

# Finish the Race



Youth Ministry Materials and Training

## Creating a Climate for Change

*A curriculum that can transform a youth  
group into the disciple-making ministry  
that Christ called us to.*

*Mark Schaufler*

# Creating a Climate for Change

Empowering your students to follow in the footsteps of Christ.

By Mark Schaufler

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# Creating a Climate for Change

Leading others in the area of changes means that you know how to and have struggled through new areas of life yourself. From that experience and the guidance of the scriptures you can create a climate for change that will enable your students and staff to meet the challenges of change.

People today don't expect people to change.

"What can you expect, it's only Josh!"

"Are you kidding-not Josh!"

"He's always been this way."

One of the reasons for a cultural emphasis on the exterior of a person (clothing, weight, muscle tone, nice skin, etc.) is the unspoken belief that you can't change the inside of a person. So if you can look good, that is as close to being good as you are going to get.

Everything Jesus and the scriptures said go against that. Most people are more influenced by the culture than they are by His commandments-even in the church. So your challenge in creating a climate of change is to override the culture and create a climate where change is expected, enabled, encouraged and normal.

Change isn't pretty. That is one reason why so few change. Change means mistakes. Change means you are a novice in another area of life. Change means you may not look good, you may embarrass yourself or those who know you. Changing means some level of failure.

Christ created a climate of change with His disciples. He took tax collectors, fishermen, and other "nobodies" of His time and changed the world after He had first changed them. Working in this culture requires you to lead in change and to create a climate for change for others.

Here are some practical teachings on leading the charge to change. No, there is no way to just open up the head and dump it all in. If that's what you were hoping for; sorry. But if you are looking for ways to see your students who were molested, have been suicidal, have anger problems, lie continually, or dysfunctional in almost every relationship change; you've come to the right place.

# First Steps and Strategy

The process of change begins when people realize they are doing something they shouldn't or not doing something they should. As people are exposed to the teachings of Christ, that part of the process has the opportunity to begin.

Christ's commands are often very different from the common cultural practices. For example; Jesus says to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us—even give them the other cheek. Our culture says, revenge is sweet, I don't get mad—I get even, you mess with me-I mess with your face, etc.

Hearing Christ's commands is only the beginning. Praying for help is only the beginning. At some point we must walk through the process of change enough times to make it a permanent part of who we are.

Some areas in some lives will be changed by the touch of God at an altar time. At the moment of salvation some people will lose habits that have been entrenched for years. But for everyone there will be certain issues where change only comes as we cooperate with the agents of change-the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Exposing people to Christ's commands is always the first step. That means that you have a systematic way of exposing your students and staff to all that Jesus said. Don't just preach your favorite verses, topics, or books of the Bible. At some point they need to hear it all.

Along with the exposure people need sufficient time to respond. You can't preach on lying on Sunday, pure thoughts on Wednesday, and forgiveness the next Sunday and expect to have anything more than frustrated people. That means you may spend a month on a key topic not a moment. Not only will you preach on the topic but you will encourage them through the change and give them the tools to do it.

Here is an example of a realistic strategy for the growing problem of lying. More and more young people lie on a regular basis. As I speak in public schools

they share with me that they often make up entire conversations as they go along. To prove the point I have asked what they think of a mythical sports team. Some heated discussions have begun within seconds of my question over a team that doesn't even exist.

## **FIRST**

Make sure people understand how God's grace enables them to do things they couldn't normally do by themselves (it isn't what you do at the dinner table before you eat, see the scripture list and do a word study so you understand it well) 1 Corinthians 15:9-11, 2 Peter 3:18, Ephesians 2:8-10, Etc.

Make sure people understand how the mercy of God works. Romans 6:23

Make sure people know how to be forgiven for every sin of life. 1 John 1:8-2:2

Make sure people know how to get all the grace and mercy they need for life. Hebrews 4:14-16

## **SECOND**

Now schedule a series on lying.

Week one-Cain, "What brother?" Genesis 4:9

Week one, session two-"Why the problem?" Truth hurts. Hebrews 12:11 + Psalm 38

Week two-"What should we do instead?" 1 John 1:9 + James 5:16

Week two, session two-"One lie leads to another-What wife?" Genesis 12 + 26

Week three-"Coming Clean-David and Bathsheba" Psalm 32 + 2 Samuel 11:1-12:13

Week three, session two-"Being accountable." James 5:16

Week four-“Truth sets you free if you tell it.” John 8:31-32

Week four, session two-“Making the most of your freedom.” Galatians 5:13-15

Week five-“And God said-what do you say?” Proverbs 18:21

Week five, session two-“The potential in the tongue.” James 3:1-12

Week six-“The fruits of a mature mouth.” Proverbs 21:23 + 22:11

Week six, session two-“Planting for the future harvest.” Matthew 7:12

### **THIRD**

Have all your small group ministries focus on the issues that have been addressed in the preaching and teaching times. In the safety of small groups people can honestly work through the issue of lying. These become their areas of accountability and support.

If you don't have small groups for the majority of your students and staff you won't see as much change take place. Small groups are like the ribcage that protects the human heart. Heart issues need the security of a small group. Without the ribcage people will be hurt as they go through the process that change requires. Often these wounds are fatal to their Christian lives.

### **FOURTH**

Reinforce the teaching, preaching and small group interaction with an event or activity that address the issue of lying. Here are two examples.

A game show event called, “Truth or Tale?” Have the participants get together and share stories. Then they will tell them and the audience has to determine if it is their story or not. Discuss the dynamics of how believable people are and what happens after they have lied once and gotten away with it.

Do a scavenger hunt where some of the clues are true and some aren't. Make



sure you debrief after the event and talk about how people feel when they are chasing clues that aren't true.

This may seem like a lot of time to devote to one area of life. Remember you may impact them for a lifetime if you take the time to do it right. If you only give them enough truth to convict them without the truth to transform them; you haven't done them any favors or helped them change into the image of Christ.

After a series like this they have had enough truth to work on, enough time to do it, and enough understanding to see the "why" and the "what for" of it all. But just the truth alone won't do it. They need to be given the opportunities of the Loop of Life and the safety to fail their way to success.

Your first step is to expose them to the truth. Your strategy is to do a thorough job. Then they can take the bite-sized nuggets and have enough time to digest them. It is the process of digesting the new truth, expelling the old ways and attempting the new lifestyle that needs to be looked at now.

# The Loop of Life

***Listen to the tape first Listen as many times as you need to understand it.***

This is the big picture reality of change. Change happens if there is constant interaction between us and the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Recognizing that, can help us to take the steps that they are prodding us towards.

You may have to listen to the tape several times. It isn't a complex picture but it does need to be well understood before it is taught to others. I have preached this message all over the world. In my preparation for the specific church and setting I always ask the Lord which of the six areas is the stumbling block for this particular congregation and why. In His love for them, He guides me towards the obstacle that is holding them back.

In most settings it is one or two areas that are weak. When I preach, I spend extra time on those areas to make sure that people understand and can respond appropriately. At the conclusion of the message I often have them walk up on the platform of the sanctuary in accordance with the illustration. Each step up to the platform equals one of the steps going into God's presence. Each step down corresponds to the steps back out into the daily arena of life.

Your group may be stronger in one area than another or it may lack completely in just one area. You can't facilitate successful change if any of them aren't functioning. You will find that some students may receive Christ as a part of this message. Others will see what is holding them back and take the next step. Most will need the help you and your staff will give.

# Freedom for the Next Step

***Listen to the tape carefully and as often as needed to understand the concepts.***

We don't live in an honest society. Often truth is only used if it is convenient and suits our purposes. In fact we are much like a time in Israel (Isaiah 59:14-15 "truth has fallen in the streets").

It can be a real struggle for people to deal with the truth. But if they don't, they will never have that freedom for the next step. Helping your students to identify those areas and issues is important.

Listening to the tape you will hear some of my personal struggles. Don't tell my stories when you work with your students, tell yours. What points in your life did you have to deal with? Maybe it was coming to grips with your home-life or athletic ability or academic accomplishments. We all have some areas where getting honest seems to be difficult.

Until we are honest we don't make any progress. Once we are honest we can make progress. That puts us in the position of asking for and receiving help and a new direction. Being open means we now need to put God's word and way in the place that our lies and illusions used to possess. That can be humbling but it will also be freeing to all involved.

# Beyond Guilt is God

*Listen to the tape carefully and as often as needed to understand the concepts.*

We can be very wrong sometimes. Tumors, headaches and guilt all seem to fall into the same category. Since we have become a culture that avoids the truth, it is no wonder that your students and staff struggle in this area too.

Sometimes it is because we don't understand what Jesus really did for us at the cross. Periodically remind them of that. Review it one way or another. There are natural times at Easter and Christmas but don't stop there. Remembering enables us to learn that beyond guilt is God.

Understanding the work of the cross allows us to understand the realities of His love. We are adopted-not on a used car trial basis. His love also explains His commands and why He has placed them where He has. The yellow line story is even more relevant today as the world calls all things good and right and desirable.

Mercy is understandable when we realize that it isn't His permission it is just His mercy. Sin does have a price-it just comes on the payment plan. Helping our students and staff to understand this will enable them to properly diagnose what is going on in their world with God.

Going to Him instead of running from Him is always the best choice. No matter when we finally make it. Each one of these points could be a lesson or a sermon. Don't be discouraged by how much time is spent on these kinds of topics. If you do your job, it will impact your students and staff for their lifetime.

# Breaking the Generational Jinx

***Listen to the tape until the basic concepts make sense to you.***

Now more than ever this is a growing part of youth ministry. Students don't come from solid stable Christian homes anymore. As our culture crumbles the family has taken the biggest hit.

Christian marriages now result in a growing number of divorces because of the parents immaturity. The students in your youth group come from those homes. You also have kids that come from the most horrific possible family situations. Students are doomed to repeat the past unless something happens.

As you listen to the tape you will see the process it takes to change that. Renewing the mind is a process that doesn't happen overnight and because of that, few people bother to do it. Unfortunately, that neglect will in time become a permanent problem in their lives. If you understand it well then you can pass it on to those (most students and staff) who need it.

You can approach the subject because you see the need in your students and address it topically or you can approach it as a by-product of preaching/teaching through the scriptures (Romans Chapters 6-7-8). Either way you need to approach it on a periodic basis.

Be prepared too for some real follow-up work. This will touch many students with some serious issues. Have a serious plan for them. The scripture memory verses found at the back of this project can be the "what next" for your students as they start to fill their file cabinet with the right stuff.

Update the illustration and use a hard drive instead of the file cabinet to get the point across to the generation you are working with. But don't neglect any part of their lives when you address the Generational jinx.

Mentally, physically, spiritually and socially we are products of our past or God's renewing process. If any of these four are neglected we will have weaknesses that limit what are lives could and should be.

# No Scars No Strength

*Listen to the tape carefully so you can understand the principles on it.*

Scars; we all have them. Some of them make for great stories. But an open wound is no fun at all. It runs the potential of infection besides the fact that it often has our full attention. Learning how to take care of them in the first aid world is important.

Learning to take care of it in the personal world is just as important. Clean it out, keep it clean and if it is bigger than what you can do by yourself, get some help. In your youth group are a lot of open wounds. Your staff are probably walking wounded too.

Learning to be the first aid guy/gal at this point is very important. Teaching them how to go to the first aid kit themselves is just as important. At the same time they need to be learning how to guard their heart to prevent future pain.

Like all areas in life this is quite important and critical for everyone-not just the unfortunate few. So mastering these key areas is important to the future health of your group when (not if) injuries occur.

Clean it out-keep it clean-if it's bigger than what you can do get help  
Those closest to you will probably be the ones who hurt you (Galatians 5:7)  
Cleaning means forgiving and asking for it yourself (Luke 23:34 & 1 John 1:9)  
Vengeance is God's business not yours (Romans 12:19)  
Pray for those who have hurt you to keep it clean (Matthew 5:44)  
Remember who is the comforter of the heart (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)  
Guard your heart by leaving it in His Hands (Proverbs 4:12)  
Making level paths will allow the lame to walk sooner (Hebrews 12:12-13)

# The Loop of Life-Worksheet

## The Holy Spirit and Conviction

John 16:5-16 shows us that the Holy Spirit will convict us of our sin, comfort us, and guide us. The challenge? Will we respond or run? Our culture says that we will avoid all three of these. We will have to relearn how to react.

His conviction is based on His love for us and the fact that He doesn't want to see us or others hurt by our sin or immature actions. So if we are feeling conviction we should respond rather than run or try to blame others. Taking responsibility for our own action is the first step in change. Knowing that we are loved and that Jesus has a solution for conviction is necessary to make that first step possible.

When convicted we only have one course of action that will take care of the guilt we feel. We have to go to Father God and ask for forgiveness in Jesus' name. We have to go to the cross.

If we don't go to the cross then we tend to try and cover over the voice of God or ignore it. We avoid church, worship, or reading the Bible. Our activities change and we keep ourselves so busy that we fall asleep from exhaustion at night (if we aren't exhausted we can't sleep because of the guilt).

Do your students avoid their guilt or deal with it quickly?  
Have they created a lifestyle that avoids God or one that includes Him?  
Have they learned how to clean up their messes with God?  
Have they learned how to clean up their messes with people?

Giving them the tools and opportunities to do this are all apart of equipping the saints for the work of the ministry. That means you remind them of the guilt-forgiveness fact. It means you give them the opportunity to experience forgiveness almost every time you meet.

## **Going to the Cross and Beyond**

Forgiveness is a miracle but the miracle isn't supposed to stop when we are white as snow. For many people that's all they know about the Christian life. Sin, being forgiven, and going out and do it again and ... you know the cycle.

Permanent change only happens when something changes inside us. The two key elements have to do with the head and the heart. We need to spend time with God for that to happen. If we don't then we will only repeat the cycle of sin and forgiveness for the rest of our life.

Help people to design their own personal time for God in their schedule. You can help them by having times like these designed into your retreats, camps, outreaches, and services. Until it becomes a personal discipline for them, you will need to help your students and staff have these experiences in their lives. John 14:6 tells us we have that privilege. We need to utilize it.

## **The Comfort of the Father**

Time in God's presence will allow us to deal with the heart issues. Here we can unload our pain, sorrow, wounds, and fears. Here He can replace them with the truth that sets us free from the old patterns that used to determine and dominate our lives.

For example, I may be a quiet person because I have made mistakes in the past when I opened my mouth and people made fun of me. Dealing with that in God's presence will replace that with a boldness and strength. Only God's touch can heal that area and replace it with what should have been there all along.

The key again is: Do the students and staff have the opportunities on their own or do you need to provide it? Either way it becomes a calendar issue. Train them how to calendar for change.

Five minute devotions won't work. These things are issues that take time. Give Him enough time to do something great in a life.

## **The Renewing of the Mind**



The heart and the head are connected and influence each other greatly. We need to complement a healthy heart with the truth for a renewed mind (Corinthians 12:2). For example, if rejection is an issue then a scripture like Psalm 27 could help set someone free. It may be more than one scripture but the truth has to get in there somewhere or the heart will not work in unison with the head- they will fight each other.

Your mind is like a filter that responds to things before your heart gets a chance to be impacted. How your mind deals with the issue will determine what happens in the heart.

Most of us know about a Vietnam veteran who has struggled as they try to live life outside of the war zone. Other veterans seem to be doing just fine. Why? That was determined by the condition of their mind. For some who had never seen blood, or understood that war is a result of man's greed and desires (just look in the Old Testament), this was a nightmare that they haven't awakened from yet.

Others saw the same action and atrocities and came out very grateful. Grateful that their lives were spared and that God had a plan for them to fulfill here on this earth.

One was shattered and another strengthened. One was guilt ridden - another was forgiven. The setting didn't determine it; the mindset of the individual did. Renewing our minds is necessary to help us deal with the past as well as the future.

If I think that Christians will get a red carpet (very unbiblical by the way) life and one blessing after another without any problems or hassles then I can almost guarantee that my faith in God will be shaken on a regular basis.

If I think along biblical lines then I can face the real issues of life and meet the challenges. But I will only think biblically if I have been exposed to the truth and had the opportunity to memorize and renew my mind. You can have the software but if you don't install it and learn how to work with it, it doesn't do you any good.

The question arises; Do the students and staff have the exposure to the truth as well as time to memorize and internalize it? If so, then the renewing will be an ongoing process. If not, then they will be doomed to repeat the past.

## **Jesus as Lord**

Mark 1:17 is a simple sentence but is it a practiced truth? Is He our coach or is He just an advisor? Are we playing life by His rules or making up our own as we go along. He can't bless our mess unless it is our honest effort at His plan.

Presenting the Gospel plan of repentance and following Christ is always a part of our work. How often do we do it? Do we present the full claims of Christ or only parts? Do we give people the tools they need to live that life or only frustrate themselves?

Are we giving them opportunities to be involved in the activities that Jesus called us to do? All of these have to do with someone giving their lives to Jesus. As their spiritual caretakers we must give them the tools and opportunities to grow in all areas.

## **The Holy Spirit as the Power Source**

Now that we are back out into the real world with a renewed mind and a life submitted to Jesus are we ready to embrace the power that the Holy Spirit has made available to us?

He convicted us before and that wasn't all that fun. Now He will guide and empower us if we will let Him. That means prayer time where we pray in the Spirit. That means having a lifestyle that is slowed enough where we can keep in step with the Spirit (Galatians 5:25).

All of these factors will become a part of our lives if we also embrace the painful times of conviction and comfort. We can't shake His hand and keep Him at a distance when He convicts and give Him a big hug because He gives us power. We need to embrace Him at all times, in all settings, and for all that He does in our lives.

Only a renewed mind realizes that conviction is from God and that it is for our good. It is based on His love. If that is understood then we can embrace the power of the Holy Spirit when it is needed. If not, we will never have power for any length of time.

Again, are our people growing in this area and are we giving them the tools to grow with? Remember the teacher hasn't taught until the learner has learned. You will recognize that some of your student's and staff's problems are based on one or more of the six key areas covered in the loop of life.

Your "lost kids" and the "have-to-be-there kids" are only living in conviction. No wonder they don't want to be there. Your new Christians may be very frustrated and constantly on the verge of giving up. They need some real comfort and renewing times to make it. Your solid students can become a little flaky if they have hit a lordship issue (something He wants them to do that they don't want to do) with Jesus. Everything was cool with God until He asked me to be a "...". Then the problems begin. For others they have a great zeal but not enough knowledge or power to pull it off.

It can sound complex but at least it can be understood and truth always sets you free ... even if it is a long road to total freedom.

# Freedom for the Next Step-Worksheet

Here are some issues that are likely to be traps for students and staff. But each trap also becomes potential victories that you can help them win. Let's start with their morals, mouth and mind. Take some time on each one of these. It will enable them to make the right choices and to live a life free for the next steps.

Have them define a Biblical set of moral standards. You can be specific in regards to sexual issues or open it up to anything in the general morals category. Make sure there are Bibles there as well as some concordances and reference books so that they can learn to look things up (You should always have basic reference books for the students to use and know where they can get some if they want to buy them.).

Contrast the Biblical list with a current cultural set of morals. Talk about the long-term effect of each on a family, a single person, a society and the world. Discuss the following kinds of issues and the consequences of each one.

AIDS

Teen Pregnancy

Date Rape

Incest

Lust

Pornography

Look through a phone book and look at what businesses would be affected if either set of morals was adopted by everyone. Which businesses would be impacted if people lived the Biblical lifestyle?

Abortion Clinics

Counseling Services

Funeral Homes

Book Stores

Liquor Stores

Casinos

Security Companies

Locksmiths

Now have them apply that to their personal lives.

Which path are they on?

Where are they headed?

Do they want to-will they change?

What do they need to do about their personal lives and these issues?

Help them define a dating standard (Who they should date and when in their lives) or even get as specific as a kissing standard (Cheek, lips, closed mouth, oral surgery, etc.) or a touching standard (Where, where not and why).

Too often we assume that students will come up with the proper conclusions if we give them the do's and don'ts. Instead, go ahead and address the issues and help them come up with some conclusions that they will try to live by.

Look at the area of the mouth and mind as well. Following a similar format you can challenge students to evaluate their present position and be free for the next step in the right direction. Without it they may only be stuck in the same old junk for the rest of their lives.

What would their mouth be rated and why?

What percentage of what they say is true?

How often do they regret what they have said after they say it?

Do they wonder how to answer people when they defend their faith?

Do they ever apologize and try to clean up the messes their mouths make?

Do they seem to have two kinds of speech patterns-one for school and one for church and home?

Do they feel like hypocrites when they open their mouths?

All of these self-examination questions will help them identify where they are. It will also help them to see where they need to be and you need to help them get there. That is why so many scriptures are included in the memory lists. One scripture won't cover all the bases.

You can also use the survey method (Ask them the same questions on an

anonymous survey) to get the information from the students if they aren't to the point yet where they will open up in a class setting. Then use that information to start the discussion with them.

# Beyond Guilt is God-Worksheet

Ask them about their physical aches and pains and their imaginations. Get some stories of how the two have gotten together and produced some serious medical conditions that never really existed.

Roll that over into their imagination with God.

See if any have imagined the rapture happened without them.  
See if any have assumed God has given up on them.

You could learn some very interesting things from your students and staff at this time if they feel the freedom to speak freely.

Now head to the guilt area. Do a survey and see how people usually respond when they feel guilty. Hand it out on a half sheet of paper and make it anonymous. Then you can freely discuss the answers they give. If your group is small, have a few surveys already filled out (from others who you can get to do it ahead of time), so that they will be free to express their opinions. That way they won't feel as obvious when they answer their survey.

Discuss the various responses. If no one brings up the response of going to God; ask them,

Why is that so hard to do?  
What do we expect Him to do?  
What does He always do?

It would be a good idea to give people a chance to deal with any issues that the lesson may bring up for them. They may be holding onto something and are afraid to go to God with it.

See if anyone knows about the adoption process.

Have any of their friends been adopted or have their parents adopted a younger sibling into the home?

Now ask about the status of an adopted child.

Is it temporary?

Is it based on performance?

All of this focus on the adoption issue and the cross may be preparing some to receive Christ. Make sure you give them a chance to do that. You may also see some students ready to deal with sin issues that they have avoided for years. Pray for those who are His kids and for those who may be ready at this point.

Mercy needs to be understood. That happens when we realize that our sin doesn't usually result in immediate consequences but ones that come into effect later if we don't clean up the mess first. Share an example from your life and then see if they will volunteer one from theirs.

Have a newspaper or magazine there as well with some articles on the wages of sin.

For example, the newspaper I am looking at right now has articles on the following topics that would easily lead into a discussion on the wages of sin;

Officer say he had no choice but to shoot driver as his partner was being dragged down the road by the suspect's car.

118 killed in collision on runway as small plane takes wrong turn, hits airliner.

Site picked for slavery museum.

Tony Ayala Jr. was sentenced to 90 days in jail after pleading guilty to burglarizing a San Antonio home and trying to commit aggravated assault. The former junior middleweight contender, 38, also was sentenced to 10 years probation.

Help the students to connect the actions of people to the wages we get paid. Ask them of some famous events in history where the wages were paid.

Finally end with giving them a chance to clean up some of their messes and to avoid the wages that will come once the mercy runs out for that particular event.



# Breaking the Generational Jinx

## Worksheet

Have them create a list of what they will be like if they can only draw from the characteristics of their parents. Help them to look at the four areas that make up a life-mentally, physically, spiritually and socially. Then ask if that scares them or encourages them?

Use the file cabinet or hard drive example to explain to them how we operate. Why we do what we do when even sometimes it isn't what we want to do? Have a student read Romans 7:14-25. Go over the text and see how this relates to themselves or people they know.

Use students as a demonstration to show how the mind works. Have six students stand in a line to represent the functions of the brain and how life works.

#1 Ear

#2 Brain-Who makes the final decision based on the other 2's input

#2a Good File Cabinet/Hard Drive

#2b Bad File Cabinet/Hard Drive

#2c Pure Imagination-Otherwise known as lying

#3 Mouth

With those six students have the person listen to statements you make. For example

"Did you break the front window?"

***(Then have the six students [the brain] respond like they were a teenager. Have the good file and bad file and pure imagination files argue their case. Each can win periodically. But the mouth ultimately issues forth the response.)***

"Was that your car I saw pulled over by a police car today?"

"That was a great catch (when it was really your buddy)"

"Can you help me with the laundry, son?"

“Didn’t Jesus say, “God helps those who help themselves?”

“Do you want to come over to my place this weekend my folks are gone and I have some porno movies and a case of beer. I think a couple of girls want to come too.”

You may get some humorous action from this but the bottom line is what is in the file cabinet comes out (Matthew 12:34). So how do you change it? Time to talk about breaking the Generational Jinx cycle. That means you have to

humble yourself and  
clean up your mess.

Then you need to re-label the file contents as SIN and  
replace it with the right stuff.

This is good time to introduce a scripture memory option/plan for the students. Memory work is just that-work. But they can go down this path and benefit from it or pay a price for the rest of their lives. At this point they need to understand the painful lesson or a painful life concept. You can read Hebrews 12:11 and then use this as an illustration.

Have six students interlock their arms like they were going to carry an injured person to an ambulance. Then set an easily carried person on this human stretcher.

What makes this possible? Muscles.

Could they carry the biggest person in the room?

What would it take to do that? More muscle.

Does muscle come any way but through sweat and hard work? This is no different. Life is always a painful lesson or a painful life.

Have some kind of realistic plans available. You can have the once a week, a day, etc. type plan and then spend some time helping them to see how they can memorize. This probably won’t be greeted with major enthusiasm but since they will have had the chance to see what their lives may hold they may have more motivation than normal.

It would also be good to examine the four areas of the physical, spiritual,

social and mental in their lives and the pitfalls that exist in each one. For example the lust explanation, makers and shakers or the shaken, etc. You will probably want to spend more time on this than just one lesson.

# No Scars No Strength Worksheet

If you have any people in the medical world in your church this would be a great time to involve them. Have them come in and cover the medical idea of clean it out-keep it clean-and if it's bigger than what you can do get some help. They have incredible stories of what happens when you don't.

From body piercing  
From simple wounds that get neglected  
From serious wounds that are not cleaned properly  
From burns while playing with fire

Each one of their stories will have a spiritual application. You could also do a mini first aid session at this point. From the first aid material you could transfer that over into a first aid session on the wounds you can't see.

Ask them what kind of wounds you can get that don't show-wounds of the heart. Then work through the reality that those closest to you will be the ones that hurt you. Help them to see that most people that shouldn't hurt you are acting out of immaturity not malice (parents-siblings-pastors-teachers-Galatians 5:7.).

Now begin the application of clean it out-keep it clean-and if it's bigger than what you can do by yourself get some help. At some point you need to have some prayer time. You may even find that some, in obvious pain, won't want to participate. Make sure you cover the key points outlined so that they know how to respond when they are ready to. It may happen someplace other than in one of your meetings.

For some the idea of vengeance is well entrenched.  
For others the idea of forgiving isn't in their mind yet.  
You probably have students and staff who have been molested, abandoned, physically abused and emotionally wounded.

These wounds can be deep and don't disappear overnight. That's why you have to keep wounds clean-it takes time to heal fully. It is also good to show them

the price for not forgiving and dealing with wounds.  
Unforgiveness leads to what kinds of action?  
Can your physical health be effected by spiritual burdens?  
Does anyone really win when vengeance is acted out?  
How easy is it to think about other things when a wound is open and sore?

Beginning the process means you are going to cooperate with the God of all Comfort on this one (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). It also means you will be in this topic for awhile. Before you get into this one it will be good to have your staff well trained. You will especially need people to work with the opposite sex (opposite of you).

Make sure you have trained people for them. You will also want to have built a good local network with pastors and counselors who can work with people with bigger wounds than you have the expertise or experience for.

It can be like opening a cans of worms but until someone does the walking wounded will fall by the wayside on a regular basis and we seldom understand why. You will have to hit this concept periodically so here is another way to do it.

Have a show and tell on some of the scars that exist in your group. There are probably some unique stories. After they have shared the stories then get some detail on the medical treatment that was necessary.

At this point you will hear the same basic message of clean it-keep it clean-and if it's bigger than what you can do by yourself get some help. Ask them who ended up helping them? Their answers will include a variety of extra people. Now you can make the case for God helping them when they get their spiritual wounds.

Father God as the one who can explain it all in His word  
Jesus as the one who understands it all because of what He went through on earth  
Holy Spirit because He functions as the comforter here on earth

Now you can help them to construct a spiritual first aid kit. You could even have them come up with a set of instructions to go along with the kit.

# Bad Coach Good Coach

***Listen to the tape until you understand the principles that are presented in it.***

It would be great if everyone who influenced us was a good example and knew how to work with us. They don't (so we have to learn how to deal with that). We can't let it determine our relationship with our Lord Jesus.

Our personal relationship with Christ becomes our key teaching point. How does He get through to you? How do you learn from Him? You will be their key person at this point. We need to be able to say like Paul, "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." 1 Corinthians 11:1

We see that our Coach will work with us through the realms of our finances. Money is God's minor leagues and He wants to train us there so we can live our lives to the fullest in His world.

Worship is another way the Coach works on us as we spend time with Him. Too often worship is only a song service not an encounter with the living God. When that's all it is; it's always our problem, not His. Learning to enter His presence is based on our relationship with Him, our ability to leave the cares and worries of this world behind, and to prioritize our time to enable that experience.

Now is another time to examine our personal devotions.

How much to read (read until you're changed).

What to do when you read (repent if necessary and renew with the proper message).

Understand the general guidelines that all Christians are given in the scripture.

This requires more preparation on your part. Have reading programs ready to suggest or develop your own. Give them a plan now that they know they need to.

Mission projects are some of the biggest growing opportunities in youth ministry. Only the rigors of world evangelism make the realities of discipleship possible. Otherwise Matthew 28:16-20 will never make sense to anyone.

# Walk with the Spirit

***Listen to the tape often enough to understand the principles that are presented.***

When Jesus is Lord He will take us into new areas of life. In fact, He said we would do even more incredible things than He did (John 14:12). To do that, we need to learn to walk with the Spirit and in the grace He supplies for us.

As you listen to the tape you will hear a lot about grace. Too often all people know about the word is that they have an Aunt Grace or they say it before a meal. Grace is God's go juice not just a name or prayer. When we realize that our efforts are multiplied we are much more likely to attempt even the impossible. Learn to understand grace and be able to explain it to people. Without it's understanding we are lost.

If we are empowered enough to take steps then the challenge of which steps do we take comes next. Christians are all called to take the same basic steps. We are all called to love people and God. We are all called to pray for our enemies and bless those who curse us. Some of us will do it as pastors or missionaries.

Learning to understand the Spirit's guidance will enable us to do the distinctive things that walking with the Spirit entails. From 1 John 4:1-3 we realize that we can test the spirits. Testing needs to become a daily part of our life. It will be a part of understanding God's guidance. He wants us to do it. It isn't an insult to Him when we test. It also means He will start the guidance process far enough in advance that the testing time is a part of the appropriate response time.

Testing means we can do any or all of the following:

Match the thought up with scripture. Is it consistent?

Ask for other's input on the issue.

Watch for God's peace even after a time of prayer on difficult decisions.

Check the timing. Is it a now or later issue?

Research the topic. If interest grows then it could be a God idea. If it dies, it may not be God or you may be afraid of it.

Can I do it in love?

How do I do it?

Do I need training or equipping to do it?

Can I talk to others who are doing it?

Making this a daily part of your life will in time enable you to do this fairly quickly (Hebrews 5:14) and correctly. Why can this seem complex or unattainable? Here are the typical areas that make this harder than it should be. First, we have insulated ourselves from Him and therefore His voice.

We have a constant level of noise in our lives-music, TV, etc.

Worry chokes out His words to us

Our media input influences our thought life

We keep too busy to give Him time to talk

We don't listen when we don't like what is said-He won't move on to something new until we deal with this first

We only like to hear from certain voices-not teachers, parents, police, etc.

We don't read the Bible so He can't use that avenue

Beyond that we are used to dealing with life in the flesh. We eat when we want to and as much of it as we desire. We have never denied ourselves in fasting or any other pleasure we enjoy. Our sleep patterns follow our out-of-control lifestyle and which involves legal stimulants just to keep us going.

I have done studies and find that most female students only sleep about five hours a night during the school year and keep pushing themselves with caffeine until they get sick. Then they recover and start the cycle all over again. That is a fleshly life of insecurity that won't have any long-term benefit for them or the kingdom.

Then there is that learning curve that we will examine when we look at Peter. All of these combine to make this a tough area for us and especially students who don't have the life of experience that we do.



# Peter's Example-Faith

Matthew 14:22-31 opens our eyes to the fact that FEAR and FAITH always fight. Often people wish that they could have been there when Jesus was. The assumption is that it would make things easier. It didn't for Peter. He still had to learn the lesson the hard way. I don't think it will be any different for us. FEAR and FAITH continue to fight.

This text also defines for us a key element of FAITH. FAITH is initiated by God. He speaks something to us and we can respond in FAITH or FEAR. Peter responded in FAITH at first but "when he saw the wind, he was afraid."

Hebrews Chapter eleven is full of people of FAITH. Everyone in that Chapter had God speak something to them-not them having an idea that God had to backup. Peter began to learn the lesson the hard way. In his example we see something that still applies to us today.

First is the fact that we do have to learn these spiritual things and that we will probably fail in many of our initial attempts. Peter did.

Next we need to see that Jesus took the time to correct Peter. He told Peter what he did wrong not what he did right.

We also need to understand that our struggle with a lesson doesn't endanger our status as His kids or disciples. As we work our way through Peter we will see that at some point Peter understood that. Peter continues to try, fail, get reprimanded, and still keep going because he knew he was loved.

If we don't know this we will give up long before we get to the point of success. In addition we will have to live with what everyone else is saying about us and how they are treating us. You can be sure that the disciples weren't as kind to Peter as Jesus was. There was a steady competition to see which disciple was the best. This event was undoubtedly a part of the discussion.

Times have not changed in that regard. Churches have chased away as many people as they have attracted when new converts do something "stupid." To create a climate for change you must create a climate where people have the

freedom to attempt and fail-completely. If they do; then they can learn to get up and clean up their mess (assuming you taught them the no scars no strength truth) and go on.

# Bad Coach Good Coach Worksheet

Get some of their stories of good coaches and bad coaches. Make a composite list somewhere for them to see. Once the interaction is done then look at the good list and see if there are any parallels to Jesus. Use the text from Mark 1:17 to launch a session on Jesus as the ultimate good coach.

You can also examine the realities of Jesus as Lord versus Jesus as Savior. See which is easier for the students and staff to respond to (Lord or Savior). Often it gets down to what feels good versus what is good. Have them make a list of things to illustrate the point (things that feel good at first but aren't good in the long run). For example;

Lying  
Sleeping in  
Drinking  
Sex before marriage  
Watching TV versus doing homework

In contrast have them make a list of what doesn't feel good at first but in the long run is good.

Keeping current on the homework  
Admitting when you've broken something  
Doing the chores when asked  
Refusing a friends offer for evil

You could even have a contest for push ups or sit ups or something physical that would only go to the one who was willing to put up with the most pain (only temporary kinds).

There is another issue that seems to be a stumbling block to Jesus as Lord. It is the direction He has for our lives versus what we have decided for ourselves. This Lordship issue can really be a problem if people came to Christ assuming He would bless their lives not that He had a life for them to live.

You can go to Jonah and the story of the rich young ruler (Matthew 19:16-22) to see some of the challenges that people face when presented with the full claim of Christ on people's lives. In both cases there was something that they didn't want to do; so they didn't. We don't get to hear about the outcome of the Rich Young Man story. It could be very tragic or he may have turned to Christ. Either way all the time away from Jesus was wasted.

Father God will also use an area of life to try and teach us some of the basic principles of the Christian life-money. Money has the capacity to be the minor leagues of learning in our lives.

Tithing teaches us to trust

Being generous with our money shows that we really do care

Saving up for a big project with God (like a mission trip) shows we have faith in His call for us to go

Being faithful with what money He does entrust to us will determine if He can trust us with other areas of responsibility and opportunity

Have students keep a record of all the money they spend in a week or month and then have them bring the results in to class. The break down on how much was spent and where it went could be an eye opener for them. You could use the totals of money spent and see just what could have been done with it.

You can also have those who have money from jobs or allowance try to remember where all of the money goes. See if they can or if it just seems to disappear. If it just seems to disappear have them really think about it and track it down.

These kinds of approaches help us to see what we are really like. As has been said, you can tell what someone is all about by their spending habits. It also will show that to change our spending habits may mean dealing with some issues in our lives.

Do we buy things just to impress our friends?

Are we insecure and feel like we have to dress to please others?

Are we greedy and only think about ourselves?

Does lust rule our pocket book? Lust is too much, too soon, too fast, too often.

Are we afraid of the future?

You need to open up the personal devotion issue fairly regularly too. A coach can only speak into your life and guide you if you give them time. Personal devotions are that time.

How much should you read? (As a guideline they should read until they have been challenged or had their heart changed)

What do you do when you are challenged? (Make sure they know how to repent and then renew their mind with the new way of living. Show them how to plan to obey when a new scripture challenges them. For example, Luke 3:11 'The man with two tunics should share with him who has none.' Have them look into their closet and see if there is something that can be shared with someone in need.)

Help them to see what scriptures are for all Christians and which ones are specifically for those called to certain ministries.

Give them a variety of potential reading plans consistent with their spiritual maturity.

Make sure they have access to or know how to get some good Bible reference books. They need to be able to research areas with more tools than what their Bible has in the back.

There is also the frustration that some feel because they don't think they can do what Jesus wants them to do. The next sessions on the Holy Spirit and Peter will help.

# Walk with the Spirit Worksheet

To start the process of learning about grace, have the smallest person and the biggest and strongest person volunteer to come up for a demonstration. Position them to arm wrestle. As the referee you hold their hands until it is time to start. But because this is a demonstration on grace you will never let go but will help the smallest to win. If you want to prepare your volunteers ahead of time that is fine but the point you can make is that; if the smallest thought they were volunteering to arm wrestle the biggest; they wouldn't or they would assume failure.

Grace eliminates those issues if we will try when He asks us to. Too often we won't try because all we do is look in the mirror and not into the Bible. Have someone read 1 Corinthians 15:9-10 and 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. Then look at how Paul used grace to do everything that he did.

You need to lead them towards them changing their "I can't" attitude into a "I haven't yet" attitude. Another way to illustrate this is to take one of those dozens of mugs from your collection (go for clay ceramic not glass) and break it in front of the group. Then ask them if it is good for anything at this point. Hold up a few pieces. The general response will be to throw it away.

We assume the same about our life since it is made up of several broken pieces as well. Now hold just two of the broken pieces in their original place. They will be surrounded by air but by grace this cup could hold water if it was a person. God's grace fills in the gaps for those who will give Him the opportunities to use them. As you can see this can be a full session all by itself.

Begin equipping in the area of walking in the spirit (tape a maze on the floor of your room in advance) by getting two volunteers. Blindfold one, and then have the other guide them through the maze. It shouldn't be too tough. Then have them switch and now make it a little tougher. Encourage the other students to make as much noise as they want to now. There will be some obvious difficulties.

Application time now has to do with Isaiah 30:21 and the Holy Spirit. Does He have the only voice in our life or are there others. What are they? Make some

composite lists of our own distractions and why they seem to be so loud in our lives. Is there something we can do to change that?

Often the key issue is how students and staff use their time. They have a desire to do what is right but don't manage their time well enough to accomplish it. Remember Romans 7. Help them to see how they use their time this way.

Select a gal by picking one with a birthday closest to today and a guy the same way. Now quiz them about their normal schedule. Start by asking them how they spend their time in the following order. Have them give you hours or parts of an hour for each one and see where their day goes.

School  
Homework  
Sports  
Music Practice  
Work  
Shower (s) and personal preparation  
Eating  
Physical Exercise-not PE  
Time with friends not at school  
Time with family  
Time watching TV/Videos  
Eating  
Vegging Time  
Transportation Time  
Other  
Church  
Personal Devotions  
Personal Ministry Time to others  
Sleep

Typically the gals don't sleep more than six hours a night while the guys average eight. But it will help them to see where a day goes and where it could go. Time management is a must when looking at accomplishing what God has for us. Without it we run around our entire lives like the people of Matthew 6:25-34 who worry and run eagerly after all these things. They get older but not wiser or

closer to God.

Here is an example of just how precious our time really is and how a little goes a long way.

15 minutes a day adds up to over 91 hours a year or 5.7 sixteen hour days

15 minutes a day for the next 50 years equals 285 sixteen hour days

30 minutes a day adds up to 192 hours or 11.4 sixteen hour days

30 minutes a day for the next 50 years equal 1.6 years at sixteen hour days

Now have them construct a day that would be a God centered day and see what would have to change in order for that to happen. Look at John 15 to help see how God uses times like these to keep us on track.

Now as we look at testing the spirits get ready to give them a test. Set yourself up like a game show. From the following list you can let them vote to see which ones are in the scripture or not. It will be a way to see that they need to know the scriptures in order to be able to test those voices that try to guide them in life.

Cleanliness is next to Godliness-No

God helps those who help themselves-No

Do not worry about your life-Yes (Matthew 6:25)

But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."-Yes (Matthew 8:22)

There are many ways to God-No

You must be doing something right-No

Anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart-Yes (Matthew 5:28)

Undisturbed by the whims or passions of life. He was asked to stand forth, to preach, to declare.-No-Quran (Koran)

Prayer is the heart of Religion and Faith-No Quran (Koran)

Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy-Yes (Matthew 5:7)

Blessed are the resourceful for they will find a way-No

Give us today our daily bread-Yes (Matthew 6:11)

O ye people! Adore your Guardian Lord-No Quran (Koran)

So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets-Yes (Matthew 6:2)



Simply let your “Yes’ be “Yes” and your “No’ be “No”.-Yes (Matthew 5:37)

Check their scores on the 15 questions. If they didn’t know some things then those become areas where the radar can’t protect them from goofy thoughts. They need a way to install this radar system in their lives. That is why the scripture memory section is included in the back of the material.

# Peter's Example: Faith Worksheet

Start with something all students and staff understand-fear. Have them make a list of the fears that they have or others they know struggle with. You can even do some research and get a long list of the fears that have actual names. It could be done as a quiz show trying to match the fears with the official name. Once you have the lists and an understanding for fearful people, get ready to take on the Peter passage.

Re-enact the passage with the wind, the waves, the boat, the whole bit. Get to the point where Peter is still on the water and then FREEZE FRAME IT. Now make a list of the things students have started for God and then failed at. You'll get things like student campus clubs, Bible reading programs, mission giving goals. So Peter isn't alone, is he? Now let's see what Peter learned from his time and what the students can learn from their experience.

They need to know that Jesus told Peter what was wrong and stopped there. Peter's relationship with Jesus wasn't on the line. Peter's growth was. Now the issue of fear and faith fighting is easy to see. We see in Acts 2 (when Peter preaches) that he learned from his experience-have they? Help them to see what lessons could have been learned. You probably have a few examples you could share from your past.

This is also an appropriate time to help define faith for them. There are at least two kinds of faith that can be examined. There is a fruitful faith that has these key characteristics;

God originated the ideas and missions (Hebrews chapter eleven, Romans 10:17)  
People had a foundation in their faith that allowed them to test the ideas and thoughts that proved to be from God (1 John 4:1, 1 Thessalonians 5:21, Hebrews 5:14)  
Fruitful faith helped people through the obstacles that came (Paul's life)

There is also a fatal faith. It is characterized by other key issues.

The faith was borrowed from someone else's experience and didn't apply in

the setting they tried to use it (Acts 19:13-16)  
The motive behind the faith was wrong (James 4:1-10)  
Fear overcame the faith (Peters example out on the water)  
They were ahead of God on the timing of the mission (As we see with Moses, he wasn't mature enough for it yet (Acts 7:23-29))  
They relied on their own strength to fulfill their desires (Mark 14:26-31)

This would be a good time to spend some time in prayer for students who have given up because of a past failure. This lesson time should have helped them identify why they failed and help them to face it again.

God doesn't change His mind on things. If He asked us to do something He still wants us to do it. It would also be good to follow up with an accountability meeting and some training based on the needs and failures of the past. As with all teaching areas, you may need to spend a lot of time or only a little based on the students and staff you are working with.

If their main failures have come in witnessing then you should do some training and planning for some opportunities. If the weak area is in Bible reading then be ready to do some training. We can't just tell people what to do we must enable them to do it.

If you are following a ministry that had a failure that impacted the church you may need to spend a lot of time there and learn from it. As always, you can have painful lessons or a painful life. If you have a group that hasn't had the big failures then you just need to help them identify the issue and know how to deal with it when they face their next Faith Issue.

# Peter's Example: Hearing God's Voice

Matthew 16:13-23 Peter once again gets out of the boat but this time to open his mouth not walk on water. Jesus begins the narrative by asking the disciples for their opinion. Peter waits until he gets a chance to share what he is thinking. When that time comes he shares and another key to our spiritual life is shown to us.

As Peter shares, we hear that it isn't just an opinion that he is sharing. Peter heard from God. At that point Jesus gives Peter keys to the kingdom and if we stopped at verse twenty, Peter is the hero.

But we don't stop at twenty. Instead we go on to twenty-three. With those final verses we see that Peter made an assumption that we sometimes make. My thoughts are God's thoughts. As we learned earlier we need to learn how to test the spirits and judge our thoughts before we know what to do with them.

Peter receives one of the strongest rebukes in the New Testament but again Jesus stops with the correction. He doesn't take the keys away. Peter will live to use those keys for Jesus, though at the moment it didn't seem like it. Again, Peter proves that he understands, at least to a point, the depth of Christ's love for him. He understood that the relationship was dependent on participation not perfection.

Hearing God's voice is one of the challenges of every new believer. Seeing Peter's struggle we can hopefully take the time to grow into that part of our relationship with the Father. In our previous sessions we have walked through the sequence of learning to hear His voice. We need to reinforce that with our students and staff. God will work with us on this-but it will take time and experience.

# Peter's Example:

## Hearing God's Voice Worksheet

This is an area that many seem to struggle with. Fortunately it isn't as tough as we sometimes assume. Peter had heard God's voice and we can too. This is covered fairly extensively in the section 'Walk with the Spirit.' If you need to refresh the students and staff in another, repetitive way on this; here are some additional things you can do.

God never changes His mind. What He said in the scripture and what He has said to us personally never changes, even if we think we have blown it beyond repair. Moses is the classic Biblical example of someone who knew what God wanted him to do but blew it and spent forty years out in the desert figuring it out (Moses's problem-Acts 7:23-29).

Have the students create some modern day dilemmas. Dilemmas of what to do in a given situation-what would Jesus do? Then see if people in the group already have an answer for them from the scriptures. This just re-emphasizes the need to know the scriptures.

Then go back through the guilt and guidance part of the work of the Holy Spirit. Conviction is God saying "No" and offering His comfort. These basics will guide them the rest of their lives. If they pay attention, in time, they will know the voice of the Lord well.

John 10 gives us the example of the sheep knowing His voice. Have students make a list of things they "know" God has said to them and things they "thought" God had said. To show the contrast have them make a list of things they "know" weren't from Him.

Refreshing, reviewing, and reminding in this area will help keep them on track. God is speaking personally to them as well as to the body of Christ in general.

# Peter's Example: Forgiveness

Mark 14:66-72 records Peter's lowest moment in life. He has followed Jesus into the courtyard and as predicted denied Christ three times. At the conclusion of this we find Peter weeping after he breaks down. This state is typical of one that we will all hit sooner or later.

Peter was trying to do what was right. He was not caught doing something wrong. He failed trying to be a devoted follower of Christ. As far as Peter knew, he had blown it. You see he had heard Jesus say, "But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in Heaven." Matthew 10:33

We will also fail somehow. We will fail in such a way that we think we can't be forgiven, much like Peter. Yet in Acts 2:38 we see Peter is in front of a hostile crowd preaching forgiveness. He was forgiven. We must be forgiven too.

That means you have to give a constant stream of opportunities for people to be forgiven. 1 John 1:9 needs to be a verse that students and staff experience on a regular basis. Colossians 2:13-15 is another way to show what Jesus had done for us. Forgiveness is such a huge issue that it warrants a regular look from you in your teaching, preaching and events.

# Peter's Example: Forgiveness Worksheet

Hand the students a worksheet as they come in (one follows this section). Have some pens and pencils ready and have them do a self portrait (acknowledging that stick figures are ok too). In the bottom portion of the sheet have them list some of the things that they have done that they know were wrong. Let them know that it won't be seen by anyone nor shared. The sheet folds up to protect the list from being seen by the rest of the class or you.

The personal information would allow someone to know you, track you down, and confront you. But God already has all that information. He knows more than you are willing to write down.

Then get a cell phone call (pre-arranged) and talk for just a few minutes. Basically someone is calling to let you know that a foreign power has just bombed the USA and that we have about one minute to live before new bombs kill us.

Instruct them to hold up their work sheet like a number for a prison photo and get ready to meet Jesus. You can quote Hebrews 9:27 at this point but the key is they know they will have to deal with the stuff on their sheet.

What emotions would be going through their heads if it was true? What has Jesus really done for us?

Now read Colossians 2:13-14. Have in the room somewhere a cross that is big enough to allow all the students to thumbtack their picture and sin list to the cross. Assure them that all sheets will be destroyed and never read. Then do it at the end of class (shredder-fire-etc.) as another demonstration of forgiveness (Psalm 103:12). Once free of the sin list, what emotions does that reality produce in your students?

The difference is the cross. The cross is forgiveness. Hand out some scriptures so the students and staff can see just who was forgiven in the Bible. Include in your list the thieves, prostitutes, demon possessed, etc. Let them see that forgiveness is really something that God has done for them.

Offer them a time to be forgiven for the first time or remind them of the ongoing forgiveness that is available to us IF we participate with Him in confession and repentance.

Forgiveness is bigger than we will totally understand until the day we die. Each time we are forgiven it means that much more. Give them many opportunities to be forgiven and have that growing understanding of what Jesus did for us.



# Calendar for Success

After looking at a series like this it is tempting to jump into a series and preach Peter to the crew. That may be just what you need to do but you also need to look at the year and figure out how to include this concept in what you are already doing or determine when you have some specific times to make some good progress in this area.

Look at your students and staff and then calendar your teaching, preaching and events to accomplish the learning process for them. It will also mean you balance your times with your students between the variety of students you have.

Those “that have to be there” need to won to Christ before they can be His disciples. Those “that want to be there” need everything we have discussed in a format that they can digest. Only you and God can know what that means for your students. Then you have your students that haven’t shown which camp they are in yet. You need to get to know them well enough so you can know how to minister to them.

Then add to that, the student variety that exists between a thirteen-year old junior high boy and an eighteen year old girl who is getting married in a few months. Only a thorough look at the calendar with the help of the Holy Spirit will enable you to cover all the bases that a year can hold for you.

Once you have developed a climate for change in your students and staff don’t forget to review and re-teach this in the future. New people won’t necessarily know why things are the way they are nor understand them completely.

# Your Personal Adventure with Change

Jesus never leaves us where we are. You may stay in one geographical place your entire life but you will be constantly challenged to grow-to change. In Christ's kingdom He is always building people to have a greater capacity to love and minister. So until you die, He will be challenging you to grow.

Some challenges come naturally. Babies are easier to raise than teenagers. A ten year old daughter is not as expensive as one in college. Your growing years present the challenge of a growing waistline. Every natural challenge will require the supernatural involvement of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

But there is another realm. The capacity to love and minister in new ways, to greater numbers, through the written word, in another language, in other locations, without financial resources, in a team, by yourself, and an endless list that no book could hold.

How we meet these challenges will determine how well those in our care do. Leaders (Dads, Moms, Pastors, Writers, Influencer's) all have people following behind in their wake. That's the best place to learn a new skill or meet a new challenge. Learn from others, If we ever stop facing the new challenges we stop making a wake. We are now dead in the water and those behind us are left to wonder what to do next.

I have lived in the same town for over thirty years. I've known people who didn't change to meet the challenges in front of them. Their personal destruction and collapse was a heartache for many. But the greater heartache was experienced as church flocks, family members and businesses crumbled behind the leader who stopped leading in change.

Change is always a challenge. Change is constant. Fortunately the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are constant in their efforts on our behalf. Your personal climate for change will enable you to create one for others. Your struggles in your realm will allow you to understand their struggles in theirs. At that point we understand another part of the incredible life Jesus lived.

***Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. Philippians 2:5-6***

***For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:15-16***

# How to Memorize

These are for you, the leader, so you can deal with the issues that students will present to you. These are also for the students so that they will have them for themselves when they need them and you aren't there.

How you memorize can take many formats. It is always work but always worth doing. If you don't memorize scripture the Holy Spirit can't bring them to your memory for the everyday issues of life that we all face.

**METHOD ONE**-Repetition is the key to learning. So whether you are putting them on cards or writing them on the mirror or singing them as songs you just do it often enough so you do indeed remember it. It is good to memorize the reference too so you can find it in the Bible if someone questions you on it.

- \*Write it out ten times
- \*Record it on to a tape and then listen to it over and over
- \*Form an accountability group that will work together and hold each other to memorizing certain verses.

**METHOD TWO**-Create a picture for the verse. This can be done through several avenues.

\*Write the verse out with a double space in between the lines and then draw little pictures over certain words to create a word and image memory. Some people remember much better this way.

\*Create a short drama to explain the verse. Acting it out will help the person to remember through the actions that accompany it.

\*Cut pictures from old magazines that seem to go with that verse and use the picture to help your memory process.

**METHOD THREE**-Competition-Create a game show format for part of your youth service. Make sure you give out the list of scriptures that are to be memorized for the event. There are some programs that do this in many church denominations. If you don't have one or can't commit to the time involvement you can create your own mini format.

- \*Pick twenty key verses for the competition (use the lists in this text).
- \*Pick a book from the Bible or a chapter for the competition.

METHOD FOUR-Camps and retreats can have a focus of scripture memory. Wrap the whole format for the camp with ten key target verses that your students will have memorized when the retreat or camp is done.

- \*They can't eat until certain verses are quoted.
- \*Have all the activities centered around the verses in question.
- \*Make sure all preaching, reading, and devotions involve these verses.
- \*If there are any competition settings make sure they include these verses.
- \*Have drama that illustrate these verses.

Any of these or a dozen others that are available will enable your students and staff to begin the process of memorizing truth that will set them free for their entire lives.

As you will note, some of the verses are in big block while others are all by themselves. Some verses don't have their full impact unless you have the whole paragraph. Don't be afraid of them. They can be memorized too.

Pick the version of the Bible that you use in your church. It is best to have one version. That way people can work back and forth with each other. Your senior pastor can also be in on this and he can use students during the services to share the memorized verses.

There is no one way to do it... just make sure it happens. You can help the students by adding some kinds of extra motivation. You can pick from this list or create your own. Either way they need to be tailored to your students.

Give a-ways for a certain number of verses memorized.

Certain events are discounted if you memorize a certain amount of scripture.

Special events for those who memorize a certain list.

A public quiz with the material being used from a memory list.

A fund raiser, based on verses memorized, that goes towards a cause your group supports.

# Youth Ministry

## First Set of Memory Scriptures

(You can also preach or teach these to reinforce them for your students and staff)

### **Genesis 4:6-7**

“Then the Lord said to Cain, ‘Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.’” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Helping students to learn to master their world and not just go with the emotional flow.

### **Genesis 6:5-6**

“The Lord saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Building a theology in students that shows that man’s actions are his own not God’s desire.

### **Exodus 20:1-17**

“And God spoke all these words: ‘I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.’” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Helping students understand God's basic design for worship and how we treat people.

### **Psalm 1**

"Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Help students to pick their friends and why they need to be careful on who they are.

### **Psalm 9:1-2**

"I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders.

I will be glad and rejoice in you, I will sing praise to your name, O Most High." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Helping students to begin to verbalize what God has done for them to others and in worship.

### **Psalm 27:1-3**

"The Lord is my light and my salvation-whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life-of whom shall I be afraid? When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear, though war break out against me, even then will I be confident."  
(NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-To help students learn to trust God and not fear people. Fear is a critical issue in the USA.

### **Psalm 27:10**

"Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Help for those who have to live with the reality of divorce and dysfunctional families.

### **Psalm 32:1-5**

“Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Selah. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD”—and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Helping them to realize that God will convict and forgive if we will be honest with Him.

### **Psalm 66:18**

“If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Helping students to understand some of the impacts of God’s holiness in their world.

### **Psalm 101:3**

“I will set before my eyes no vile thing. The deeds of faithless men I hate; they will not cling to me.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Helps students to realize what it takes to have a clean thought life.

### **Psalm 119:105**

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Helps students to see God had the individual steps of life (light for feet) as well as the long term realities of life covered for us (light for my path) in His word.

### **Psalm 119:165**

“Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Helps students to see that knowing enough of God’s word can give you a peace and an ability to deal with the issues of life.

### **Proverbs 4:23**

“Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.” (NIV)



**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Helps students to learn to not wear their heart on their sleeve but to leave it in God's hands.

### **Proverbs 6:6-11**

"Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest--and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This is your basic anti-laziness message. Need I say more?

### **Proverbs 15:30**

"A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Helps students to keep their hearts clean so they can be and look happy. It also helps us to choose our words when we speak to others.

### **Proverbs 29:25**

"Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Helps students to move towards a God-centered motivation for their lives.

### **Malachi 2:13-16**

"Another thing you do: You flood the Lord's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. You ask, 'Why?' It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. 'I hate divorce,' says the LORD God of Israel, 'and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment,' says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This shows students what God thinks about the whole divorce phenomena.

### **Matthew 5:21-22**

"'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who

murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca, ' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This begins the process of renewing the students mind in the realm of anger and careless words.

### **Matthew 5:27-28**

"You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-To help the whole purity process and thought-life issue. Make sure they know 1 John 1:9 too so they can ask forgiveness for the adultery God said they committed.

### **Matthew 6:9-15**

"This, then, is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, our will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. ' For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This is the foundation for all prayer dynamics as well as forgiveness issues.

### **Matthew 7:9-12**

"Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and Prophets." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Teaching students to be able to ask from God knowing that He does give good gifts.

### **Matthew 7:24-28**

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a

foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash. When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching,” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-To help students see why life works the way it does and how they can influence it's outcome.

### **Matthew 8:23-26**

“Then he got into the boat and his disciples and followed him. Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, ‘Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!’ He replied, ‘ You of little faith, why are you so afraid?’ Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-To help students learn to trust Jesus even when the circumstance don't look all that good.

### **Matthew 10:39**

“Whoever find his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-To reinforce to students that there are many options for life out there but only one worth finding. What Christ has for us is the one thing we can call “a life.”

### **Matthew 11:28-30**

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This becomes a reminder for those who find themselves weary and burdened. Who's life are they living for and how are they living it?

### **Matthew 12:34-37**

“You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Helping students to understand others and themselves by what they say and hear others say.

### **Matthew 22:37-40**

“Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-To reinforce the primary forces that shape our lives as we live them out on a daily basis.

### **Luke 3:3-6**

“He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God’s salvation.’” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-To show how repentance is necessary to make room for the full life Jesus has for us. If we don’t repent we don’t have space for Jesus and life has two sides to it-like Jekyll and Hyde.

### **Luke 10:40-42**

“But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-To help reinforce our priorities over our tendencies.

### **Luke 16:10-12**

““Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-To explain to us how God operates with His kids. Faithfulness not talent or looks are most important to Him.

**John 4:32**

“But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This illustrates how doing God’s will encourages you more than food alone could ever do.

**John 14:6**

“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This shows that Jesus is the only way and that we need to take advantage of this way and go to the Father for our own relationship with Him.

**John 15:5**

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This explains why we have “nothing” days and what it takes to bear fruit with our lives.

**Acts 17:11**

“Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-To prepare students and staff to be able to learn from or avoid the influencers they will face in life.

**Acts 20:35**

“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This shows the Christ-like attitude of giving and helping those in our world not just ourselves.

**Romans 1:16**

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of

everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This reinforces our priorities and reminds us of the power God has for us through the Gospel.

### **Romans 5:6-8**

“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This helps define the word “love” for us.

### **Romans 6:23**

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This is a simple Gospel message in one verse.

### **Romans 8:5-8**

“Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This reminds us of our struggle within ourselves and what it takes to win that battle.

### **Romans 8:15-17**

“For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-To remind students of the relationship that Jesus made possible for us with our Heavenly Father.

### **Romans 8:37-39**

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-To remind students that no matter how bad it gets He will not let go of us.

### **Romans 12:1-2**

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-To remind students that as His children He has specific things for us to do and be for Him.

### **Romans 12:21**

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-To remind us that we are to be offensive in our actions of goodness to overcome evil. It isn't a political issue it is a practical works issue.

### **Romans 13:11-14**

“And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This is a simple Gospel message as well as a reminder of what we repent from and live for now.

### **1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This is a reminder to all that we must discipline ourselves for all that God has for us. It doesn't just happen. We must invest our time and effort into all that God has for us before it will be accomplished.

### **1 Corinthians 10:13**

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This is a reminder that we don't ever have to sin. There is always another action that we can take.

### **1 Corinthians 15:9-10**

“For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them--yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This is a foundational section of scripture for teaching about grace. Grace is a foundational area of teaching that every student and staff needs to understand and live by.

### **2 Corinthians 1:3-4**

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This reminds us that He is the source of our comfort if we let Him. In fact we can help others from this comfort we get from Him. This will apply to a lot of students who have been deeply hurt in life.

### **2 Corinthians 10:5**

“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” (NIV)



**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This is a tool that can be used in the battle for the purity of the mind.

### **Galatians 6:7-10**

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Part of our lives are a by-product of how we treat others and what we put into our lives. So get started now in treating others right and putting the right things into our lives.

### **Ephesians 2:8-10**

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This reminds us of how we are saved and what we are saved for. It is also a simple Gospel message.

### **Ephesians 3:12**

“In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This reminds us of our privilege in prayer because of Jesus' sacrifice for us.

### **Ephesians 3:17-19**

“So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This reminds us that we only experience some of the love of God and that there is a lot more of His love than we currently know.

### **Ephesians 4:26-27**

“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This helps them to learn to deal with their anger before it deals with them.

### **Philippians 1:6**

“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Helps them to see God isn't going to give up on them-so don't give up on themselves.

### **Philippians 4:4-7**

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This outlines how we can cope with the everyday stress issues that we face.

### **Colossians 2:13-14**

“When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This is a mini-Gospel message in a very visual form. It is good to understand the Gospel from a lot of angles. This helps in evangelism but also in our personal walk with Jesus.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:3-5**

“It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This helps remind us of our own personal responsibility for our actions. No matter what the media or others portray this is the way we need to go.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:19-22**

“Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This helps us see how to fight our thought life battles as well as the areas of interest that God puts in our lives.

### **1 Timothy 1:15-16**

“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This is again a mini-Gospel message and a reminder of His patience towards us.

### **1 Timothy 2:3-6**

“This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This is a mini-Gospel message for others and a reminder for us.

### **2 Timothy 1:7**

“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This helps students to determine which spirit's are trying to influence them and how they can live with God's help.

### **2 Timothy 2:3**

“Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This is reminder that our life may have some hardships because we are following Jesus.

### **Titus 1:16**

“They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This is reminder that going to church isn't the only issue with God but how we live our lives all the time.

### **Hebrews 3:1**

“Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This is a reminder for us on how to “fix” our thought life when it isn't working right.

### **Hebrews 4:14-16**

“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This reminds us of the privilege we have because of Christ and what we can get any time we need.

### **Hebrews 12:1-15**

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.” Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good that

we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed. Make every effort to live in peace with all men and be holy, without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This section reminds us of how God will deal with us. He will discipline us because of His love for us. He loves us too much to leave us the way we are. Even when it hurts it can be Him.

### **Hebrews 13:8**

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This reminds students that Jesus is for them today just as He has been in every experience they have ever had with Him. He doesn't change only we do.

### **James 1:5**

"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This is a reminder to guide us to the source of wisdom no matter how difficult a situation we face.

### **James 1:13-15**

"When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This shows us where to place responsibility for our issues of life.

### **James 1:19**

"My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This is a key verse to remind us how to deal with people.

### **James 4:7-10**

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This helps us to fight our spiritual battles from the proper posture. We need to do our part while God does His.

### **1 Peter 3:17**

“It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This reminds us that life has doesn't always go our way-even if we are going His way.

### **1 Peter 5:6-7**

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Don't worry. He cares for you.

### **1 Peter 5:8-9**

“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This reminds us to be ready for the battle realities of life here on earth.

### **1 John 1:9**

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This is another mini-Gospel verse and one that we must know well to deal with the realities of our actions.

### **1 John 4:1**

“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This instructs us to learn how to process our thoughts by testing them.

### **1 John 4:16**

“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This is reminder of His love for us.

### **1 John 4:18**

“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This reminds us what is happening if fear is taking over our lives. We need to draw near to Him to realize the love He has for us.

### **1 John 5:14**

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This is a reminder of our privilege because of Christ’s sacrifice.

### **Revelation 3:19**

“Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This reminds us that He will tell us when we are wrong. He loves us too much to leave us as we are.

# Youth Ministry

## Second Set of Memory Verses

(Second Set of Youth Ministry Memory Verses and Key Concepts)

### **Genesis 39:6-10**

“So he left in Joseph's care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Help for the students as they deal with sexual pressure.

### **Psalms 66:1-4**

“Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious! Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you. All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing praise to your name.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Helps students to share what God has done in their lives with the world and to worship God.

### **Psalms 127:1-2**

“Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat--for he grants sleep to those he loves.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us that we can work all we want but if it isn't for His issues it is a waste of time.

### **Proverbs 10:19**

“When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry



-Reminds us to keep our mouths shut more than we probably do.

### **Proverbs 12:11**

“He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us to work with the opportunities that we have and not what we wish we have.

### **Proverbs 17:14**

“Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us to keep our mouths closed more often than we sometimes do.

### **Proverbs 18:17**

“The first to present his case seems right, till another comes forward and questions him.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-A reminder to listen to both sides before we make any decisions.

### **Proverbs 26:18-19**

“Like a madman shooting firebrands or deadly arrows is a man who deceives his neighbor and says, “I was only joking!” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This helps us temper the temptation to do practical jokes.

### **Proverbs 29:18**

“Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us that students must have their times with God so He can reveal Himself and His purposes to them.

### **Isaiah 5:20**

“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-A good description of most countries and a challenge for us to go counter-culture on this topic.

### **Isaiah 44:19**

“No one stops to think, no one has the knowledge or understanding to say, "Half of it I used for fuel; I even baked bread over its coals, I roasted meat and I ate. Shall I make a detestable thing from what is left? Shall I bow down to a block of wood?" (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of the realities of idol worship.

### **Isaiah 50:4-5**

“The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of what can happen for those who want to be sensitive to God’s working in their lives.

### **Jeremiah 19:5**

“They have built the high places of Baal to burn their sons in the fire as offerings to Baal-- something I did not command or mention, nor did it enter my mind.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us that man’s depravity wasn’t God’s plan or a part of His thoughts.

### **Habakkuk 3:17-18**

“Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us to rejoice in God regardless of the circumstances.

### **Matthew 5:23-24**

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has

something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us God is very concerned about our personal relationships with others.

### **Matthew 5:37**

“Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us to watch our words and not justify our wrong actions.

### **Matthew 7:24-27**

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us why life works out the way it does.

### **Matthew 15:6**

“He is not to ‘honor his father’ with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us that our actions need to be Biblical not cultural.

### **Matthew 20:26-28**

“Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave--just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us to be servants not just leaders.

### **Matthew 22:29**

“Jesus replied, “You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us to know the scripture and the power of God.

### **Luke 3:3-6**

“He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation.' " (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-A reminder on the importance of repentance to make space for the Jesus life.

### **Luke 15:10**

“In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us how Heaven rejoices with a new convert-as we should do as well.

### **Luke 19:10**

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us of Christ’s mission and ours.

### **Mark 11:25**

“And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins. " (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us of God’s priority of cleaning up our messes with people before we come to Him.

### **Mark 15:37-39**

“With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us of Christ’s death and what it did for us.

**John 1:12-13**

“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us of our privileges in Christ.

**John 4:23-24**

“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us that God is looking for genuine worship from us.

**John 6:27**

“Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us to prioritize our time on His issues.

**John 8:31-32**

“To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us that freedom comes as we apply Christ’s teachings.

**John 12:49**

“For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us that our job is two fold. Know what to say and how to say it.

**John 13:34-35**

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us to love Christ’s disciples as a signature of being His children.

**John 14:12-13**

“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of our challenge and the future we can have as we follow Jesus.

**John 15:5**

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of the priority of our time with Jesus.

**John 15:14**

“You are my friends if you do what I command.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us that obedience is the key for relationship with Jesus.

**John 15:15**

“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us that we can know God's will for us and work with Him.

**John 16:7-11**

“But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of some of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

### **Romans 3:23**

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds all of us that we are on equal ground with God when we start with Him.

### **Romans 6:11-14**

“In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us how we must deal with the desires in our life.

### **Romans 7:15-25**

“I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Explains to us why we struggle with what we struggle with.

### **Romans 8:15-16**

“For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba*, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us we don’t have to live in fear.

**Romans 8:26-27**

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of one of the purposes of the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 10:14-15**

“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of the Great Commission.

**1 Corinthians 1:26**

“Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of our beginnings and God’s goodness to us.

**1 Corinthians 3:5-9**

“What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe--as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us not to pick sides with people or churches. It also reminds us of our roles in evangelism.

**1 Corinthians 11:1**

“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.” (NIV)



**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Our personal challenge to be the ultimate example.

## **2 Corinthians 1:8-9**

“We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us of the potential of difficulties because we follow Christ.

## **2 Corinthians 12:9-10**

“But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us of the power of grace in our lives.

## **Galatians 3:24**

“So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us of how we are to relate to the law.

## **Galatians 5:7-8**

“You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us to keep our eyes open for those around us who may distract us from Christ's way.

## **Galatians 5:22-25**

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us of the fruit of a life with Jesus.

### **Ephesians 6:1-2**

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother”--which is the first commandment with a promise.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us that Christ upheld the validity of the ten commandments.

### **Ephesians 6:12**

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us not to struggle with people but the forces behind them.

### **Ephesians 6:13-18**

“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of the spiritual realities and what to do about them.

### **Ephesians 4:11-16**

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of our roles as leaders and the need to do our work for all of us to be strong.

### **Philippians 2:5-11**

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

(NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us how leadership should act.

### **1 Thessalonians 2:4**

“On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us to place God first above men’s opinions.

### **1 Timothy 4:12**

“Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us to hold a high standard regardless of our age.

### **1 Timothy 5:24-25**

“The sins of some men are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them. In the same way, good deeds are obvious, and even those that are not cannot be hidden.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us to check out people before we entrust leadership to them.

### **2 Timothy 2:14-16**

“Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will

become more and more ungodly.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of the characteristics of a mature believer.

## **2 Timothy 2:16-17**

“Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us to keep the mouth shut when it isn’t important to God.

## **Philemon 1:6**

“I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us that we can’t fully understand God’s love for others if we don’t share Him with them.

## **Hebrews 3:13**

“But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us to be encouragers of the saints.

## **Hebrews 5:14**

“But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us that maturity comes from making godly decisions on a regular basis.

## **James 1:2-4**

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of the outcome of the trials we face if we will learn from them.

## **James 2:1**

“My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of a basis relationship guide with our students and staff.

## **James 2:17-18**

“In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us that we are saved for works not by them.

## **James 5:13**

“Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us what to do in a variety of settings.

## **1 Peter 1:13**

“Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of our hope and help from Christ.

## **2 Peter 3:18**

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of a constant need in our lives for growth.

# Youth Ministry

## Third Set of Memory Verses

(Third Section of Memory Verses for Youth Ministry and preaching and teaching)

### **Leviticus 18:1-23**

“The LORD said to Moses, “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘I am the LORD your God. You must not do as they do in Egypt, where you used to live, and you must not do as they do in the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you. Do not follow their practices. You must obey my laws and be careful to follow my decrees. I am the LORD your God. Keep my decrees and laws, for the man who obeys them will live by them. I am the LORD. ’” “No one is to approach any close relative to have sexual relations. I am the LORD. ’” “Do not dishonor your father by having sexual relations with your mother. She is your mother; do not have relations with her. ’” “Do not have sexual relations with your father's wife; that would dishonor your father. ’” “Do not have sexual relations with your sister, either your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether she was born in the same home or elsewhere. ’” “Do not have sexual relations with your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter; that would dishonor you. ’” “Do not have sexual relations with the daughter of your father's wife, born to your father; she is your sister. ’” “Do not have sexual relations with your father's sister; she is your father's close relative. ’” “Do not have sexual relations with your mother's sister, because she is your mother's close relative. ’” “Do not dishonor your father's brother by approaching his wife to have sexual relations; she is your aunt. ’” “Do not have sexual relations with your daughter-in-law. She is your son's wife; do not have relations with her. ’” “Do not have sexual relations with your brother's wife; that would dishonor your brother. ’” “Do not have sexual relations with both a woman and her daughter. Do not have sexual relations with either her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter; they are her close relatives. That is wickedness. ’” “Do not take your wife's sister as a rival wife and have sexual relations with her while your wife is living. ’” “Do not approach a woman to have sexual relations during the uncleanness of her monthly period. ’” “Do not have sexual relations with your neighbor's wife and defile yourself with her. ’” “Do not give any of your children to be sacrificed to Molech, for you must not profane the name of your God. I am the LORD. ’” “Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable. ’” “Do not have sexual relations with an animal and defile yourself with it. A woman must not present herself to an animal to have sexual relations with it; that is a perversion.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us to guard ourselves from the sexual issues that have been a part of history for a long time.

### **Joshua 1:9**

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us of how we can face tough times.

## **2 Chronicles 7:14**

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us that God works with us first before he works with our country.

## **Psalms 38:1-18**

“O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath. For your arrows have pierced me, and your hand has come down upon me. Because of your wrath there is no health in my body; my bones have no soundness because of my sin. My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. My wounds fester and are loathsome because of my sinful folly. I am bowed down and brought very low; all day long I go about mourning. My back is filled with searing pain; there is no health in my body. I am feeble and utterly crushed; I groan in anguish of heart. All my longings lie open before you, O Lord; my sighing is not hidden from you. My heart pounds, my strength fails me; even the light has gone from my eyes. My friends and companions avoid me because of my wounds; my neighbors stay far away. Those who seek my life set their traps, those who would harm me talk of my ruin; all day long they plot deception. I am like a deaf man, who cannot hear, like a mute, who cannot open his mouth; I have become like a man who does not hear, whose mouth can offer no reply. I wait for you, O LORD; you will answer, O Lord my God. For I said, “Do not let them gloat or exalt themselves over me when my foot slips.” For I am about to fall, and my pain is ever with me. I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us of the Holiness of God and His dealing with us about sin.

## **Psalms 51:1-19**

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew

a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you. Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. In your good pleasure make Zion prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem. Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight you; then bulls will be offered on your altar.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of God’s faithfulness in forgiveness and our lives lived forgiven.

### **Psalm 69:5**

“You know my folly, O God; my guilt is not hidden from you.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us that God knows all about us.

### **Psalm 73:21-22**

“When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of the price of bitterness.

### **Isaiah 40:30-31**

“Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us that true strength comes from our time with Him.

### **Malachi 3:8**

“‘Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. ‘But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ ‘In tithes and offerings.’” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of our giving responsibility to God.



**Malachi 4:5-6**

“See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.”  
(NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us of God’s desires for the family.

**Matthew 4:19**

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us of the training Jesus will be trying to give us.

**Matthew 5:4**

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us that Christians mourn and are comforted when they do.

**Matthew 5:7**

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us that we are to be merciful.

**Matthew 5:9**

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us to be peacemakers when possible.

**Matthew 5:11**

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us of the potential realities of following Christ.

**Matthew 5:14-16**

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a

lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us to do what He had called us to do and if others see it make sure God gets the credit.

### **Matthew 5:25-26**

“Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us to work out our messes with people in a timely way.

### **Matthew 5:38-48**

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us to live in a manner very different from the rest of society.

### **Matthew 6:19-21**

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of what is really important.

### **Matthew 6:24**

“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of the reality that only one can be our master-who will it be?

### **Matthew 6:25-34**

“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 important than food, and the body more important than clothes? 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? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 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, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us that worry has no place in our lives.

### **Matthew 7:1-5**

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of the reaction we should have to those who have issues in their lives.

### **Matthew 7:7-8**

“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 find; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us to go to Him for help in all areas of our lives.

### **Matthew 9:35-38**

“Jesus went through all the town and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he has compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us who to ask when we need more workers for His concerns.

### **Matthew 18:1-14**

“At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: “I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. “And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. “Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come! If your hand or your foot causes you to sin cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell. “See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. “What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of how we should operate as His children and what our priorities should be.

### **Matthew 18:21-22**

“Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of the need to forgive-always.

**Matthew 23:11-12**

“The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us of His style of leadership.

**Matthew 24:12-13**

“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Warns us of a danger in all of our lives.

**Matthew 24:36**

“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us that no one knows the day or hour when Jesus is coming back so beware of those who set dates.

**Matthew 26:42**

“He went away a second time and prayed, 'My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.'” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us that sometimes what is right isn't easy.

**Matthew 28:16-20**

“Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us that Jesus understands our doubt and what to do to deal with it.

**Mark 2:17**

“On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us that we need to spend time with sinners calling them to repentance.

**Mark 3:4-6**

“Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent. He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of part of the real meaning of the Sabbath-to do good.

**Luke 5:16**

“But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of how Jesus accomplished His mission and what we must do as well to accomplish ours

**Luke 14:33**

“In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us what the word repentance means.

**Luke 21:34**

“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of the danger of worry and other distractions.

**John 4:13-14**

“Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a

spring of water welling up to eternal life." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of the source of our strength and refreshing.

### **John 8:44-47**

"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of God's view on lying.

### **John 10:1-5**

"I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us that we can know God's voice.

### **John 10:10**

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of Christ's and the Devil's goals for our lives.

### **John 10:27**

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us to listen and obey what Christ says to us.

### **Acts 19:19**

"A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas." (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us that burning trash from our past has a Biblical example for it.

### **Romans 1:18**

“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us that God takes care of the wickedness of men and it isn't our job.

### **Romans 15:1**

“We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us how to treat others who don't seem as strong as us.

### **Romans 15:20**

“It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us that some will be called to go where others haven't yet.

### **Galatians 6:1-5**

“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own load.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us how to treat those who get caught in a sin area.

### **Ephesians 2:12-13**

“Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry



-A mini-gospel message as a reminder for us and something to share with others.

### **Ephesians 5:18-20**

“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us what two activities lie in contrast and in competition to each other.

### **Philippians 4:12-13**

“I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us to be content in all things.

### **Colossians 1:13-14**

“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of what Christ has done for us and presents a mini-gospel message.

### **Colossians 1:15**

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of who Christ represents.

### **Colossians 3:17**

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us to do everything for Him thankfully.

## **2 Thessalonians 3:10-13**

“For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “If a man will not work, he shall not eat.” We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat. And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-This is an anti-laziness message to us all.

## **1 Timothy 1:5**

“The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us of the basic way of life for Christians.

## **2 Timothy 1:7**

“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us what we have and don’t have to live by.

## **2 Timothy 2:25-26**

“Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us how to deal with some of the difficult people in our lives.

## **James 1:26**

“If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry

-Reminds us to watch our mouths at all times.

## **1 Peter 4:10**

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us how to lead others.

## **2 Peter 1:5-9**

“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Shows us the route to maturity.

## **2 Peter 3:9**

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us of God's desires to the lost.

## **1 John 5:12**

“He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-Reminds us that those without Christ don't have the life they could with Jesus.

## **Revelation 3:20**

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.” (NIV)

**HOW:** This is to be used for Youth Ministry  
-A mini-gospel message for us and the lost.

# Introduction

Don't we wish we could open up the heads of our students and just pour it all in! We can't and the sooner we realize that and start cooperating with Father God on the whole issue the sooner our students will change.

This project is dedicated to make that possible for you in your setting. The concepts of change and how to create a climate for them are laid out. Jesus had His disciples for over three years. It will be much less for you. In the hours that you have with students every week you can see change if you make it possible for them to interact with the creator of change-Jesus.

Jesus changed me. Jesus showed us how to work with the students He gave to us and He changed them too. Enjoy the journey of change. You are working with the Lord of change when you do.

# Colossians Classroom Worksheet

(Half sheet size)

FOLD HERE

SELF PORTRAIT

NAME:

DATE OF BIRTH:

ADDRESS:

PHONE #

E MAIL:

WEBSITE:

## THE LIST GOES HERE

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**Enjoy the journey of change.**

**Change isn't pretty.**

**Changing means some level of failure.**

**That means you may spend a month on a key topic not a moment.**

**Make sure people understand how the mercy of God works.**

**If you only give them enough truth to convict them without the truth to transform them you haven't done them any favor's or helped them change into the image of Christ**

**Change happens if there is a constant interaction between us and the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**We will have to relearn how to react.**

**We have to go to the cross.**

**Permanent change only happens when something changes inside us.**

**Train them how to calendar for change**

**One was guilt ridden-another was forgiven.**

**Is He our coach or is He just an advisor?**

He convicted us before and that wasn't much fun.  
Only a renewed mind realizes that conviction if from God and that it is for our  
good.

We don't live in an honest society.  
Have them define a Biblical set of moral standards.  
Look at the area of the mouth and the mind as well.  
Sin does have a price-it just comes on the payment plan.  
Going to Him instead of running from Him is always the best choice.  
See if anyone knows about the adoption process.

Mercy needs to be understood.  
We are products of our past or God's renewing process.

Unless something  
happens  
students are doomed to repeat the past.

Have some kind of  
realistic plans available.  
Your staff are probably walking wounded too.  
Ask them what kind of wounds you can get that don't show-wounds of the  
heart.

Read until you're changed.  
Often it gets down to what feels good versus what is good.  
Grace is God's go juice not just a name or a prayer.

Position them to arm  
wrestle.  
Too often we won't try because all we do is look in the mirror and not into the  
Bible.

They need a way to install this radar system in their lives.  
He speaks something to us and we can respond in FAITH or FEAR.  
Peter continues to try, fail, get reprimanded, and still keep going because he  
knew he was loved.

As always you can have painful lessons or a painful life.  
Now let's see what Peter learned from his time and what students can learn  
from their  
experience.

He doesn't take the keys away.  
God never changes His mind.  
That means you have to give a steady stream of opportunities for people to be

**forgiven.**

**The difference is the cross. The cross is forgiveness.**

**How we meet those challenges will determine how well those in our care do.**