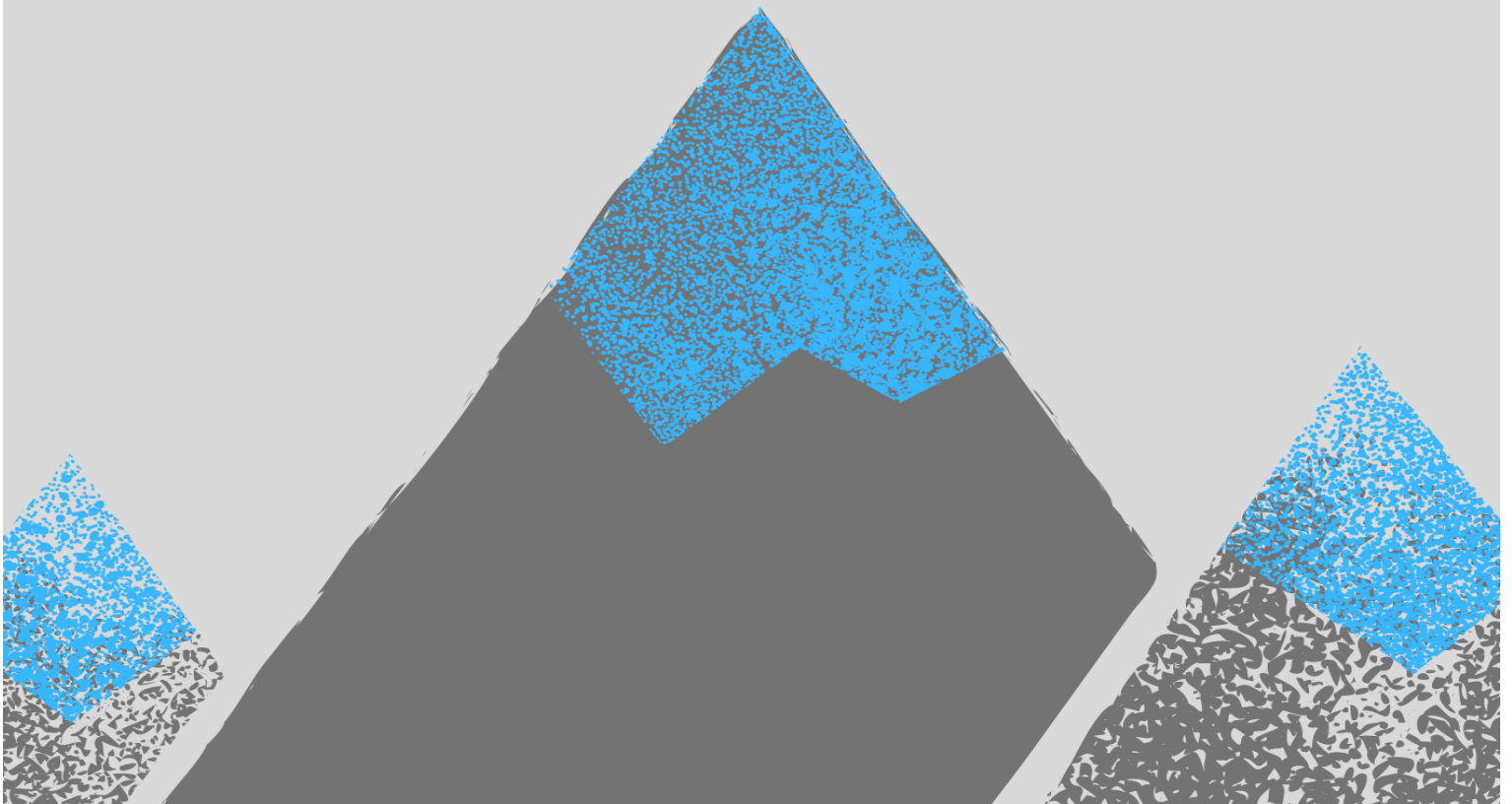


CREEK
STUDENT
MINISTRY
COTTONWOOD CREEK CHURCH

**GROWING IN
FAITHFULNESS**

A 10 Week Study Through Scripture



Growing in Faithfulness

By the end of this series, learners will understand the physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges that life will present and will be equipped with tools to help them stay faithful to the Lord throughout for the rest of their life.

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All Alone

Week 1

The goal of this lesson is to help the student understand why they should be seeking to build a community with other students. God has designed us to be with other people, seeking Christian community together.

Learning Activities

- Book of Questions: What is your greatest fear?

Learning Readiness

Say: Today, we are focusing on the concept of loneliness.

Ask: What are some reasons that you might feel lonely?

Bible Study

Lesson Objective: The goal of this lesson is to help the student understand why they should be seeking to build a community with other students. God has designed us to be with other people, seeking Christian community together.

Read: Psalm 13:1-6

1 How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? 2 How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? 3 Consider and answer me, O Lord my

God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, 4 lest my enemy says, “I have prevailed over him,” lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken. 5 But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. 6 I will sing to the Lord because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Knowledge Questions

1. Describe what the Psalmist means when he says, “How long will you hide your face from me?”
2. The Psalmist asks, “How long must I take counsel in my soul?” How would you define what the Psalmist is talking about here?

Comprehension/Understanding Questions

1. Can you explain why the Psalmist might have been feeling this loneliness?
2. What do you think might makes people feel lonely?

Applications Questions

1. How can you prepare for loneliness that may come in your life?
2. How did the Psalmist respond in his loneliness, and how should that teach us how to respond?

Synthesis Questions

1. Explain why the Psalmist changed his attitude so quickly in (v. 5-6.)
2. What does the phrase “steadfast love” mean?

Evaluation Questions

1. Are we as people supposed to be alone? Explain your answer.
2. Can you summarize Psalm 13 in your own words?

Conclusion

We are not designed to be lonely. We are made to be in community, but we must find the right community to be a part of. Don't go through your journey alone. Build up relationships and make new friends. You don't have to do life alone.

Announcements

Leaders, communicate any announcements for your group and the ministry.

Dealing with Non-Christian Friends

Week 2

The goal of this lesson is to help the student understand that they will interact with people who are not Christians while on their school campus and in life in general. Instead of shunning that person, we want to encourage the students to seek wisdom so they can graciously interact with their non-Christian friends.

Learning Activities

- Book of Questions: Do you prefer watching a movie at home or the theater?
- Have the students do a “mock” encounter with a non-Christian friend who is questioning their faith.

Learning Readiness

Say: Today we are focusing on the concept of dealing with our non-Christian friends.

Ask: Let's say that you are having a conversation with your friends about your faith and one of them starts to question everything that you believe and the truth of the Gospel in general. How would you respond?

Bible Study

Lesson Objective: The goal of this lesson is to help the student understand that they will come into people who are not Christians while on their campus and in life in general. Instead of shunning that person, we want to encourage the students to seek wisdom so they can graciously interact with their non-Christian friends.

Read: Colossians 4:5-6

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Knowledge Questions

1. Describe what Paul means when he is talking about walking in wisdom.
2. As Christians, how can we effectively make the best use of our time with our non-Christian friends?

Comprehension/Understanding Questions

1. Can you explain how having wisdom will help you deal with your non-Christian friends?
2. What is an example of non-gracious speech?

Applications Questions

1. If you could choose to share your faith like any person in the Bible who shared theirs who would it be and why?
2. How could sharing the Gospel with one person change the entire world?

Synthesis Questions

1. Can you explain why being unwise or making unwise decisions can hurt your witness to those around you?
2. How can your non-Christian friends impact your life?

Evaluation Questions

1. Explain what Paul means when he says that our speech is to be “seasoned with salt.”
2. What are some ways that Christians can be seen as hypocrites by non-Christians? What do we as Christians do to fix this?

Conclusion

Who our friends are is a massive part of our lives. We must be mindful of who we hang out with and who we allow to influence us. At the same time, we must not neglect others. We must seek to share the Gospel with everyone around us, especially our friends who don't know Jesus. The best thing you can do as a friend is to tell them about Jesus who came to save their soul.

Announcements

Leaders, communicate any announcements for your group and the ministry.

Who Influences Who?

Week 3

The goal of this lesson is to help the student understand that they are to be influencers for the Gospel in their time on this Earth.

Learning Activities

- Book of Questions: What is the fastest way to get you bored out of your mind?

Learning Readiness

Say: Today we are focusing on the impact you can have on people by shining your light in a dark world.

Ask: What causes us to be influenced by something?

Bible Study

Lesson Objective: The goal of this lesson is to help the student understand that they are to be influencers for the Gospel in their time on this Earth, especially in college.

Read: Matthew 5:14-16

14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that^[a] they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Knowledge Questions

1. Define what it means to be the light.
2. Describe how Jesus was the light during his time here on Earth.

Comprehension/Understanding Questions

1. Explain what Jesus means in verse 15.
2. What is dangerous about hiding the light that God has given us?

Applications Questions

1. What makes sharing our faith with others so hard?
2. If we were to apply these verses to our lives, how would that change the way we share our faith with others?

Synthesis Questions

1. If you were to design the perfect way to be an influencer for the Gospel, what would be your strategy?
2. What are some things that could keep you from being the light?

Evaluation Questions

1. (*Personal question.*) If you were to evaluate your life right now, would you be more likely to influence someone or be influenced by someone?
2. How do social influencers influence our lives? (The way we live, The way we think, etc .)

Conclusion

To be the light for Christ is to influence those around us with the Gospel. We must stand firm in our faith and not be influenced by the darkness of the world. Maybe some of you feel like you need to get better at this before you can be the light, keep working at it! Prepare yourself to be a leader and influencer instead of someone who will be influenced by everything going on around you.

Announcements

Leaders, communicate any announcements for your group and the ministry.

Finding A Mentor

Week 4

The goal of this lesson is to help the student understand the need for a Christian mentor or role model in their lives.

Learning Activities

- Book of Questions: Who do you admire most? How do they inspire you?

Learning Readiness

Say: Mentors are essential in the development of our Christian faith. Mentors are someone we can go to in times of need and help us to mature and grow in our faith.

Ask: Can you think of some Biblical examples of people who were mentors?

Bible Study

Lesson Objective: The goal of this lesson is to help students understand the impact that a Christian mentor can have for the duration of their lives.

Read: Acts 9:26-31; 11:19-30

Acts 9:26-31

26 And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. **27** But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. **28** So he went in and out among them at

Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists.^[a] But they were seeking to kill him. 30 And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Acts 11: 19-30

19 Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. 20 But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists^[c] also, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. 22 The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, 24 for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. 25 So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch, the disciples were first called Christians.

27 Now in these days, prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius). 29 So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to

the brothers^[d] living in Judea. 30 And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

Knowledge Questions

1. What is the purpose of a mentor?
2. What might be intimidating about finding a mentor?

Comprehension/Understanding Questions

1. Can you explain why Barnabas would willingly take Saul under his wing?
2. How can having a mentor help our spiritual growth?

Applications Questions

1. What was the impact that Barnabas had on Saul's ministry?
2. How could you benefit from having a mentor, specifically in trying times or situations?
3. How do you ask to be mentored?

Synthesis Questions

1. In your opinion, what makes someone a good mentor?
2. Benjamin Franklin had a saying "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn." With that quote in mind, why is it important to find a mentor?

Evaluation Questions

1. How would you summarize the relationship between Saul and Barnabas?
2. What would you look for in a mentor?

Conclusion

Mentorship is important. A great mentor is someone who loves us, is there for us, but also challenges us to be better versions of ourselves. A mentor is vital to our growth as a person, in

our career, and our Christian life. We encourage you to find a mentor. It will greatly help you out and give you someone to help you through your life, just like Barnabas helped Paul understand what it means to be a new Christian and a minister when nobody else wanted to help him.

Announcements

Leaders, communicate any announcements for your group and the ministry.

Friends and Acquaintances

Week 5

This lesson is meant for the student to understand the importance of surrounding themselves with Christian friends.

Learning Activities

- Book of Questions: What is your biggest pet peeve?

Learning Readiness

Say: Friendship is meant for us to have people we can enjoy life with. Our friends are people we can relate with and grow with.

Ask: Why do you think people get burnt in friendships?

Bible Study

Lesson Objective: The goal of this lesson is to help the student understand the difference between a friend and an acquaintance.

Read: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

9 Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their toil. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him! 11 Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? 12 And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him-a ,threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Knowledge Questions

1. What is the purpose of friendship?

2. Why do people desire popularity and what are the dangers of popularity?

Comprehension/Understanding Questions

1. What does Solomon mean in (v.12)
2. Can you describe your idea of the perfect friendship?
3. What should you do if you realize you have bad friends?

Applications Questions

1. Explain the difference between a friend and an acquaintance.
2. How do people get burnt when they see an acquaintance as a friend?

Synthesis Questions

1. What makes friendship so valuable?
2. Why do you think sometimes people feel “lonely” in friendships? (*People try to fit into groups that see them as an acquaintance.*)

Evaluation Questions

1. Why do you think friendships fall apart?
2. Why is communication so important in a friendship?

Conclusion

Walter Winchell once said, “A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.” These people are hard to find. We will always have more acquaintances than we have friends. The problem is that those acquaintances are not part of that threefold cord that Solomon is talking about. We must seek out Christian friendship and surround ourselves with people who care about us and have our best interest. People that will be there with us through thick and thin. Those people are hard to find, but once we find them we have someone who will always go to battle with us no matter the situation.

Announcements

Leaders, communicate any announcements for your group and the ministry.

Dating and Marriage

Week 6

This lesson is meant for the student to understand the goals of a Christian dating relationship.

Learning Activities

- Have the students play the game “Honey if you love me.”

Directions: The group sits in a circle facing inward. One member of the group is 'it.' The objective is for this person to make another smile. He goes around the circle, picks a person, kneels, and asks him/her, 'Honey, if you love me, will you please smile for me?' The person must respond with, 'Honey, I love you, but I just can't smile for you,' without smiling. If he/she smiles, that person becomes 'it', replacing the first. If the person 'it' does not convince a person to smile, he/she must approach another until he/she does. The person 'it' may do any gestures he/she wants to make the person smile (e.g. make funny faces, do a stunt), but cannot touch the person. This is a circular game, meaning it does not end. End the game when you are ready to teach.

Book of Questions: If you could hire any singer to sing at your wedding one day, who would you choose and what song would you choose?

Learning Readiness

Say: Dating is hard.

Ask: Personally, what are some of the most important things to you when it comes to dating?

Bible Study

Lesson Objective: The goal of this lesson is to help the student understand how important Christian Dating and to understand why they should honor God in their time dating their future spouse.

Read: 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 What accord has Christ with Belial?[b] Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, 18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

Knowledge Questions

1. Define what it means to be equally yoked.
2. What is the purpose of dating?

Comprehension/Understanding Questions

1. What do you think Paul means when he says “What partnership has righteousness with lawlessness or what fellowship has light with darkness?” How can we apply this to our dating lives?
2. Describe what God means when he says “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them and I will be their God.” How does this apply to your dating life?

Applications Questions

1. What makes dating as a Christian so hard?
2. How can we protect ourselves from getting into bad or toxic relationships?

Synthesis Questions

1. Does God forgive you for past mistakes you may have made in a relationship?
2. In your mind, what makes a dating relationship successful?

Evaluation Questions

1. Is it necessary to be in a dating relationship?
2. Can you think of any other scriptures that support what Paul is saying about Christian dating or being equally yoked?
3. Is it okay to be single?

Conclusion

Dating is hard. Christian dating is even harder, but if we date in the right way the result of marriage makes everything so worthwhile. God forgives us of all the mistakes we may have made in a previous relationship, so we can't let Satan get in our head and think that we are unworthy in any way because of our past mistakes. Every relationship has a purpose and the end goal of Christian dating is finding a spouse to spend the rest of your life with. DATE WITH A PURPOSE. Don't date just to say you're dating someone.

Announcements

Leaders, communicate any announcements for your group and the ministry.

Big Decisions

Week 7

The purpose of this lesson is to help the student understand how to seek the Lord while making life decisions.

Learning Activities

- Book of Questions: What cartoon character would you say best describes you?

Learning Readiness

Say: A part of growing up is making some big decisions.

Ask: What are some of the biggest decisions you have had to make so far or will have to make in life?

Bible Study

Lesson Objective: To encourage the students in their decision making, encouraging the students to seek God as they make big decisions.

Read: Proverbs 3:1-8

1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, 2 for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. 3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make

straight your paths. 7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. 8 It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

Knowledge Questions

1. What is so stressful about decision making?
2. What would you define as a “Big Decision?”

Comprehension/Understanding Questions

1. Why is it so hard to “Trust the Lord with all your heart?”
2. How can we recognize if we are making a right or wrong decision?

Applications Questions

1. According to this passage, how can we prepare ourselves to make big decisions?
2. Some decisions require change, what is so intimidating about change in our life?

Synthesis Questions

1. If you were to construct the perfect blueprint for decision making, what would it look like?
2. How do you categorize the difference between a bad decision, a good decision, and a great decision?

Evaluation Questions

1. Can you describe the best decision you have made so far in your life?
2. Can you explain what (v.7-8) means? How does this change how we view and make decisions?

Conclusion

We all have big decisions to make in life. Whether you are 12 or 112 you will always face decisions that need to be made. We must remember that when we are making decisions we should seek guidance from God first, we always want to be sure that we are in His will. If we get out of God's way He will always lead us in the right way.

Announcements

Leaders, communicate any announcements for your group and the ministry.

Trusting God's Plan

Week 8

The purpose of this lesson is to encourage the student to trust God's will and plans for their life.

This lesson should encourage the student to not only seek God but to trust that He truly does know what is best for our lives.

Learning Activities

- Book of Questions: Would you rather be a member of a world championship sports team or be the champion of an individual sport? What sport and why?

Learning Readiness

Say: Trusting God is hard. We put a whole lot of faith in ourselves and we seem to always want to be in control.

Ask: Why do we put so much faith in ourselves?

Bible Study

Lesson Objective: To encourage the students to trust that God knows what He is doing in their life and that His will for our life is greater than anything we could imagine for ourselves.

Read: **Jonah 2:1-10**

Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, 2 saying, "I called out to the Lord, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. 3 For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me. 4 Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight, yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.' 5 The waters closed in over me to take my life; the

deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head 6 at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God. 7 When my life was fainting away, I remembered the Lord, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.8 Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love. 9 But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the Lord!” 10 And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

Knowledge Questions

1. Describe a time where your plans got all messed up.
2. Why did Jonah’s plan get all messed up?

Comprehension/Understanding Questions

1. Why is Jonah crying out to the Lord in (v. 2?)
2. What caused Jonah to recognize his disobedience to God’s plan?

Applications Questions

1. How can we relate to Jonah based on these scriptures?
2. The climax of the story of Jonah is found in (v. 7.) How can we apply this scripture to not only our life but to our obedience to God’s plans for us?

Synthesis Questions

1. How would you summarize the best way to trust God’s plan?
2. How would you categorize someone who is trusting God’s plan and someone who isn’t trusting God’s plan?

Evaluation Questions

1. We always talk about Jonah in the belly of the fish but we never talk about how he got there. How would you explain what you knew about Jonah before this lesson and what you know now?
2. Can you describe what will make trusting God's plan in college challenging? How will you prepare for it?

Conclusion

Life is full of all sorts of obstacles. What we must understand is that every obstacle that God puts in our way is just a part of our journey. Jonah didn't trust God's plan to go to Nineveh and his disobedience caused him to end up in the belly of a fish. When God tells us to go somewhere, we must go. Jonah saw his life fading away which is why he called upon God for repentance. God has a plan for all of you, and the good news is that His plan is always greater than ours.

Announcements

Leaders, communicate any announcements for your group and the ministry.

Spending Time Wisely

Week 9

The purpose of this lesson is to encourage the student to spend their time wisely by informing them of what scripture warns about those who do not spend their time wisely.

Learning Activities

- Book of Questions: What excites you about the future?

Learning Readiness

Say: We only have so much time in a day, in a year, and on this earth.

Ask: What are some ways that people waste their time?

Bible Study

Lesson Objective: To encourage the students to spend their time wisely and to warn of the dangers of procrastination and laziness.

Read: Proverbs 6:6-11

6 Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. 7 Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, 8 she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest. 9 How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? 10 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, 11 and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

Knowledge Questions

1. Can you identify something in your life that keeps you from spending your time wisely?
2. Why does Solomon tell us to "Go to the ant?" *Compare the ant and the slug.*

Comprehension/Understanding Questions

1. Can you describe some characteristics of a lazy person?

2. How can you distinguish a task that is a priority from something that can wait until later?

Applications Questions

1. How would you interpret what Solomon means in (v. 10-11)
2. How can you modify the way that you spend your time?

Synthesis Questions

1. How can you recognize if you aren't spending your time wisely?
2. Can you explain why it will be so important to manage your time wisely?

Evaluation Questions

1. According to this passage of scripture, what is the conclusion for someone who is unwise with their time?
2. If you were to evaluate how you are currently spending your time would you say you are more like the ant or the slug that Solomon describes?

Conclusion

Time management is so important. You have to balance your relationship with God, friends, family, school work, and all sorts of other aspects of your life. The ant is diligent in his work while the slug is slow and seemingly goes at its own pace. Scripture calls us to be good stewards of our time and this is something we must strive to do.

Announcements

Leaders, communicate any announcements for your group and the ministry.

Making An Impact On Your School Campus and In The Community

Week 10

The purpose of this lesson is to encourage the student to live out the great commission and make an impact in their school campus and community by sharing their faith in the way they live, speak, and act.

Learning Activities

- Book of Questions: Do you think the world will be a better or worse place 100 years from now? Why?

Learning Readiness

Say: The final lesson of this series is geared towards making a lasting impact on your campus and in your community?

Ask: What are some ways that people have made an everlasting impact on your life?

Bible Study

Lesson Objective: To encourage the students to live out the great commission and spread the Gospel.

Read: Matthew 28:16-20

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. **17** And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. **18** And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Knowledge Questions

1. Can you explain why there are only eleven disciples?
2. In your opinion, can you define what it means to make an impact?

Comprehension/Understanding Questions

1. Is making an impact always a good thing?
2. What is the message that Jesus is trying to tell His disciples in this text?

Applications Questions

1. How can we prepare ourselves to live out this call that Jesus has for us?
2. How can we prepare ourselves to make an impact on our campus?

Synthesis Questions

1. If you were on an elevator with a complete stranger who asked you to explain the Gospel, what would you say? If you had only 30 seconds, had to reduce the Message to its simplest form, what would you say?
2. Can you explain why it is important to live out the great commission? How will your actions on campus impact the way people see you and your relationship with God?

Evaluation Questions

1. If you were to critique yourself when sharing the Gospel, what would you say is your weakness?
2. Can you explain what keeps people from living out the great commission?

Conclusion

There is a saying that goes “let your legacy outlive your lifetime.” As Christians, we should be striving to make an impact in our community and on our campus. Grades are important and we

should work hard, but we should also be working towards expanding God's kingdom and serving others. The challenge for you is to strive to leave an impact on your campus and community by living out the Great Commission.

Announcements

Leaders, communicate any announcements for your group and the ministry.