

The Emmanuel Project

A silhouette illustration of several people on a hill. One person stands on a peak, reaching out to help another who is climbing. Another person is being helped up from below. The background is a bright yellow and orange sunset sky.

Participant's Guide

***Emmanuel;
God with Us***

***Learning to experience and walk with the
“God with us” from Scripture.***

Curriculum by Mark Schaufler

The Emmanuel Project Participant's Guide

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“Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE: NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

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Bolded text in Scripture references is my emphasis

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Lesson One-Holy Spirit: Teaching Time

Connection Point

1. What does it feel like to be hungry?
2. How about tired?
3. How about feeling guilty?
4. Ever lost a night's sleep thinking about the mess you have made in a day?

There is a reason why we think about what we have done, and it's part of the Emmanuel Experience that isn't necessarily a lot of fun. He cares too much to let us go down the wrong paths and the consequences that result.

Scripture: *John 16:8 When he comes, he will convict the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:*

But he does more than just that!

John 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

So, what does that look like?

I think you may have already experienced this too.

Activity:

The obstacle course

1. What was the biggest challenge as the guide?

2. Did it get easier as you worked together?

3. What was the biggest challenge with your guide?

4. Did it get easier as you worked together?

Challenges:

- Taking guilt the wrong way and running from Father God instead of running to him for forgiveness.

- Not paying attention to the guide and getting into trouble.

- Feeling pressure from others to do what the Holy Spirit is saying “no” to.

- Wanting guidance but trying to push away the conviction.

Now what?

- Take a journal card that can fit into your wallet or phone case.

- Keep track this week of the Holy Spirit as the guide and convictor.

- If provided, log into the optional extra media option to report the opportunities of the week ahead as the Holy Spirit guides you through the week.

Lesson Two-Jesus as Savior: Teaching Time

Recall: Holy Spirit as Guide and Convictor

1. What were some of the Holy Spirit moments you had last week, specifically as he guides and convicts?
2. How did that make you feel to know that out of 8 billion plus people, the Holy Spirit specifically talked to you?
3. Can you see why we are calling this the Emmanuel Project: God with us?

Connection Point:

1. What was the worst trouble you ever got in at school?
2. What was the punishment?
3. Was there an option for forgiveness?
4. How does forgiveness feel?
5. What was the worst trouble you ever got in at home?
6. What was the punishment?
7. Was there a forgiveness option?
8. How does forgiveness feel?
9. How does it feel when there is no forgiveness option?

Scripture: *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.*

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God.

Romans 6:23 The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal in Christ Jesus.

Revelation 3:20 Behold I stand at the door and knock, anyone who will open the door I will come in and eat with them.

Activity:

The courtroom

Discussion around the court case

Romans 3:23: we are all guilty of something we have done or things we didn't do that we should have.

Forgiveness is available IF we believe it's available; Jesus will eat with us if we open the door of our lives to him.

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 that person, and they with me.

Challenges:

- Too often when we have sinned, we want to run and hide like Adam and Eve did (Genesis 3:1-9) instead of opening the door to Jesus. It's a challenge to be honest and confess our sin before our Heavenly Father. How easy is that for you?

- We are ashamed that we have sinned so many times in the same way.
- We know we are going to do it again because we don't know what else to do. This is part of the reason for Romans 12:2 and your knowledge and application of scripture. *Romans 12:2 Do not conform 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.*
- We have decided that this behavior is just a part of us, and we own it.
- It is behavior that we get accepted for or can brag about.

Now what?

- Do you need to ask forgiveness now for anything this week? If something comes to mind, it is probably the Holy Spirit reminding you so you can take care of it.

Make it a practice to ask forgiveness as soon as it happens or no later than your next mealtime. I know a guy who has done this for years. Sometimes its awkward depending on who is at the table, but it keeps the list short.

Lesson Three-Father God's Heart: Teaching Time

Recall:

1. How did you do on cleaning up your messes this past week?
2. Did you keep the doors open to Father God and get forgiveness when needed?
3. How does that feel to keep the guilt at a minimum?
4. Are you beginning to appreciate the guilt but also the reminders that the Holy Spirit brings up at very timely moments?

Connection Point:

1. How many of you have some great relatives?
2. Do you have grandparents, aunts, or uncles who you enjoy spending time with?
3. Why do you like being with them?
4. Do you feel safe with them?
5. How about your favorite comfort foods?

6. What would be your top three?

Scripture: *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 receive from God.*

Activity:

So Cold!

When the Holy Spirit convicts and Jesus forgives, our next option is to spend time with Father God. *John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

We can spend time with Father God because we paid attention to the Holy Spirit and accepted what Jesus did on the cross towards our forgiveness.

Hebrews 4:15-16 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

When we pray and enter Father God's presence, then we are comforted and changed the most.

Challenges:

- Not enough time.
- Don't trust him yet.
- Still dealing with feeling guilty.

Now what?

- Let's plan, right now.
- Calendar time daily and take advantage of times you already have.
- Recognize the things that you can change and the things you cannot.
- Be realistic, don't expect to stay up beyond your normal time or get up before your normal time.

- Write it down, put it on your phone, calendar with reminders. Since this may be new to you don't give up if you forget a day or get too busy. Getting one day in will encourage you to get more soon.

Lesson Four-Father God's Will: Teaching Time

Recall:

1. Give a few examples of the Holy Spirit either convicting or reminding you in the last week.
2. How quickly did we get forgiven?
3. Was anyone able to have some quality time in Father God's presence?

These areas will continue to shape and change us from the inside out if they become a normal part of our daily existence. Today's lesson helps it to make sense and put us on the same page as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Connection Point:

1. What is the good thing about a menu?
2. What is the bad thing about a menu?
3. What's on the menu: the restaurant and in your head?
4. How we are raised determines what the menu of our minds offers us.
5. How does your future look with that menu?
6. How does that menu put you at odds with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Scripture: *Romans 12:2 Do not conform 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.*

Activity:

Weirdest menu online!

Challenges:

Habits, our responses to life's events, and how we deal with stress all come from our personal menu.

What are some things that need to come off your menu?

What are the challenges to change?

List ten challenges to change.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Now what?

This week let's look at the challenge of honesty and how it appears on your menu.

*Isaiah 59:14-15 So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; **truth** has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. **Truth** is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice.*

- How many would agree with this scripture?

- Make telling the truth be your goal this coming week. Remember the Holy Spirit will let us know even before we speak if what we are about to say isn't true. If we blurt it out anyway, he will convict us. Jesus will forgive and if we spend time with the Father, all the reasons why we lie will be seen for the sin that it is. Now the challenge is to agree with the three and even though truth and honesty are hard to find these days, it can be found with us.

- Take the Scripture reading and memorization list home and see how many of these you can put on the menu and into practice this week.

Lesson Five-Jesus as Lord: Teaching Time

Recall:

1. How did your honesty project go?
2. Could you see the Holy Spirit, Jesus, and the Father trying to help in this area of change?
3. Did you put any new items on your menu through memorization or reading?
4. Did you respond differently because of the new menu item(s)?

Connection Point:

1. How many of you have had coaches, teachers, tutors etc.?
2. Let's make a list of the characteristics of a good coach/teacher.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.

3. Now let's make a list of the characteristics of a bad coach/teacher.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.

4. How many know a bad experience with one of these makes it harder to trust or submit to future coaches/teachers? Why?

Scripture: *Mark 1:17(NLT) Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!"* Jesus' challenge to the first disciples is still his challenge and offer to us today. *"I will show you how."* He will be that "good coach" in the life he calls us to live.

Activity:

Good coach, bad coach, and golf!

Challenges:

- Coach's goals versus your goals.
- Coach's methods and timing.
- More menu items put on the menu and into practice, this is a lifelong need.

Now what?

- What does the coach keep bringing up for you to do or stop doing?

Those are the things that are probably next for you to do. Remember he is trying to be the good coach and move you in the direction he has for your life. It is a good direction even if it isn't what you are currently planning on. It could be one of these issues or a thousand others but let him coach you to its completion. If it seems you can't do it on your own your youth leaders are assistant coaches who can help!

- Telling someone about Jesus
- Apologizing to someone about a mess you made in your life
- Restitution for stealing or damage you did to someone else's stuff
- Cleaning up some relationship messes
- Stopping a computer habit
- Get your schoolwork done asap
- Get physically active
- Memorize more scripture

Lesson Six-Holy Spirit Power: Teaching Time

Recall:

We have been working on a lot of life-changing truths.

1. How has the Holy Spirit, Jesus, and the Father become more real in the last week?
2. Are there any specific areas of change you have seen?
3. What have been some of the tension points that have developed as you are changing what's on the menu of your mind?

Connection Point:

The electrical challenge

Scripture: *Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

*1 Corinthians 15:10 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.*

Activity:

The grace example

It isn't something you feel just sitting there, it's something that engages when you face life's challenges.

Challenges:

- When you look in the mirror, you may not seem up for many of life's challenges. But if you understand the grace and power of the Holy Spirit then, like Paul, you can face them as they come.

- Have you made decisions based on your own current abilities instead of realizing that the Holy Spirit and God's grace can enable you to go to the next level of the life the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have for you?

- What are some of those challenges you have ignored that today he wants you to take up again?

Now what? You have put on the training wheels of life to get to know Emmanuel "God with us." Now it's a matter of making this our new normal as you learn to walk with them as you walk through the life, they have for us.

Every day you make time to renew your mind (more scripture on the menu) and be comforted (time in his presence), you will change and grow. We will help each other do just that from this time forward.

Ongoing: Celebrate what we have discovered, Emmanuel, God with Us! Continue to encourage and learn from each other as we travel this journey together!