

Leader Guide

TODAY IS THE DAY

Making the Most of the Time You Have



Kreig Todd

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Using the Curriculum

Study Overview

This study was inspired by Solomon’s words in Ecclesiastes 3.1-8. While this curriculum covers various passages in the Bible, you will find a “Study Overview” that will set up the study for you as you prepare to teach. This section is intended to provide you with a framework for understanding time and the Bible as you seek to better communicate the truth of God’s word.

Session Overview

Each session has an introduction page. There, you will find the main passage(s) and any cross references for the session. Additionally, you will find three Lesson Goals. We desire to teach in a holistic manner, meaning that each session has a goal for the Head, Heart, and Hands. Each goal has a phrase that supports the main idea and has been indicated by **bold, orange text**—this is called your **orange**. The **orange** will be repeated throughout the lesson because it is the main idea you want your students to walk away with.

You will also discover that you are given an Item List for the session. Some items such as “The Five Sentence Gospel) can be found online (see page V for more information). If there are any special considerations for the lesson, you will find them on the Session Overview page next to: “Note to the Leader.”

Commentary

Each session has commentary for the main passage(s) of Scripture. I recommend supplementing your study with other commentaries. In the commentary, Scripture is indicated with **bold, italicized font**.

Teaching the Lesson

Truths are the underlying points of the main idea. The truths are indicated with **bold, green text** and have the verse references next to them and the verses will appear in full underneath the truth in *italicized text* with the passage reference next to it.

Additionally, discussion prompts, activities, etc. are indicated by a **bold, highlighted command**. Use these prompts to get your students involved. Remember, be okay with silence. Generally, it takes approximately six seconds for a learner to process and begin to formulate a response to a question.

When you find *italicized text* next to any **bold, highlight command**, can be shared word-for-word with your students. Generally, this text is meant to help you transition. However, you may need to reword this and that is okay. Please feel free to teach in the way that is most comfortable for you.

Also, be sure to incorporate any commentary that you find useful into your lesson.

Activity & Closing

Activities have been carefully selected and incorporated into each lesson. Feel free to adapt each activity as you see fit. Activities may appear at the start or end of each session. Other possible activities are given with the supplements on page V.

End each session by making any announcements and praying with and for your group.

References

Throughout this book, I referenced various sources. You will find them cited at the end of each session.

Student Book

This study has an optional Student Book. The book includes Family Group notes, space to take notes in Large Group time, and includes a total of seven devotionals.

Prep Videos & Supplements

You may access teacher training videos and all supplements at

www.kreigtodd.com/todayistheday

Study Overview

The Story of Malachi Russell

I recently read the story of Malachi Russell.¹ Malachi was 12 years old and “had a list of 17 people—one person for each month he was expected to live.” He had a rare form of cancer and realized that his time was short. He heard of the *Who’s Your One* challenge² and took it seriously. He did not seek pity for his condition. Rather, he sought to share Jesus intentionally and actively with people.

When Malachi was asked why he was so focused on sharing Jesus, his “response sounded like that of an old man with seasoned spiritual wisdom. ‘The Lord has given me so many chances to share the Gospel, and I’m going to take every chance I can. The world needs Jesus, and I want to step up my game because this cancer can kill me, and I want to tell as many people as I can.’” Of those 17 people Malachi prayed for and shared Jesus with, some gave their life to Christ at a celebration of his life. Another 100 also came to faith at the same service.

Malachi had limited time and sought to make the most of what he had left. He is a prime example of what it means to fight the good fight, finish the course, and keep the faith (2 Timothy. 4.7). So, what about us? How will we answer the question: *What will we do with the time we have?*

Time is the most valuable commodity, yet it is limited for each person. We cannot save time; we can only spend it. All people have a finite amount of time in this life. What we do is important. In this study, we will examine four things that God has called us to do with the time he has given us:

1. Be with Him (Salvation)
2. Share the Gospel (Evangelism)
3. To Disciple and To Be Discipled (Discipleship)
4. Worship Him (Worship)

A Sense of Urgency

Like Malachi, the Biblical authors had a sense of urgency in their writings. Just consider the following (underlined for emphasis):

Ecclesiastes 3.1

There is an occasion for everything, and a time for every activity under the heaven.

Isaiah 55.6

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call to him while he is near.

Proverbs 1.32 (ESV)	<i>For the simple are killed by their turning away, <u>and the complacency of fools destroys them.</u></i>
Matthew 3.2	<i>Repent, because the <u>kingdom of heaven has come near!</u></i>
Matthew 24.42-44	<i>Therefore <u>be alert</u>, since you don't know what day your Lord is coming. (43) But know this: If the homeowner had known what time the thief was coming, he would have stayed alert and not let his house be broken into. (44) This is why you are also to <u>be ready</u>, because the Son of Man is <u>coming at an hour you do not expect.</u></i>
John 9.4	<i>We must do the works of him who sent <u>me while it is day</u>. Night is coming when no one can work.</i>
Romans 13.11	<i>Besides this, since you know the time, <u>it is already the hour</u> for you to wake up from sleep, because now our salvation is <u>nearer than when we first believed.</u></i>

Throughout the Bible, we see that time is limited and we are to make good use of it. Paul actually encouraged the Ephesians to *pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise— (16) making the most of the time, because the days are evil* (Eph. 5.15-16).

Toward the end of King Solomon's life, which was characterized by both obedience and disobedience, he concluded that *everything is futile* (Ecclesiastes 12.8). In further reflection, he wrote that the ultimate responsibility of man is to *fear God and keep his commands* (Ecclesiastes 12.13).

So what?

Recently, I have shopped around for life insurance. Honestly, it has been surreal. I joked with my insurance broker that there is no better way to spend your time than to think about your eventual death. However, the reality is that death is a part of life. In fact, studies have shown that 1 out of 1 die. Death is a universal experience, and nobody knows when their time will come.

I am reminded of a classmate from college. Her name was Emily Martin; she was an interim youth leader in Bush, LA and was passionate about missions. She led a mission trip to Kenya in January 2018. Soon after arriving, a blood clot developed in her lungs and she died.³

In middle school, a classmate had diabetes and died one night in his sleep. In high school, two peers had a rare disease, and both died before graduation. A young

man, just a few years younger than me recently died in a car accident. These examples serve as a reminder that life is fleeting and is but for a moment. David wrote in Psalm 39.4-5:

*(4) LORD, make me aware of my end
and the number of my days
so that I will know how short-lived I am.*

*(5) In fact, you have made my days just inches long,
and my lifespan is as nothing to you.
Yes, every human being stands as only a vapor.*

May we each be aware of the limited time we have, and may we make the best use of our time. Using our time for the glory of God is right and honoring to God.

Ecclesiastes 3.1-8

*There is an occasion for everything,
and a time for every activity under heaven
(2) a time to give birth and time to die;
a time to plant and time to uproot;
(3) a time to kill and a time to heal;
a time to tear down and a time to build;
(4) a time to weep and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn and a time to dance;
(5) a time to throw stones and time to gather stones;
a time to embrace and time to avoid embracing;
(6) a time to search and a time to count as lost;
a time to keep and a time to throw away;
(7) a time to tear and a time to sew;
a time to be silent and time to speak;
(8) a time to love and time to hate;
a time for war and a time for peace.*

¹ Stovall, Gabriel. "12-year-old Used Cancer Journey to Testify About an Eternal Hope." *Baptist Press*. September 21, 2020. <https://arkansasbaptist.org/post/12-year-old-used-cancer-journey-to-testify-about-an-eternal-hope/>. All quotes listed regarding Malachi Russell's story can be found at this link.

² For more information regarding the North American Mission Board's "Who's Your One" Challenge, visit: <https://whosyourone.com/>.

³ Blackwell, Brian. "Youth Leader, NOBTS Student, Dies on Mission Field." *Baptist Press*. January 4, 2018. <https://www.baptistpress.com/resource-library/news/youth-leader-nobts-student-dies-on-mission-field/>.

SESSION 1: TODAY IS THE DAY OF SALVATION

Passage	Romans 3.23, 6.23; 2 Corinthians 5.16-6.2
Cross References	Genesis 3; Romans 5.8, 10.9; Hebrews 13.8
Main Idea	Because of sin, we need to be saved and made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ.
Lesson Goals	<p>Head: Students will understand the need of salvation by participating in a guided discussion.</p> <p>Heart: Students will reflect on their salvation experience by writing their testimony.</p> <p>Hands: Students will pray a prayer of thanksgiving to God for saving them by participating in small prayer groups.</p>
Items Needed	<p>Student Book (pages 7-13)</p> <p>Pen</p> <p>Small Prize (ex: \$5 McDonald's Gift Card)</p> <p>Bluetooth Speaker & Playlist</p> <p>Suggested: "The Worship Initiative, Vol. 22" by The Worship Initiative and Shane & Shane. Available on Apple Music and Spotify.</p>
Lesson Truths	<p>Sin Separates Us from God (Rom. 3.23, 6.23a).</p> <p>God Desires to Make Us New (2 Cor. 5.16-19).</p> <p>God Has Paid Our Debt in Full (2 Cor. 5.20-21).</p> <p>We Can Be Saved Today (2 Cor. 6.1-2).</p>
Note to the Leader	One of the activities for this session requires students to write out their testimony. This will help those who are already saved articulate their testimony and will help show those who do not know Jesus that they need Jesus.

Commentary for the Leader

Who do you say that I am? –Jesus in Mark 8.29a

After he asked the disciples what others were saying about him, Jesus turned the question on them and asked them: *Who do you say that I am?* Peter quickly proclaimed Jesus to be the promised Messiah (29b), and he was right.

Just as the disciples had to answer the question, so too must we. We must each answer the question for ourselves: *Who do I say Jesus is?* Nobody else can answer this question for us. Each one must bow his heart and bow his knee to his Lordship—either willing or by force (Philippians 2).

As we think about this lesson, we must remember that some students have answered the question favorably (they have surrendered to Jesus), while others have rejected the Gospel entirely. Still, there may be some who struggle to answer this question. Whatever the decision your students have made, there are some basic questions we must consider.

Why do I need to be saved? I shared the Gospel with a woman I met at Starbucks in Clinton, MS. We had a good conversation, and she was willing to discuss spiritual things at length. I asked about her understanding of sin and what I got was disheartening. She had no Biblical concept of sin, yet she asserted that she is a Christian. That cannot be. One must understand why he needs to be saved in order to be a follower of Jesus. Even the youngest Christian will have a basic understanding of sin and its consequences.

I explained to my new-found friend that we need to be saved because we have committed a crime against a Holy God. We robbed him of his glory when we chose to sin against him and do our own thing. Sin brings about a debt that we can never repay and that debt will always lead to death. While all people experience physical death, dying without a love-relationship with Jesus will lead to an eternal separation from God. Paul wrote that ***all have sinned and fall short of God's glory*** and that ***wages of sin is death***. We need Jesus because we are in a dire situation that we cannot rectify on our own.

So, I need to be saved. How? In Acts 2, Peter preached a sermon and Luke recorded the audience's response: *When they heard this, they were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles: "Brothers, what should we do?"* (Acts 2.37). Peter responded that they needed to repent and be baptized. This does *not* mean that baptism is necessary for salvation, but it is necessary for obedience. Baptism comes after one has believed and committed his life to the Lord Jesus. In his proclamation, Peter said: "Repent of your sin. Turn to Jesus. Believe in who he is and what he has

accomplished and receive God's gift. In response to all that Jesus has done, be baptized and follow him." Put another way (and shorter way): "Surrender to Jesus and follow him."

When can I be saved? In keeping with our study's theme, this is a valuable question. In Acts 16, a Philippian jailer almost took his life because he thought his prisoners escaped. Paul cried out to the man and reassured him that all the prisoners were still there. Overwhelmed (and certainly thankful that he did not kill himself) he wanted to know what he needed to do to be saved. Paul's words were emphatic and called for a decision in that moment: *Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.*" As Paul and Silas continued to share with him that night, he came to faith in Christ. Paul understood that anyone can be saved at any time. He wrote ***now is the day of salvation.*** And today is the day of salvation because God ***made him who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God.***

Your students may not surrender to Jesus on a Sunday morning and that's okay. Just recently, a 3rd grade girl surrendered to Jesus in her bedroom with her parents on a Tuesday night. She made it public on the following Sunday. While the ***wages of sin is death,*** the ***free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*** Our sins are many, but his mercy is more. Pray that God the Holy Spirit would be at work in the hearts and minds of your students to bring them to salvation.

Introduction & Activity (20 Minutes)

Direct students to page 7 of their Student Book. Give them some time to think about the "Opening Reflections" prompts and to write down their answers. When your students are done, spend a few minutes introducing yourself to the Group and lead them in the following activity:

Activity: *Yesterday, Today, Forever* (From *The Source for Youth Ministry*. <https://thesource4ym.com>)

**Leader: This activity will allow you to transition into the lesson. The point of this activity is to demonstrate that we change daily as people. There is nothing consistent in our lives except Jesus. He is "the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13.8).*

Items Needed:

Small Prize

How to Play:

1. Have students sit in a circle
2. Go around the room and have each person share their name and 3 different, truthful things about their week (something they did yesterday, something they did today, and something that they will do tomorrow). Make sure there are no interruptions while the students are sharing.
3. After each student has done this, select one student at random to attempt to accurately recall all the other students' events.
 - a. If the student can do this, he/she wins the prize.

Transition:

Our schedules look different each day and our responses to things that pop up are certainly different! We don't always live a consistent life, do we? But there is one consistent factor in this life: Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13.8). We can trust him with our lives and we can trust that he is able and willing to save us.

Let me ask you some questions:

1. *Do you think it is good or bad that Jesus is always the same? Why?*
2. *What are some things that Jesus has done in the past? What about recently?*
3. *In what ways could our lives be more like Jesus'?*

Teaching the Lesson (30 Minutes)

Truth: Sin separates us from God (Romans 3.23, 6.23a)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3.23)

For the wages of sin is death... (Romans 6.23a)

- **Ask:** What is sin?
 - o Sin is anything we think, say, or do, that displeases God and breaks his rules.
- **Say:** *God is holy—he is totally perfect and different from us. His ways are not our ways and his thoughts are not our thoughts (Isaiah 55.8-9). When we sin against God, it is a serious matter. We have insulted a him.*
- **Ask:** Who knows the story of the fall of Adam and Eve? Can you tell us about it?
 - o Adam and Eve sinned by eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. When they did, they realized that they were naked, and they were embarrassed. They made a covering for themselves and sensed that something was not right. God came searching for Adam and Eve and they realized that they were separated from God. After God asked questions, pronounced sentence, and made garments for Adam and Eve, he removed them from the Garden (Gen. 3)
- **Read:** Have a student read Romans 3.23 and 6.23a.
- **Ask:** How many people have sinned?
 - o All people have sinned: *For all have sinned...* (Rom. 3.23)
- **Ask:** What is the penalty of sin? What do we get for having sinned?
 - o We get death for having sinned. *The wages of sin is death...* (Rom. 6.23a)
- **Say:** *Sin is a serious deal. It has separated us from God and will always lead to death and destruction. **We need to be saved and Jesus makes salvation possible.***

Truth: God desires to make us new (2 Corinthians 5.16-19)

From now on, then, we do not know anyone from a worldly perspective. Even if we have known Christ from a worldly perspective, yet now we no longer know him in this way. (17) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! (18) Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. (19) That is, in Christ, God was

reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us. (2 Corinthians 5.16-19)

- **Say:** *Though we have sinned, **God desires to save us**, and has made salvation possible. We read the first part of Romans 6.23 earlier. The rest of the verse says that "the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- **Read:** Have a student read 2 Cor. 5.16-19.
- **Ask:** Is there anything that stood out to you in these four verses?
 - o Point the students' attention to verses 17-18. Notice that in Christ we are a new creation and that we have been made new by faith in Christ.
- **Ask:** Who made us new creations in Christ?
- **Ask:** Paul said that *in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them* (2 Cor. 5.19). How was God reconciling the world to himself?
 - o The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- *The reality that **God desires to save us** is great news! We don't have to stay in a life of sin and despair. We can come to God in simple faith and be saved! Have you been made new in Christ?*

Truth: God has paid our debt in full (2 Corinthians 5.20-21)

*Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God." (21) He made him who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
(2 Corinthians 5.20-21)*

- **Say:** *Remember Romans 6.23? "The wages of sin is death"? Essentially, we get a paycheck for sinning...and it is death—an eternal separation from God. We owe a debt to God because we robbed God of his glory when we sinned.*
- **Ask:** Can we ever pay our sin debt in full?
- **Ask:** How can our sin debt be paid if we cannot repay it?
 - o Jesus paid the penalty for our sin. Jesus was fully God and fully man and he lived a perfect life; he was our perfect sacrifice. When he died on the Cross, he died a death that you and I deserve and he made salvation possible to anyone who would believe in him (John 3.16).
- **Say:** *When we **place our faith in Jesus, we are saved**. We are not saved because we have done something*

Truth: You can be saved today (2 Corinthians 6.1-2)

Working together with him, we also appeal to you, "Don't receive the grace of God in vain." (2) For he says, "At an acceptable time, I listened to you, and in the day of salvation, I helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation.
(2 Corinthians 6.1-2)

- **Read:** Have a student read 2 Cor. 6.1-2.
- **Say:** *We have talked about our why we **need to be saved**, how we can be saved, and what God has done to make salvation possible. But when can you be saved? The short answer is at any time. Sometimes, people will say: "I need to get my life together before I come to Jesus. He would never accept me as I am." Those who say that are wrong. Jesus loves us just as we are but loves us too much to leave us unchanged. After you've been working in the yard all day, you don't wait until you don't stink as much to get a shower. You get a shower. The same is true for Jesus.*
- **Ask:** Why do you think some people wait to surrender their life to Jesus?
 - o Some wait to surrender to Jesus as an excuse to keep living in sin. The only problem with sin is that it never gets easier to give it up.

Activity & Closing (15 Minutes)

This is My Story

- Items Needed
 - Student Book (pages 12-13)
 - Pen/Pencil
 - Bluetooth Speaker & Playlist
 - Suggested: "The Worship Initiative, Vol. 22" by The Worship Initiative and Shane & Shane. Available on Apple Music and Spotify.
- This Is My Story
 - Since we have talked about salvation in this session, having students think back to their conversion can be helpful. First, for those who are saved, they will be reminded of God's goodness and grace. Secondly, for those who do not know Jesus, they will be confronted with the reality that they do not know Jesus. You may be surprised at the conversations that happen after this activity.
 - Have students spend a few minutes writing out their story of how they met Jesus. Play music in the background if you would like to do so.
 - Your students can consider these three prompts as they write their story:
 - My Life Before Christ...
 - My Life When I Met Christ...
 - My Life Since Meeting Christ...
 - When the students are done writing, ask if anyone would like to share their story. Toward the end of the family group, have students pray for one another and after a few moments, close the group in prayer. Before dismissal, make any announcements and let your students know that you are available to talk with them.

SESSION 2: TODAY IS THE DAY OF EVANGELISM

Passage	Matthew 28.18-20; Matthew 9.36-38
Cross References	John 14.6, Acts 1.8, Philippians 4.13
Main Idea	Answering the call to share the gospel requires intentionality and commitment.
Lesson Goals	<p>Head: Students will become aware of the need to share the Gospel by participating in a guided discussion.</p> <p>Heart: Students will commit to sharing the Gospel with one person this week by praying for them.</p> <p>Hands: Students will practice sharing the Gospel with one non-believing friend in the next week.</p>
Items Needed	<p>Copies of "Starting the Conversation"⁴</p> <p>Copies of "The 5 Sentence Gospel"⁵</p> <p>Student Book (pages 18-19)</p>
Lesson Truths	<p>Jesus has all authority (Mt. 28.18)</p> <p>Jesus has commanded us to share the Gospel (Mt. 28.19-20a).</p> <p>Jesus has empowered us to share the Gospel (Mt. 28.20b, 9.36-38).</p>
Note to Leader	Electronic Copies "Starting the Conversation" and "The 5 Sentence Gospel" can be found online with the other supplements (see page V).

Commentary for the Leader

In 2019, I wrote and taught an evangelism curriculum at the church I was serving. I taught the curriculum to almost 200 adults and students over an eight-week period. In one session, I asked the question: “What is evangelism?” The responses were varied, and I was surprised to learn how many people did *not* have a clear understanding of evangelism. I believe that the reason people do not share the Gospel with others is not because they do not want to share, but rather because they do not know what evangelism is and how to do it.

We must understand that evangelism is not defined by the *how*. Rather, it is defined by the message. Sam Chan wrote that “the essence of evangelism is in the message, the Gospel of Jesus.”⁶ You and I know that the message of Jesus is life-transforming and is revolutionary. Unfortunately, we often forget that others need the message, too. We have relegated evangelism to the pulpit. However, we must remember “that most people who need salvation are not in the worship service of the church,” and that the Gospel “must also be shared in conversations outside the walls of the church.”⁷

So, why evangelism? Simply put, evangelism was (and is) commanded by the Lord Jesus. Remember, he told his disciples that ***all authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*** The command is only important because Jesus has ***all authority***. So, the first and primary *why* is simply obedience to Jesus. We are to find our motivating basis in a desire to obey our Lord.

Therefore, we seek to make disciples as we go about the everyday stuff of life. One does not have to become an international missionary to share the Gospel with the world. Many students will go to a trade school or a college after high school graduation. The college campus is literally the world in our back yard. In *Saturate: Being Disciples in the Everyday Stuff of Life*, Jeff Vanderstelt wrote:

Jesus wants us to live all of life fully for his glory in the world—every part and every person. Jesus didn’t live, serve, suffer, and die so we could just attend a Christian event. He lived and died so we could become his people who are sent into every part of the world on his behalf. He wants all people everywhere to see and know about him, and he wants everyone to know that everything is to be done for his glory. We now see our time, our money, and our unique abilities as means to serve both the people in the church and those in our cities who don’t

know the great news of God's love for them in Jesus Christ. All of life counts and everyone matters.⁸

Sharing the Gospel can be done in the everyday stuff of life; literally, we are to share the Gospel "as we go." The Gospel can be shared over a fishing trip, online video games, dancing, cooking, and so much more. There are no limits to the Gospel opportunities that we have. The only limits we experience are those that we place on ourselves through disobedience.

There is also a second *why*. Preston Nix noted that the compassion of Christ is also a motivating factor.⁹ Remember, when Jesus ***saw the crowds, he felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd.*** In a literal sense, his stomach dropped when he saw the crowd¹⁰ because they were troubled,¹¹ and depressed.¹² People need Jesus because they are separated from him by sin and are lost. Without Jesus, they will spend an eternity separated from him.

Jesus recognized that people need the Gospel and he told his disciples that ***the harvest is abundant, but the workers are few.*** Have you noticed that there are few sharing the Gospel? That there are few workers in the field? What then do we do? We ***pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest*** and as we pray, we ourselves go out and get to work.

We go and make disciples of all people—regardless of who they are. We teach them who God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit is. We call them to decision, and if they surrender Jesus, then they are baptized, demonstrating outwardly what has happened in their heart.

Yes, evangelism can be daunting. However, evangelism is commanded by our Lord Jesus Christ, who "has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began" (2 Timothy 1.9).

Introduction (10-15 Minutes)

Welcome everyone back to the group.

Middle Name Intro

Give everyone a minute or two to come up with an original middle name. This can be a one-word name, a multiple-word name, or a famous person's name, but it must describe them. For example, "Sparkles-a-lot" could describe someone who enjoys fine jewelry. "Climber" could identify someone who enjoys rock climbing. "Tiger Woods" a golf fanatic, or "Mozart" someone who enjoys classical music.

Go around the circle and have everyone introduce themselves and explain their new middle name.

Teaching the Lesson (25-30 Minutes)

Truth: Jesus has all authority (Matthew 28.18)

Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heave and on earth." (Matthew 28.18)

- **Ask:** *Have you ever experienced a time when your younger brother or sister came and told you to do something? How did you respond?*
 - o Students will have varied responses
- **Say:** *Those are good stories. Often, when someone tells us to do something, we only listen if they have power or authority over us. Sometimes, your brother or sister might have told you that mom or dad sent them with the message. That may have motivated you to do what was asked of you. But, you might have also said no and that probably didn't end well if your parents really did send your younger sibling with the message. We are going to look at a passage that you have probably read before. We call it "The Great Commission," and it is found in Matthew 28.18-20.*
- **Read:** Have a student read Matthew 28.18.
- **Ask:** How much authority does Jesus have?
 - o Jesus has all authority. Not some or a little, but all authority.
- **Ask:** Why do you think Jesus started the Great Commission by mentioning his authority first?
 - o He mentioned his authority first because the command is only powerful if it comes from one who has all authority.
- **Say:** *Jesus's command to **share the Gospel** is only powerful because he has all authority. And when someone with authority tells us to do something (that doesn't go against God's Word), we are to obey. Likewise, we are to obey Jesus and **share the Gospel**, which is what we will think about next.*

Truth: Jesus has commanded us to share the Gospel (Matthew 28.19-20a)

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28.19-20a)

- **Ask:** We've seen that the command of Jesus is powerful because he has all authority. So, what is the command of Jesus?

- Since you've already mentioned it in passing, students' answers should be connected to evangelism is somehow.
- **Read:** Have a student read Matthew 28.19-20a.
- **Ask:** How would you explain this command to a new believer?
- **Say:** *Jesus has commanded us to share the Gospel with those we encounter. People are dying without Christ. In fact, the International Mission Board estimated that 155,252 people die daily without Christ. That's the equivalent of everyone in Kansas City, Kansas or Clarksville, Tennessee dying in one day.¹³ We know that Jesus has commanded us to share the Gospel, but that can be scary at times. So, we are going to look Jesus' encouragement to us next.*

Truth: Jesus has empowered us to share the Gospel (Matthew 28.20b, 9.36-38)

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28.20b)

When he saw the crowds, he felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. (37) Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. (38) Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest." (Matthew 9.36-38)

- **Ask:** Have you ever **shared the Gospel** with someone? What was that like? How did it go? Did the person surrender to following Jesus?
 - An alternative or additional question can be: "What keeps you from sharing the Gospel?"
- **Say:** **Sharing the Gospel** can be scary task. But Jesus provided hope.
- **Read:** Have a student read Matthew 28.20b.
- **Ask:** 1) Is this verse encouraging to you? Why? or 2) Do these verses ease your fears about sharing the Gospel? How?
- **Read:** Have a student read Matthew 9.36-38.
- **Ask:** What do these verses tell us about **sharing the Gospel**?
 - These verses show the Holy Spirit is at work in the hearts and minds of people revealing to them their need for God, and that someone has to tell them the Gospel. Paul wrote in Romans 10.14: "How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher?"
- **Ask:** Who do you know in your life that needs Jesus? How can you **share the Gospel** with them this week?
- **Challenge:** Challenge your students to commit to praying for their lost friends or relatives by encouraging them to write down those individuals' names on page 18 of their student book.

Activity & Closing (10-15 Minutes)

Give your students a copy of "The Five Sentence Gospel" and "Starting the Conversation." Go over how to use these resources in their conversations. You can show the explanation video provided with the supplements (see page V) or you can summarize the explanation.

Then, have students pair up and practice sharing the Gospel for the remainder of your time together.

Give any announcements and close the group in prayer.

Evangelism Tools

Starting the Conversation

- F Family**
Tell me about your family.
Do you have any brothers or sisters?
- I Interest**
What hobbies do you enjoy?
Do you play any sports?
What's your favorite subject in school?
- R Religion**
Do you celebrate Christmas/Easter?
If so, how?
Do you attend church?
- M Message**
Share your story and the gospel.

The Five Sentence Gospel	1) Our sin makes us God's enemies who deserve Hell. (Rom. 3.23, 6.23)
	2) God loves us anyway and wants to save us. (John 3.16)
	3) Jesus lived and died to pay for your sin. (Rom. 5.8)
	4) Jesus rose from the dead to that prove He can save you. (Acts 3.15)
	5) To receive God's gift, you must Believe, Repent, and Confess. (Rom. 10.9-10, 13)

⁴ Developed by LifeWay Christian Resources.

⁵ Knight, Justin (M.Div., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary) "The Five Sentence Gospel." Handout.

⁶ Chan, Sam. *Evangelism in a Skeptical World: How to Make the Unbelievable News about Jesus More Believable*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2018, pp. 16.

⁷ Kelley, Chuck. *Fuel the Fire: Lessons from the History of Southern Baptist Evangelism*. Nashville, B & H Academic, 2018, pp. 69. e

⁸ Vanderstelt, Jeff. *Saturate: Being Disciples of Jesus in the Everyday Stuff of Life*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015, pp. 39

⁹ Nix, Preston. "Biblical Basis: Motivations for Fulfilling the Great Commission." In *Engage: Tools for Contemporary Evangelism*, edited by WM. Craig Price, 3-14. New Orleans: NOBTS Press, 2019, pp.8.

¹⁰ "σπλαγχνίζομαι" (*splagchnizomai*). Blue Letter Bible Concordance. Accessed November 30, 2020. <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G4697&t=CSB>

¹¹ "σκύλλω" (*skyllō*). Blue Letter Bible concordance. Accessed November 30, 2020. <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G4660&t=CSB>.

¹² "Dejected." Merriam Webster Dictionary. Accessed November 30, 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/dejected?src=search-dict-box>. "ρίπτω" (*riptom*). Blue Letter Bible. Accessed November 30, 2020. <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G4496&t=CSB>.

¹³ "Global Highlights." International Mission Board. Handout. Accessed November 30, 2020. https://www.imb.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/ASR-MAILER_Highlights-and-Realities_web.pdf.

SESSION 3: TODAY IS THE DAY OF DISCIPLESHIP

Passage	Mark 1.16-20, 3.13-15, 8.34
Cross References	John 15.5; Romans 12.1-2
Main Idea	The call of Jesus is a call to a life of discipleship.
Lesson Goals	<p>Head: The students will discover what a life of discipleship is by participating in a guided discussion.</p> <p>Heart: Students will desire to follow Jesus daily by committing to a regular quiet time routine.</p> <p>Hands: Students will practice following Jesus by have at quiet time at least three times in the next week.</p>
Items Needed	<p>Student Book (pages 22-23)</p> <p>White Board or Poster Paper & Easel Pad</p> <p>Marker (dry erase or poster)</p>
Lesson Truths	<p>Jesus calls us to follow him (Mk. 1.16-20).</p> <p>Answering the call requires sacrifice (Mk. 8.34).</p> <p>We answer the call as we spend time with Jesus (Mk. 3.13-15).</p>
Note to the Leader	The closing portion of this session has a story about a young lady who converted to Christianity from Islam. The names have been changed and is a true story that I heard from the preacher who saw God work in her life.

Commentary for the Leader

Have you ever considered how we arrived at the Cross as the symbol for Christianity? Until recently, I had not given it much thought. But John R. W. Scott provoked my mind when he wrote:

A universally acceptable Christian emblem would obviously need to speak of Jesus Christ, but there was a wide range of possibilities. Christians might have chosen the crib or manger in which the baby Jesus was laid, or the carpenter's bench at which he worked as a young man in Nazareth, dignifying manual labor, or the boat from which he taught the crowds in Galilee, or the apron he wore when washing the apostle's feet, which would have spoke of his spirit of humble service. Then there was the stone, which having been rolled from the mouth of Joseph's tomb, would have proclaimed his resurrection. Other possibilities were the throne, symbol of divine sovereignty...or the dove, symbol of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven on the Day of Pentecost. Any of these seven symbols would have been suitable.... But instead the chosen symbol came to be a simple cross.¹⁴

Scott went on to explain that the Cross was chosen to commemorate the central understanding of the Christian faith: the death of Jesus.¹⁵ After all, Jesus died on the Cross and called his followers to **take up [their] cross, and follow me**. The call of Jesus is a call to come and die, a call to give your entire life to the cause of Christ. The primary way that we give our whole life to the cause of Christ is through daily discipleship.

Yes, students need to be involved in small group and one-on-one discipleship opportunities when possible. However, the goal of discipleship is not to look more like the person that is walking with us, but rather to look more like the "author and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12.2).

First, consider the call: **Follow me**. The call of Jesus is, at its most basic level, a call to discipleship.¹⁶ Discipleship is the process in which we learn from and grow in Christ.¹⁷ We learn from Christ and grow in him as we read his word and abide in him. Jesus said as much in John 15.5: *"I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me."* We are called to be with Jesus and that brings us to the second aspect of the call.

The second aspect of the call is to **be with him**. When Jesus called the 12 Disciples, he called them to do three specific things, with the most important thing being this: Being in his presence. I was recently reminded that we must be the person God wants us to be before we do the work of God. In other words, we first need to spend time with Jesus.

The third aspect of the call is the most uncomfortable aspect. We have been called to come and die. The words of Jesus are plain: ***If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.*** I recently wrote on this idea:

His audience clearly understood what he meant, as crucifixion was a regular part of living in the Roman Empire. Their minds would have jumped to any one of the crucifixions that they [would] have seen. They understood that Jesus was calling them to die. And not only that, but that Jesus was going to lead them there. He did not just tell us to take up our cross and follow him, he also demonstrated how that is to be done.¹⁸

The call of Jesus is to follow him, wherever that might lead. I'm reminded of the old hymn, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus,"

*I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back, no turning back.
The world behind me, the cross before;
No turning back, no turning back.
Though none go with me, still I will follow;
No turning back, no turning back.
My cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus,
No turning back, no turning back.*

Introduction & Activity (10-15 Minutes)

Begin your time by asking the group to share some of their highlights from the day. This may take up the entirety of your time and it may not. If you need another activity, you can use the following one or check out the list of activities provided with the supplements (see page V).

Reverse Charades

Items Needed:

- White Board or Poster Paper & Easel Pad
- Marker (dry erase or poster)
- A list of things to be acted out

How to Play:

When you play regular charades, one person usually acts out a word or action for the group to guess. However, in Reverse Charades, you will call one person to the front of the room. He will sit with his back toward the white board/sticky note.

As the leader, you will write the word/action on the board and the rest of the group will act out the word/action you have written. The one with his back to the white board will try and guess what is being acted out, with a 30 second time limit. When he guesses correctly, he may return to his seat. Continue this process until you are ready to begin the lesson.

Possible Words/Actions (you are limited only by your imagination)

- Lading a plane
- Drinking water
- Fishing
- Eating
- Climbing a mountain
- Boxing

Teaching the Lesson (20-25 Minutes)

Truth: Jesus calls us to follow him (Mark 1.16-20)

As he passed alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew, Simon's brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fisherman. (17) "Follow me," Jesus told them, "and I will make you fish for people." (18) Immediately they left their nets and followed him. (19) Going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat putting their nets in order. (20) Immediately he called to them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him. (Mark 1.16-20)

- **Ask:** What do you think it means to **follow Jesus**? How would you describe that to a friend?
- **Read:** Have a student read Mark 1.16-20.
- **Ask:** 1) Did anything stick out to you in this passage? or 2) What did Jesus call Simon (Peter), Andrew, John, and James to do?
- **Ask:** What was their response to the call of Jesus?
 - o They "immediately" (v. 18, 20) left all they had and followed him.
- **Say:** As **followers of Jesus**, we are called to follow him; following him will always require some risk of sacrifice. We're going to talk about that next.

Truth: Answering the call requires sacrifice (Mark 8.34)

Calling the crowd along with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." (Mark 8.34)

- **Read:** Have a student read Mark 8.34.
- **Ask:** What do you think Jesus meant when he said that anyone who wants to **follow him** must deny himself?
 - o Answers will vary. Some students might say that we are called to deny our own desires of the flesh (sin), our own dreams, etc. Each person is called to deny something specific and it may not be the same from person to person, as it rarely ever is.
- **Ask:** What do you think he meant when he said that to **follow him**, we must take up our cross?
- **Explain:** Explain to students what his audience would have understood him to say by summarizing the last portion of this session's commentary, starting with the "Third aspect of the call" on page 22 in this leader book.

Truth: We answer the call as we spend time with Jesus (Mark 3.13-15)

Jesus went up on the mountain and summoned those he wanted, and they came to him. (14) He appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, to send them out to preach, (15) and to have authority to drive out demons. (Mark 3.13-15)

- **Say:** We've talked about the truth that **Jesus calls us to follow him** and that there is always some sacrifice required. In fact, in Romans, Paul wrote that we are to be a living sacrifice (Romans 12.1-2). But that can be hard. So, how exactly do we **follow Jesus in discipleship**?
- **Read:** Have a student read Mark 3.13-15.
- **Ask:** What do you think is the most important thing he appointed the twelve apostles to do was?
 - o The most important thing he appointed them to do was to "be with him."
- **Say:** *The most important thing that the men were to do was to be with Jesus. In some ways, it was easier for them to be with Jesus since he was physically there with them. So, what are some ways that we can spend time with Jesus today?*
 - o Answers may vary from Bible reading, prayer, corporate worship, etc. Use this time to remind students that while Jesus is not physically with us, we have the presence of God the Holy Spirit who has been sent to us (John 14.15-31).
- **Read:** Have a student read John 15.5.
- **Say:** *Did you notice that? Jesus said that we can do nothing without him. Apart from Jesus, we are as alive as a branch from a tree that has just been cut. As we **journey with Jesus through this life**, we must be intentional about spending time with him. If we don't make time with Jesus a priority, then it will never happen. Now, granted, God won't love you any less if you don't spend time with, but you will not grow in your love for God.*
- **Ask:** Can someone tell me what a quiet time is?
 - o A quiet time is a period that you set aside during the day to focus on Bible reading and prayer. Your quiet time might look different from your friends.
 - *I set aside time during the evening or morning (depends on my schedule) and I spend time reading a chapter in the Bible, journaling and praying. I read through books of the Bible and am currently in the Psalms. I encourage my students to start in the book of Mark with a chapter a day. -KT*
- **Challenge:** Encourage your students have a quiet time this week. Say: *We've talked about **following Jesus** this evening, and spending time with him does require sacrifice. It means that we won't have the time to do something else. Will you make it a point to have a quiet time at least three times this coming week?*

Activity & Closing (15-20 Minutes)

Divide students into groups of three or four and direct them to the bottom of page 23 in their student book. Have the students discuss the discussion prompts for a few minutes. Then, have the students share with the rest of the group.

Questions:

- What are some benefits to having a regular quiet time?
- What keeps you from having a quiet time? What changes do you need to make to have a quiet time?

Then, tell this story

Some time ago, a young lady named Sally attended a FUGE Camp with a Christian friend. Sally was not a Christian, in fact, she was a Muslim. Her family agreed to let her go to the camp because it is encouraged in Islam to learn about the faith of others, so that your faith in Allah (the God of Islam) might be strengthened. What Sally's parents did not consider was that she might come back changed from that week.

That week at camp, Sally came to know Jesus; it was an amazing experience. But she was nervous about going home and shared with her new church group her concerns. See, Sally and her family immigrated from the Middle East and there, it is a common thing for a family to kill their loved one if they convert from Islam to any other religion. Sally was concerned that she would be killed when her family found out.

The FUGE Staff prayed over Sally and her church group and prayed for her protection. The bus departed. Sally went home and told her family about her decision. They were upset and angry. But nothing happened...at least not right away. A few months later, after school started again, she came home to find a casket on the dining room table. She knew that the casket was for her. She walked in and her entire family was standing around the casket. Her father, with tears in his eyes, raised a hammer high and dropped the hammer on a nail in the casket. He looked at her and said that his daughter was dead, and she was to leave the house immediately. Her dad nailed a picture of her into the casket.

She left and went to the only place she knew to go: The home of her friend that invited her to FUGE. Her friend's parents adopted her as their child and gave her a new family. Sally understood the cost and made a huge sacrifice to follow Jesus. What sacrifice is Jesus calling you to make?

Close the group out in prayer and make any announcements. If possible, continue to build relationships with one another by doing some type of activity (playing board games, watching a movie, sitting around a fire, etc.)

¹⁴ Scott, John R. W. *The Cross of Christ*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006, pp. 26-27.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 27.

¹⁶ Brooks, James A. *Mark*. New American Commentary 23. Nashville: Bradman and Holman, 1991, pp. 48.

¹⁷ Piper, John. "What is Discipleship and How Is It Done?" Desiring God.com. January 25, 2016. Podcast. <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-is-discipleship-and-how-is-it-done>.

¹⁸ Todd, Kreig. "Come and Die." *Kreig Todd* (blog). October 8, 2020. www.kreigtodd.com/blog/come-and-die.

SESSION 4: TODAY IS THE DAY OF WORSHIP

Passage	Psalm 16.11; 23; 37.4; 1 Corinthians 10.31
Cross References	Psalm 73.28
Main Idea	Worship is more than a song.
Lesson Goals	<p>Head: Students will understand why God is to be worshipped by participating in guided discussion.</p> <p>Heart: Students will be determined to worship God by participating in corporate worship.</p> <p>Hands: Students will practice worshipping God by participating in corporate worship.</p>
Items Needed	<p>Blank White Paper Pens or Pencil Alternative: Whiteboard or Sticky Note Easel Pad Marker (dry erase or poster)</p>
Lesson Truths	<p>We worship God for who he is (Psalm 23). We thank God for all he has done (Psalm 100). We are to glorify God and enjoy him forever (Psalm 16.11, 37.4; 1 Corinthians 10.31).</p>

Commentary for the Leader

*We can sing all we want to
 And still get it wrong
 Worship is more than a song.
 Clear the stage and set the sound and lights ablaze
 If that's the measure you must take to crush the idols.*
 -"Clear the Stage" by Jimmy Needham

I was speaking with a friend who said that worship happens when one turns his mind's attention and heart's affection towards God. We can stand in a worship service and not worship; we can sing and not worship; we can give and not worship. Worship is not only an act, but a lifestyle. In fact, the topics of this study are all forms of worship. We worship God when we come to him in faith because we recognize and accept that "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5.8). When we share the Gospel, we are proclaiming his goodness, grace, and mercy (and coming judgement for those who reject him). When we disciple others and are disciplined ourselves, we worship God because he has created us for community.

In this session, you will examine four different Psalms and 1 Corinthians 10.31 as you and your students discover more about worship.

Psalms 23

We worship God for who he is.

In Psalm 23, David painted a portrait of God as our shepherd. He also explained what that means. As shepherd, he satisfies us. Notice that **he lets me lie down in green pastures**. If you have ever seen sheep, then you have probably noticed that they always graze because grass lacks nutritional value. Therefore, it is no small thing that he is lying in green pasture; he is saying that he is totally satisfied; there is no need to keep grazing. Likewise, as our shepherd, he provides us with contentment and peace. Notice, **he leads me beside quiet waters**. Sheep will not drink from water that is moving too quickly. The sheep are at peace and are content. That is not all, God also protects us and disciplines us, as **your rod and your staff—they comfort me**.

This is just a portion of who God is and all that he does as our Shepherd. Throughout the Psalms, we see more of God's character revealed. As we discover more about who God is, we are able to worship him all the more for who he is. Remember, we do not worship his accomplishments. We do not want to worship and serve "what has been created instead of the creator, who is praised forever. Amen" (Romans 1.25).

Psalm 100
We thank him for all he has done.

In Psalm 100, we are told that we should **come before him with joyful songs** and **acknowledge that the LORD is good**. We should **enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name**. When we ponder all that God has done, we have cause for joy and thanksgiving.

I once asked a congregation if anyone was thankful for what God had done in their life. Their silence was deafening. In shock, I said, "Okay. How about this...How many of you are saved? If you have been saved, then you ought to be thankful for the working of God in your life." Understand, God loved us much more than we deserve. In fact, he loved us to the point of giving his "one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3.16).

By the grace of God, we are to help students fall in love with the reality that despite their sin and in spite of their status as God's enemy (Romans 5.10), God chose to love them anyway and made a way for them to know him and be known by him (Galatians 4.9). As leaders, may we ourselves never lose sight of this glorious reality. May we all continually thank God for all he has done (1 Thessalonians 5.16-18).

Psalm 16.11, 37.4; 1 Corinthians 10.31
We are to glorify God and enjoy him forever.

What is our ultimate purpose as God's creation? Simple. It is to glorify him and enjoy him forever.¹⁹ John Piper has argued that "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him."²⁰ As we take delight in God, we bring him glory. Loving parents would be disappointed if their children did not find enjoyment at home with the family. Likewise, God desires that we find satisfaction in him, since he is the only one who can truly satisfy us. Notice that in his **presence is abundant joy; at your right hand are eternal pleasures**. Are we a people who find **delight in the LORD** or in something (or someone) else? Are we a people who truly enjoy being in God's presence? We ought to be.

Not only are we to enjoy the presence and fellowship with God, we are also to glorify him. Paul commanded the Corinthians to glorify God in all regards. He wrote: **So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God**. And when Paul wrote that we should glorify God in **everything**, he meant *everything*. I have eaten a cheeseburger for the glory of God before. Over a meal with a man in Slidell, LA, I ate a burger, shared the Gospel, and met some practical needs. All for God's glory.

Introduction (10-15 Minutes)

The New Pictionary

Items Needed:

Blank White Paper

Pens or Pencil

Alternative:

Whiteboard or Sticky Note Easel Pad

Marker (dry erase or poster)

How to Play (paper and pencils)

1. Divide the group into teams of four.
2. Hand out blank white paper and pens/pencils.
3. Ask the group members to decide who will be the first guesser. The other team members will be the artists.
4. Without letting the guess know the answer, assign three artists in each group the first word from this list:
 - a. A bicycle
 - b. The *Peanuts* comic strip dog, Snoopy
 - c. Hawaii
 - d. Mount Rushmore
 - e. The White House
5. Explain the Instructions: *The first artist will be allowed to draw only one straight line per turn. The second artist will be allowed to add to the drawing only one curved, short, squiggle per turn. The third artist will be able to add only one straight line or short squiggle of shading; she gets to choose which is necessary. The artists will rotate taking turns adding lines or squiggles to the picture until the guesser in one of the groups submits the right answer. No talking, pantomiming, pointing, gesturing, or use of letters are allowed to help the guesser.*

How to Play (White Board)

1. Divide the group into teams of four
2. Ask the group members to decide who will be the first guesser. The other team members will be the artists.
3. Call the first group up to the white board. Assign the three artists a word from the following list. Once you have assigned a word, that word cannot be used for another group.
 - a. A bicycle
 - b. The *Peanuts* comic strip dog, Snoopy

- c. Hawaii
 - d. Mount Rushmore
 - e. The White House
4. Explain the Instructions: *The first artist will be allowed to draw only one straight line per turn. The second artist will be allowed to add to the drawing only one curved, short, squiggle per turn. The third artist will be able to add only one straight line or short squiggle of shading; she gets to choose which is necessary. The artists will rotate taking turns adding lines or squiggles to the picture until the guesser of the group gets the right answer. No talking, pantomiming, pointing, gesturing, or use of letters are allowed to help the guesser.*
- a. After the first group has guessed their word, the next group will come up and have their turn.

Teaching the Lesson (20-25 Minutes)

Truth: We worship God for who he is (Psalm 23)

The LORD is my shepherd; I have what I need. (2) He lets me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside quiet waters. (3) He renews my life; he leads me along the right paths, for his name's sake. (4) Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. (5) You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint me head with oil; my cup overflows. (6) Only goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD as long as I live. (Psalm 23.1-6)

- **Ask:** Who is God?
 - o Students are likely to describe God as sustainer, provider, protector, Father, etc. All of these answers are correct.
- **Say:** *God is our protector, sustainer, provider, King, and Father. He is also eternal, never-changing, all-knowing, all-powerful, and much greater than we can ever fully comprehend. **We worship God** for who he is, and he is **worthy of worship** simply because he is God. King David knew God as many things, and we are going to look at one aspect of who God is.*
- **Read:** Have a student read Psalm 23.1-6
- **Ask:** According to David, who is God? How does this move us to worship?
 - o Shepherd (v1), Guide (v2), Peace (v3), Source of Life (v3), Protector (v4), Provider (v5), the Powerful One (v5), Refuge (v6). These are some aspects of who God is and you or your students might see more.

Truth: We thank God for all he has done (Psalm 100)

Let the whole earth shout triumphantly to the LORD! (2) Serve the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. (3) Acknowledge that the LORD is God. He made us, and we are his—his people, the sheep of his pasture. (4) Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name. (5) For the LORD is good, and his faithful love endures forever; his faithfulness, through all generations. (Psalm 100.1-5)

- **Ask:** What are some things God has done to reveal himself throughout history and in the Bible?

- Answers may vary. Students might mention some of the events in the Old Testament and New Testament. Certainly, they are sure to mention the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In history, some of your historians in the group might mention things like the Reformation and the translation of the Bible into English.
- **Read:** Have a student read Psalm 100.1-5.
- **Ask:** What is this Psalm about?
- **Ask:** Why is it important to give thanks to God? What are some things that God has done in your life that you are thankful for?
- **Ask:** How can **we worship God** in thanksgiving?
 - As we thank God, we remember his faithfulness and character. We recall how he has worked and that will almost always prompt us to worship God.

**Truth: We are to glorify God and enjoy him forever
(Psalm 16.11, 37.4; 1 Corinthians 10.31)**

You reveal the path of life to me; in your presence is abundant joy; at your right hand are eternal pleasures. (Psalm 16.11)

Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires. (Psalm 37.4)

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.
(1 Corinthians 10.31)*

- **Read:** Have a student read 1 Corinthians 10.31.
- **Ask:** What are things that you do every day? How can you glorify God in those things?
- **Say:** *In everything we do, we are to glorify God. In fact, as we **glorify God, we also worship him**. So, if you like to fish, you could take a friend with you that does not know Jesus. You can use fishing as an opportunity to share the Gospel with him or her. Maybe you are on vacation and are hiking in the Smoky Mountains. You can glorify God as you hike by thanking him for all that you see and worshipping him as you hike.*
- **Read:** Have a student read Psalm 16.11 and Psalm 37.4.
- **Ask:** Who do you enjoy spending time with? Why?
- **Say:** *Spending time with friends and family is an amazing thing. However, God also calls to spend time with him and to enjoy his presence.*
- **Ask:** What are some ways you can enjoy God?
 - This will be different for each person. I know that in one season of my life, I really enjoyed God's presence at 5 AM in my Living Room while I was doing my Quiet Time. The time and location has changed but enjoying his presence has not.

- **Say:** *In Psalm 73.28, we find these words: "But as for me, God's presence is my good. I have made the Lord God my refuge, so I can tell about all you." God's presence in our lives is something to be enjoyed. While **we worship God** for who he is and thank him for all he is done, we are to seek ways to glorify God and enjoy him forever.*
- **Challenge:** Challenge your students to commit to a time of worship today or this week. If this lesson is being taught before a worship session, challenge students to worship God by remembering who he is and thanking him for all he has done.

Activity & Closing (10-15 Minutes)

Have your students share something that stood out to them from the weekend. It might be a game, activity, lesson truth, or a personal experience they had at some point during the weekend. Spend a few minutes talking about these things as a group before closing in prayer.

¹⁹ Piper, John. "A Baptist Catechism." Desiring God. January 1, 1986. <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/a-baptist-catechism>. See Question 2.

²⁰ Piper, John. "God is Most Glorified in Us When We Are Most Satisfied in Him." Desiring God. Published October 13, 2012. Video of Sermon. <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/god-is-most-glorified-in-us-when-we-are-most-satisfied-in-him>.

Curriculum Evaluation Form

*Help improve this curriculum and future curriculums. Your feedback is appreciated.
Please give completed forms to your Event Coordinator.*

I found the curriculum easy to understand and to use.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

I found that my students understood the curriculum and that it was applicable for their lives.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Please list the strengths and weaknesses of the curriculum.

Strengths

Weaknesses

If you could change anything about the curriculum, what would it be and why?

Is there anything else that you would like to add?

What will you do with the time you have?

Time is the most valuable commodity, yet no one can save time or make more of it. God has given each of us a limited amount of time and he has called us to make the most of it (Ephesians 5.16).

In this four session study, you and your students will be challenged to use your time for the glory of God. We have been called to experience God's grace, share the Gospel, be discipled, and to worship Him.

About the Author:

KREIG TODD (B.A. Christian Ministry, Leavell College of NOBTS) is a Student and College Pastor in Brookhaven, MS who is passionate about equipping young people for a life of discipleship. He is a preacher, curriculum writer, and blogger (www.kreigtodd.com).

