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YOUNG LIFE

CLUB TALK YEAR LONG SEQUENCE

Each semester we take kids through the process of the gospel (God's amazing love story to us). The format for these talks comes out of a book called Basic Christianity by Stout. It is this simple yet complex journey that Jesus Christ invites us into. Semester club talk sequence in Young Life:

1. Who is God and does God exist? - God has created in you a desire to know Him. If God is who He said He is, isn't He worth checking out? If God is who He said He is, what does He think of your existence? If God is who He said He is, what does He want to tell you? We are put here to truly live life. Look around to see the presence of God. This semester learn about the God of the universe, this Jesus guy, and living.

2. Jesus as Fully God - Jesus is God. God made Himself known by sending Jesus to earth. Don't be misled. Jesus claimed to be God and the Bible says that He was. He has all the power of God and walked and lived among us as God on earth. God isn't this mysterious far away thing, He is close and knowable by looking at the person of Jesus.

3. Jesus as Fully Man - Jesus experienced life fully on earth. God knows what it is to be one of us. Jesus offers hope that humanity can know God because God knows humanity.

4. Person of Christ Talk(s) - Jesus being both 100% GOD and 100% MAN did amazing things. It is not only about the amazing things he did, but also how do those apply to us here today! Jesus has power over nature, life and death, and the spiritual world. How does He have power in our own lives? Jesus did these things. Can you believe that He did these things? Can your high school or middle school friends believe that Jesus did these things?

5. Need Talk - We all ask a basic question in life, "Is there something more to life?" Create an atmosphere in this talk where you create an explanation that we all have a need for Jesus. And it is only this need that can be satisfied by Jesus. The need we have for more in life can only be quenched through Jesus Christ!

6. Sin Talk - We all have a sin condition in our lives. Sin goes back to the choice of us humans choosing NOT to be obedient to God resulting in us being separated from God. Although the sin condition is not visible itself, we see the consequences of sin in our own lives and the world around us. Sin is a choice that we have already made. Sin has created a broken relationship between us and God. This relationship was perfect and broke with sin. There is more to this story, so come back and hear it.

7. Cross Talk - We have a need for the abolishment of our sin. The ONLY way in which we can be in perfect relationship with God is through Jesus' death on the cross for our sin. Jesus died for us individually and for all of humanity. Jesus died one deed for all humanity. Jesus' death on the cross showed us He was NOT a victim, He was a volunteer. Just like Jesus' death on the cross He is choosing you to see the simplicity and the complexity of the cross.

8. Appropriation Talk - Jesus is asking us to follow Him. We are asked to step out in faith and trust Him as our Savior; in acknowledgment that we are sinners, which can only be forgiven by His death on the cross and that only God could raise Jesus from death through the resurrection. We have opportunity to be in relationship with Jesus. He asks us to do three things; admit that we are sinners, believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and He wants us to commit our lives over to Him. The ball is in your court and what decision will you make after hearing this?

We have had the honor, privilege and high calling of making Jesus and His Gospel of love and life known to kids for more than 70 years in Young Life. The following is what characterizes Young Life talks.

We pray — we pray a lot — before, during, and after, knowing that:

- When hearts turn to Christ it is the Father's doing (John 6:44, 65).
- It is the Holy Spirit who brings any power (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).
- It is the Holy Spirit who convicts hearts ... we only "set the table" for Him to move (John 16:8-11).

We proclaim the Person of Jesus in every message (John 3:14-15).

"We affirm that Young Life is, and always has been, a Christ-centered mission. As our founder, Jim Rayburn, said, 'Jesus is not just what Young Life is all about. Jesus is all that Young Life is about.' We talk about Jesus knowing that most kids do not have a clear picture of His character, His personality, His power, His love. A great distinctive in Young Life is how we share the Gospel narratives with our young friends. We help them see this amazing person who cares so much about them. Jesus comes alive for them as we present Him in Gospel accounts." From Young Life's Proclamation Paper

We always open and read the Bible.

- We know God's Word carries more weight than our human words (Hebrews 4:12; Isaiah 55:11).
- We demonstrate that the Gospel is based on, and springs from, the Scripture.

We bring the Scripture to life, particularly Jesus' miracles and words.

- This takes a lot of time for us, abiding in the Scripture and preparing.
- We have fun with this.
- Kids are then able to enter into a Jesus event, to live it/feel it as if they were there.

We rely on story-telling.

- We are rabbi-like in this way.
- We are like Jesus, using a parable/illustration (Mark 4:34) to bring alive whatever point we are trying to communicate.

We weave in our own testimony — our experience of Jesus and of life — into each talk.

- We connect with our talk; the talk is not outside of us.

We love humor.

- Laughter disarms resistance, is fun, and opens hearts to listen.
- Our humor is never "put downs" or "off color" or "bathroom-like."

We uphold a profound respect for a kid's choice and what is believed.

- There is no "finger-pointing": We say "we" and "us," not "you."
- There is no pressure or cornering with an argument.
- We do not assume anything about kids, in terms of their understanding. We don't use religious jargon, but our perspective is that kids owe it to themselves to consider the Gospel.
- We respect God's work and His timing with a person. God is involved with kids long before we come to know them, and long after we have no more contact with them.

We invite kids into a relationship/ friendship with Jesus Christ.

- He is the starting point (Creator and Incarnation), middle point (our Redeemer) taking on our sin on the cross, and ending point (He's the object of our faith — the One in whom we entrust our lives) of our Gospel.

* "If kids knew how wonderful the Savior is, they'd fall in love with Him." - George Scheffer, Young Life staff from the 1950s-1970s.

- Jesus reveals/explains God's heart — Who God is (John 1:1-4, 14, 18).
- Jesus shows us life to the full (John 10:10).
- Jesus enters into our lives, knowing and bearing its pain and chaos (Hebrews 2:18 and 4:15-16).
- Jesus is who we invite into our hearts and who we live "with" the rest of our days and for eternity (Colossians 1:27).
- "First, we must stick to presenting Jesus Christ. There are all kinds of secondary things we could get involved in, but they aren't Young Life's business. We are not to 'major in minors,' but in the one all-important essential: that Jesus Christ is our greatest need, and that He's all we need." - Jim Rayburn, quoted from Young Life's Proclamation Paper.

The Art of Story Telling

We all have a desire to tell our own story. Jesus taught the people around Him by telling stories to help them and us what the kingdom of God is all about. You don't have to be the greatest story teller in the world to be a great speaker at Young Life club, just share what God has placed in your own heart to share with your friends. The Holy Spirit leads us and guides us to share what God has planned to share.

Three Elements of Young Life Club Talks

Our Story.

The best tool that God has given us to share about the love of Jesus Christ is our own story of following Christ. We are able to share stories from our own lives to help relate the stories of scripture to kids. God does something in our own hearts and minds when we share how He has shaped us.

Their Story.

We relate to them on their level in their own lives. We do not talk down to kids, we treat them like our peers and share in their story. To relate to them in their world we use culture materials of video and music.

God's Story.

We open the Bible in front of kids. There is something still special about opening a Bible in front of kids and reading out of it to tell His story. The Bible tells us that people can not run from Him who have read His word. We share His word in simple ways so that anyone can understand who Jesus is and was all about.

YOUNG LIFE CLUB TALK - DELIVERY

How are you going to engage your audience from the start of your Club talk?

You need to have an interesting hook to engage kids into your Club talk. If you start your Club talk flat, you might have a difficult task of keeping them engaged throughout your talk. You don't have to be the funniest person, but you can bring energy to the start of your Club talk. If this is an area that you need help in, ask others to help you.

Practice. Practice. Practice.

If you are unprepared to deliver your Club talk, you will do a disservice to kids in your Young Life Club. You are responsible for practicing your own Club talk. If your notes were lost and you had to give your Club talk without them, could you? The proper response would be to be so practiced for your Club talk, that you could do it without any notes.

Go over your Club talk with someone else.

Your Club talk, before you present it to kids, needs to be heard by someone else that will give you honest feedback. You need to present it to an audience before you present it to your main audience. The more you do your talk in a presentation mode the better you will be. An experienced leader on your team or your team leader would be great people to hear your Club talk before it is presented to kids.

Know your Club Talk content like the back of your hand.

The better you know your Club talk content the more comfortable you will be in presenting it to kids. The background, audience, apologetics and theology of the talk are important to know when presenting to kids. Do research around the passage. Find a great Bible commentary to use. Ask questions if you don't understand or know what is going on in the passage of scripture.

Visualize your talk.

Picture the room, the kids in the audience, other leaders in the room, the smell and feel of the room, etc; then go through your talk in your mind or out loud with your eyes closed visualizing all these things. Think through how you want different parts of your talk to come across to kids.

Use voice inflection to control the room.

Kids will get distracted by the simplest things. You can use inflection in your voice to talk loudly over the crowd or become soft to let the crowd lean in to hear. If you only use the same tone and volume of your voice during your Club talk, you miss out presenting the most important things. Your point(s) can come across better to kids, the more you use inflection in your voice during a Club talk.

Know what your one thing is.

You want kids to know the one thing you are trying to communicate in your Club talk to them. If a kid goes home after Club and a parent asks them, "What did you talk about at Young Life", you want them to share your one thing you communicated in your Club talk. Also, weave your one thing throughout your talk. The more times you can hit on it the better your Club talk will be. Also, you can use your one thing statement to be the transitions in your Club talk from part to part.

Deliver your Club talk with Joy.

I have seen too many Club talks given without joy. We are a new creation because of Jesus. We should have a sense of joy each time we talk about our amazing Saviour and what He has done in our lives. He is worthy to be discussed with passion and joy in our voices.

Make sure the tech works.

If you are using a video clip or a song to highlight or draw the audience in to your talk, make sure it works. Have the sound person run it before Club to know all is good. You don't want a critical part of your talk to not be presented well or at all if it is not working.

Gospel Synopsis

When preparing an excellent Young Life Club talk, it is important to know the background of the scripture passage you are presenting. Knowing the author of the Gospel and to what audience they are presenting it to, will help you deliver a better Young Life Club talk.

Matthew

- **Audience** - Jews
- **Author** - Tax collector and apostle. Also known as "Levi."
- **Date Written** - 37-68 A.D. Probably written after Mark.
- **Depiction of Jesus** - King of the Jews
- **Key Words** - Kingdom, Fulfill
- **Key Verse** - Matthew 27:37
- **Characteristics** - Evidence to prove Jesus was the promised Messiah.

Mark

- **Audience** - Romans
- **Author** - Missionary with Barnabas and Paul. Called a son by Peter. **Date Written** - 40-65 A.D. Probably the 1st gospel written.
- **Depiction of Jesus** - Powerful Servant of God
- **Key Words** - Immediately, Authority
- **Key Verse** - Mark 10:45
- **Characteristics** - Fast paced and visual.

Luke

- **Audience** - Greeks
- **Author** - Greek doctor who travelled with Paul. Wrote Acts as sequel
- **Date Written** - 59-61 A.D. Probably written after Mark and Matthew. (Luke 1:1-3)
- **Depiction of Jesus** - Perfect Savior of Man
- **Key Words** - Son of Man
- **Key Verse** - Luke 19:10
- **Characteristics** - Careful and historical.

John

- **Audience** - Gentile Christians
- **Author** - Fisherman, apostle, and elder. Wrote 5 NT books. Died at an old age.
- **Date Written** - 80-98 A.D. The last gospel written.
- **Depiction of Jesus** - Son of God
- **Key Words** - Believe, Life, World, Father, Son
- **Key Verse** - John 3:16
- **Characteristics** - The gospel of belief.

THE BEGINNING

GENESIS 1

Some Thoughts on this Passage:

Background:

This is where it all begins. God creates the universe. Genesis 1 is a powerful passage because it gives us insight into who God is and how He relates to the world. First, God makes order out of chaos by taking a dark and formless world by creating light and order. God forms the heavens and the earth out of nothingness. He created everything and it is through God that all things are created and are in existence. Second, God had a specific and beautiful plan for His world. The creation story builds up to the creation of mankind. God created male and female in His image and gave us purpose from the beginning. God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, in our likeness [...]” We are made to be God’s representatives on earth and we reflect who God is and what he cares about. God makes land and vegetation that He calls good, but when He made people He says that they are “tov meod” which means very good. From the beginning God has poured light into the darkness of the world and He loves the people He created perfectly. Jesus has always been with God, even before God created the world. That means that Jesus was with God when He created the world.

Setting the Scene:

Genesis one provides us of the creation account.

Before God began creation there was nothing. The universe was completely formless.

Genesis 1:

- 1-2 God creates the heavens and earth.
- 3-5 God creates light and then separates light from the darkness. He creates day and night.
- 6-8 God creates water and sky.
- 9-10 God creates dry land.
- 11-13 God creates vegetation.
- 14-19 God creates lights to govern day and night. He created the moon, sun, and stars.
- 20-23 God creates animals on land and in the water and says to be fruitful and multiply.
- 26 God created mankind in his own image.

How This Relates To Kids:

We are God’s creation and we were made for a relationship with him. He created the world with purpose and creativity, but we are his best work! God loves his creation and we are hardwired for a relationship with him. God makes order out of our chaos and brings light into our darkness.

GENESIS 1 NIV

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

6 And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” 7 So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. 8 God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

9 And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. 10 God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

11 Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. 12 The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. 13 And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

14 And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. 16 God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. 17 God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, 18 to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

20 And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” 21 So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” 23 And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

GENESIS 1 NCV

1 In the beginning God created the sky and the earth. 2 The earth was empty and had no form. Darkness covered the ocean, and God’s Spirit was moving over the water.

3 Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, so he divided the light from the darkness. 5 God named the light “day” and the darkness “night.” Evening passed, and morning came. This was the first day.

6 Then God said, “Let there be something to divide the water in two.” 7 So God made the air and placed some of the water above the air and some below it. 8 God named the air “sky.” Evening passed, and morning came. This was the second day.

9 Then God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered together so the dry land will appear.” And it happened. 10 God named the dry land “earth” and the water that was gathered together “seas.” God saw that this was good.

11 Then God said, “Let the earth produce plants—some to make grain for seeds and others to make fruits with seeds in them. Every seed will produce more of its own kind of plant.” And it happened. 12 The earth produced plants with grain for seeds and trees that made fruits with seeds in them. Each seed grew its own kind of plant. God saw that all this was good. 13 Evening passed, and morning came. This was the third day.

14 Then God said, “Let there be lights in the sky to separate day from night. These lights will be used for signs, seasons, days, and years. 15 They will be in the sky to give light to the earth.” And it happened.

16 So God made the two large lights. He made the brighter light to rule the day and made the smaller light to rule the night. He also made the stars. 17 God put all these in the sky to shine on the earth, 18 to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw that all these things were good. 19 Evening passed, and morning came. This was the fourth day.

20 Then God said, “Let the water be filled with living things, and let birds fly in the air above the earth.”

21 So God created the large sea animals and every living thing that moves in the sea. The sea is filled with these living things, with each one producing more of its own kind. He also made every bird that flies, and each bird produced more of its own kind. God saw that this was good. 22 God blessed them and said, “Have many young ones so that you may grow in number. Fill the water of the seas, and let the birds grow in number on the earth.” 23 Evening passed, and morning came. This was the fifth day.

24 Then God said, “Let the earth be filled with animals, each producing more of its own kind. Let there be tame animals and small crawling animals and wild animals, and let each produce more of its kind.” And it happened.

25 So God made the wild animals, the tame animals, and all the small crawling animals to produce more of their own kind. God saw that this was good.

26 Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image and likeness. And let them rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the tame animals, over all the earth, and over all the small crawling animals on the earth.”

27 So God created human beings in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female. 28 God blessed them and said, “Have many children and grow in number. Fill the earth and be its master. Rule over the fish in the sea and over the birds in the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

GENESIS 1 THE MESSAGE

1-2 First this: God created the Heavens and Earth—all you see, all you don’t see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness. God’s Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss.

3-5 God spoke: “Light!”
And light appeared.
God saw that light was good
and separated light from dark.
God named the light Day,
he named the dark Night.
It was evening, it was morning—
Day One.

6-8 God spoke: “Sky! In the middle of the waters;
separate water from water!”
God made sky.
He separated the water under sky
from the water above sky.
And there it was:
he named sky the Heavens;
It was evening, it was morning—
Day Two.

9-10 God spoke: “Separate!
Water-beneath-Heaven,
gather into one place;
Land, appear!”
And there it was.
God named the land Earth.
He named the pooled water
Ocean.
God saw that it was good.

11-13 God spoke: “Earth, green up!
Grow all varieties
of seed-bearing plants,
Every sort of fruit-bearing tree.”
And there it was.
Earth produced green seed-bearing plants,
all varieties,
And fruit-bearing trees of all
sorts.
God saw that it was good.
It was evening, it was morning—
Day Three.

14-15 God spoke: “Lights! Come out!
Shine in Heaven’s sky!
Separate Day from Night.
Mark seasons and days and
years,
Lights in Heaven’s sky to give
light to Earth.”
And there it was.

16-19 God made two big lights, the larger
to take charge of Day,
The smaller to be in charge of
Night;
and he made the stars.
God placed them in the
heavenly sky
to light up Earth
And oversee Day and Night,
to separate light and dark.
God saw that it was good.
It was evening, it was morning—
Day Four.

20-23 God spoke: “Swarm, Ocean,
with fish and all sea life!

Birds, fly through the sky over Earth!”

God created the huge whales,
all the swarm of life in the
waters,

And every kind and species of
flying birds.

God saw that it was good.

God blessed them: “Prosper!

Reproduce! Fill Ocean!

Birds, reproduce on Earth!”

It was evening, it was morning—
Day Five.

24-25 God spoke: “Earth, generate
life! Every sort and kind:

cattle and reptiles and wild
animals—all kinds.”

And there it was:

wild animals of every kind,

Cattle of all kinds, every sort of
reptile and bug.

God saw that it was good.

26-28 God spoke: “Let us make
human beings in our image, make
them

reflecting our nature

So they can be responsible for
the fish in the sea,

the birds in the air, the cattle,

And, yes, Earth itself,

and every animal that moves
on the face of Earth.”

God created human beings;

he created them godlike,

Reflecting God’s nature.

He created them male and
female.

God blessed them:

“Prosper! Reproduce! Fill

Earth! Take charge!

Be responsible for fish in the sea

and birds in the air,

for every living thing that

moves on the face of Earth.”

POINTS YOU CAN MAKE

1 ■ God is the one that created everything in the universe. In the beginning God simply had to say the words in order for things to come into existence. There is nothing that has been created without God.

2 ■ God created humankind in His image. During creation God distinguished humans apart from the rest of His living creatures. We can see how much God loves man through creating man in His image, providing Him with food, and making him stewards over the earth. Through being created in God's image, we are able to relate to God and know that from the beginning He intended for us to be in a relationship with Him.

3 ■ God speaks creation into being. This is the power God has. God does not have to use His hands to create, as human do, He can speak and it comes into being.

4 ■ God says that His creation is good when after it is created. When God creates man and woman, His response is that it is very good. God loves humans more than He loves creation.

WHAT'S NEXT??

Next week we will be talking about a man healed by Jesus at the side of a pool. The man had been an invalid for 38 years. This man is looking for healing and hope, Jesus gives this man both.

MEDIA TO USE

Play this clip from the BBC TV show planet earth. This clip shows the beauty of God's creation.



CAMPAIGNER QUESTIONS

- You could use the "[Awake My Soul](#)" by Mumford and Sons for campaigners. It would be a great conversation piece. What stood out to you about this song? The lyrics say, "Where you invest your love, you invest your life. Awake my soul, awake my soul, Awake my soul, You were made to meet your maker." What does this make you think about? What is your response to these lyrics? What do they mean to you?
- Tell us about something you've made before. What did you do with it? Who did you make it with?
- How did God create the world? Why did he create the world?
- What does it mean that we are made in God's image? In what ways are we made in God's image?
- God created you uniquely and specifically, how does that make you feel? Do you believe it?
- When has your life felt out of control? Do you feel like life is chaotic? Why?
- How can God bring order to chaos?
- How have you experienced God bringing order to chaos that you were experiencing?
- How would you describe darkness in the world? How does Jesus bring light into the world?
- When has God brought light into the darkness of your world?

2.0 CAMPAIGNER QUESTIONS

- How do we know that God created us with the intention of being in a relationship with him?
- How are we able to know that God was thinking of us at the beginning of creation? Do you really believe this?
- What are some ways that God brings order to our chaotic world today?
- Describe where darkness is in your life either right now or a recent time. Do you think Jesus can shine light through your darkness? How is Jesus extinguishing that darkness?

SOME THOUGHTS ON THIS PASSAGE:

Background:

Jesus and his family were in Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover, a spring festival celebrated by the Jews. The Feast of the Passover was celebrated to remember the night that God killed all the firstborn Egyptians but passed over the Israelites' firstborn children and let them live. During the Exodus, the Israelites sacrificed a lamb and put its blood on the doors to their homes so that God would "passover" their homes during the night. It is that night that the Israelites escaped from Egypt.

During the Feast of the Passover 60,000-100,00 people went into Jerusalem, a city of 25,000. Jewish men were required to observe the Passover. People would travel in groups for the Passover.

The temple courts were famous throughout Judea as a place of learning. At the time of Passover, the greatest rabbis of the land would assemble to teach and to discuss great truths among themselves. The coming Messiah would no doubt have been a popular discussion topic, for everyone was expecting him soon. Jesus would have been eager to listen and to ask probing questions. It was not his youth, but the depth of his wisdom, that astounded his teachers.

Setting the Scene:

After three days—a day's journey from Jerusalem, a day returning, and a day of searching for Jesus—Jesus' parents found him in the temple, listening, asking questions, and amazing those present at his understanding and his answers.

This is the only account we have of Jesus at this age. Even at age 12, he amazed others with his wisdom and answers.

Jesus was 12 years old at the time, and considered to be almost an adult. When his parents returned home from Jerusalem they probably assumed he was among their caravan. When they returned to find Jesus, they found him speaking and answering questions in the Temple with the religious leaders.

How This Relates To Kids:

Jesus was a kid too. He went through similar experiences that we all had to go through growing up. He was a curious kid asking questions. He went on trips with his family and he celebrated at parties. He had to make decisions. This passage shows us how Jesus made the decision to obey his parents. Being fully God, this is pretty incredible that he would still obey his earthly parents.

CAMPAIGNER QUESTIONS

- DID YOU EVER GET LOST AS A KID OR HAVE YOUR PARENTS EVER FREAKED OUT THINKING YOU WERE LOST WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER?
- CAN YOU THINK OF SOMEONE YOU HAVE BEEN AMAZED BY WHEN THEY SPOKE IN FRONT OF YOU?
- WHY DO YOU THINK JESUS IS ABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND ASK QUESTIONS IN SUCH A MATURE WAY AT THE TEMPLE?
- HOW DOES JESUS REACT TO HIS PARENTS WHEN THEY FIND HIM? WHY IS THIS SIGNIFICANT/IMPORTANT?
- WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM HOW JESUS REACTED TO HIS PARENTS?
- WHY DO YOU THINK JESUS' PARENTS WERE CONFUSED BY JESUS' RESPONSE?

2.0 CAMPAIGNER QUESTIONS

- IT SAYS THAT JESUS GREW IN WISDOM AND STATURE. HOW CAN WE DO THAT? HOW WOULD YOU SPEND YOUR TIME TO GROW IN THESE WAYS?
- IS IT IMPORTANT TO YOU TO SPEND TIME WITH GOD TO GROW?



LUKE 2:41-52 NIV

The Boy Jesus at the Temple

41 Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. 42 When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. 43 After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. 44 Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”

49 “Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”[a] 50 But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

LUKE 2:41-52 NCV

Jesus As a Boy

41 Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. 42 When he was twelve years old, they went to the feast as they always did. 43 After the feast days were over, they started home. The boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. 44 Thinking that Jesus was with them in the group, they traveled for a whole day. Then they began to look for him among their family and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him there. 46 After three days they found Jesus sitting in the Temple with the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and answers. 48 When Jesus’ parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why did you do this to us? Your father and I were very worried about you and have been looking for you.”

49 Jesus said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Didn’t you know that I must be in my Father’s house?” 50 But they did not understand the meaning of what he said.

51 Jesus went with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them. But his mother kept in her mind all that had happened. 52 Jesus became wiser and grew physically. People liked him, and he pleased God.

LUKE 2:41-52 THE MESSAGE

They Found Him in the Temple

41-45 Every year Jesus’ parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up as they always did for the Feast. When it was over and they left for home, the child Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents didn’t know it. Thinking he was somewhere in the company of pilgrims, they journeyed for a whole day and then began looking for him among relatives and neighbors. When they didn’t find him, they went back to Jerusalem looking for him.

46-48 The next day they found him in the Temple seated among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. The teachers were all quite taken with him, impressed with the sharpness of his answers. But his parents were not impressed; they were upset and hurt.

His mother said, “Young man, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been half out of our minds looking for you.”

49-50 He said, “Why were you looking for me? Didn’t you know that I had to be here, dealing with the things of my Father?” But they had no idea what he was talking about.

51-52 So he went back to Nazareth with them, and lived obediently with them. His mother held these things dearly, deep within herself. And Jesus matured, growing up in both body and spirit, blessed by both God and people.



POINTS YOU CAN MAKE

1. Even at a young age Jesus was amazing people with his wisdom. Even his parents were surprised at the amount of knowledge that he had.
2. When Jesus was at the Temple he tells his mother and father that he is at his Father's house. Jesus' parents may not have understood why he said this, but Jesus is implying that he is the Son of God. He understands his identity as the Son of God.
3. Jesus was curious and spent his time seeking God and wisdom. He was driven to spend three days in the temple with other believers learning scripture and talking about who God is. Because he spent so much time learning in the Temple, he grew in his wisdom and stature among his people.
4. Jesus was bold to go to the temple and talk with the teachers. Although he was only 12 years old, he still was able to astound people with his understanding of God. He was not afraid to participate in discussions with some of the greatest rabbis that are visiting the Temple during Passover.

WHAT'S NEXT??

The next club talk is about the Jew's attempt to stone Jesus. They accuse him of blasphemy but they cannot rightly charge him because he is the Son of God. Jesus uses an illustration of a sheep and a shepherd to explain the relationship between himself and his followers. The scripture used is John 10:24-39.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THIS PASSAGE:

Background:

The Jews are accusing Jesus of blasphemy. Blasphemy consists of the words or actions that dishonor God. In this case, it was blasphemous that Jesus is saying that he is God. The Jews see Jesus as just a man so when he claims God’s identity as his own the Jews are extremely angry. The reality is that Jesus is both man and God, so he was not blasphemous.

Setting the Scene:

THE JEWS ARE ASKING FOR JESUS TO COME OUT AND SAY HE IS THE MESSIAH. JEWS AT THIS TIME WERE WAITING FOR THE MESSIAH WHO THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD ABOUT FOR SO LONG.

JESUS IS ACCUSED OF BLASPHEMY DUE TO WHAT HE HAS SAID HE IS CAPABLE OF DOING AND WHO HE HAS SAID HE IS IN RELATION TO THE FATHER. HE SAYS HE IS THE SON OF GOD.

A GREAT ILLUSTRATION OF A SHEEP AND A SHEPHERD IS USED BY JESUS TO EXPLAIN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JESUS AND US AS HIS FOLLOWERS.

How This Relates To Kids:

We can know that we are secure in Christ as his sheep. He is our Shepherd and he will provide and protect us.

POINTS YOU CAN MAKE

- 1. Jesus is such a controversial figure that people are willing to either kill him or love him. It was not yet Jesus’ time to die and he was able to escape their grasp. He is just as controversial in our world today.
- 2. Jesus is the Son of God. He is fully man and fully God. As we can see in the passage, Jesus and the Father are one.
- 3. Jesus is our Shepherd, provider, and protector. Many times we are referred to as Jesus’ sheep. He is our Shepherd because he leads us. In the passage, Jesus says that no one can snatch us from his hands. This shows Jesus as our protector. As a Shepherd, part of Jesus’ role is to always provide and take care of us.
- 4. We can know God if we know Jesus. Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God. If we want to know God, we need to know Jesus first.

WHAT’S NEXT?

In the next club talk we read about the scene where Jesus is arrested from John 18:1-11.

CAMPAIGNER QUESTIONS

- Tell about a situation that you have seen in which actions speak louder than words.
- Do you ever come across people who can “talk the talk” but can’t “walk the walk?”
- What are the Jews wanting to stone Jesus for?
- What does blasphemy mean?
- How does Jesus challenge those that are wanting to stone him?
- How has Jesus told the Jews and those around him that he is the Messiah, without actually telling them through words? Are actions more important than words?
- What is Jesus saying in this passage that upsets the Jews so much?
- What has Jesus done that shows us that he is more than just a mere man?

2.0 CAMPAIGNER QUESTIONS

- How does this story convey the two different reactions that people typically have towards Jesus?
- Would you align yourself with the Jews or Jesus’ sheep? Why or why not?
- Do you think that miracles can still happen today? Why or why not?



JOHN 10:24-39 NIV

24 The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.”

25 Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify about me, 26 but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all[a]; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. 30 I and the Father are one.”

31 Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, 32 but Jesus said to them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?”

33 “We are not stoning you for any good work,” they replied, “but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.”

34 Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I have said you are “gods”’[b]? 35 If he called them ‘gods,’ to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be set aside— 36 what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, ‘I am God’s Son’? 37 Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. 38 But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.” 39 Again they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grasp.

JOHN 10:24-39 NCV

24 Some people gathered around him and said, “How long will you make us wonder about you? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.”

25 Jesus answered, “I told you already, but you did not believe. The miracles I do in my Father’s name show who I am. 26 But you don’t believe, because you are not my sheep. 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never die, and no one can steal them out of my hand. 29 My Father gave my sheep to me. He is greater than all, and no person can steal my sheep out of my Father’s hand. 30 The Father and I are one.”

31 Again some of the people picked up stones to kill Jesus. 32 But he said to them, “I have done many good works from the Father. Which of these good works are you killing me for?”

33 They answered, “We are not killing you because of any good work you did, but because you speak against God. You are only a human, but you say you are the same as God!”

34 Jesus answered, “It is written in your law that God said, ‘I said, you are gods.’[a] 35 This Scripture called those people gods who received God’s message, and Scripture is always true. 36 So why do you say that I speak against God because I said, ‘I am God’s Son’? I am the one God chose and sent into the world. 37 If I don’t do what my Father does, then don’t believe me. 38 But if I do what my Father does, even though you don’t believe in me, believe what I do. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.” 39 They tried to take Jesus again, but he escaped from them.

JOHN 10:24-39 THE MESSAGE

22-24 They were celebrating Hanukkah just then in Jerusalem. It was winter. Jesus was strolling in the Temple across Solomon’s Porch. The Jews, circling him, said, “How long are you going to keep us guessing? If you’re the Messiah, tell us straight out.”

25-30 Jesus answered, “I told you, but you don’t believe. Everything I have done has been authorized by my Father, actions that speak louder than words. You don’t believe because you’re not my sheep. My sheep recognize my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them real and eternal life. They are protected from the Destroyer for good. No one can steal them from out of my hand. The Father who put them under my care is so much greater than the Destroyer and Thief. No one could ever get them away from him. I and the Father are one heart and mind.”

31-32 Again the Jews picked up rocks to throw at him. Jesus said, “I have made a present to you from the Father of a great many good actions. For which of these acts do you stone me?”

33 The Jews said, “We’re not stoning you for anything good you did, but for what you said—this blasphemy of calling yourself God.”

34-38 Jesus said, “I’m only quoting your inspired Scriptures, where God said, ‘I tell you—you are gods.’ If God called your ancestors ‘gods’—and Scripture doesn’t lie—why do you yell, ‘Blasphemer! Blasphemer!’ at the unique One the Father consecrated and sent into the world, just because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? If I don’t do the things my Father does, well and good; don’t believe me. But if I am doing them, put aside for a moment what you hear me say about myself and just take the evidence of the actions that are right before your eyes. Then perhaps things will come together for you, and you’ll see that not only are we doing the same thing, we are the same—Father and Son. He is in me; I am in him.”

39-42 They tried yet again to arrest him, but he slipped through their fingers. He went back across the Jordan to the place where John first baptized, and stayed there. A lot of people followed him over. They were saying, “John did no miracles, but everything he said about this man has come true.” Many believed in him then and there.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THIS PASSAGE:

Background:

Jesus told this parable to a group of people that knew what being a shepherd was all about. It doesn't make sense that the shepherd would leave the 99 sheep to go look for just one sheep that was lost. That's what Jesus does-he takes life as we know it and flips it upside down. We were created for a relationship with God and he is constantly looking for us. Jesus is communicating that each sheep is so important to him that even if one gets lost he will go find it. Since individual sheep matter to the shepherd, it was worthwhile for the shepherd to go and search for the one lost sheep. The same is for us--God created all the kids in the schools we are at and loves them perfectly. He is looking for them because he created us to be found so that we can have a relationship with Him. That's what we were created for. We all are lost and we all need to be found. This is an opportunity to invite kids to a semester of Young Life of possibly moving toward being found. Jesus is looking for us and he says to look for him too; to not just stand in our hiding spots, but to move in some way towards being found. This is the reality we want to invite kids into this semester at Young Life and through relationships with leaders. Note: This parable is not describing life how life could be or a hypothetical situation, Jesus is describing the REALITY of life happening now.

Setting the Scene:

Jesus is speaking in front of tax collectors, sinners, Pharisees, and the disciples. This is the first of three parables that Jesus tells about God seeking out those who are lost.

How This Relates To Kids:

Kids can sometimes feel lost in our world. They want to be found and understood. Jesus is the one with the ability to find them and care for them.

2.0 CAMPAIGNER QUESTIONS

What does it tell us about God, if He is willing to pursue us even though we mess up and turn our backs on Him? Have you realized this to be true in your own life?

CAMPAIGNER QUESTIONS

- When you were a little kid, did you play hide and seek? Did you like to hide or be the finder?
- Have you ever been really lost? Driving somewhere, lost from the group of people you are with or feel so lost in school that you have no idea what to do? How does that feel?
- Do you like being mysterious and unknown to others or do you like to be known? Why?
- In the Bible verses we read, we are like sheep and God is like the shepherd, where do/did you hide from God? Why?
- In the story, Jesus cares about each sheep, even the sheep that is lost. Do you know that to be true for yourself? How would life be different if we lived out the reality that we are fully loved by God?
- What is different in your life since God has found you?
- Jesus also says, "Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knows, the door will be opened." So, Jesus says not only is he looking for us, we should also look for him.
- Where do you look for God? Where have you found him?
- How does it feel to move from your hiding spot and move towards being found? Exciting, scary, hopeful, dark, etc.?
- This week, how can we seek being found by God? Or what are ways we can live differently knowing that we have been found by God and are truly loved by him?
- Is it harder to believe that Jesus will still seek you out even if your life is messy and you may be at your worst?
- What do you think about how Jesus feels when we return to him?



LUKE 15:3-7 NIV

3 Then Jesus told them this parable: 4 “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? 5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ 7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

LUKE 15:3-7 NCV

3 Then Jesus told them this story: 4 “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep but loses one of them. Then he will leave the other ninety-nine sheep in the open field and go out and look for the lost sheep until he finds it. 5 And when he finds it, he happily puts it on his shoulders 6 and goes home. He calls to his friends and neighbors and says, ‘Be happy with me because I found my lost sheep.’ 7 In the same way, I tell you there is more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes his heart and life, than over ninety-nine good people who don’t need to change.

LUKE 15:3-7 THE MESSAGE

1-3 By this time a lot of men and women of doubtful reputation were hanging around Jesus, listening intently. The Pharisees and religion scholars were not pleased, not at all pleased. They growled, “He takes in sinners and eats meals with them, treating them like old friends.” Their grumbling triggered this story.

4-7 “Suppose one of you had a hundred sheep and lost one. Wouldn’t you leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the lost one until you found it? When found, you can be sure you would put it across your shoulders, rejoicing, and when you got home call in your friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Celebrate with me! I’ve found my lost sheep!’ Count on it—there’s more joy in heaven over one sinner’s rescued life than over ninety-nine good people in no need of rescue.



POINTS YOU CAN MAKE

1. Jesus is looking for all of us; seeking us out. He would go after you if you were the only person in the world. He cares about you that much! Then, when he finds you, he celebrates because he gets to have a real relationship with you and that is why we were created.
2. Even while we mess up and turn our backs on God he seeks after us. He is compassionate and tenderly searches for us because He loves us. We know God loves us because He sent His Son Jesus to earth to seek out the lost and save them. Jesus came to earth to seek us out too. He loves us, cares for us, and shows us compassion.
3. Jesus hung out with sinners, those that were outcasts, and seemed the least likely for the Son of God to be spending time with. Yet, Jesus runs after those that are lost and he celebrates when the lost return to him or when a sinner repents. Jesus wants us even when we are messy. When, like the sheep, we stray off, when we feel unforgivable, when we know we messed up, when we feel lost, when we feel alone or abandoned, Jesus is still running after us. He loves us at our worst.
4. The shepherd is willing to go out searching for that one lost sheep, so that not even one sheep is missing from his flock. Jesus wants all of us to be a part of his kingdom. He will search for all of those that are lost in order to bring them back home to be with his people. We can see how much he loves each and every one of us by valuing us so much to spend time to pursue us.

In the Parable of the Lost Sheep, we see some of Jesus' compassion. We see his compassion for his people again in the next club talk. It is the account of Jesus feeding five thousand people (Matthew 14:13-21).

WHAT'S NEXT??

MEDIA TO USE



Clip from August Rush: This boy, August Rush, is an orphan, but has this sense that his parents are out there and he belongs with them. He is a musical prodigy. So, he runs away from the orphanage to NYC to find his parents, he ends up running into this guy "wizard" who uses kids to get money from street performing. August has an incredible music talent-this scene is from his first street performance.

Wizard asks him, "What do you want to be in the world, I mean in the whole world, what do you want to be?" and Evan responds with, "Found". The whole movie is about August looking for his parents and longing to be found, his mom looking for him, and his dad looking for his mom. A lot of looking for lost things and when they find each other at the end something feels right. At the end they don't even say anything, but we know that everything is as it should be. In the movie August had to leave the comfort of his orphanage and go to NYC to start to find his parents, he experienced a lot along the way, but at the end his parents find each other and find him. There is a real sense that this is the way it was supposed to be all along.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THIS PASSAGE:

Background:

Having followed Jesus to a remote place, the great crowd is stranded late in the day without food. The scene recalls two feeding miracles from the OT; the nation of Israel wandering in the wilderness after the exodus and God’s gracious provision of manna for his people and Elisha’s multiplication of loaves in 2 Kings 4:42-44. To eat together was a symbol of unity. Jesus acted as host to a large family gathering, and thus welcomed the crowd into a new community. The fact that they all ate and were satisfied may also be a prefiguring of the messianic banquet in the kingdom at the end of the age. Matthew likely saw the meal as not only satisfying the hunger of all the people but also as a symbolic act of communion.

All the disciples had to offer was five loaves of bread and two fish. Bread and dried or pickled fish were staple foods that were ideal for short journeys into the hills. Jesus deliberately draws the disciples into the action and uses the provisions that they have to supply the thousands of people. The loaves were small cakes sufficient for one person’s afternoon meal. Jesus looked up to heaven, a typical posture for prayer. Jesus said a blessing for the meal that would be miraculously provided by God the Father—a fitting practice for all who trust the Father for the daily provision of their needs. Jesus, giving thanks and breaking the bread, alludes to communion and the last supper when Jesus gives thanks and breaks the bread for his disciples. He provided the daily provision for five thousand men, besides women and children. The total number may have included 10,000 to 15,000 people.

Setting the Scene:

Jesus had just heard about the death of John the Baptist and went to a solitary place to deal with his grief. Between 10 and 15 thousand people came to him and Jesus healed them. The people are now hungry and we see how Jesus provides for them.

How This Relates To Kids:

Kids gotta eat!! Kids have physical needs and Jesus is the one that is able to provide for not only their physical needs but also their spiritual needs.

CAMPAIGNER QUESTIONS

- When have you been in a crowd that was so big, like the crowd in the story? How did it make you feel to be in a crowd that big?
- What makes Jesus so important that a crowd would follow Him on foot? What does it say about who Jesus is to the crowd and to us?
- Why did the crowd need a meal? Why doesn’t Jesus just send the crowd home?
- What do you think the disciples were thinking and how were they reacting as Jesus feeds more than five thousand people? How would you react if you were one of the disciples?
- Who is someone that provides for you? What does that person mean to you? How does their provision show they care about you?
- Why is it important that Jesus provides this meal for the crowd? What does it show us about Jesus’ character?
- Do you think you can trust Jesus to provide for your needs?
- How have you seen Jesus provide for your needs?
- What does compassion mean to you? How does Jesus show compassion?
- If Jesus provides so many amazing things for us, what does He ask of us?

2.0 CAMPAIGNER QUESTIONS

- How is Jesus capable of providing for our physical needs? Have you ever seen Him provide for you or another person physically?

**Ask your students to spend the next week paying attention to how the Lord provides for all of their needs. Have them write each thing down and bring it back to campaigners the next week.



MATTHEW 14:13-21 NIV

MATTHEW 14:13-21 NCV

MATTHEW 14:13-21 THE MESSAGE

13 When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

15 As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

16 Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

17 "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

18 "Bring them here to me," he said.

19 And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. 20 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. 21 The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

13 When Jesus heard what had happened to John, he left in a boat and went to a lonely place by himself. But the crowds heard about it and followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When he arrived, he saw a great crowd waiting. He felt sorry for them and healed those who were sick.

15 When it was evening, his followers came to him and said, "No one lives in this place, and it is already late. Send the people away so they can go to the towns and buy food for themselves."

16 But Jesus answered, "They don't need to go away. You give them something to eat."

17 They said to him, "But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish."

18 Jesus said, "Bring the bread and the fish to me." 19 Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fish and, looking to heaven, he thanked God for the food. Jesus divided the bread and gave it to his followers, who gave it to the people. 20 All the people ate and were satisfied. Then the followers filled twelve baskets with the leftover pieces of food. 21 There were about five thousand men there who ate, not counting women and children.

13-14 When Jesus got the news, he slipped away by boat to an out-of-the-way place by himself. But unsuccessfully—someone saw him and the word got around. Soon a lot of people from the nearby villages walked around the lake to where he was. When he saw them coming, he was overcome with pity and healed their sick.

15 Toward evening the disciples approached him. "We're out in the country and it's getting late. Dismiss the people so they can go to the villages and get some supper."

16 But Jesus said, "There is no need to dismiss them. You give them supper."

17 "All we have are five loaves of bread and two fish," they said.

18-21 Jesus said, "Bring them here." Then he had the people sit on the grass. He took the five loaves and two fish, lifted his face to heaven in prayer, blessed, broke, and gave the bread to the disciples. The disciples then gave the food to the congregation. They all ate their fill. They gathered twelve baskets of leftovers. About five thousand were fed.



POINTS YOU CAN MAKE

1. We can trust Jesus to provide for our needs. He cares about our physical and spiritual needs. He also has the power to provide for our needs whatever they may be.
2. Jesus has compassion on the people and heals them. Then he miraculously provides all of them with a meal out of only 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. Jesus cares for us deeply and is able to do outstanding things in order to show his love for us.
3. Jesus multiplies what we give him. Like he multiplies the bread and fish for the crowds, Jesus will multiply what we give him. He doesn't want to take things away from us but wants to provide for us and give us a life full of abundance.
4. When the crowd begins to get hungry, Jesus tells the disciples not to turn the crowd away but to instead feed them. When we are in need, Jesus will never turn us away.

In the next passage, we see Jesus perform another miracle where he heals a man with a withered hand (Matthew 12:9-14).

WHAT'S NEXT??

MEDIA TO USE



Use this video of the Black Eyed Peas on the Oprah Winfrey show, found on YouTube. You get to see the large crowd and how a crowd of that magnitude reacts to a leader (the band).

Begin clip at 1:14 into the video.

End clip at 5:23 into the video.

Matthew 14:13-21

Jesus takes something so common and creates something so amazing.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THIS PASSAGE:

Background:

The Sabbath:
At the beginning of the NT period, the true meaning of the Sabbath had been obscured by the numerous predictions that had been laid upon its observance. Men were more concerned with the observance of the day rather than the needs of human beings. Jesus’ emphasis was not on the observance of the law but rather on the performance of the will of God which underlay the law. Jesus sought to clarify the true meaning of the Sabbath by showing the original purpose for its institution: “the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27). Jesus showed that He placed human need above the mere external observance of the Sabbath. Jesus never did or said anything to suggest that He intended to take away from any of the privileges afforded by such a day of rest.

Setting the Scene:

Jesus went into the synagogue. The Pharisees were trying to trick Jesus by asking him if it was legal to heal on the Sabbath and pointing out a man with a withered hand. Their goal was for Jesus to heal the man so that they could accuse him of breaking the law.

Jesus takes on the holiest of holy men in his day - face to face. Jesus could have waited until the next day to heal this man’s hand, but He chose to heal on a Sabbath day. Jesus exposes the Pharisees both the principles they stood for and exposing the false doctrine they held as truth. In rabbinic teaching, there were 39 categories of “work” that people were prohibited to do on a day of Sabbath. The Pharisees believed that the these laws could be broken on the Sabbath only in life or death situations. Since the life of the man with the withered hand was not in danger, they believed his healing should wait until after the Sabbath. There is no suggestion that Jesus was opposed to the Sabbath principle but the issue was how it should be interpreted and who had the right to interpret it. Since Jesus is taking the issue under his authority and reinterpreting it, he was validating his claim. Jesus reminds us that the ultimate principle of the Sabbath is not to refrain from certain activities on the Sabbath but instead to do good on the Sabbath.

Jesus again changes the law into life. He restores not only the man’s withered hand, but also changes his life. No longer does the man have to live a life on the outside of society or his own family. The miracle confirms Jesus’ authority to interpret laws relating to the Sabbath and further validates his claim to be the messianic Son of Man. The religious leaders see clearly that Jesus’ claim concerning authority to interpret the law was in fact a claim to messianic authority, which they judged to be a heresy worthy of death.

How This Relates To Kids:

Kids typically perceive Jesus as being a judge and a person that they must follow his rules in order to be in good standing with him. This passage shows us that Jesus is not as concerned with rules but more concerned with loving people well.

CAMPAIGNER QUESTIONS

- What are laws that you feel like are not worthy to be laws? What are some crazy laws you have heard of before?
 - In Iowa, within the city limits, a man may not wink at any woman he does not know.
 - In Iowa, One-armed piano players must perform for free.
 - In Illinois, it is forbidden to fish while sitting on a giraffe’s neck.
 - In Illinois, humming on public streets is prohibited on Sundays.
 - In Florida, an elephant tied to a parking meter must pay the regular parking fee.
 - It is illegal in Waco, Texas, to throw a banana peel onto the street because a horse could slip.
 - Pickles were outlawed in Los Angeles because the smell might offend people
 - According to Florida law, anyone who takes a bath must wear clothes.
- What is a time in your life that you chose to do something that was against the rules for the better?
- What does Jesus do in this story? How does he “break” the law? Is he really breaking it?
- What do you feel like the man with the withered hand’s life was like before he was healed and what was his life like after he was healed?
- Why do you think that the Pharisees challenged Jesus by asking him if it is lawful to heal on the Sabbath?

2.0 CAMPAIGNER QUESTIONS

- How does Jesus say we can fulfill the will of God besides just following rules?
- Do you see Jesus as Truth or a good moral teacher? If you see Him as a teacher of morals, what could help you understand Him as Truth?

**MATTHEW 12:9-14 NIV****MATTHEW 12:9-14 NCV****MATTHEW 12:9-14
THE MESSAGE**

9 Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, 10 and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to bring charges against Jesus, they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”

11 He said to them, “If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? 12 How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”

13 Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. 14 But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

9 Jesus left there and went into their synagogue, 10 where there was a man with a crippled hand. They were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they asked him, “Is it right to heal on the Sabbath day?”

11 Jesus answered, “If any of you has a sheep, and it falls into a ditch on the Sabbath day, you will help it out of the ditch. 12 Surely a human being is more important than a sheep. So it is lawful to do good things on the Sabbath day.”

13 Then Jesus said to the man with the crippled hand, “Hold out your hand.” The man held out his hand, and it became well again, like the other hand. 14 But the Pharisees left and made plans to kill Jesus.

9-10 When Jesus left the field, he entered their meeting place. There was a man there with a crippled hand. They said to Jesus, “Is it legal to heal on the Sabbath?” They were baiting him.

11-14 He replied, “Is there a person here who, finding one of your lambs fallen into a ravine, wouldn’t, even though it was a Sabbath, pull it out? Surely kindness to people is as legal as kindness to animals!” Then he said to the man, “Hold out your hand.” He held it out and it was healed. The Pharisees walked out furious, sputtering about how they were going to ruin Jesus.



POINTS YOU CAN MAKE

1. Jesus heals the man's hand and changes his life. No longer does the man have to live a life on the outside of society or his own family. Jesus changes our lives.
2. The Pharisees were missing the point of the law of not working on the Sabbath. Jesus flips their world upside down by telling them that it is lawful to work for good on the Sabbath and then shows them by performing a work of healing a man's withered hand. Jesus was always doing things that weren't expected but they were all done with a purpose. He challenged the Pharisees' practice of the law to show love and fullness of life, rather than restriction. He is not about following rules but about loving on people.
3. We are valuable to Jesus and the community of believers. Jesus wants us to fulfill God's will by doing good unto others rather than being concerned with obeying rules.
4. Jesus speaks with authority and people really listened to him. He is the Son of God so he wrote the scriptures and correctly interprets the laws. At this time the Pharisees were misinterpreting the laws and Jesus overruled their authority.

The next talk is the sin talk. It is the account of the woman caught in adultery (John 7:53-8:11).

WHAT'S NEXT??

MEDIA TO USE



Share the last scene from the movie "The Book of Eli". In the movie he breaks all the rules to do what is best, not what he is supposed to do. He protects the most important thing. Jesus does the same in this story. He protects this man and battles those that opposed Him.

THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY

SIN TALK - JOHN 7:53-8:11

BACKGROUND:

Sin

Sin is what separates us from God. All men are by nature spiritually dead or alienated from God, who is the source of life, by sin. Those who remain in spiritual death throughout their lives and do not believe in the Son of God, die in their sins and remain under the wrath of God. It is because of our sin that we are kept from being able to be in a relationship with God. Sin is when we turn away from God and think things will be best when we do them our way. God is just, so sin requires punishment. As an offense to the infinite majesty of God, sin calls for infinite punishment. Romans 6:23 says that the wages of sin is death. This means that as sinners, we deserve nothing but death. God responds to sin by enacting justice through expressing infinite wrath and unlimited judgement. The results of sin are the things we identify such as jealousy, cheating, lying, greed, adultery, lust, killing, dishonoring our parents, hating others, etc.

In this account we meet a woman who was caught in adultery. The physical act of adultery was condemned severely. In ancient Israel adultery was punishable by death and was commonly carried out through stoning.

Jesus was teaching at the temple and the Pharisees purposely approached him about this situation with the woman caught in adultery while a crowd surrounded him. They wanted to trap him because they thought he either had to ignore the law or condone the woman being stoned to death. Jesus dominated their trap by turning the situation around onto the “religious” teachers by saying whoever is without sin can throw the first stone. They started to walk away one at a time starting with the oldest to the youngest. At the end of the parable it is just Jesus and the woman standing there.

The Woman:

The text says that the woman was CAUGHT in the act of adultery and was taken to the temple to be publicly punished for her sin. What does this really mean? Where is the guy she was caught with? This woman was probably wearing little to nothing and was exposed in a vulnerable moment. It is hard to imagine what a horrifying moment that was for that woman.

Jesus:

The Pharisees are out of their league when they are trying to trap the Son of God in this situation. They bring the woman into plain sight for everyone to see and Jesus bends down and writes something in the sand to draw the attention away from the woman. What does this mean? Jesus LOVED this woman in the midst of her sin-he didn't ask her to get her act together and then he could love her, he was with her in what was probably the most humiliating moment of her life. Her sin was exposed to everyone and Jesus loved her in that moment.

SETTING THE SCENE:

HOW THIS PASSAGE RELATES TO KIDS:

Jesus meets us in the darkest places of our lives. We don't have to clean up our act to start to follow him. It is a beautiful and mysterious thing that the God of the universe is willing to deal with our sin. God solved the problem of sin through sending his son, Jesus, to die on the cross in our place. Our personal sin, like the woman in the story, prevents us from living the life we were created to live. The life we were created for is one where we are connected to our creator and sin complicates that relationship and the ones with the people around us. The consequences of sin are eternal, but there are also real consequences here and now. Brokenness, being unsatisfied, being hurt, broken hearts, and damaged relationships are results of sin. Sin is real and all around us, but it isn't the end of the story. Jesus defeating sin by his own death and resurrection is the end of the story.

John 7:53-8:11 NIV

53 Then they all went home,

1 but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

2 At dawn he appeared again in the temple

courts, where all the people gathered around

him, and he sat down to teach them. 3 The

teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought

in a woman caught in adultery. They made her

stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus,

“Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of

adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to

stone such women. Now what do you say?” 6

They were using this question as a trap, in order

to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on

the ground with his finger. 7 When they kept on

questioning him, he straightened up and said

to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin

be the first to throw a stone at her.” 8 Again he

stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 At this, those who heard began to go away one

at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus

was left, with the woman still standing there. 10

Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman,

where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

11 “No one, sir,” she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus

declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

John 7:53-8:11 NCV

53 And everyone left and went home.

1 Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 But

early in the morning he went back to the

Temple, and all the people came to him, and

he sat and taught them. 3 The teachers of

the law and the Pharisees brought a woman

who had been caught in adultery. They

forced her to stand before the people. 4 They

said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was

caught having sexual relations with a man

who is not her husband. 5 The law of Moses

commands that we stone to death every

woman who does this. What do you say we

should do?” 6 They were asking this to trick

Jesus so that they could have some charge

against him.

But Jesus bent over and started writing on

the ground with his finger. 7 When they

continued to ask Jesus their question, he

raised up and said, “Anyone here who has

never sinned can throw the first stone at her.”

8 Then Jesus bent over again and wrote on

the ground.

9 Those who heard Jesus began to leave

one by one, first the older men and then the

others. Jesus was left there alone with the

woman standing before him. 10 Jesus raised

up again and asked her, “Woman, where are

they? Has no one judged you guilty?”

11 She answered, “No one, sir.”

Then Jesus said, “I also don’t judge you

guilty. You may go now, but don’t sin

anymore.”

John 7:53-8:11 The Message

52-53 But they cut him off. “Are you also

campaigning for the Galilean? Examine the

evidence. See if any prophet ever comes

from Galilee.” Then they all went home.

1-2 Jesus went across to Mount Olives,

but he was soon back in the Temple again.

Swarms of people came to him. He sat down

and taught them.

3-6 The religion scholars and Pharisees led

in a woman who had been caught in an act

of adultery. They stood her in plain sight of

everyone and said, “Teacher, this woman

was caught red-handed in the act of adultery.

Moses, in the Law, gives orders to stone

such persons. What do you say?” They were

trying to trap him into saying something

incriminating so they could bring charges

against him.

6-8 Jesus bent down and wrote with his

finger in the dirt. They kept at him, badgering

him. He straightened up and said, “The

sinless one among you, go first: Throw the

stone.” Bending down again, he wrote some

more in the dirt.

9-10 Hearing that, they walked away, one

after another, beginning with the oldest. The

woman was left alone. Jesus stood up and

spoke to her. “Woman, where are they? Does

no one condemn you?”

11 “No one, Master.”

“Neither do I,” said Jesus. “Go on your way.

MEDIA TO USE

Play this scene from the movie “The Passion of Christ”.

It is a good depiction of the scene with the adulterous woman.



POINTS TO MAKE:

1 Sin separates us from God. Because of our sinful nature we are not able to be in a relationship with God. Our sin requires us to be judged by God. In order to be saved from the eternal death that we deserve, we need something that can connect us with God. We need a Savior.

2 Sin is when we turn away from God and think things will be best when we do them our way. The woman turns away from God by seeking self pleasure. The result of that is her committing adultery. Other results of sin in our lives may be lying, damaged relationships, drunkenness, disobeying parents, cheating, greed, lust, hate, murder, idolatry, etc. We need a Savior.

3 Jesus stands at the woman's side when she is at her worst. We don't have to fix ourselves to come to Jesus. Even though our nature is sinful, Jesus is able to see past that. We need a Savior.

4 No one can throw the first stone because we have all sinned. All of us are sinners and no one is exempt from its consequences. The only one that has the right to judge us for our sins is the one who committed no sins A.K.A. Jesus, the Son of God. We need a Savior.

WHAT'S NEXT?

We all sin but the story doesn't end here. There is still hope and that is found in the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus. The next talk is the account of Jesus dying on the cross and raising from the dead three days later. The scripture for next week's club talk is Romans 5:6-11.

CAMPAIGNER QUESTIONS

- Have you ever been caught doing something you weren't supposed to? Or have you ever caught someone doing something they weren't supposed to be doing?
- How does it feel to be caught in the act of doing something you weren't supposed to be doing?
- How would you define sin?
- How have you been affected by other people's sin? How do you think you have affected others by your sin?
- How do you think the woman felt when the Pharisees dragged her in front of Jesus and the crowd?
- Why do you think Jesus bent down in the sand to write on the ground with his finger?
- What do you think of Jesus' response to the Pharisees' request to stone the woman? Do you think the woman was surprised by Jesus' response?
- In verses 9-11 Jesus says, "Hearing that, they walked away, one after another, beginning with the oldest. The woman was left alone. Jesus stood up and spoke to her. 'Woman, where are they? Does no one condemn you?' 'No one, Master.' 'Neither do I,' said Jesus. 'Go on your way. From now on, don't sin.'"
- Why do you think Jesus said that he doesn't condemn her and says to go and sin no more?
- What does this tell us about Jesus and his character?
- How does it feel to know that Jesus is the only one with the power to judge you on your sin and in the story we see that he doesn't condemn the woman on her sin?

(leaders: think through this question before campaigners so you can guide the conversation- Jesus wants her to leave her former unsatisfying life and experience true and real life with him)

2.0 CAMPAIGNER QUESTIONS

- Why do you think suffering is present in our world? How do you reconcile that with God's goodness and omnipotence?

CROSS/RESURRECTION TALK

PEACE AND HOPE

ROMANS 5:6-11

Background:

We shared the reality of sin with kids and the only reason that the game is changed is because of the cross. Our reality is different because Jesus died for ALL on the cross. The only reason we have a chance at experiencing life as it was created to be is because God sent his Son, Jesus, to deal with our sin on the cross. Jesus didn't wait for us to clean up our act before he chose to die in our place, he showed us his intense love by dying for us in spite of our sin. He solved the problem for us. Jesus dying on the cross sets us right with God and gives us the opportunity to live a life of joy and rejoicing. The cross shows us that God is for us and that God wanted to find a way that worked once for all. Jesus dying on the cross isn't just taking care of sin and guilt, but letting us open the doors to abundant life and relationship with God and those around us. He wants to welcome us right now and not just in heaven.

Sacrificial system: This is an FYI for you-no need to go into detail about this in your talk. Feel free to mention it, but I wouldn't spend a lot of time explaining the OT system of sacrifice.

The Old Testament Sacrificial system was such a big deal and the people were so tied to the law because sacrifice was the only way to atone for one's sin. There was the tabernacle and later the temple in Jerusalem where common people, priests, and the high priest would sacrifice animals to atone for sin. The people had to physically go the tabernacle and later the temple in Jerusalem to sacrifice animals for atonement. God wanted to figure out a way to solve this problem of sin and atonement once and for all and that is why Jesus shed his blood on the cross. Jesus changed everything.

"The Mosaic Law's sacrifices were intended to atone for sin and were effective because they pointed to the Son of God who died as the final atoning sacrifice for all people of all time who looking in faith to Him and to God's promises. Those who live in rebellion against God, rejecting Christ's sacrifice for their sin, must atone for their own sin in God's judgment. "

What's Next?

We know that we were in need of a savior because of our sins. Jesus is our savior who died on the cross and rose again to make sure our sins were forgiven and our relationship with God is restored. The next talk is about how kids should respond to this good news! The talk is the account of Jesus and The Doubts of Thomas from John 20:24-29.

Campaigner Questions

- Have you had to sacrifice something for someone else before? Or has anyone else sacrificed something for you? Tell us about it.
- Read Romans 5:6-11 and read one of the accounts of Jesus' death from a Gospel (Matthew 27:45-55, Mark 15:21-40, Luke 23:37-49, John 19: 28-37).
- How does it make you feel that Jesus can identify with our pain?
- Why did Jesus die on the cross?
- How does the fact that Jesus died on the cross for your sin make you feel? What are you going to do about that?
- The cross is more about entering into an abundant life and relationship with God than it is about guilt. Are there any parts of your life that feel like you are living with joy, freedom, peace? Or do you feel trapped by the guilt of sin?
- The cross is about here and now, not just when we die if we go to heaven or hell. How could life look different if the cross opens the door for us to have a full life?
- How does our identity as sinners change when Jesus dies for us?
- What does it mean for us that Jesus rose from the dead?

Questions 2.0

- If what Jesus said about Himself is true and if Jesus' death on the cross is True, how does that Truth affect your life?
-
- Is Jesus the only way to God ("I am the way and the truth and the life. No one gets to the Father except through me" John 14:6-7)? How does the cross as The Way to God affect your views of other religions?



POINTS TO MAKE:

1. Jesus did not wait for us to ready ourselves before he died on the cross for us. He loved us enough the way that we were to sacrifice his life to pay for our sins.
2. We can understand someone risking their life for someone worth dying for, but God demonstrates his love for us through sending his Son to die for us while we were still sinners and unworthy of his salvation.
3. When we were rebelling against God, he sent Jesus to earth to die for our sins. Think of how much more he will do for us now that we are pure and without sin in His eyes!!!!
4. Because of what Jesus did on the cross we are set right with God. Our sin has been wiped clean. Sin is what separated us from God. Since our sin is wiped clean by Jesus there is nothing separating us from God anymore! Jesus bridged the gap for us. We can have a relationship with God.
5. Through Christ's death we are given a new identity. We no longer have to live in our sin but can now live our lives in relationship with God.
6. Jesus did not remain dead in the tomb, he rose from the dead. Jesus and God are alive. They offer us a full life here on earth and forever in heaven in relationship with them. We can now be a part of God's family and live in His kingdom as his children.

QUOTES OF JESUS & THE CROSS:

They gave him a manger for a cradle, a carpenter's bench for a pulpit, thorns for a crown, and a cross for a throne. He took them and made them the very glory of his career.

The dying Jesus is the evidence of God's anger toward sin; but the living Jesus is the proof of God's love and forgiveness.

Jesus Final words on the cross:

- "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." - Luke 23:34
- "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." - Luke 23:43
- "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" - Matthew 27:46 & Mark 15:34
- "I thirst" - John 19:28
- When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and handed over the spirit. - John 19:30
- Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" - Luke 23:46

Setting the Scene:

The Book of Romans was written by the apostle Paul. Paul was trained as a Pharisee and roamed throughout Israel persecuting Christians until he was transformed by God to be a preacher for Christ.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul lays out the Gospel for the Roman Christians, explaining what the Gospel is about in his own words. He was giving the Roman Christians a sample of the message he was going to share with them when he arrived in Rome.

How this Passage Relates to Kids:

Jesus saves and kids are in need of a savior. Even though we are all sinners, Jesus came to die on the cross for us.

This act shows us how much Jesus loves us. Jesus never sinned, so when he was on the cross he was able to take our sins onto himself and pay the penalty for them. He didn't have to do this. There was no reason to do it other than that he loves us and wants us to be able to have a relationship with him. He bridges the gap so that we can have a relationship with God.

MEDIA TO USE:

Blood Diamond - A Good Boy
The boy's father tells him that he loves him and that he knows he is a good boy despite him doing bad things. The father tells him that he is his father and wants him to come home to be his son again.



Background:

A great thing to take from this passage is how Thomas goes from unbelief to belief. It is not touching Jesus that leads Thomas to his confession, but rather Jesus' gracious offering of himself! Some might read this as Jesus trying to embarrass Thomas, but Jesus actually seems to be fulfilling a need that Thomas has in his faith.

This incident records Thomas' unbelief and coming to faith in a way that illuminates the main purpose of the gospel. Thomas' confession of Jesus as his Lord and God points us to understand the deity of Christ.

All spiritualizing concepts of Jesus' resurrection body are contrary to the clear teaching of Scripture. Jesus' followers recognized Him by His face and voice, were invited to touch His body and He also ate before their eyes. In Luke 24:39, Jesus declares "A spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have." When Jesus appeared to the disciples he was clearly there in the flesh. Jesus' resurrected body was unique. He could appear in a locked room; yet he was not a ghost or apparition because he could be touched and could eat. Jesus' body was no longer restrained by his humanness.

Setting the Scene:

Jesus had just died on the cross and risen from the dead. Jesus had appeared before Mary and some of his disciples but for unknown reasons one of the disciples, Thomas, was not present when Jesus appeared. Thomas was skeptical of the news that Jesus had risen from the dead. A week later Jesus appears to the disciples and then speaks directly to Thomas.

How This Passage Relates to Kids:

It can be a very hard thing to hear the Good News that has been presented in the previous two weeks and go ahead and accept it. Really, even the disciples (all of them) (remember the other 10 of them did not believe when Mary and Mary told them the news) had trouble believing when they first heard the news. Verse 29 says, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." This is an awesome thing for people that might be on the edge of unbelieving and believing.

**MEDIA
TO USE**

This painting of "Doubting" Thomas is by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio. It is great to show in your club talk or discuss in campaigns.



John 20:24-29 - NIV

Jesus Appears to Thomas

24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus[a]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

John 20:24-29 - NCV

Jesus Appears to Thomas

24 Thomas (called Didymus), who was one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other followers kept telling Thomas, "We saw the Lord."

But Thomas said, "I will not believe it until I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were and put my hand into his side."

26 A week later the followers were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came in and stood right in the middle of them. He said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand here in my side. Stop being an unbeliever and believe."

28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you see me. Those who believe without seeing me will be truly blessed."

John 20:24-29 - The Message

24-25 But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We saw the Master."

But he said, "Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won't believe it."

26 Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you."

27 Then he focused his attention on Thomas. "Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don't be unbelieving. Believe."

28 Thomas said, "My Master! My God!"

29 Jesus said, "So, you believe because you've seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing."



CAMPAIGNER QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever heard someone tell you something you didn't believe and then found out they were telling the truth? What did it take for them to make you believe?

2. Is there anyone that you would believe just because they had told you something? What are some qualities of that person/or a person you would just believe because they told you?

3. Have you had a need that someone filled for you after asking for it?

4. How would it make you feel if Jesus took your hand and put it in His side where you could touch His wounds?

5. What evidence do we have today that Jesus rose from the dead?

6. Where are you at with Jesus? Are you doubting like Thomas?

7. What questions do you feel like you need answered before you believe in Jesus?

Campaigner Questions 2.0

How do you deal with any doubts that you may have about the Truth of Jesus? How are you able to have doubts yet still believe in Jesus?

What's Next??
In the next club talk, we start talking about what it's like to live out your life with Jesus. We will start with the passage where Jesus teaches about not worrying from Matthew 6:25-34.

Points you can make:

1. Thomas was unsure of Jesus' resurrection at first. Although he was unsure, he did not turn his back on Jesus but continued to seek him by asking for more evidence. You don't have to have all the details about Jesus figured out before you believe in him. It's ok to continue to have questions and want to learn more about Jesus. Jesus proved his faithfulness and appeared before the disciples and invited Thomas to touch his resurrected body. Just as Jesus was faithful in showing up to respond to Thomas, He will also be faithful and reveal more of Himself to us as we continue in our walk with Him.

2. When Jesus died He did not go straight back to heaven. He came to spend more time with his friends and family and followers. He wanted to show them how He intends to be in a relationship with us.

3. After Jesus reveals Himself, Thomas proclaims "My Lord and my God!" This indicates that Thomas understood that Jesus is God. As we have explained all semester, Jesus was both human and the Son of God.

4. Jesus' resurrection was literal. His body and spirit were resurrected. He wasn't a ghost or apparition. When we welcome Jesus into our lives, we are inviting God who is alive and active to be involved in our lives.



Matthew 6:25-34 - NIV

Matthew 6:25-34 - NCV

Matthew 6:25-34 - The Message

Do Not Worry

25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

28 “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Don't Worry

25 “So I tell you, don't worry about the food or drink you need to live, or about the clothes you need for your body. Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothes. 26 Look at the birds in the air. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, but your heavenly Father feeds them. And you know that you are worth much more than the birds. 27 You cannot add any time to your life by worrying about it.

28 “And why do you worry about clothes? Look at how the lilies in the field grow. They don't work or make clothes for themselves. 29 But I tell you that even Solomon with his riches was not dressed as beautifully as one of these flowers. 30 God clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today but tomorrow is thrown into the fire. So you can be even more sure that God will clothe you. Don't have so little faith! 31 Don't worry and say, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ 32 The people who don't know God keep trying to get these things, and your Father in heaven knows you need them. 33 Seek first God's kingdom and what God wants. Then all your other needs will be met as well. 34 So don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will have its own worries. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

25-26 “If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don't fuss about what's on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God. And you count far more to him than birds.

27-29 “Has anyone by fussing in front of the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? All this time and money wasted on fashion—do you think it makes that much difference? Instead of looking at the fashions, walk out into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They never primp or shop, but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them.

30-33 “If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

34 “Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.

SETTING THE SCENE:

This passage is a part of Jesus' teaching during the Sermon on the Mount where his disciples as well as crowds of people were listening to Him teach. He has been teaching on various topics from fasting to prayer to divorce and more. Here, He teaches about not worrying. To be anxious demonstrates a lack of trust in God, who promises that he will graciously care for "all these things." The child of God has a heavenly Father who loves and cares for His own. God will allow nothing to befall His followers except what is for their own good; they need not be anxious or fearful about circumstances, whether present or future. Jesus tells us not to be anxious about food or clothing, because God, who looks after the birds of the air and the grass of the field, will certainly look after His children.

BACKGROUND:

Solomon:

Solomon was the son of David and the third king of Israel. He was full of wisdom. He was the author of Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, many of the Proverbs, and some of the Psalms. Solomon built God's temple in Jerusalem. In 1 Kings 10:23 it says that King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth. All of 1 Kings 10 talks about all the gifts and revenue that Solomon received each year.

Righteousness: Jesus draws the line between those who are anxious about many things and those who accept the necessity of such things, but are concerned for greater things than these common needs. Jesus is not denying the things, nor the necessity of the things. What He knows is that unless the foundations are established in righteousness, the "things" also will disappear. In this passage righteousness means the will of God brought to bear on the affairs of life. One is not "righteous" in Jesus' way of thinking unless his motives rest in love. The righteousness of the kingdom of heaven works out in the details of one's personal life. Jesus calls his followers to choose their outlook on life, either faith or worry.

HOW THIS PASSAGE RELATES TO KIDS:

Kids might find themselves worrying about some of their basic needs or things like being popular, getting good grades, performing well on a sports team, or figuring out what to do after high school.

POINTS YOU CAN MAKE:

1. God takes care of the birds, the lilies, and the grass. We were made in his image and Jesus died for us. This means we are way more valuable to God than these other things. If he takes care of them, He will certainly take care of us! Therefore, we don't have to worry. We can trust Him.

2. Worrying won't change anything. It won't add a second to our lives. Instead of worrying, Jesus tells us to focus on God instead. When we make seeking God a number one priority, He will provide for us and take care of all our needs.

3. God knows what your needs are and He wants to provide for you because He loves you and cares about you. God understands us better than anyone else. He knows everything about us so He is able to provide for us perfectly. This may not mean that He will provide for us immediately, it will happen according to His will, not ours. When we are seeking Him first, we will have our needs met.

4. The future presents us with the unknown and causes us to worry. Our focus should be on what is happening today. God wants us to focus on what He is doing in our lives in the present. We should concentrate on just trying to be with God.

CAMPAIGNER QUESTIONS

- Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
- What sorts of things do you find yourself worrying about?
- Do you find it difficult or easy to not worry about tomorrow? Why or why not?
- What would it take to ease your worry about the things in your life that cause you worry?
- What does it mean that God will take care of you more than the birds, lilies, grass of the field? How does he do that? How does it make you feel to know that God will provide for you even more than He does for the birds and lilies? Does it help you trust in His ability to provide for your needs?
- What are the ill effects of worry? What can you do instead of worry?
- What is God's kingdom? What would it look like to seek first God's kingdom?
- Can you worry and trust God at the same time?
- Have you ever had an experience where God has provided for one of your needs?

2.0 CAMPAIGNER QUESTIONS

- Do you feel like you have to have your future after college all planned out? Why? What pressures are there? How do you plan your future, major, and career goals but trust God if things seem to start working out differently? Should we hold loosely to our plans?

WHAT'S NEXT?

The next club talk will be the last talk of the year. This talk will present what it looks like to be walking with Jesus. The passage we will use is Matthew 11:1-18.



Matthew 28:16-20 - NIV

Matthew 28:16-20 - NCV

Matthew 28:16-20 - The Message

The Great Commission

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Jesus Talks to His Followers

16 The eleven followers went to Galilee to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 On the mountain they saw Jesus and worshiped him, but some of them did not believe it was really Jesus. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All power in heaven and on earth is given to me. 19 So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach them to obey everything that I have taught you, and I will be with you always, even until the end of this age.”

16-17 Meanwhile, the eleven disciples were on their way to Galilee, headed for the mountain Jesus had set for their reunion. The moment they saw him they worshiped him. Some, though, held back, not sure about worship, about risking themselves totally.

18-20 Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: “God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.”

SETTING THE SCENE:

Jesus meets with disciples one last time before he ascends to Heaven. These are the last words Jesus says to them.

HOW THIS PASSAGE RELATES TO KIDS:

When we decide to follow Jesus we are asked to become His disciples and share Jesus with others.

BACKGROUND:

The Great Commission: The Great Commission linked the missionary activity of the Church with that of Christ Himself. The Church’s mission is to be patterned after Jesus - to seek and to save the lost, teaching, preaching, and healing. To accomplish this daunting task, the Church would require and receive the aid of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is a part of the Trinity that also includes God and Jesus. The Holy Spirit is God being with us in our daily lives. The Holy Spirit is also known as the Counselor and Helper. So, the Holy Spirit helps us to remember the teachings of Jesus.

Disciple: Discipleship, meaning “to learn,” is the learning process and adoption of the philosophy, practices, and way of life of a teacher. A synonym for the disciple is the verb “to follow.” Our best image of a disciple is Jesus’ circle of friends. All of Jesus’ disciples were learners required to “abide” in His word. As Christians we are asked to also become disciples of Jesus and to follow Him and His teachings. Furthermore, Jesus tells us in the Great Commissioning to go out and make disciples of the nations. We are to spread His teachings and make known who Jesus is so that others in the world can become His disciples.

The words “with you” powerfully echo the name Emmanuel. ‘God with us’ that is who Jesus really is.

BACKGROUND:

1. Jesus gives us a mission to make disciples. The Great Commission is the last teaching that we get from Jesus before he ascends to heaven. To make disciples means that we have the mission to tell people about who Jesus is and share with others what Jesus has done in our lives. It means helping them understand who Jesus is and teaching them how to live life with Jesus.

2. Jesus is with us today. In this passage it says that Jesus is with us “to the very end of the age.” Jesus goes to Heaven with God and sends the Holy Spirit to live with us. God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are all one. Jesus continues to be with us today through His Spirit.

3. Jesus has the ultimate authority. Jesus’ authority is given to Him from God. This means that what Jesus has to say is what is most important. We should take his teaching and mission seriously. We can trust Him and look to Him for how to live our lives.

4. As followers of Jesus, we are obedient to him not out of obligation but out of our love and passion for Him.

CAMPAIGNER QUESTIONS

- Have you ever been so excited about something that you wanted to share with all of your friends and family?
- What is Jesus’ mission for us?
- Have you ever talked to your family or any of your friends about Jesus? Do you want to? Sharing Jesus with others is an exciting thing. What can make you excited to share His good news?
- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus promises to be with you always? How does that or should that impact our lives? Can you feel Jesus’ presence with you?
- How is Jesus with us today?
- What is the Holy Spirit? What roles does the Holy Spirit play in our lives?
- Who is the difference between obeying out of obligation and obeying because of the way you love Jesus?
- Are there areas of your life that you struggle obeying Christ?
- Who gives Jesus authority? What does it mean that “all authority in heaven and on earth” has been given to Jesus?

****Disclaimer:** Kids may talk about baptism when discussing this scripture passage. You can explain your own viewpoint and other Christian viewpoints on baptism but please note that Young Life does not have an official stance on baptism.

2.0 CAMPAIGNER QUESTIONS

- Have you ever felt God directing your path? How do you know that it is coming from Him? Do you think that Jesus’ Word and/or prayer helps us to discern where God is guiding us?
- If you were to explain to a friend what it means to know God personally, what would you say?