any anchors that weigh down my direction or walk with You. Help me to be at peace with all people and be a healer. Amen.

LOOKING FORWARD

Luke 9:6; Hebrews 12:2

Objective: Teach youth that the past is the past—let it go!

Objects: Gasoline and popsicle sticks, twigs

Lesson

Today, before you are bridges that represent your past. Many look back and re-cross the bridges of memories that keep them focused on wrongs they have done or past failures. Today we will claim the promise, break the rear view mirror, and fix our eyes on Jesus--the author and finisher of our faith. The gasoline we pour on your bridges will be symbolic of the decision you have made to never re-cross the bridges of memory that Satan has used to keep you focused on your defeats. Onward to victory! (Youths stand in a line and salute as gas is poured on the bridges burn to “Burning Bridges” forevermore.)

Questions

1. What is a memory or regret that you need to let go of?
2. What emotions are you holding on to that you would like to be free of?
3. Are there people you need to ask forgiveness in order to complete the process of letting go?
4. What new vision do you have for your life looking forward?



Prayer: Lord, thank you for showing me how to forgive and forget. You have given me a plan and a future which I want to focus on going forward. From these ashes make all things new with my life. Today I'm crossing over and never looking back except to remember Your grace and mercy toward me. Amen

RECONCILIATION WITH GOD

John 15:15; John 1:12; I Corinthians 6:17; I Peter 2:9-10; Hebrews 9:22;
Colossians 3:12

Objective: Learn how we came into the presence of a holy God.

Objects: Rocks, cross, nails, hammer, paper, pens, crown, wash basin, towel, fire, bread, juice

Lesson

Today we are outside in darkness and carry our sins and they are a heavy burden. We drop/burn them in a pile at the foot of the cross. Today we walk across the cross that is the bridge to a holy God, and wash our hands in the laver to remind us that God has washed our sins away. We write down words of gratitude to Jesus and nail them to the cross. We take communion to remind us of the price Jesus paid to redeem us. We wash the feet of each other so we can carry out God's plan to love and serve one another until He returns for us. We all receive the crown as a reminder of what we have to look forward to as we reign forever with The Lamb.

Questions

1. How did you feel when you burned the sins of your past?
2. Jesus was trampled for our salvation—how do you ever show gratitude for the pain and suffering? Why is expressing gratitude and spiritual discipline important?
3. Explain the importance of communion. Why is foot washing such a powerful experience?
4. Discuss the full meaning of what Jesus did in the upper room.



Prayer: Lord, today I remind myself of the price You paid for my salvation. Give me the daily mindset to live my life for You. Let me be quick to serve hurting, homeless, helpless, and the lost in the world. Amen.

ETERNITY

I Corinthians 3:11-15, Ephesians 2:10, I John 2:17, Matthew 6:19-20

Objective: Invest time and life for eternal values.

Objects: Put some silver coins under wood, sticks and hay, then light

Lesson

God will judge every Christian according to his works. Works or good deeds will last for eternity. Our time, treasure and talent should be invested for the Lord's purposes. This will make sure that your foundation is eternal. God has a grade book not on our salvation but on our use of time and life. We are not saved by works but for good works. Good deeds daily reap a rich harvest.

Questions

1. What can I do for God today?
2. What does it mean to invest time for eternity?
3. What are things that will or will not last in heaven
4. How can I take a activity or event and turn it into something that has an eternal impact?



Prayer: God, teach me to number my days and let me see how ordinary events, conversations, activities can make a lasting impression for You. Help me to keep in mind how you invested your time in people and not things. I want to have my life count. Amen.

SECURITY

John 10:29, I John 3:3-9, John 8:31, I John 3:24, I John 5:13.

Objective: Assurance of salvation rests in the promises of God.

Object: Closed fist with something inside

Lesson

God says we are secure in Him. This closed hand represents the assurance of your salvation. Try to open my hand. Nobody can pry God's hand open. Our security lies in God's strength and promises.

Questions

1. Why do money, location, and college degrees never give true security to our minds?
2. Should the Christian ever get nervous about not being saved?
3. Why is this verse so reassuring in an insecure world?



Prayer: Lord, thank you for your words of comfort to your sheep. Thank you for driving away my fears and holding me close to your heart. Blessed assurance Jesus is mine, o what a foretaste of glory divine. Amen.

ETERNITY

I Corinthians 13:12, Acts 3:21

Objective: To help youth understand that we walk by faith and not by sight.

Objects: Reflective tin or pan, and a mirror

Lesson

When you look at your face in the bottom of this pan, you can vaguely see your face. In our lives on this earth, it is like we are looking into a pan. We only see vaguely what God is doing with our lives. When you look in a mirror, you see your face perfectly, which is how you will see God's hand in your life when you get to heaven. Our job is to trust and obey. One day we will see things clearly.

Questions

1. What are the first questions you will ask God in heaven about your life?
2. What has happened in your life that you have not fully understood?
3. Why doesn't God tell us everything now?



Prayer: Thank you, Jesus, for preparing a place for me in heaven. I can hardly wait. When clouds cover the sun I cannot see it, but know it still shines. Give me faith to trust you when I cannot see or understand You fully. Amen.

TIME

Ecclesiastes 12:1-7

Objective: Youth will understand that time is precious, invest it well.

Objects: Row of trophies

Lesson

Life is short and God wants us to live it without regrets. A way to do that is to remember that everything has a time price-tag attached to it. Everybody needs to consider: Is this project, sport, hobby... worth the exchange of time I am giving it? An earned trophy may cost hundreds of hours. Is it worth it?

Only one life will soon be past, only what is done for Christ will last!

Questions

1. What is the most amount of time you gave to win a trophy?
2. Did you include all the practice time and just not the game itself?
3. The Bible teaches me to present unto You a heart of wisdom. Is it truly wise to give so much time to something that will not last for eternity?
4. Why is it easier to waste time when we are younger?
5. How can the good use of small time be important?
6. Discuss wasting time vs. investing time.



Prayer: Lord, teach me to number my days in wisdom. I know that life is unpredictable and short. Show me ways to redeem my time and make it count for You. You have given me limited time to accomplish the work you have for me. Let me discover it quickly and engage with focused time and high priorities. Amen.

TIME

Ecclesiastics 11:6; 12:1; Psalm 90:10; Ecclesiastics 3:1-9

Objective: Now is the day of salvation.

Objects: Three candles, match

Lesson

Today I will light three candles. Each represents a life. Which candles do you think represents the adult, youth, and child? Actually, it is the reverse. The adult, who waits to give his life for Christ, has very little time to burn and live for Jesus. His life is more than half over. The middle candle is the teenager who has missed so much of life that God wanted him to learn as a youth. He will have much to catch up on in Christian maturity and opportunities missed. The child who receives Christ will learn the basics of faith, experience every state of life with Christ, and have huge momentum with a full lifetime to give to Christ. Jesus can do much with little time, but it is best to make a choice today to follow him.

Questions

1. Can God do incredible things with an older person who receives Christ?
2. Can God redeem lost time and accelerate the impact a person can have on earth?
3. List the advantages of a child who receives Christ and grows through the years in maturity and strength. List disadvantages of waiting to receive God's love and forgiveness.



Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for finding me and using my life to make a difference. I don't want to waste one minute apart from Your will and plan for my life. Take my heart, head and hands, and lead me in Your perfect plan for my life. Amen.

DEATH

1 John 5:12, John 11:1-27, Revelation 20:14

Objective: Youth will learn that spiritual death is final.

Objects: Casket or picked flower, a flower cut from four days ago

Lesson

Death is separation from people on earth. There is a death worse than a physical death—it is a spiritual death. A spiritually dead person looks alive, but like the flower, he or she is spiritually dead and time will show it. People without God will go through this life without His hope, His directions, His discernment, or strength. As soon as people receive Christ, they immediately receive all that God offers now and forever.

Questions

1. What are the affects you see in a non-believer's life versus the life of a saved person?
2. How can God make something dead come alive?
3. Describe what Jesus did in your life.



Prayer: Lord, without you I am a walking dead man removed from Your life-giving spirit. Thank You for bringing me to the cross where I found new life in Jesus. Fill me up with the Living water You promised the woman at the well and grow me to bear much fruit. Amen.

DEATH

Revelation 1:18, Matthew 22:32, I Corinthians 15:15, Romans 8:38-39

Objective: No Christian should be afraid of death.

Objects: Sheet and a back light, toy truck, knife

Lesson

When Jesus conquered death by resurrecting from the grave and proving that He had power over death it gives us great confidence that our last breath on earth is our first breath in heaven. King David in Psalm 23 said 'I go through the valley of death; I will fear no evil.' He said we will go *through* it, not *to* it. Can the shadow of a knife hurt you? Can the shadow of a truck kill you? Nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus and that includes death.

Questions

1. When did you first think about death as a child?
2. Why does Easter hold the key to our Christian faith?
3. Discuss how Jesus always goes before us in any circumstance life will present us.



Prayer: God, thank you for leaving us with the promise of life after death. Let me walk fearlessly through life knowing that on earth or in heaven I will always be with You. Amen.

BOOK OF LIFE

Philippians 4:3, Exodus 32:32, Revelation 13:8, 20:12, Isaiah 3:5

Objective: Teach youth that God has written names in His book.

Object: Big book with signatures

Lesson

Did you know God keeps a book in heaven and it's called the book of life. If you are a Christian, your name is in the book—it went in the day you received Christ. Moses and David both mentioned this book in the Bible. Those who are saved are all recorded in the Book of Life.

Questions

1. How many names do you think are in the book of life?
2. Who from scripture do you know was recorded in it?
3. What day were you saved and recorded?
4. How many of your friends are in the Book of Life?



Prayer: Lord, thank you for saving me and writing my name in Your Book of Life. Help me to live my life in such a way that others will see that I am a Christian and want to hear how they too can have their name in Your Book. Thank You for the assurance of salvation You have given to me with my name. Amen.

WITNESS

Acts 1:8, Matthew 4:18-19

Objective: All youth should be fishers of men.

Objects: Fishing pole with doll on the hook, cheese, bread

Lesson

We all should learn how to fish and do it so often we call ourselves fishermen. Why? Because God asked us to and because of our love for people! When we want to share God's love with others, we have to do it in a way that is interesting to them. We need to think about what they like. The doll on the hook is like a fish. If a person likes sports, we need to invite them to a soccer game. If they like bikes, spend time biking with them. If we spend time doing things with people that they like, they will be more open to hearing us share about God's love. Sometimes fish are ready to bite, and sometimes they are just watching you. In the same way, sometimes people are ready to hear about God's love, and other times they aren't ready yet—but they are watching you. Don't forget, sharks are fish too. But God loves all people. Go fishing today!

Questions

1. If you were going fishing, where would you find fish?
2. Where do your friends hang out and what do you do to reach them?
3. What does God mean when he says become all things to all men so that they might be saved?
4. What type of bait would you use for different types of people?



Prayer: Lord, I want to share my faith. Show me the place I need to go and show me what I need to say to reach deep into the heart of a seeker. I want to be known as a fisher of men. Amen.

GOOD NEWS

Ephesians 3:10, Acts 1:8, Luke 14:23, Isaiah 6:8-11

Objective: When your heart is right, it is impossible not to share the Good News.

Objects: Bottle of soda and Mentos

Lesson

(Place five Mentos in coke and the coke will shoot up into the air.)

When we receive the best news of God's love, gift of forgiveness, and eternal life to all who believe, it is impossible not to share. God tells us we are containers that hold the Gospel that is to be shared to all nations. In Mark 1:14-20, the first thing Jesus is seen doing in ministry is sharing the Good News. May each of us proclaim the Gospel as Romans 10:14 challenges us to do.

Questions

1. When was the last time you shared with another the Gospel?
2. What keeps us with sharing to others?
3. Discuss the reaction of the Mentos and coke and tie this into the response of people who hear. Are we supposed to control the response people have when they hear?
4. Who do you need to share with today?



Prayer: Lord, help me to have the eyes and ears of Jesus so I will recognize the opportunities you place in front of me to share my faith on a consistent basis. In Jesus name, Amen.

— LESSON 78 —

EVANGELISM

Ephesians 6:15, Isaiah 52:7

Objective: Youth should share at all times regardless of location.

Objects: Different types of shoes

Lesson

There are many types of shoes we wear. We dress up, play tennis, run, and relax in them. God tells us about the shoes of the gospel that are part of our spiritual armor. Every shoe you put on can become a place where you can share. You can share God's love at a party, a sports event, a back yard barbecue. Your feet will go to many places around the world and each place should be opportunity to share.

Questions

1. If you are at a funeral or pool party, how could that be a place to share?
2. Where are places you have shared in the past?
3. Is there ever a wrong time to share? What are different ways we can share?



Prayer: Lord, take my shoes to places around the world and to the most unlikely places so I can share the Good News. May I always wake up in the morning and armor up so I will be ready to share the Gospel of Peace. Amen.

HELL

Luke 16:19-31, Revelation 20:11-15

Objective: That youth will develop a great compassion for their lost friends.

Object: A dollar bill with the corner numbers clipped off but replaced with “\$100”

Lesson

What do you see in my hand? Today I am going to burn a \$100 bill before your eyes. (Light the bill on fire.) It appears to me that many of you are getting quite emotional as I burn this bill. It is just a piece of paper. (Blow out the fire when it’s burned half-way through.) The point I’m going to make today that most of you were more emotional at seeing this \$100 bill burn than you are knowing that your lost friends are going to burn in hell. Jesus had a great compassion for the lost. Jesus had a great compassion for the lost and was not willing that any should perish. We should have the same compassion for the lost sheep—as Jesus did.

Questions

1. Who are five friends that you know that don’t know Jesus?
2. When was the last time you tried to share the gospel with them or invite them to a Christian activity?
3. Name several ways you can help people take one step closer to knowing and receiving Christ?



Prayer: Jesus, I love my friends and I want them to experience Your love. Help me to make the opportunity to share the Good News or explain how they can know their Creator. Amen.

SALVATION

John 1:12, Luke 2:10, Matthew 7:13-14

Objective: Youths should understand that salvation is available to everybody, but they must receive it.

Object: A dollar in your hand

Lesson

God offered the gift of salvation to everybody. In the Bible some listened, others thought about it, and others walked away. Anybody can have this dollar who wants it, but you have to take it. (Walk back and forth till someone does.) Everybody has the same offer but only one of you actually reached out and took it. Why? (Peer pressure? He wasn't talking to me? I wasn't listening?) Each day God offers salvation, but few will receive the Good News.

Question

1. Where did Jesus offer the Good News when he was on earth?
2. What are three or four responses people have when they hear the good news?
3. When God says now is the day of salvation do you think He means now?



Prayer: Lord, I thank You for your free gift of salvation. Help me to offer it to others. May I never be discouraged if someone ignores or rejects me, for I am doing what Jesus did and want to be faithful to the call. Amen.

DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

Matthew 11:28, Psalm 28:7, Psalm 73:26

Objective: We can withstand the crush of circumstances if God's strength is inside us.

Objects: Paper towel roll, rolled-up phone book

Lesson

Life can be a heavy weight on our shoulders, with divorce. Sometimes life can feel really hard. We might have problems in our family. School work might be hard, and sometimes other people aren't always kind to us. We might get lonely at times too. The load can feel very heavy, and we sometimes feel like things will never get better.

But if our life is surrounded by the promises of God, and we lean on Him in our toughest times, He will support us, just like this phone book wrapped around the paper roll. Stand on the promises and you will be able to handle the load of life.

Questions

1. What are some heavy questions that have been on your mind?
2. What are some hard things that are happening in your life right now?
3. Can you name some promises that God gives you to strengthen?
4. Discuss the saying, "If God takes you to it, He will take you through it."



Prayer: Lord, thank you for standing beside me and wrapping Your strong arms of love around me during my most difficult days. You said You will never leave me in my darkest hour, so draw to my mind Your promises to help me through. Amen.

IRRITATIONS

James 1:2-4, Romans 5:4

Objective: God will use the irritations or problems in our life to develop our character.

Object: A pearl

Lesson

This pearl was developed in an amazing way. A small piece of sand got through the shell and the oyster began to secrete a fluid around the sand. In doing so, over time, a beautiful pearl was produced. So it is with the irritations we have in life. If we allow God to work in us and through us we will endure these irritations with a godly response. God promises us He will produce beauty in our life. Be patient—God is at work in your life, even with the trials and irritations.

Questions

1. What really bugs you?
2. How is our response to an irritating brother or sister?
3. Do you respond in patience as God asks?
4. How could an irritating neighbor or kid at school develop us as godly people?



Prayer: Lord, you know there are plenty of things that irritate me and that I have little patience for. Please let me see You through it all and respond as Jesus would to all circumstances. I want to be developed and know You are developing pearls of patience in me. I trust Your hand in my life. Amen.

REAL DIAMOND

Matthew 5:16, Isaiah 60:1

Objective: Youth will understand that God wants to shine in and through us.

Objects: Diamond ring or clean glass pane

Lesson

When a diamond first comes out of the ground, it is dull and dirty. Someone has to wash and polish it to make it sparkle and shine. Before we accept Jesus, we are like that dull and dirty diamond when it first comes out of the ground. But when we accept Jesus into our hearts, He washes us clean and polishes us like the diamond. We should shine for Jesus and not ourselves. A newly married girl shows her ring to everybody. We should share our faith with many and never leave our diamond in the drawer.

Questions

1. Can we wash away our own sins?
2. How does sin in our life keep God's pure light from shining through us?
3. If one has a dirty diamond what does it communicate to others and to the giver?
4. Leave up to God the size of the diamond, our job is to sparkle.



Prayer: Lord, thank You for the sparkle you have put in my life. I want to shine for you. Help me to be aware of anything that would take away the shine You want to radiate from my life. Shine down on me. Amen.

LIVING STONES

I Peter 2:4, Joshua 4:21

Objective: Youth will understand that they are living stones and a testament to God's grace.

Objects: Pile of stones

Lesson

God tells us His people are called living stones. We build a spiritual foundation that will last forever as well as leave a foundation behind for others to build on. Our deeds live way beyond our current lifetime. We need to be a living testimony to God that we are His people and the sheep of pasture. (Dedicate your youth to The Lord and have each one drop his stone on the pile.)

Questions

1. What are the living testimonies that Christians leave behind after they die?
2. Why does God call himself a Cornerstone?
3. How important is it when building a wall that the cornerstone be in place and the other stones be placed against it?



Prayer: Lord, You are my Rock and I feel solid and secure against You. Help me to be a living and breathing stone for You. Help me to be a stone that builds the church and brings strength to the people of God. Amen.

THE REAL DEAL

James 2:20, Matthew 7:20-23

Objective: We should be real and try to imitate the real thing.

Objects: A fake diamond and a real one, a coin, and a crystal glass

Lesson

You can you tell a fake diamond from a real one. An expert will examine the clarity, cut, karat and color. Just like a true coin rings when dropped or crystal glass sings (lightly slide a moistened finger around the rim and it will sing) a fake does neither. Good works are a distinguishing mark of a true believer. Shine on.

Questions

1. What do people try to pretend to be?
2. What is the difference between a person doing good deeds and a Christian doing good deeds in the name of Jesus?
3. Why is it so important *not* to judge people's motives?



Prayer: Lord, I am Your diamond on Your hand who You want to show to the world. Thank You for giving me a place in Your kingdom. Now let me represent the diamond You want me to be by shining brightly for You. Amen.

AUTHENTICITY

Galatians 5:22-23

Objective: There is no comparison to religion vs. relationship.

Objects: Fake and real fruit

Lesson

The world tries to earn favor with God by being good, going to church and being religious. Jesus did not die an agonizing death on a cross so we could be good or religious. He gave it all up so we could have a relationship with Him. This will transform our life and produce the true fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, etc. When a person sees someone going through the motions out of duty to religion, the difference is like fake versus real fruit.

Questions

1. What are things people do to be religious?
2. Does calling yourself a Christian make you a Christian?
3. Why did Jesus say you will know them by their fruit?



Prayer: God, I never want to act religious with my actions, words or deeds. I thank You for the day You gave me Yourself and turned my life into a new creation. Help me to show the world the difference in a true Christ follower. Amen.

ENCOURAGE

Ephesians 4:29, 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Objective: Youth will learn how important words are to others.

Objects: Flower, tooth paste, feathers

Lesson

Our words have the power to build or destroy. God says there is life or death in the tongue. Mean and unkind words tear, wound and hurt. God says put a deposit in others that lifts them up. It is easy to take the petals off a flower and squeeze toothpaste out of the tube. Now try putting them back on or try putting back into tube. (Scatter some feathers and have a youth try to collect them.) Remember too that anything you post on Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook is permanent and cannot ever be taken back. Ten years from now, will you be proud of the words you wrote?

Questions

1. When was the last time you built somebody up with your words?
2. How hard is it to take back hastily spoken words?
3. How can words change a person for better or worse?



Prayer: Lord, teach me to bring words of life to others that they may feel affirmed, appreciated and loved. Help me to be quick to build a person up and bring a smile to their face. May my words never bring hurt to another intentionally. In Jesus name. Amen.

WORLD

John 15:9, I Kings 18:21, Romans 12:2, I John 2:15

Objective: Teach youth that they are to be in world but not become a part of it.

Object: Boat in a bowl in water

Lesson

We are all called to be in the world, but Jesus tells us not to let the world get into us. A boat floats because water does not seep inside it. We must not allow the world's culture, philosophy or world view to seep into our thinking. The day we look, sound, act, dress, and live as the world does, we are probably in the world. Hold onto your Christian values.

Questions

1. What is a habit or word that you started to repeat when you heard it on TV or a movie?
2. Why are we so quick to imitate the world?
3. How much time do we spend each day on social media or watching TV?
4. What can Christians do to remain unstained by the world?
5. Why does fish from the ocean not taste salty?



Prayer: Lord, my desire is to become more like You and not the world. Give me a discernment that will let me see if there are traces of the world in me. I want to be transformed to be more like You and not the world. Amen.

PRIORITIES

Matthew 6:33, Matthew 22:37-38

Objective: When we put God first in our life as God asked us to, life will make sense.

Objects: A button-down shirt, a plate of cookies

Lesson

When I put the wrong button in the buttonhole, the entire shirt is misaligned. When we put Christ first in our life as He asked, our life will be in order and be lived out according to God's priorities. (Offer everyone a cookie. And then hold out a plate of crumbs.) When the cookies were all gone, the crumbs are the leftovers. God does NOT want the leftovers of our time, our talent or our treasures. He wants first pick and top priority.

Question

1. How do you decide what is important in your life?
2. What does a normal schedule of your day look like?
3. In reviewing your schedule, would you say that God has priority throughout your entire day?
4. How do you start your day? Do you check your phone first thing, or do you pray and read the Bible first?
5. What is the last thing you do before you go to sleep?
6. Do you end your day by thanking God for all His blessings, or by checking your phone again?



Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for having a perfect plan for my life. Help me to keep my priorities in order and never be too busy to live life Your way. Thanks for hearing my Prayer. Amen.

COMMITMENT

Luke 10:27

Objective: God wants to permeate every area of life.

Objects: Bicycle wheel and pizza

Lesson

The sliced pizza represents different areas of your life. One slice would be friendship and other relationships. You would have social time, TV time, church, school, sports, thought-life, vacations, and finances. The world would divide these all up as separate activities and areas of your life. When one becomes committed to Christ, there are no longer separate parts of life, but we are more like a bicycle wheel that has the hub as Jesus and every area radiates out from that relationship. It is all connected by Christ, His way, words, actions and heart. It all boils down to the hub—the center of our life, Jesus.

Questions

1. What area have you not allowed Jesus to have total control over?
2. What would the world say to a Christian that allows Jesus to be in one part, but would exclude Him from another?
3. How do I make sure that Jesus is always at the center of my world?



Prayer: Lord, I live in a world that believes your private life is private, and your public life is all that matters. Help me to show them the difference. Come reign in me and permeate every shady corner of my life that has not allowed the full sunlight to expose. I want to be totally committed to You—public and private. Amen.

COMMITMENT

Objective: You are going to trust God with reckless abandon.

Objects: Pool or body of water

Lesson

Today we stand on the edge of the pool. We don't know how deep, how cold, who else will jump with us or follow. It matters not. I'm diving in and not testing the temperature with my toe or waiting to see if others are going to dive in. My eyes are on Jesus and I am diving in—much like Peter got out of the boat while others watched. Increase my faith as I dive into the great adventure.

Questions

1. Why do we like for others to go first?
2. How do you think the other disciples felt when they saw Peter walking on water to Jesus, while THEY sat in the boat.
3. What have you to gain or lose if you wait or hesitate to follow Jesus today in total trust and commitment?



Prayer: Lord, keep me in Your hand as I walk in faith. I am excited for what you have in store for me. It does not matter if my friends follow or falter, this is my faith walk and I'm following You. Hold me close and drench me in Your everlasting love. Your son/daughter of the most High King, forever. Amen.

INFLUENCE

Ephesians 5:26, John 3:5, John 15:3

Objective: Teach youth that they are to be in the world to influence it—not vice versa.

Object: Sponge

Lesson

Whatever you immerse a sponge in water, it will absorb the water. When squeezed and under pressure a sponge will release whatever it is immersed in. If we are immersed in the world's ways and thoughts we will absorb the thoughts and patterns of an ungodly world. Our job is be immersed in the Bible and set our thoughts on the things above. This will help us to live in the world but see things through God's eyes. Soak in the Word daily. Listen to Christian music as often as you can.

Questions

1. What comes out of you when tough times come?
2. Do the promises of God come to your mind or do the fears and thoughts of the world rush in?
3. When something hard or scary happens....recite a promise that God has given you.
4. If we hold anger and unforgiveness, will this leak out?



Prayer: Thank you, Jesus, for being able to saturate me in Your living water. Saturate my mind, soul and spirit. I need You every hour and want to think Your thoughts and be filled up to overflowing with You. Thank You for hearing my Prayer:. Amen.

LEAVING A MARK

Objective: Win leaves a mark on others.

Objects: Hammer, nails, wood

Lesson

When we say or write hurtful words, we leave a mark on others that deeply impresses them. While we may go back and ask forgiveness, the nail is removed but the hurt can last long after the nail is removed. Learn to hold your tongue and control your words so you will have fewer nails to pull out and fewer scars to mend.

Questions

1. When was the last time you unintentionally hurt someone's feelings? Intentionally?
2. What did you say to remove the nail from their hearts? Can you recall some scars left from words said to you?
3. Have you given it all to the Lord?



Prayer: Help me, God, to be careful with my words and commit my lips every morning to be seasoned with grace and love. I want people to feel secure around me even when I am upset or feel mistreated. May I never return one harsh word for another spoken to me. Amen.

As Mother Theresa said:

"Spread love everywhere you go.

Let no one leave you without feeling happier."

BODY OF CHRIST

I Corinthians 12:12-31

Objective: God wants us all to work together to accomplish the work of the body.

Objects: Balloon and five volunteers

Lesson

God needs us all to accomplish His plans on earth. We all have different talents, abilities and skills. God did this intentionally so the body will work together and watch out for needs of others, gather input, brainstorm, and share resources. Some lead, some follow, some talk and others listen. Discover your spiritual gift today and wrap your life around it. You will gain great momentum for your life. (Have hands pick up balloon, eyes look at the balloon, lips blow the balloon up, feet carry it to a seat and pop it with everybody working together in a race.)

Questions

1. When was the last time you worked on a project with other Christians?
2. What did you do that was different from what others did?
3. Did you see the benefits?
4. Do you know your gift?



Prayer: Lord, give me the wisdom to discover and understand my gift. Show me others who compliment my gifts and bring us together as we plan your work to make a difference with our lives. May my gift be greatly exercised before I stand and give account of the talents you lent to me on earth. Amen.

THE BODY

1 Corinthians 12, Philippians 1:6

Objective: Every person has a job to do within the body.

Objects: Hammer, drill, file, saw, screwdriver, drill gun, etc.

Lesson

Just like every tool has a different purpose in building a home, so every person in the body of Christ has different gifts. These gifts need to be discovered early and used to further the kingdom. If everyone wanted to be a hammer, then a house could never be built. Discover your gift and wrap your life around it. God designed you with skills, gifts, talents, and intellect that the church needs to meet the needs of the world.

Questions

1. If everyone wanted to be on stage, who would greet or cook the food? What gifts do you think you have? (There are 24 mentioned in the New Testament.)
2. What are ways you could discover or refine the gifts God has given you?
3. Where do you intend to use your gift this week?



Prayer: Lord, I want to be used to glorify You. Thank you for my gifts to build up the body of Christ. Show me clear opportunities where I can use my gifts this week. Help me to maximize all you poured inside of me the day you created me. In Jesus name. Amen.

BUILDING UP

1Thessalonians 5:11, Hebrews 3:13, Philippians 2:1-5

Objective: To understand how quickly we can lose what we are here for.

Objects: Your hands

Lesson

Have you look into partners eyes and encourage or compliment them for 30 seconds. Now have youth rub hands together quickly for 30 seconds to create heat and place on partners face. Discuss why we were so awkward in really complimenting vs. being so eager to place our hot hand on their face to see if we could burn them. As Christians we need to remember we can bring pain or pleasure every day to the people we cross paths with. May they always experience our love and never our heat.

Questions

1. Why were we so eager to put hot hands on someone's face?
2. Are we sensitive to other people's feelings?
3. Why is it difficult for us to connect with others with kind and gentle words of encouragement?
4. How can we be more intentional in spreading words of encouragement? Who comes to your mind?



Prayer: Lord, I have been given the wonderful opportunity to be a blessing to others with my words. Today I want to tame my tongue and remember I can bring healing to so many in my lifetime. Forgive me the times I carelessly brought heat or friction into someone's life. Amen.

SERVING

Galatians 5:13, Psalm 100:2, Matthew 20:26

Objective: We need to serve others before we serve ourselves.

Objects: PVC pipe, duct tape (tape to make straight elbows and then bring to a dinner) Feed a person across the table from you.

Lesson

Jesus tells us he came to serve, and we should do likewise. That means we put others first. When we are hungry, our first desire is to satisfy ourselves—God says the opposite. This is why Jesus washed the feet of the disciples. As you came to the dinner table, you soon realized that: In feeding others first, you were fed by them. Do unto others as you want them to do to you.

Questions

1. Who was the first to realize that you could only feed others at the table?
2. How does this work in real life?
3. How can it be more blessed to give than receive?
4. What are the benefits of serving others?
5. Discuss: In the giving, there is the living. Was it hard putting others first?



Prayer: Lord, You have given me so much so I can give to others. Help me to be quick to see all of the needs that You place in front of me. Let me remember Your example You set for us at your last supper. Give me a servant's heart that will mark my life for the rest of my days. In Jesus name. Amen.

GOD'S REPUTATION

Acts 11:26, Romans 1:7

Objective: God trusts us with His name in public.

Objects: Trademarks, logos, labels or brand names

Lesson

God calls us his disciples, sheep, saints, coworkers, servants, and friends. He personally trusts us to carry his name well in public when we call ourselves after His name as Christians or little Christs. A name, like a trademark or logo, reflects a quality that sets the highest standard. A company will not allow its brand or product to go out the door if it does not reflect the quality a company is known for. Let us all carry His name well and protect it even when another Christian is not. Everyday we represent or re-present Jesus' love to the world.

Questions

1. What is a brand or trademark that you know reflects quality?
2. How long did it take the company to obtain a reputation for excellence in service or quality?
3. Do we carry the name of Jesus well?
4. When have we done well as a body?
5. When have we done poorly as a church or as individuals?



Prayer: Lord, may I be the one to carry Your name well and represent You or re- present You to the world with the high standard You set for me as a Christian. Forgive me for the times I have not done this, and let me learn from my shortcomings and grow stronger in my desire to carry your reputation or brand well. Amen.

BELIEFS

I Corinthians 6:17, Proverbs 23:7

Objective: What we believe will determine our actions.

Object: Snake puppet

Lesson

When I threw the snake into the crowd, you screamed and ran. Why? Your beliefs created the emotion of fear and made you run. You thought the snake was real, but it was not. What you believe about yourself, God, others, and life will determine your actions. If you believe you are insignificant and unlovely, you will feel lonely and your actions to fill that loneliness may draw you to wrong friends because they accept you. If you believe you came from a monkey you will not have a true purpose without God and actions will say eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow you die. Your beliefs matter. They will determine your actions which will eventually determine your destiny.

Questions

1. How would believing there is no heaven or hell shape a person's actions and feelings on earth?
2. If you believe being good saves you what would you try to do your entire life?
3. Why do so many invest so little time in understanding how we should think and act according to the Bible when it determines our entire destiny?



Prayer: Lord, I do not want to go through life reacting to people or circumstances because I have believed the wrong thing. Give me wisdom to know the truth and act in a way you would if you were here beside me. Thanks for being in me and re shaping my thought to yours. Amen.

FAITH

James 2:14-18, Matthew 7:21-23, Proverbs 3:5-6, Hebrews 11

Objective: Youth will understand that their faith should be backed up by their actions.

Objects: A chair and a blindfold

Lesson

Many times we do not understand and cannot see what God is doing in our life. He asks us to trust and obey him. Sometimes this is very scary. It feels just like it does when I'm asking one of you to fall backwards in his chair without knowing there is someone to catch you. The just will walk by faith and not by sight. Relax, trust God, and fall into His loving arms. One way we can do this is by thanking Him that He is with us and that He loves us, even when life is hard.

Questions

1. Did you open your eyes when you were falling?
2. Why was that so hard to do?
3. Is it really trust if we look first and then fall?
4. How does trusting in God increase our faith in His promises?



Prayer: Lord, sometimes I have little faith. I know you want me to be a strong Christian as I walk here on earth. Help me to be like Peter who trusted You when you asked him to get out of the boat and walk on water. I want to have that type of faith. Lord, increase my faith. Amen.

HOPE

Ephesians 2:10, Philippians 1:6

Objective: That youth will understand that they must be filled with the right content.

Objects: An empty coke can and a filled one

Lesson

I need a volunteer who will try to crush this can. This can did not crush because it was filled with fluid. If your life is filled with the word of God and his truth and promises, you will be able to withstand the pressure of the world. If your life is filled with the world's philosophy—cartoons and meaningless sports statistics, TV, video games, and hours a day on your phone, it is very likely that when the pressures of life comes, you will cave in just like this empty coke can. Go and read the promises of God. Your future could depend on it.

Questions

1. What have you filled your life with that you know is unnecessary information?
2. When tough times come, what content do you draw from that is inside of you?
3. Why do all the school books and sports or teen magazines or social media sites not compare to God's Word?



Prayer: Lord, thank you for giving me hope, faith, and love. Thank you for giving me the internal strength to resist the exterior pressure. My confidence rests in you. In Jesus name, Amen.

HOPE CAN LEAK

Psalm 31:24, Romans 15:13, I Corinthians 13:13

Objective: We need others to encourage us.

Object: Balloon

Lesson

As we go through life it can be very discouraging. We get up filled with joy and hope, with great expectations, and circumstances can take the wind out of us. Sometimes we just leak over time and realize we have become discouraged with what used to be very easy for us to overcome. We need to breathe our encouragement and hope into others along the road of life who feel deflated and defeated.

Questions

1. When was the last time you intentionally encouraged someone else?
2. When did you feel down and need others?
3. Why is being filled up daily with love joy and peace so important?



Prayer: Heavenly Father, I want today to put some courage into others. Give me the eyes to see who I can breathe a fresh breath of love, courage, faith, joy or hope into. Let me realize when I need a fellow Christian to fill me with hope as well. Give me the courage to ask for the encouragement I need from others who love and care about me. Amen.

PERSEVERANCE

II Timothy 2:3,10; II Timothy 4:7-8, James 1:2-4

Objective: The Christian walk is one of endurance.

Object: A barbell or an exercise cord

Lesson

When a person exercises, one must endure if they intend to see results. The longer you work out, the stronger your muscles will be. If you are going through many trials, you can be sure that God is preparing you in your endurance for a great work ahead. Never give up! The race is not to the swift but to the strong. God is preparing you for exciting challenges ahead.

Questions

1. What is an area that is hard for you?
2. What will you lose or happen if you give up?
3. What are benefits you have received from having endurance in past circumstances?
4. Why do you think God has placed for a specific challenge in your life? (Discuss.)



Prayer: Lord, you promised that we would have trials and sometimes I don't think I can handle another. Please help me remember Your promise that You will give me the strength to endure or overcome any challenge that comes my way. I know You are sovereign in all areas of life so I trust and will keep You close always. Amen

FINISH

II Timothy 4:7, Hebrews 12:1

Objective: Youths will understand that life is short and the most important thing is that it is not how you start, but how you finish.

Object Put a medal on necks of youth or head wreath, hand baton, heavy coat or boots

Lesson

God tells us that life is like a race—there are rules to follow and Jesus has run the race before us. In order to finish strong we must have our eyes fixed on Jesus who is encouraging us and we must shed off anything that would restrict or slow us down. Sin, bad habits, and wrong friendships need to be shed off so you can run the distance. You may need to spend less time on social media. Many have gone before us and the baton has been passed to this generation. Don't fumble the baton. Keep your faith and stay focused.

Questions

1. What are some things you have that need to be removed from your life?
2. How can a bad habit slow us down?
3. What friends or family members are cheering you on?



Prayer: Lord, thank You for running before me and giving me everything I need to finish strong. Let me never forget that when I stumble and fall that You are there to pick me up and encourage me on. I will not be caught up in the cares of the world, but will remember who I live and breathe for. Amen.

CHOICES

John 14:6, Revelation 3:20

Objective: Youth must understand that parents cannot choose salvation for them.

Object: A map that shows a fork in the road, compass

Lesson

If you were lost, you would use a map to help you find the way home. You would ask many people along the way, “am I on the right path?” Jesus before and after his resurrection pointed the way home and continues to do so to all who will listen to his directions. All have been told—a few will listen. The North Star never moves. Fix your eyes on Him.

Questions

1. If you were lost and trying to find way on map, which way would you go?
2. If you came to a fork in the road, would you ask directions from a dead prophet or living Savior?
3. Have you ever been lost and how did you feel?
4. Have your parents ever been given the wrong driving directions and gotten lost? Were they scared or angry?
5. When did you first hear the Gospel and discuss other religions that pointed toward heaven while sidestepping Jesus?



Prayer: Thank you for a savior who leads and points the way home. Help me to never look back and help me to realize that Jesus is the only way to heaven. I look forward to the journey that You have in store for me as I walk by faith and listen to Your voice. Amen.

GIVING BACK

I Corinthians 6:19-20, John 10:10

Objective: God did not save my life so I could keep it.

Objects: Cup overflowing with water

Lesson

This cup represents my life which was purchased with the life and blood Jesus gave up on a cross for me. He promises to fill it up with the abundant life only so I can pour it out on others as He did for me. The cup doesn't belong to me. Many of us keep our lives to ourselves longer than what we should. Instead of serving others and trying to make them happy, we think constantly about what more we want to make ourselves happy. A life lived selfishly will get stagnant just like the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea only receives water, but the Sea of Galilee receives water and gives it out. Let your life flow out to others and God will continually refill you from His abundance. Think about ways you can serve your family, friends, school, and church.

Questions

1. When was the last time you gave away something expecting nothing in return?
2. How did you feel and what was the response of the person receiving it?
3. Can we ever out give God? Then why don't we give more of our time, treasure, and talents away to others?



Prayer: Lord, keep me fresh and help me freely to give away to others to bless them in the name of Jesus. May I never be selfish when You have given so much to me. Thanks for refreshing me so I can refresh others. Amen.

THE BIG WEDDING

Revelation 22:7, Luke 12:36, Revelation 19:9

Objective: The place setting has been saved for you at the Wedding Feast.

Objects: Silverware, glass, plate napkin, punch, invitation, candle

Lesson

There is a personal invitation from the Creator of Universe for you to be present at the Great Wedding Feast. We know the place but not the time. Will you miss it due to negligence or delay of accepting Jesus into your heart? God said, "Today is the day of salvation." The date has been set and one day the final person on earth will be given opportunity to receive the invitation. There is a place setting at this table with your name on it. The table is set, dishes arranged, candles lit...will you be there? When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

Questions

1. What are some reasons people give for delaying receiving Christ as their Savior and King?
2. What are they missing out on here on earth? In Heaven? For eternity?
3. Who do you know that has never been invited?



Prayer: Lord, I accept Your invitation and will be present. I cannot wait to see Your face and rejoice with all believers from Adam and Eve to present. Please keep spaces available around me as I have so many more friends that need to accept your invitation. I can hardly wait. Your servant. Amen.

CONFORMING

Romans 12:2, II Chronicles 16:9

Objective: Teach youth to resist the peer pressure and not conform to culture.

Objects: Soccer ball, balloon

Lesson

Why does this soccer ball stay the same shape when I put pressure on it? One of you can stand on it and the ball will not deflate or pop. Why? The pressure on the inside is greater than the pressure on the outside. When the Holy Spirit is inside you, God promises that greater is He that is in you than all the pressure of the world. The balloon will cave in and eventually pop if enough pressure is given. Why? It cannot withstand the pressure on the outside. Fill up every day with the Spirit and you will not cave in or conform to the world's thinking or standards.

Questions

1. What pressure have you felt to conform recently?
2. Why is it so important to be filled with the promises and power of God?
3. What could you say to a friend who is pressuring you to change your convictions or principles in the area of drinking, or dating, using bad language, or looking at unwholesome websites?



Prayer: Lord, I know what pressure lies before me every day and I want You to totally fill me up so I will have no problem standing up for the Christian beliefs and standards You have given me. Help me to be strong in the areas of purity, self-control, vocabulary and conduct. Amen.

How can a **THIMBLE**
teach a thirst for God?

—LESSON 35—



How can a
PAINT BRUSH
demonstrate self-acceptance?

—LESSON 43—

How can a **BUTTON HOLE**
explain the importance
of priorities?

—LESSON 89—



Just as Jesus taught deep truth with simple objects like a fish, lost coin or a handful of seeds we need to follow His example.

Open this book and a treasure of ideas will be discovered to those who are seeking to illuminate spiritual truths. Used properly these illustrations will become like “apples of silver in settings of gold,” to the eyes and ears of those who are hungry to learn. Enjoy feeding the sheep... the harvest is ripe.

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