

TAKE HEART



# LIFE GROUP LEADERS!

Welcome to Student Life Camp! What you hold in your hands is the Life Group Leader's Guide to walk through our theme Take Heart. Our hope is that this Leader's Guide will equip you to effectively walk your Life Group through each day's Bible Study. The next few paragraphs will give you some handles for what to expect in each day's lesson.

First...THANK YOU! Someone found you trustworthy to lead students in studying the Bible, but you still had to be willing to leave your comfort at home to come pour into students at camp!

## DAILY OVERVIEW

The first page of each day's Bible Study has an overview of the big idea that we will be studying. There is a Main Point, which is the central truth we want students to learn from the lesson. There is also an applicational thought to help students put truth into practice called Live It Out. You will also find a focus verse and all Scripture passages the lesson will cover. This page should help frame where the Bible Study will take you.

## PICTURES OF STUDENT'S BIBLE STUDY

In the bottom right-hand corner of each page, you will find a picture of the corresponding page in each student's Camp Booklet. Our hope is that these images will make it easy for you to lead discussion, while knowing what your students are seeing as they follow along in their booklet.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Bible Study largely relies on discussion. Instead of having students sit and listen to you read pages of content, our hope is that discussion will keep students engaged and lead them to consider the truths of Scripture and how they relate to their lives. With each question, we have provided a suggested answer in parenthesis in your guide. These are not necessarily the only correct answer, but are meant to help you get to the key thoughts of that question.

You may be terrified with the thought of awkward silences or avoided eye contact, but don't panic! If your students go quiet, give them a few minutes to answer a section of questions individually in their Camp Booklet and then ask them to share what they wrote. We think your students will open up!

Finally...we're praying for you! Know that we have been praying for this summer for many months and that we are continuing to pray for you as you lead this week. God is faithful and sufficient and His Word does not return void.



# LESSON 1: PAST PROMISES, FUTURE CONFIDENCE

**MAIN POINT:** WE TAKE HEART BECAUSE GOD HAS KEPT HIS PROMISES IN THE PAST AND WILL KEEP HIS PROMISES IN THE FUTURE.

## OVERVIEW

In the book of Joshua, both Joshua and Rahab faced circumstances full of fear and uncertainty. But they had a choice of where to place their faith. They could believe that God is who He says He is, and what He says is true. Or they could trust in themselves, their intuition, their culture, and their situation - believing something else was greater than God.

We, too, face situations daily in a broken world marred by sin that brings discouragement. Sometimes life is hard, so where do we place our faith? Our God is good, and He keeps His promises to be with us. Because God has kept His promises in the past, we can have confidence that He will keep His promises in the future. All of Scripture points to Jesus as the Son of God, and we have confidence in His plans for us.

## MAIN POINT

We take heart because God has kept His promises in the past and will keep His promises in the future.

## LIVE IT OUT

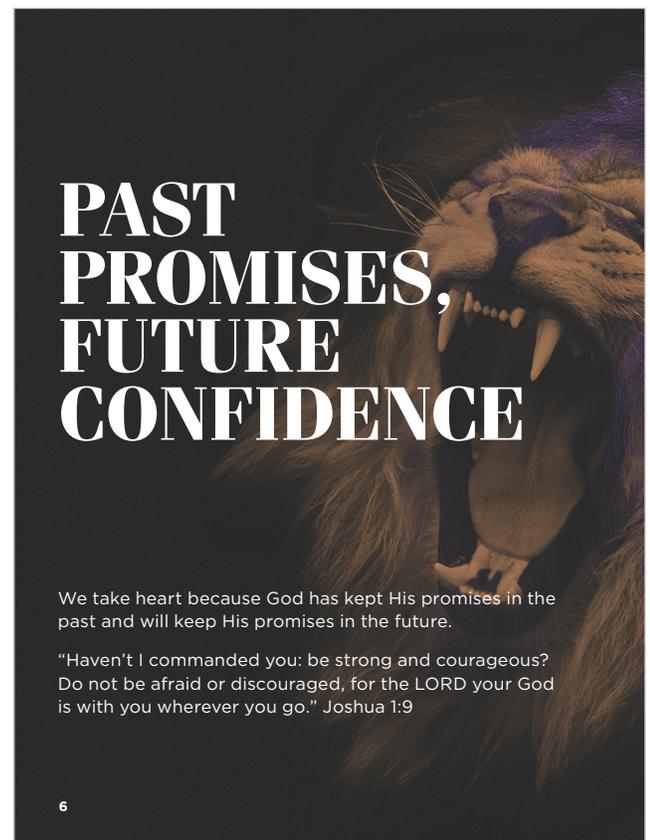
Even in the difficult moments of life, we choose to have faith in God and trust His Word.

## FOCUS VERSE: JOSHUA 1:9

*"Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."*

## ALL SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Joshua 1:1-9; 2:1-14; 6:15-17, 25; Matthew 1:5-6



## PAST PROMISES, FUTURE CONFIDENCE

We take heart because God has kept His promises in the past and will keep His promises in the future.

"Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

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# LESSON 1: PAST PROMISES, FUTURE CONFIDENCE

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART BECAUSE GOD HAS KEPT HIS PROMISES IN THE PAST AND WILL KEEP HIS PROMISES IN THE FUTURE.

## ENGAGE

Say: **Welcome to Student Life Camp and your first Life Group Bible Study! We are excited for this week of camp and cannot wait to see what God does in each of our lives this week. Some of you may already know each other, but to help us get to know everyone in our group better, let's each take a turn and introduce ourselves by saying our name and favorite ice cream flavor.**

## ICE BREAKER: TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE

### INSTRUCTIONS:

*(Everyone thinks of three statements about themselves. Two must be true statements, and one must be false. Write them down in your Bible Study booklet to help you remember them. Then choose 2 volunteers to share their Two Truths and a Lie with the group. After they share, have the group vote on which one they feel is a lie, and then have the volunteer reveal which one was the lie. Try to limit the number of rounds you play at this point to ensure you finish the lesson, then if time allows, you can play more at the end of the lesson.)*

Say: **Everyone, think of three statements: two truths and one lie. Write them down in your Bible Study booklet to help you remember them. Then we'll have two volunteers share their Two Truths and a Lie and the group will vote to guess which one we think isn't true.**

## IMPART

Say: **In our game Two Truths and a Lie, we had to choose what was true about someone, no matter how unbelievable it sounded. Sometimes it's really difficult to actually believe something about someone. That's why it's important to get to know them, so you can trust and believe them more easily. Just like in Two Truths and a Lie, it's much easier to pick out a true statement for someone you know well compared to someone you don't know at all.**

**This week we're talking about the theme Take Heart. We live in a world that often feels like**

## BIBLE STUDY

### ENGAGE

ICE BREAKER: TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE

TRUTH 1:

TRUTH 2:

LIE:

### IMPART

Read: Joshua 1:1-5

How would you summarize Joshua's situation? Who was he?

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# LESSON 1: PAST PROMISES, FUTURE CONFIDENCE

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART BECAUSE GOD HAS KEPT HIS PROMISES IN THE PAST AND WILL KEEP HIS PROMISES IN THE FUTURE.

it's in chaos. There are global pandemics, natural disasters, everyday anxieties, future worries, death of loved ones, and countless other circumstances that make us ask the question, "what in the world is going on?" So where do we turn? What do we believe? How do we take heart?

This week, we are going to spend time in our Life Groups learning about truths that help us Take Heart when life is hard and the world doesn't make sense. In John 16:33, Jesus says, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." Today, we're going to lean into the first phrase and look at how we can trust what God says.

*Read: Joshua 1:1-5*

**Ask: How would you summarize Joshua's situation? Who was he? What do you think he might have been thinking or feeling?**

(Joshua was appointed as the new leader of Israel, God's chosen people, following Moses' death. God is instructing him to lead the nation across the Jordan river to conquer the Promised Land of Canaan.)

**Say: When looking at what was ahead, the future likely felt daunting to Joshua. God was speaking clearly to him, but Joshua was still a man processing deep human emotions. Not only was he grieving the loss of Moses, his mentor and the man who led Israel out of Egypt, but now all eyes were looking to Joshua as the new leader. Huge expectations and responsibilities were now on his shoulders to lead the people into a foreign land where they would have to fight other nations. Joshua may have been thinking or feeling fear for what the future held, thoughts of being inadequate, and doubts that God would come through. Each of these thoughts were normal to be swirling around in his head, but God didn't want Joshua to continue doubting. Instead, God wanted to give Joshua confidence for the future.**

**Ask: How does God comfort Joshua? What does He promise?**

What do you think Joshua might have been thinking or feeling?

How does God comfort Joshua? What does He promise?



# LESSON 1: PAST PROMISES, FUTURE CONFIDENCE

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(The Lord's primary comfort was His presence. He promised to be with Joshua, that He would never leave or forsake him. This shows us God cares for us and His presence is always with us as believers. God also promises Joshua that no one would defeat them in future battles (v.3-5).

Ask: **How could Joshua know he could trust God?**

(God reminds Joshua of past promises He kept to Moses. God proved His words to be true by freeing Israel from slavery in Egypt, parting the Red Sea, providing manna for them to eat, and bringing them to the edge of the Promised Land.)

*Read: Joshua 1:6-9*

Ask: **How does God tell Joshua to live? What does He tell Joshua to “be”? To do/not do?**

(To be: “be strong and courageous,” to have courage no matter the circumstances.

To do: “to observe carefully the whole instruction,” to believe His word and obey it, to meditate on it day and night. To not let it depart from his mouth.)

Ask: **What is the most important thing God tells Joshua to do?**

(V.7 “Above all....to observe carefully the whole instruction;” to believe His word and obey it. Out of everything God could have commanded Joshua to do, the most important thing for Joshua at this time was to believe and hold onto God's Word, to make the instructions of the Lord an integral part of himself.)

Say: **A tiny word makes a huge difference. God doesn't tell Joshua in verse 7, “Above all, be strong and very courageous, and observe carefully the whole instruction...” He says: “Above all, be strong and very courageous to observe carefully the whole instruction...” If we aren't careful, we'll mistakenly miss what the Lord is saying to Joshua. It would make sense that before leading God's people into a series of battles to conquer the Promised Land that he would command the leader to be strong and courageous. But the main verb that Joshua is to do above all other things is to carefully obey everything God says—past, present, and future.**

How could Joshua know he could trust God?

Read: Joshua 1:6-9

How does God tell Joshua to live? What does He tell Joshua to “be”? To do/not do?

What is the most important thing God tells Joshua to do?

Why would careful and complete obedience require strength and a lot of courage?

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# LESSON 1: PAST PROMISES, FUTURE CONFIDENCE

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART BECAUSE GOD HAS KEPT HIS PROMISES IN THE PAST AND WILL KEEP HIS PROMISES IN THE FUTURE.

Ask: **Why would careful and complete obedience require strength and a lot of courage?**

(With the uncertainty of the future and not knowing what they would encounter, it would be easy for Joshua to depend on himself and do what he thought was right. It takes courage and strength to trust God and believe His word. Unless we are intentional, we naturally drift away from God because of our sin. It would take strength and courage to believe God and not to doubt.)

Say: **We'll jump ahead to chapter 2 when Joshua sends spies into Jericho, the first city they encounter in the new land God has promised them.**

*Read: Joshua 2:1-14*

Ask: **Why did Rahab help the spies?**

(She chose to have faith in God. All of Jericho heard about how God had delivered the Israelites from Egypt by parting the Red Sea and the city was afraid (v.11). While everyone else took comfort in their perceived safety within the city's large walls, Rahab chose faith in God and helped the spies. She understood that if God wanted Jericho to fall and be overtaken, then it would, so she believed in God.)

Ask: **Why do you think Rahab chose to believe?**

(Answers may vary. While faith is a gift from God (Eph. 2:8), Rahab had seen God fulfill His promises to Israel which led her to see Him as the one true "God of heaven above and on earth below." God's fulfillment of past promises fueled her faith.)

Ask: **How is Rahab described in verse 1? What does this teach us about having faith?**

(She is described as a prostitute. Anyone can have faith in God. No one is too far gone or too sinful to believe and be loved by God. Even in Rahab's act of hiding the spies she lies, which is a sin. However, her faith in God was the defining act in this story.)

Say: **The contrast couldn't have been more jarring between Joshua, the faithful man of God, and Rahab, a woman known by her sin. Just like the Lord chose to work through Joshua, he chose to work through Rahab. Her**

Read: Joshua 2:1-14

**Why did Rahab help the spies?**

**Why do you think Rahab chose to believe?**

**How is Rahab described in verse 1? What does this teach us about having faith?**

Read: Joshua 6:15-17, 25

Read Matthew 1:5-6

**What does this list of names mean?**



# LESSON 1: PAST PROMISES, FUTURE CONFIDENCE

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART BECAUSE GOD HAS KEPT HIS PROMISES IN THE PAST AND WILL KEEP HIS PROMISES IN THE FUTURE.

**actions would not earn her relationship with God, but they would prove her faith as she risked her life by honoring God to save the spies.**

**Say: Though Joshua and Rahab had many differences, they each faced a pivotal moment in their lives. As they faced circumstances full of fear and uncertainty, they each had to choose where to place their faith. They could believe what God says is true and that He would fulfill His promises. Or they could trust in themselves, their intuition, their culture, and their situation - believing something else was greater than God. Both chose to believe God, even when it may not have made sense. Ultimately, this story isn't just about Joshua and Rahab. Every single person has to decide if they were willing to trust God "above all."**

**Say: For a week Joshua led the Israelites and marched around the entire city of Jericho, once a day, every day, until the last day. They circled in silence except for seven priests blowing seven trumpets until the seventh day when they circled the city seven times. Inside the city, Rahab listened and watched while hoping and trusting that God would not forget her.**

*Read: Joshua 6:15-17, 25*

Whatever God says will always prove to be true, best, and good. This is because God Himself is always true, best, and good. Joshua and Rahab were able to have confidence that God would prove Himself faithful because of what He had done in the past. Past promises, future confidence. This story had yet one more completely unexpected scene after everyone thought it was complete.

*Read Matthew 1:5-6*

**Ask: What does this list of names mean?**

(It's a genealogy of Jesus' line of ancestors. These are Jesus' great-great-grandfathers and grandmothers.)

**Say: A family tree or genealogy like this one tells an incredible story of God's good plan being worked out in ways we never would have imagined. Rahab started hearing stories about the one true God and it changed her life! Not only was her life spared, but she became the great-great-grandmother of King David. If all of that wasn't too good to be true, it also meant that she could add another seven "greats" to her great-grandmother status to the greatest child ever born—Jesus Christ. For another 2,000 years until right now, God continues to save everyone who accepts His salvation (no matter who they are, where they're from, or what they've done). When we turn away from their sin with a broken heart like Rahab, trusting completely in God's mercy and grace, and risk looking foolish to the world because we truly believe that God is worth it, He will save. His promises are true and He is good.**



# LESSON 1: PAST PROMISES, FUTURE CONFIDENCE

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART BECAUSE GOD HAS KEPT HIS PROMISES IN THE PAST AND WILL KEEP HIS PROMISES IN THE FUTURE.

## IMPACT

To close out the lesson, give students some time to reflect, either individually (a short quiet time where they write in their books), collectively (a group-sharing time), or both. You know your group.

## CHRIST

Say: **Each day we face fears and uncertainties just like Joshua and Rahab. Our world is not as it's intended to be and we experience suffering, death, hurt, trials, anxiety, and battles with sin. But Jesus can be trusted even when life doesn't make sense.**

Ask: **When life gets hard, what truths about Jesus can we remind ourselves of to help us trust Him?**

Ask: **How have you seen God prove His faithfulness in the past to give you confidence to trust Him in the future?**

## COMMUNITY

Say: **Our close friends significantly impact the way we live out our faith.**

Ask: **How would your closest friends describe your faith in Jesus?**

Ask: **What are ways you and your friends need to be strong and courageous to live by God's words in the Bible?**

## CULTURE

Say: **The question that will change your week at camp, change your life when you go home, and that has the power to change the world as we know it, is "Can God really be trusted?"**

Ask: **How do you think our world today answers the question, "Can God really be trusted?" Why does it answer it that way?**

Ask: **If you're honest with yourself, do you tend to chase after things our culture promises will fulfill you or what God promises will bring**

## IMPACT

### CHRIST

Jesus can be trusted even when life doesn't make sense.

**When life gets hard, what truths about Jesus can we remind ourselves of to help us trust Him?**

**How have you seen God prove His faithfulness in the past to give you confidence to trust Him in the future?**

### COMMUNITY

Our close friends significantly impact the way we live out our faith.

**How would your closest friends describe your faith in Jesus?**

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# LESSON 1: PAST PROMISES, FUTURE CONFIDENCE

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**fulfillment to your life? What makes you trust culture or God over the other?**

Say: **Our God can be trusted. Everything He has promised has come true. He is the same yesterday, today and forever and His character will never change. When life gets difficult and hard, we can trust that God will be with us and that His promises will come true. We have future confidence because God is faithful to His past promises.**

Pray and dismiss.

What are ways you and your friends need to be strong and courageous to live by God's words in the Bible?

## CULTURE

The question that will change your week at camp, change your life when you go home, and that has the power to change the world as we know it, is "Can God really be trusted?"

How do you think our world today answers the question, "Can God really be trusted?" Why does it answer it that way?

If you're honest with yourself, do you tend to chase after things our culture promises will fulfill you or what God promises will bring fulfillment to your life? What makes you trust culture or God over the other?

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# LESSON 2: STRONGHOLD IN WEAKNESS

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART IN OUR WEAKNESSES BECAUSE GOD IS OUR STRENGTH.

## OVERVIEW

Moses was used by God in some incredible ways. He wasn't perfect and had many weaknesses, which he made clear through his questions and doubts when God called Him. But Moses' weaknesses paled in comparison to who God was and what He is capable of doing through him.

The unknown is terrifying, especially when you don't feel equipped to handle it. Our insecurities can bring intense feelings of anxiety and fear. But take heart and feel empowered in knowing that God uses people's weaknesses and equips them for His kingdom's work despite their fear.

## MAIN POINT

We take heart in our weaknesses because God is our strength.

## LIVE IT OUT

Even when I don't feel confident in myself, I will be confident in the God who created me and promises to be with me.

## FOCUS VERSE: EXODUS 4:12

*"Now go! I will help you speak and I will teach you what to say."*

## ALL SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Exodus 3:1-15; 4:1-17; Hebrews 11:23-31

# STRONGHOLD IN WEAKNESS

We take heart in our weaknesses because  
God is our strength.

"Now go! I will help you speak and I will teach you  
what to say." EXODUS 4:12

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# LESSON 2: STRONGHOLD IN WEAKNESS



MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART IN OUR WEAKNESSES BECAUSE GOD IS OUR STRENGTH.

## ENGAGE

### ICE BREAKER: PICTURE THIS

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

*In your Bible Study booklet, you will see ten phobias that you may have never heard before. Each phobia has two possible definitions of what you would be afraid of if you had this phobia. As we read each phobia, you're going to circle the choice you believe is correct. The goal is to get the most right answers.*

Chorophobia - the fear of: colors or dancing **(Answer: Dancing)**

Arachibutyrophobia - the fear of: peanut butter being stuck to the roof of your mouth or eating peanut butter and chocolate together **(Answer: Getting peanut butter stuck to the roof of your mouth)**

Allodoxaphobia - the fear of: opinions or truth **(Answer: Opinions)**

Optophobia - the fear of: opening one's eyes or closing one's eyes **(Answer: Opening one's eyes)**

Didaskaleinophobia - the fear of: going to school or going to the grocery store **(Answer: Going to school)**

Linonophobia - the fear of: lemons or string **(Answer: String)**

Spectrophobia - the fear of: mirrors or pictures **(Answer: Mirrors)**

Nomophobia - the fear of: being without a home or being without a phone **(Answer: Being without a phone)**

Bogyphobia - the fear of: the Bogeyman or bogs, swamps, and wetlands. **(Answer: the Bogeyman)**

Chloephobia - the fear of: cooking or newspapers. **(Answer: Newspapers)**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**ENGAGE**

**ICE BREAKER: FEARS AND PHOBIAS**

Circle the definition of the phobia that you believe is correct!

**PHOBIA THE FEAR OF**

**Chorophobia** colors or dancing

**Arachibutyrophobia** peanut butter being stuck to the roof of your mouth or eating peanut butter and chocolate together

**Allodoxaphobia** opinions or truth

**Optophobia** opening one's eyes or closing one's eyes

**Didaskaleinophobia** going to school or going to the grocery store

**Linonophobia** lemons or string

**Spectrophobia** mirrors or pictures

**Nomophobia** being without a home or being without a phone

**Bogyphobia** the Bogeyman or bogs, swamps, and wetlands.

**Chloephobia** cooking or newspapers.

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# LESSON 2: STRONGHOLD IN WEAKNESS



MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART IN OUR WEAKNESSES BECAUSE GOD IS OUR STRENGTH.

## IMPART

Say: **What is your greatest fear? Maybe it's spiders or snakes. Or it could be heights. Your fear could be something much deeper and personal, like being alone or even wasting your life. Possibly, your deepest fear is public speaking or failing in front of everyone. Regardless of who you are, we all have fears. Sometimes these fears are rooted in deep insecurities that we have.**

Today, we're going to learn about Moses, who was one of the greatest leaders in the Bible. We will learn about his fears and weaknesses and see how they prevented him from fully trusting God with his life. A phrase in our theme verse is John 16:33 that Jesus says is, "in me you may have peace." No matter what we are walking through in life, whether a global pandemic like Covid-19, daily struggles as a teenager, or the fears that we all have, we can have peace in God because He is a stronghold in our weakness.

As we walk through our lesson together, keep in mind this question: **What fear, doubt, or sin keeps you from fully trusting God with your life?**

*Read: Exodus 3:1-8*

Ask: **What is the purpose of the LORD's miraculous appearance to Moses? What does that reveal about the character of God?**

(The LORD is revealing Himself as the one true God—as opposed to the gods of his father-in-law, where he lives now and the gods of Egypt, where he grew up; The LORD knows and cares about His people's suffering. He is full of compassion and is going to save them. He is a God of action and is sending Moses to be the leader of Israel out of slavery to Pharaoh.)

*Read: Exodus 3:9-15*

Ask: **What is Moses' first response when God said He was sending him to Egypt?**

(Hint, look at verse 11. He was surprised. He asks the question, "Who am I?" and doesn't think he's good enough for God to choose him.)

## IMPART

As we walk through our lesson together, keep in mind this question: **What fear, doubt, or sin keeps you from fully trusting God with your life?**

Read: Exodus 3:1-8

**What is the purpose of the LORD's miraculous appearance to Moses?**

**What does that reveal about the character of God?**



# LESSON 2: STRONGHOLD IN WEAKNESS



MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART IN OUR WEAKNESSES BECAUSE GOD IS OUR STRENGTH.

Ask: **Why did Moses question God's purpose in sending him?**

(Moses doubts his own abilities. He was fearful of going back to Egypt, the place he fled after killing a man. Moses' past and insecurities led him to believe that he couldn't be used by God. He also realizes that God is sending him to Pharaoh, who was the man leading one of the most powerful nations in the world. This would be similar to one of us going to the President of the United States or of China.)

Ask: **How should this experience with God encourage Moses to focus on God's ability in the future, rather than on himself or on other people?**

(If God can speak from a fire that doesn't burn up a bush, then God can accomplish whatever He tells Moses to do. God can do anything--even the impossible; He is all-powerful and nothing is impossible for Him.)

Ask: **In verse 13, Moses asks God what His name is and who he should tell the Israelites sent him. What does God's response in verse 14 teach us about Him?**

(God is personal—He first describes himself in relationship with people; God is faithful—He made covenant promises to the people He named; God doesn't change—He is who he is, and is the same yesterday, today and forevermore (Heb. 13:8); God can't be put in a box—He won't be categorized with other gods or religious ideas; God is unique—He is unlike anyone or anything else; God is eternal—He says that he is to be known in every generation: past, present, and future; God is powerful—He has the authority to send Moses to do what seems impossible; God is a Savior—He sent someone to save them.)

*Read: Exodus 4:1-9*

Ask: **In Exodus 3, God assures Moses that He would be with him in the journey to relieve Moses' doubts. Why do you think Moses continues to doubt that he should be the one used by God?**

(Answers will vary. Moses is still looking at himself rather than God. Moses' insecurity in himself is greater than his confidence in God. Our sinful nature is to defy authority and not listen to God.)

In verse 13, Moses asks God what His name is and who he should tell the Israelites sent him. What does God's response in verse 14 teach us about Him?

Read: Exodus 4:1-9

In Exodus 3, God assures Moses that He would be with him in the journey to relieve Moses' doubts. Why do you think Moses continues to doubt that he should be the one used by God?

Why do you think God chooses to use miracles to answer Moses?

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# LESSON 2: STRONGHOLD IN WEAKNESS



MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART IN OUR WEAKNESSES BECAUSE GOD IS OUR STRENGTH.

Say: **God never directly answers Moses' question, "what if they won't believe me?" Instead, God displays His power and authority to do impossible and unnatural things through three miracles. Moses couldn't see past his weaknesses, which were strongholds and barriers in his life. Rather than having faith in who God is and in His character, Moses was focusing on himself. His past sins, current insecurities, and future fears were what he truly believed. Moses' greatest need was to trust in God's character. After all, if he can use a stick to display His power, how much more can He use a person who trusts and obeys Him?**

Ask: **Why do you think God chooses to use miracles to answer Moses?**

(Miracles on their own don't convince people to believe in or worship God, but they point us to who God is to help us trust Him more. These miracles should have taken Moses' eyes off of himself and helped him to see that God is all powerful and transcendent, or not limited by what we normally expect. Miracles point to the power of God, which helps us see the character of God. The more we see and learn about the character of God, the more we can fully trust God.)

*Read: Exodus 4:10-17*

Ask: **What do God's continual responses to Moses reveal about doubting ourselves?**

(Doubting ourselves when God is asking us to do something is actually doubting God. When Moses kept making excuses—even reasonable ones -- God kept reminding Moses of who He is and what He can do. Faith is about trusting the Lord, not confidence in what I think I can do for Him.)

Ask: **What does the LORD's persistence teach us about His purpose and character?**

(God's will is going to be accomplished. When He says He will do something—like save Israel from slavery to Egypt—He is going to do it. He can and will use us even though we don't feel worthy or qualified; God can do anything He wants with anyone He chooses for anything He desires—He always keeps His promises)

Say: **It's easy to think that if we saw God do something miraculous, like the burning bush, then of course we'd listen to Him. If the LORD**

Read: Exodus 4:10-17

What do God's continual responses to Moses reveal about doubting ourselves?

What does the LORD's persistence teach us about His purpose and character?

Read: Hebrews 11:23-31

In these verses, what is Moses remembered for?

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# LESSON 2: STRONGHOLD IN WEAKNESS



MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART IN OUR WEAKNESSES BECAUSE GOD IS OUR STRENGTH.

**spoke to us like that, we'd have faith to do anything. Moses heard God clearly and saw his power through these miracles and still doubted. He couldn't see past his own weaknesses which kept him from seeing God as someone we can hold onto in the midst of fear, insecurity, and doubt. Moses struggled, just like you and I, to simply trust God and to believe that what He has done in the past and what he says about the future is enough.**

**However, we know from yesterday's story in Joshua that Moses obeyed God and led the Israelites out of slavery. Moses chose to believe God and trust Him, and God kept all of His promises. In the New Testament, we have a summary of Moses' life story. Out of all the miraculous things Moses would experience and do, pay attention to what he is remembered for in these verses.**

*Read: Hebrews 11:23-31*

**Ask: In these verses, what is Moses remembered for?**

(His faith in God.)

**Say: Moses questioned God, was a murderer, struggled with public speaking, displayed a quick temper at moments, and disobeyed the Lord's commands, which kept him from entering the Promised Land with Joshua. Despite these shortcomings, Moses is remembered for his faith in God. He learned to put his faith into practice each day through his sin, doubts, insecurities, and fears. Moses was given a great task which put him face to face with the reality of his own inabilities. Yet, he found God to be steady and faithful. In our weaknesses, God is strong; He is someone we can hold onto in times of fear.**

**Ask: How did Moses overcome his doubts, insecurities, and fears to be used by God?**

(Moses found strength in his weaknesses through God's faithfulness. His faith was not in himself, rather, it was in God. When the nation of Israel wavered and doubted God, Moses held onto God as the stronghold for His life.)

**Ask: What do you think Moses learned from the process of how God used him?**

(Faith is an everyday process. Salvation comes by grace through faith, however, this doesn't mean we will never struggle in our faith. In our daily life, we will have moments when we trust God and believe that He is enough and there will be days when we lack faith. Moses likely learned that God will not give up on us because we fail or lack faith at times.)

**Ask: For us today, where do we place our faith? What drives our faith?**



# LESSON 2: STRONGHOLD IN WEAKNESS



MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART IN OUR WEAKNESSES BECAUSE GOD IS OUR STRENGTH.

(We place our faith in Jesus and the truth that Jesus loved us enough to die for our sins so we could have a relationship with Him. Knowing that He loves us and nothing is stronger than Him, not even death, gives us confidence to have faith even in the face of our shortcomings.)

Say: **Not only did Moses need to believe that God was who He said He was and would do what He said He would do, Moses also had to believe that God was using his life and obedience to accomplish His plan in other people's lives too.**

The Christian faith is more than just believing that God is real. Faith is also walking in obedience to God, trusting that He will do what is best for us and others, even when it doesn't make sense to us. Faith is often expressed in our actions during uncertain times, when we don't have all of the answers. Since our faith is placed in an all powerful, all knowing, good, trustworthy, wise, and holy God, we can confidently trust that our faith in Him will not fail us. God's plan throughout history has always been to use what seems weak or impossible to show us His great power, love, and salvation.

## IMPACT

To close down the lesson, give students some time to reflect, either individually (a short quiet time where they write in their books), collectively (a group-sharing time), or both.

### CHRIST

Say: **Today we saw how one of the great heroes of faith, Moses, struggled with his own insecurities when first called by God. Fortunately, the Bible is full of ordinary people chosen and used by God for His extraordinary purposes—people with doubts, imperfections, and lives that we can all identify with. Jesus' own disciples were ordinary and untrained men whom God used to turn the world upside down.**

Ask: **What doubt, excuse, or idol keeps you from fully trusting God with your life?**

Ask: **How does the truth about Jesus and His Gospel help you combat your weaknesses?**

### COMMUNITY

## IMPACT

### CHRIST

What doubt, excuse, or sin keeps you from fully trusting God with your life?

How does the truth about Jesus and His Gospel help you combat your weaknesses?

### COMMUNITY

Do you tend to build others up by encouraging them? Or push them down and discourage others? Why do you think you naturally interact with others this way?

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# LESSON 2: STRONGHOLD IN WEAKNESS



MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART IN OUR WEAKNESSES BECAUSE GOD IS OUR STRENGTH.

**Say:** You aren't alone in your struggles with insecurities. Your friends, teammates, teachers, and parents are also battling with their own insecurities too. As believers, we want to remind each other of God's word and build one another up.

**Ask:** Do you tend to build others up by encouraging them? Or discourage others through your words? Why do you think you naturally interact with others this way?

**Ask:** Who is someone in your Life Group that you can speak a word of encouragement to this week? Write a short note as you think about a specific way to build them up.

## CULTURE

**Say:** God called Moses to stand up against injustice and evil in his culture. People were in slavery. Pharaoh and the Egyptians in power believed that this was not only okay but it was a good thing too. Following the LORD will often mean doing the right thing, even when most people around you don't. God not only wanted to change Moses' own life, but He also wanted to change an entire culture through Moses' obedience. It wasn't about Moses. It was about the LORD—the one true and all-powerful God who loves His people and keeps His promises in every generation.

**Ask:** When have you not done something because you were worried about what other people might think? What can you remind yourself of in the future so that the fear of others doesn't stop you?

**Ask:** Dream for a minute. In our culture, what is something you would want to make a difference in for Jesus?

Wrap up the lesson by reading the IMB prayer prompt found in your Amazon pouch. Pray and dismiss your group.



# LESSON 2: STRONGHOLD IN WEAKNESS



MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART IN OUR WEAKNESSES BECAUSE GOD IS OUR STRENGTH.

## PRAYER GATHERING OVERVIEW

### BEACH & SMOKIES CHURCHES:

There is no time allotted in the schedule for this, but you are free to use this material as you prepare for the Evening Session.

### WHY PRAYER GATHERING?

Prayer is an essential aspect of being a Christian. James 5:16 states, “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another...”. As a Life Group Leader, we believe one of the most important practices you can establish with your group is to pray with them.

### WHAT IS IT?

Prayer Gathering is an intentional opportunity for you to make disciples in your Life Group by leading them in prayer. We have Prayer Gathering after dinner so that you have time to prepare for the Evening Session.

### SO HOW DOES IT WORK?

Simply find any space on campus that works for your group, and lead your group in prayer. This could be in your dorm rooms, outside by the dining hall or worship center, or any safe area in the space Student Life is using on campus. We provide a focus verse for each day, and a few topics to pray for. This is a great time to catch up with your group about what they have learned that day and share prayer requests. We encourage you to get everyone in the group to pray, whether that means you go around the circle one by one, or “popcorn” around the group until everyone has a chance to pray. After you pray, head on over to the Evening Session.

If you would like any help, or if you want to get a fresh face to hop in your group, feel free to ask any of the Student Life Staff to join you. We would love to serve you however we can!



# LESSON 2: STRONGHOLD IN WEAKNESS



MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART IN OUR WEAKNESSES BECAUSE GOD IS OUR STRENGTH.

## PRAYER GATHERING DAY 2 — WHAT IS PRAYER?

Introduce this time to your students. Explain, “This is time we’ll have each day to pray together as a group. We’ll learn a bit more about prayer each day and pray for and with each other before heading to Evening Session. Today, we’re going to be going back to the basics and talking about what prayer is. Some of you may already know about prayer and feel very comfortable with it, while some of us may not feel as familiar. No matter what, it’s okay!”

Ask, **“What is prayer?”** (Remind them it’s not a trick question; feel free to phrase it differently if students struggle to come up with answers.)

Ask, **“How are we able to talk to God like this?”** (Jesus made it possible for us to pray. When He came to earth, lived a perfect life, died for our sake, and rose again, He got rid of the divide between us and God (Mark 15:38). When we believe in Jesus, we can talk to God with confidence (John 9:31).)

Share, **“This is why people say, “In Jesus’ name” before we end a prayer. It isn’t a magic phrase to make sure God hears us, but it reminds us that Jesus made a way for us to talk to God.”**

Ask, **“One of the things that it’s okay to wonder about is how to actually pray. Has anybody wondered if you’re doing it right when you pray?”**

Share, **“When we pray, we direct our thoughts or words towards God (1 Samuel 1:15), believing that He hears us (1 John 5:14). Often, we psych ourselves out when we think about praying, especially out loud in front of others. It’s not about saying the right things or sounding good. Jesus speaks out against this when the Pharisees tried to make a showy, public prayers (Luke 20:47, Matthew 6:5). And it’s even okay if you don’t know what to say. The Holy Spirit prays for you when you don’t have the words (Romans 8:16).”**

Ask, **“What are some things you think we can pray about or for?”** (See the list below for possible answers. You can really pray about pretty much anything!)

- You can pray about your needs (Matthew 6:11).
- You can pray about the hard things you are going through (Matthew 11:28-30).
- You can pray and ask for God for forgiveness (Luke 11:4, 1 John 1:9).
- You can pray and ask for help (Psalm 121:1-2).
- You can pray about your anxieties (Philippians 4:6)
- You can pray to thank God for something (Ephesians 5:20).
- You can pray to praise God for who He is and what He has done (Psalm 106:1-2).



# LESSON 2: STRONGHOLD IN WEAKNESS



MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART IN OUR WEAKNESSES BECAUSE GOD IS OUR STRENGTH.

- You can pray to know God more (Ephesians 3:14-21).
- You can pray for other people in your life (1 Timothy 2:1, Romans 10:1, James 5:16, Galatians 6:2).

Share, **“It’s easy to think of prayer as our access to a vending-machine-God whenever we need stuff. Prayer isn’t necessarily about asking God to do something for you or to give you something. It’s a chance to let Him know what you are thinking or feeling and to trust Him.”**

Share, **“Here’s the bottom line — God just wants to talk with you. You have His ear through Jesus and the line is open for you to speak with Him!”**

Ask, **“Now that we’ve listed all these things we could pray for, does anybody need prayer for anything tonight?”** (Once people share requests, divide them up and pray as a group. Let students know they’ll get a chance to share requests again tomorrow night.)



# LESSON 3: LOVE AND SUFFERING

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART TRUSTING THAT GOD'S LOVE FOR US IS GREATER THAN ANY SUFFERING WE ENCOUNTER IN LIFE.

## OVERVIEW

God promises to be with us. In fact, God sent His Son to die on the cross so that we could be saved and have a restored relationship with Him. However, that doesn't mean we will live a perfect or easy life. Scripture even promises we will endure suffering. There is no avoiding or escaping it. We will have moments in life that hurt deeply. However, this suffering is not at the hands of a malicious God, but rather a loving God. He is not distant from our pain, nor is He unacquainted with suffering Himself. Jesus stepped into the suffering on earth and died an excruciating death that we deserved, in order to redeem and heal us once and for all. Paired with the promise of pain is the promise that God's love will be near and sustain us.

## MAIN POINT

We take heart trusting that God's love for us is greater than any suffering we encounter in life.

## LIVE IT OUT

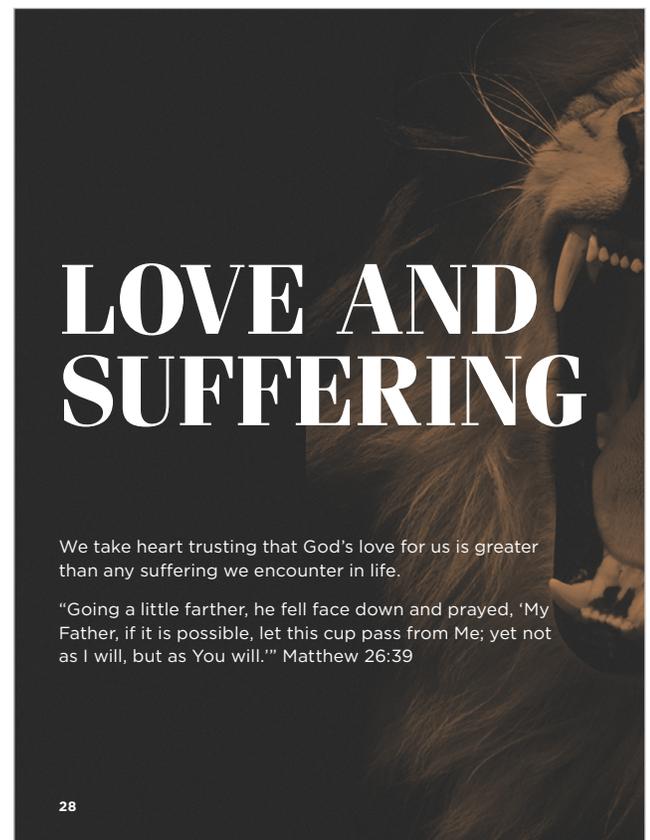
I will choose to trust Jesus with everything, and live for Him no matter how hard life gets.

## FOCUS VERSE: MATTHEW 26:39

*"Going a little farther, he fell face down and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.'"*

## ALL SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Matthew 26:36-46; Luke 22:44; John 15:13;  
Hebrews 12:1-3; John 3:16



# LOVE AND SUFFERING

We take heart trusting that God's love for us is greater than any suffering we encounter in life.

*"Going a little farther, he fell face down and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.'"* Matthew 26:39

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# LESSON 3: LOVE AND SUFFERING

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART TRUSTING THAT GOD'S LOVE FOR US IS GREATER THAN ANY SUFFERING WE ENCOUNTER IN LIFE.

## ENGAGE

### ICE BREAKER: IS IT WORTH IT?

#### DIRECTIONS:

(You will ask “yes” or “no” questions to your students to see if they would be willing to sacrifice something in order to gain something else. Designate an area for yes and one for no to distinguish the answers and have your students stand up. As you ask them the question, tell them to move to the area of their choice to see who counts the sacrifice as worth it.)

Say: **I will ask questions which will force you to decide to answer whether something is worth giving up in order to have something else. You must move to the area we designate to choose, “yes, it’s worth it” or “no, it’s not.” After I ask the question, you have a few seconds to decide and move to choose!**

- Would you cut off your pinky finger for 1 million dollars?
- Would you sleep outside for a month to spend an entire day with your favorite band/artist?
- Would you cheer for your favorite team’s rival for a season if it meant your favorite team won the championship for the next two seasons?
- Would you sit in a dark room alone with no phone, tv, or internet for one week to spend one day in space?
- Would you not take any trips for two whole years, not even small day trips, in order to go on a free month long dream vacation with your best friends?
- Would you not shower for 8 weeks if it meant you’d meet the love of your life on this day next year?
- Would you eat the same exact meal from your favorite restaurant (Chick-Fil-A for example) every single meal if it was all free?
- Would you deal with constant blurry vision so that you could see the future for 24 hours?

## BIBLE STUDY

### ENGAGE

#### IS IT WORTH IT?

Is something worth giving up in order to have something else?  
**Check the box to choose yes or no for each question!**

- | Y                        | N                        |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Would you cut off your pinky finger for 1 million dollars?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Would you sleep outside for a month to spend an entire day with your favorite band/artist?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Would you cheer for your favorite team’s rival for a season if it meant your favorite team won the championship for the next two seasons?              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Would you sit in a dark room alone with no phone, tv, or internet for one week to spend one day in space?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Would you not take any trips for two whole years, not even small day trips, in order to go on a free month long dream vacation with your best friends? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Would you not shower for 8 weeks if it meant you’d meet the love of your life on this day next year?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Would you eat the same exact meal from your favorite restaurant (Chick-Fil-A for example) every single meal if it was all free?                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Would you deal with constant blurry vision so that you could see the future for 24 hours?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | If you could meet your favorite celebrity, would you moo like a cow as loud as you could every 10 seconds while meeting them?                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Would you be willing to be 1 foot tall if you had the superpower of flying?  |

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# LESSON 3: LOVE AND SUFFERING

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART TRUSTING THAT GOD'S LOVE FOR US IS GREATER THAN ANY SUFFERING WE ENCOUNTER IN LIFE.

- If you could meet your favorite celebrity, would you moo like a cow as loud as you could every 10 seconds while meeting them?
- Would you be willing to be 1 foot tall if you had the superpower of flying?

## IMPART

Though these silly “Is It Worth It” questions are funny to see who would actually go through some crazy things for a reward, if we’re really honest with ourselves, most of us would rather have comfort in life than difficulty. Rarely are we able to see the purpose of trials when they come. However, oftentimes the greatest growth and lessons occur during a season of suffering. But that doesn’t make it easy, and knowing that there is purpose in it doesn’t necessarily put a smile on our face.

Jesus promised that suffering will come in life, when he says, “In the world you will have tribulation,” in John 16:33. During today’s lesson we’ll see Jesus endure the deepest and hardest suffering possible. It wasn’t easy and it hurt deeply. However, Jesus loves us and saw the reward of his suffering, the opportunity for us to have a relationship with him, and counted our salvation as worth it.

Ask: **Why is there so much suffering in the world?**

(Suffering is a result of sin. Before sin entered the world, everything was perfect. There was no pain, death, or suffering. After the fall of Adam and Eve when sin was introduced, the world was no longer how God intended. Our world is now broken and we live with the effects of sin. Suffering is a part of that. There is suffering because the world is not how it is supposed to be.)

Ask: **How have the hard moments in your life impacted your view of God?**

(Answers will vary. Some students may have responded by running from God or pushing Him away. Others may have drawn close to Him and learned to trust Him more. Be prepared to share a story of suffering in your own life to spark conversation.)

Ask: **Where do we find hope in the middle of suffering?**

(Our hope is in Jesus and that God loves and

## IMPART

Why is there so much suffering in the world?

How have the hard moments in your life impacted your view of God?

Where do we find hope in the middle of suffering?

How can you deepen your trust in God in the middle of challenges?

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# LESSON 3: LOVE AND SUFFERING

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART TRUSTING THAT GOD'S LOVE FOR US IS GREATER THAN ANY SUFFERING WE ENCOUNTER IN LIFE.

cares for us. We find hope in Jesus' willingness to suffer on our behalf to begin fixing what was broken and to redeem the brokenness of this world. At the heart of the Christian faith is a God who knows what it is like to suffer. Not only did Jesus suffer like us through his brutal death, He suffered for us.)

Ask: **How can you deepen your trust in God in the middle of challenges?**

(Answers will vary. Several examples are: continue reading the Bible to learn more about God, praying that you desire to trust God more, journaling about what you are feeling and learning, or reminding yourself about how God has proved Himself faithful in past valleys).

Say: **At some point in each of our lives, we will walk through some form of suffering. It might be a breakup, not making the team, parents divorcing, being fired from a job, or enduring a serious medical diagnosis. Or it could be something like Covid-19, a tornado, or hurricane disrupting our lives. Likely, these moments will continue to recur throughout our lives. Suffering can either drive us away from God or pull us closer to Him. Often in these hard moments, if we are open to it, we can experience the love of God in a deeper way.**

Today, we're going to look at the moment Jesus wrestled with the tension of love and suffering. Jesus was experiencing the phrase from our theme verse, John 16:33, that says, "In the world you will have tribulation." Even though Jesus was fully God, He was not exempt from pain. In this story we will see Him look at the suffering He would endure and choose to love us still, despite not wanting to go through it.

*Read: Matthew 26:36-46*

Ask: **When you are facing a challenging situation, how do you typically respond?**

(Answers will vary).

Ask: **What is Jesus' first response in this moment?**

(He responds by praying. By seeking wisdom and guidance from the Father. Jesus is God and knows fully what the rest of this night will hold. He chooses to spend the night praying, asking for strength and help, and spending time with His Father.)

Read: Matthew 26:36-46

When you are facing a challenging situation, how do you typically respond?

What is Jesus' first response in this moment?

What did Jesus ask His disciples to do? Why is this important?

In verse 38, Scripture says Jesus was "deeply grieved to the point of death." In Luke 22:44, which is Luke's account of this story, it says Jesus' "sweat became like drops of blood." What was causing Jesus so much sorrow and stress?

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# LESSON 3: LOVE AND SUFFERING

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART TRUSTING THAT GOD'S LOVE FOR US IS GREATER THAN ANY SUFFERING WE ENCOUNTER IN LIFE.

Ask: **What did Jesus ask His disciples to do? Why is this important?**

(Jesus asked them to pray. Jesus is wrestling with deep human emotions and needs His friends. We need other believers to walk through trials along with us. Jesus is fully God, and knew since the beginning of time that this night would come. However, He still feels the weight of what is to come and desires His friends to pray with Him.)

Say: **The people closest to Jesus, His disciples, still didn't understand exactly what was happening. Even though Jesus kept asking them to pray with Him, they continued to fall asleep. Just like the disciples, we tend to be unaware of the bigger picture at times, and yet God never stops prompting and gently guiding us to spend time with Him. His love for us is not dependent on our faithfulness. Still, He desires for us to seek and draw near to Him.**

Ask: **In verse 38, Scripture says Jesus was "deeply grieved to the point of death." In Luke 22:44, which is Luke's account of this story, it says Jesus' "sweat became like drops of blood." What was causing Jesus so much sorrow and stress?**

(Jesus knew He was about to be arrested and put to death. His death would be painful; Roman crucifixions were a perfected form of torture in death. So much so that the word "excruciating", meaning "from the cross", was invented to explain it." However, the physical pain of Jesus' death was not what caused Jesus' distress. In Jesus' death, He would receive the consequence for every sin of every single person who has ever existed. Jesus died a death we deserve and in His bearing our sin, He would bear the full weight of God's judgement and wrath being separated from God the Father. Knowing of the punishment and separation ahead caused Jesus' great sorrow and stress.)

Ask: **Why is it important to see Jesus experiencing such intense emotions?**

**(His emotions reveal His humanity, while His deity urges Him to endure the agony to come. It reveals the weight and depth of the suffering He will face. Seeing what Jesus experienced reveals the depth He loves us to still die in our place.)**

Say: **Jesus' death was no ordinary death. He would bear the full weight of our sin upon**

Why is it important to see Jesus experiencing such intense emotions?

When Jesus prays in verse 39, "not as I will, but as you will," what do you think he means?

In verse 41, what does it mean when Jesus says, "the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak"?

Read: Hebrews 12:1-3

According to verse 2, Jesus endured the cross "for the joy that lay before him." What joy is this referring to?



# LESSON 3: LOVE AND SUFFERING

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART TRUSTING THAT GOD'S LOVE FOR US IS GREATER THAN ANY SUFFERING WE ENCOUNTER IN LIFE.

**himself. This sin must be dealt with in order for us to have a relationship with God. Through Jesus' death, He took the punishment for our sins to make salvation possible for us. His death provides forgiveness of our sins. He did so, not with anger or frustration that we messed up, but with love for us. Jesus willingly gave up His life out of love for us. As John 15:13 says, "No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends." Jesus' love is unmatched. For the God of the Universe to die for sinners, His love cannot be measured.**

**Ask: When Jesus prays in verse 39, "not as I will, but as you will," what do you think he means?**

(Answers will vary. Jesus wants to be willing to obey the Father. He is practicing giving up control of the situation to submit to the Father's plan. Jesus loves us and wanted to have the strength to die for us.)

**Ask: In verse 41, what does it mean when Jesus says, "the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak"?**

(The disciples' spirits were wanting to obey and honor the Lord, but the weakness of their flesh overpowered their spiritual desire to pray and watch. Jesus did not scold them, but instead He encouraged them to be aware of the weakness of the flesh. The same can be said about all of us. We can also be so easily distracted from prayer and worship by our sinful nature even when our spirits are willing to do whatever God asks of us. Jesus tells us to watch and pray, because when we do both, we remain spiritually alert and appeal to God for strength and wisdom.)

**Say: When Jesus was praying, it was clear that he knew God's will. He wasn't asking, "what do I do?" He was saying, "I will give 100% trust, obedience, and love. I know what I have to do. If any other way was possible, I would want that, but I know this is the only way. This is what you want, so I want it too. I know it is going to be painful—not just physically, but even more so, spiritually." He will take everyone's sin on Himself and face the fair and necessary judgement for sin from a good and loving God. Jesus knows that it will ultimately be for God's good purpose and His promise of salvation and new life. He knows that trusting God is worth it—no matter what.**

**Say: Immediately after this prayer, in verse 46, Jesus stands up and tells the disciples His time has come, then Jesus is arrested. In the following chapters, Jesus was tried in religious and civil trials, abandoned by His disciples, brutally beaten, and was crucified to His death. Jesus willingly endured great suffering on our behalf because He loves us. His suffering and death should have been ours because of our sin. But God, in his rich mercy, because of the great love He had for us died in our place.**



# LESSON 3: LOVE AND SUFFERING

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART TRUSTING THAT GOD'S LOVE FOR US IS GREATER THAN ANY SUFFERING WE ENCOUNTER IN LIFE.

*Read: Hebrews 12:1-3*

Ask: **According to verse 2, Jesus endured the cross “for the joy that lay before him.” What joy is this referring to?**

(Jesus found joy in the future possibility of our salvation and relationship with Him forever. No longer would we, who have faith in Christ, be separated from God. Rather, we would live in relationship with God forever.)

Ask: **What do these verses challenge us to respond by doing?**

(“Lay aside every hindrance and sin that easily entangles us.” This Scripture encourages us to fight sin, get it out of our lives, and to fix our eyes on Jesus and His great love instead.)

Ask: **What sins do you need to lay aside?**

(Answers will vary. Embrace awkward silence. Encourage someone to go first and give others the gift of going second. If needed, give them a few moments to reflect and write in their booklets, then circle back and talk through it.

\*For mixed gender Life Groups, it may be wise to use this question as a reflection time or split the group by gender.

\*\*Tell your group you are available after the lesson for anyone who may not feel comfortable sharing in the group or wants to talk more afterwards.)

Ask: **What are some practical ways you can fight your sin?**

(The most important step is confessing your sin to God and repent from your sins. Don't buy the lie that we cannot approach God when we fall. Share your sins with others and find someone else to walk with them in the battle. Memorize Scripture to help in moments of temptation. Put restrictions on their phone or delete social media if that is a temptation. Remove themselves from situations where their sin tends to surface).

Ask: **In our battle with sin, what truth do we need to remember?**

What do these verses challenge us to respond by doing?

What sins do you need to lay aside?

What are some practical ways you can fight your sin?

In our battle with sin, what truth do we need to remember?

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# LESSON 3: LOVE AND SUFFERING

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART TRUSTING THAT GOD'S LOVE FOR US IS GREATER THAN ANY SUFFERING WE ENCOUNTER IN LIFE.

(1. Our sin is a big deal. It cost Jesus His life, so we must see sin as something deadly, like cancer within our bodies. We can't let it stay in our lives.

2. Jesus loves us even in the middle of our sin. Satan wants us to believe we aren't good enough and to fill us with shame. However, Jesus died knowing everything about our sin. He knows our worst and biggest sin, the amount of times we would fall to sin, and even our worst thoughts. Yet, Jesus has far more love and grace in Him than we have sin in us. His love will never end and does not run out. If we have faith in Christ, God sees Jesus' perfection when He sees us.)

Say: **Many of us have likely heard John 3:16 all of our lives: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Jesus suffered because He loves us. As we live and follow Him, Jesus' love motivates us to fight sin. We don't fight sin out of guilt or obligation, nor do we fight in order to earn our forgiveness. We battle sin out of the love and forgiveness Jesus has already given us. We want to love Him and honor Him with our lives by running away from sin.**

## IMPACT

To close down the lesson, give students some time to reflect, either individually (a short quiet time where they write in their books), collectively (a group-sharing time), or both. You know your group.

## CHRIST

Say: **Sometimes it is hard to believe that God could love us, not to mention that He does love us. In times of suffering, this can grow especially difficult to believe. But the gospel, the news about Jesus dying for our sins to forgive us if we trust in Him, proves that God loves us more than we can comprehend.**

Ask: **Do you doubt that Jesus truly loves and accepts you? Why or why not?**

Ask: **How do we continue believing that God loves us in the middle of hardships?**

## COMMUNITY

Say: **Even though they kept falling asleep in today's story, Jesus had a close group of**

## IMPACT

### CHRIST

Say: Sometimes it is hard to believe that God could love us, not even to mention that He does love us. In times of suffering, this can grow especially difficult to believe. But the gospel, the news about Jesus dying for our sins to forgive us if we trust in Him, proves that God loves us more than we can comprehend.

Do you doubt that Jesus truly loves and accepts you? Why or why not?

How do we continue believing that God loves us in the middle of hardships?

### COMMUNITY

Even though they kept falling asleep in today's story, Jesus had a close group of friends that he invited into some of the more personal times in his life.

Who are the people in your life that you would trust enough to pray for you?



# LESSON 3: LOVE AND SUFFERING

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART TRUSTING THAT GOD'S LOVE FOR US IS GREATER THAN ANY SUFFERING WE ENCOUNTER IN LIFE.

friends that he invited into some of the more personal times in his life.

Ask: **Who are the people in your life that you would trust enough to pray for you? Write down some names of friends, leaders, or adults that would pray for you if you asked them to (and might even be praying for you already).**

Ask: **What do you need them to pray for you today?**

Ask: **What sins can you share with them for their accountability and help to flee from?**

Ask: **Are you this kind of trustworthy friend to anybody else? What do you know that friends or family members need prayer for?**

## CULTURE

Say: **Everyone has a deep desire to be loved. Our world looks for love in many different places; relationships, sports, accomplishments, work, and others. The only truly satisfying and fulfilling love is the love of God.**

Ask: **How is God's love different from our culture's definition of love?**

Ask: **How is the love of Jesus more satisfying and truly fulfilling compared to what our world tells us is?**

Leaders as you wrap up your lesson, read the IMB prayer prompt found in your Amazon pouch. Pray and dismiss your group.

Prayer Gathering Day 3 — Jesus, Teach us to Pray.

Share, **“For the next two days during prayer gathering, we’re going to talk about how to actually pray. It’s one thing to understand what it is, but it’s another to actually do it.”** Ask, **“Have any of you wondered how to actually pray?”**

Share, **“Today in Bible study, we talked about Jesus’ prayer in the garden. We can learn a lot from the way Jesus prayed here, but did you know that there was actually a place in scripture when Jesus taught His disciples how to pray?”**

Ask a student to read Luke 11:1. Ask, **“In your own words, what just happened there?”** (The disciples were watching Jesus pray and they asked Jesus to teach them how to pray.)

What do you need them to pray for you?

What sins can you share with them for their accountability and help to flee from?

Are you this kind of trustworthy friend to anybody else? What do you know that friends or family members need prayer for?

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# LESSON 3: LOVE AND SUFFERING

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART TRUSTING THAT GOD'S LOVE FOR US IS GREATER THAN ANY SUFFERING WE ENCOUNTER IN LIFE.

Share, **“There probably isn’t a better place to learn to pray than from Jesus Himself. Let’s check out what He shares with them.”**

Ask a student to read Matthew 6:9-13 out loud.

Ask, **“Jesus tells them exactly how to pray. This is often called ‘The Lord’s Prayer’. How does Jesus start the prayer?”** (He recognizes who He is praying to — Our Father, in heaven, holy. And then He submits Himself to God — Your will be done.)

Share, **“Just like we saw in Bible study today, Jesus trusted God’s will. He submitted Himself to God before asking for anything, prioritizing God’s will above His own.”**

Share, **“When we pray, this should be our posture, too. Something to think about — Do you trust God enough to pray like this?”**

Ask, **“Look down to verses 3 & 4. What are the things that Jesus asks for in the prayer?”** (Our daily bread — the things they need to make it through the day and meet their needs; forgiveness and the ability to forgive, protection and deliverance from temptation to disobey)

Share, **“We have only scratched the surface of all that we could learn from Jesus’ teaching here, but here’s the bottom line — When we pray, we are talking to God, trusting Him and His will and asking Him for what we need.”**

Share, **“Don’t miss what we talked about yesterday — Prayer is meant to be a conversation between you and God. There’s NOT a formula or a script to follow, but this teaching from Jesus can be a helpful place to start as we learn how to pray.”**

Ask, **“Does anybody have any prayer requests they want to share tonight?”** (When you close in prayer, pray the Lord’s prayer verbatim over you and your students.)

## CULTURE

**Say:** Everyone has a deep desire to be loved. Our world looks for love in many different places; relationships, sports, accomplishments, work, and others. The only truly satisfying and fulfilling love is the love of God.

**How is God’s love different from our culture’s definition of love?**

**How is the love of Jesus more satisfying and truly fulfilling compared to what our world tells us is?**



# LESSON 3: LOVE AND SUFFERING

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART TRUSTING THAT GOD'S LOVE FOR US IS GREATER THAN ANY SUFFERING WE ENCOUNTER IN LIFE.

## PRAYER GATHERING

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# LESSON 4: GREAT OPPONENT / GREATER GOD

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART THROUGH JESUS' RESURRECTION KNOWING THAT HE IS GREATER AND HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD.

## OVERVIEW

Our world is full of great opponents. Between sin, Satan, and a world opposed to God, sometimes it feels like the odds are stacked against us. Living faithfully for Jesus these days isn't easy. However, we can take heart and see that God is greater than any opponent because He has already conquered them all. The battle has been won. Our God is greater.

## MAIN POINT

We take heart through Jesus' resurrection knowing that He is greater and has overcome the world.

## LIVE IT OUT

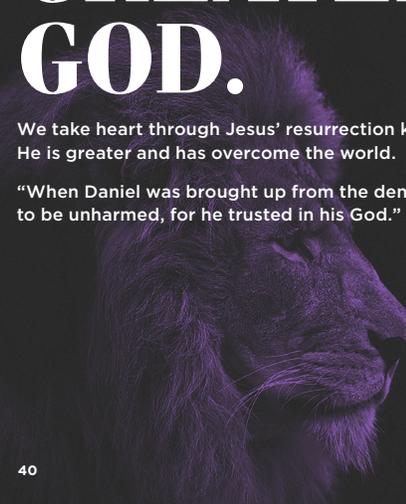
I can live out my faith for Jesus boldly, knowing nothing is greater than Him.

## FOCUS VERSE: DANIEL 6:22

*"When Daniel was brought up from the den, he was found to be unharmed, for he trusted in his God."*

## ALL SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Daniel 6:1-28; 1 Peter 5:8-9; Revelation 5:1-5



# GREAT OPPONENT, GREATER GOD.

We take heart through Jesus' resurrection knowing that He is greater and has overcome the world.

*"When Daniel was brought up from the den, he was found to be unharmed, for he trusted in his God." Daniel 6:22*

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# LESSON 4: GREAT OPPONENT / GREATER GOD

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART THROUGH JESUS' RESURRECTION KNOWING THAT HE IS GREATER AND HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD.

## ENGAGE

### ICE BREAKER: THIS OR THAT

#### DIRECTIONS:

(Draw an invisible line in the middle of your space and have your students line up in a row facing you. You will read two different choices, declaring each side of the line one of the options. Then on the count of three, students move to one of the sides to make a choice. Make sure they take a clear step to show their answer. For example, if Shock and Surge are the two options. Students would take a step to the left for Shock or to the right for Surge. In the questions, students must decide who or what they think is better.)

Say: Everyone stand and line up in the middle of the room. We're going to play a game called This or That. I will read two options and you must decide who or what you think is the greatest out of the two. I'll designate your right as a choice and your left as a choice. Then on the count of three, you must take a clear step to the right or the left to choose one.

**Instagram OR TikTok**

**Taylor Swift OR Ariana Grande**

**Chick-Fil-A OR Starbucks**

**Tony the Tiger OR Captain Crunch**

**Michael Jordan OR Lebron James**

**Spotify OR Apple Music**

**Iron Man OR Captain America**

**James Corden OR Jimmy Fallon**

**Harry Potter OR Star Wars**

**Nike OR Adidas**

**Netflix OR YouTube**

**Beach OR Mountains**

## BIBLE STUDY

### ENGAGE

#### ICE BREAKER: THIS OR THAT

Instagram	OR	TikTok	Iron Man	OR	Captain America
Taylor Swift	OR	Ariana Grande	James Corden	OR	Jimmy Fallon
Chick-Fil-A	OR	Starbucks	Harry Potter	OR	Star Wars
Tony the Tiger	OR	Captain Crunch	Nike	OR	Adidas
Michael Jordan	OR	Lebron James	Netflix	OR	YouTube
Spotify	OR	Apple Music	Beach	OR	Mountains

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# LESSON 4: GREAT OPPONENT / GREATER GOD

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART THROUGH JESUS' RESURRECTION KNOWING THAT HE IS GREATER AND HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD.

## IMPART

Say: **There are a lot of ongoing debates about what is greater between certain things, like the best fast food restaurant, brand, athlete, or band. Sometimes we can get really passionate about what we believe is greatest. In reality though, all of these are up to individual opinions. When it comes to Jesus though, there is a way to know He truly is greatest. No one is better, stronger, or more fulfilling than our God. Today, we'll take a look at the final phrase in our theme verse John 16:33 which says, "take heart; I have overcome the world." We have confidence Jesus is greater than anything we face in life because Jesus has overcome sin and death.**

Say: **Turn to Daniel 6 in your Bibles. As you do that, here's a little background on the setting for the popular story of Daniel and the lions' den. Daniel is an old man who has been through some difficult life situations. Daniel and the people of Jerusalem were conquered by Babylon and forced to move to that region. This was a culture who worshipped their own created gods and did not know or believe in the God of the Bible, whom Daniel served. In fact, the Babylonians were hostile towards those who worshipped the true God of the Bible. In Daniel 3, we see some of Daniel's friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego get thrown into a fiery furnace because they refused to bow down to a golden idol. However, God proved Himself greater than the attempts to punish them by saving his faithful followers. No matter what Daniel faced, he continued to trust and have faith in the Lord. Our story today is likely Daniel's most challenging moment to trust and believe in God.**

*Read Daniel 6:1-9*

Ask: **Have someone summarize what is taking place in these verses.**

(Key points: King Darius placed 120 satraps or rulers throughout the kingdom to enforce laws. Three administrators oversaw their work, one of which was Daniel. Daniel found great success and King Darius liked him so he planned to promote him even more. So the other satraps and administrators didn't like Daniel and created a plan to create a charge against him.)

Ask: **Most of us likely aren't running a business for someone to find corrupt business dealings on us. But what are other areas someone might try to find something against us?**

## IMPART

Read Daniel 6:1-9

Most of us likely aren't running a business for someone to find corrupt business dealings on us. But what are other areas someone might try to find something against us?

Would it be easier for others to find evidence of how you follow God or how you follow the world?

Daniel's faith was evident to those around him. What does it look like for us to live in a way that others know we're true followers of Jesus?

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# LESSON 4: GREAT OPPONENT / GREATER GOD

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART THROUGH JESUS' RESURRECTION KNOWING THAT HE IS GREATER AND HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD.

(Answers will vary. Some examples are: what you say in texts or DMs, the type of Snapchat pictures you send, cheating on a test, how you speak of others, what you do when alone with a girl/guy, attitude with parents, cheating on tests, substances you use, and many others.)

Ask: **Would it be easier for others to find evidence of how you follow God or how you follow the world?**

(Answers will vary. We don't want this question to cause shame for students whose faith is not evident as something important in their life. Rather, we hope the Spirit will cause them to consider whether their lives align with their faith. Additionally, we hope the Spirit will open nonbelievers' eyes to the satisfaction found in Jesus compared to the emptiness of the world.)

Ask: **Daniel's faith was evident to those around him. What does it look like for us to live in a way that others know we are true followers of Jesus?**

(Our lives will only reflect Christ if we have a changed heart. Outward actions stem from an inward heart change. As we are changed by the grace of Jesus within, outwardly the words and actions reflect this change. The way we speak and treat others is kind and full of love. Our life is full of the fruit of the Spirit. We talk about things of God and seek Him by practicing spiritual disciplines and are involved with church activities. We avoid anything that would cause people to question whether we know Christ.)

Say: **Daniel's faithfulness, both to God and in his work, caused him to have great enemies. Some were jealous of Daniel's favor in the King's eyes, while others were angered by Daniel's character preventing them from profiting financially through taking advantage of their district's citizens. Scripture isn't clear on exactly how many of the satraps and administrators devised the plan against Daniel, but there was significant support in order for the King to approve and pass the new law. Put yourself in Daniel's shoes and imagine many of the nation's most influential people conspiring against you. They have authority and power. They are close to the King. And they are out to get you, literally trying to kill you by passing a law that stated anyone who broke it would be thrown in a den full of hungry lions. Think about how you would respond.**

*Read Daniel 6:10-18*

Ask: **What is Daniel's first response?**

(Daniel goes to his house and prays. He doesn't change what he normally does and continues to spend time with God in prayer. Daniel desires to honor the Lord above all and so he continues to do the very thing the new law forbids.)



# LESSON 4: GREAT OPPONENT / GREATER GOD

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART THROUGH JESUS' RESURRECTION KNOWING THAT HE IS GREATER AND HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD.

Ask: **What does this teach us about prayer?**

(Spending time talking with God is our greatest need. It is more important than fear, comfort, or other's opinions about us. Prayer was a vital component of Daniel's everyday life, not just when people were out to get him. In our moments of need, prayer should be our first response, not our last resort. Prayer fuels a greater faith when we need it.)

Ask: **At the end of verse 18, the King is unable to sleep. What is the difference between King Darius and Daniel?**

(King Darius' confidence is in human strength while Daniel's is in God. Daniel knows God is greater than any situation he will encounter. King Darius' faith is in himself.)

Say: **Daniel's faith drives his actions despite facing significant persecution and restricted religious rights. He likely assumed others would be watching his every move, waiting to catch him praying. Sooner or later, Daniel knew he would be caught, charged, and thrown into the lion's den.**

**Daniel's opponents were great. They were powerful and influential. They had a plan and Daniel could have been ruled by fear. But Daniel knew his God was greater. He had seen God come through for his friends at the fiery furnace and believed God would come through again. Daniel chose faith and believed God would take care of him.**

*Read Daniel 6:19-28*

Ask: **Compare verses 14 and 22. In verse 14, it says King Darius made every effort to save Daniel but was unable to rescue him. Who was able to save Daniel and what does this teach us?**

(The king tried his best to save Daniel. He worked until the very last second. But he couldn't save him, even as the most powerful man in the country. Daniel's future seemed hopeless to the king. King Darius didn't believe in Daniel's God, but knew that He was Daniel's only hope of being rescued. We can try our best to save ourselves and others, but Jesus alone can save us. Kings on earth cannot, but the true King of Kings can.)

Read Daniel 6:10-18

What is Daniel's first response?

What does this teach us about prayer?

At the end of verse 18, the King is unable to sleep. What is the difference between King Darius and Daniel?

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# LESSON 4: GREAT OPPONENT / GREATER GOD

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART THROUGH JESUS' RESURRECTION KNOWING THAT HE IS GREATER AND HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD.

Ask: **Daniel was faithful to God and his faith was evident to others. Why do you think God allowed Daniel to be thrown into the lion's den?**

(It tested Daniel's faith to measure how much Daniel would trust God. Daniel was faced with the choice to either stop praying and not be thrown into the lion's den or pray and risk death. Also, the miracle of saving Daniel led to others having faith in God. In verse 26, King Darius issues a decree that only Daniel's God would be worshiped rather than the previous gods of Babylon. Without Daniel being thrown into the lion's den, the one true God would not have been as widely talked about in Babylon.)

Say: **This week, in each of our lessons we've talked about people in the Bible who had difficult journeys despite their faithfulness to God. Following Jesus does not promise an easy life. There will be moments when we are in danger, when fear rises, and when we deal with the consequences of our sin and the reality of a world broken by sin. We have great opponents in sin and Satan, but our God is greater and promises to be with us no matter what we encounter. As we think about leaving camp, let's spend some time talking about our enemy and how we can take heart knowing Jesus has overcome the world.**

*Read 1 Peter 5:8-9*

Ask: **Why does Peter refer to Satan as a lion?**

(Because Satan is strong. He's a threat we need to be aware and mindful of. He is strong and is looking to devour us. Lions are often regarded as one of the most powerful and dangerous animals. We should see Satan as a similar threat and avoid taking him lightly or for granted.)

Ask: **How should this impact the way we live?**

(Be alert and mindful of Satan. We should be sober minded and realize that Satan is working to find ways to destroy us through tempting us to sin. We should be on guard against him and resist his attempts to have us question who God is or what God says is true. We should run from his attempts to cause us to fall into sin and lose faith. We

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# LESSON 4: GREAT OPPONENT / GREATER GOD

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART THROUGH JESUS' RESURRECTION KNOWING THAT HE IS GREATER AND HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD.

need to stand firm in the faith.)

Say: **We have a great opponent in Satan. It is important to realize that Satan knows us and is actively working to tempt us in ways that pull us apart from Jesus. This may be through deliberate sins or he simply may distract us so that our eyes are not fixed on the things of God. Our flesh pulls us towards sin and we cannot take our enemy lightly. But we have a God who is greater. Though Satan may seek to destroy us and at times make us feel like he is winning, Christians have confidence knowing that Jesus has defeated Satan, sin, and death. The Spirit empowers us to walk in the freedom of this truth.**

Say: **Let's look at one more passage where we will see Jesus also referred to as a lion. Specifically, He is called the Lion of the tribe of Judah. Turn to Revelation 5.**

*Read Revelation 5:1-5*

(\*Note from the ESV Study Bible: "The scroll John sees contains God's purposes for history, but its seven seals prevent the full disclosure and enactment of its contents.")

Ask: **Why should we weep like John in these verses?**

(Because no one is worthy; we're all sinful and fall short of what God desires for us. We were sinners without hope. Left in our sin, we would be separated from God with no possibility of being in relationship with Him. We weep because of our sin.)

Ask: **Why do we have reason to hope?**

(Jesus is worthy. Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah in these verses. He has conquered sin and death through his resurrection. Jesus came to the earth and died in our place to remove the consequences of sin. Through Jesus, we find forgiveness, a new identity, and victory over sin and death. Jesus has overcome everything and conquered all. We find hope in Jesus.)

Ask: **How do we know Jesus is greater than Satan?**

(Victory for Satan is to cause us to sin, which leads to our death (Rom. 6:23). But Jesus lived

How should this impact the way we live?

Read Revelation 5:1-5

Why should we weep like John in these verses?

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# LESSON 4: GREAT OPPONENT / GREATER GOD

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART THROUGH JESUS' RESURRECTION KNOWING THAT HE IS GREATER AND HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD.

a perfect, sinless life and never gave into Satan's temptations (Heb. 4:15). Jesus died in order to provide forgiveness of sins and access to a relationship with Him (Col. 1:13-14), but Jesus did not remain dead. Jesus' resurrection conquered over sin, death, and Satan once and for all (1 Cor. 15:56-57). Jesus is alive and His resurrection provides us a lasting hope of eternal life with God forever (1 Pet. 1:3.)

**Say: We have a great opponent in Satan. He lures us with things of the world, but Jesus has defeated him. Our God has done what no one else could do. He lived a perfect life, in complete obedience to the Father. Then He died to take the penalty of sin upon His shoulders freeing us from the power of sin. And was resurrected trampling over Satan once and for all.**

**We have a great opponent, but our God is greater. This is why we take heart. In life we will encounter persecution, distress, fear, insecurity, doubt, failures, temptations, and sin, but through Jesus nothing can overtake us. We take heart because Jesus has overcome the world. We have nothing to fear. He is greater than anything and better than anyone we could ever have. We take heart because Jesus is enough.**

## IMPACT

To close down the lesson, give students some time to reflect, either individually (a short quiet time where they write in their books), collectively (a group-sharing time), or both. You know your group.

## CHRIST

**Say: Following Jesus is a lifelong process. We will never reach a point where we completely know Him, but the joy of following Jesus is learning more about Him as we rest in what Jesus has done for us.**

**Ask: What is the biggest thing you have learned about Jesus this week?**

**Ask: What is something you want to learn more about Jesus after camp? What steps can you take to begin learning this?**

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# LESSON 4: GREAT OPPONENT / GREATER GOD

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART THROUGH JESUS' RESURRECTION KNOWING THAT HE IS GREATER AND HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD.

## COMMUNITY:

**Say:** As Christians, the greatest help we have in life is the Spirit who dwells inside us. He is always with us, strengthening and empowering us to fight sin and pursue holiness. However, we also need fellow believers to walk through life helping us pursue Jesus.

**Ask:** Leaving camp, how can we help each other to resist Satan?

**Ask:** What is one area (or more) of growth you hope to seek with fellow believers after camp?

## CULTURE:

**Say:** We were not saved to keep the Gospel to ourselves. The natural response to experiencing the grace of God is to live in a way where others see and hear the faith you have in Jesus.

**Ask:** If someone wanted to see your faith in Christ, how long would they have to look before they saw evidence of a relationship with God?

**Ask:** Who is someone you can share the gospel with when you go home from camp? Spend a few minutes praying that Jesus would save them.

**Leaders as you wrap up your lesson, read the IMB prayer prompt found in your Amazon pouch. Pray and dismiss your group.**

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# LESSON 4: GREAT OPPONENT / GREATER GOD

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART THROUGH JESUS' RESURRECTION KNOWING THAT HE IS GREATER AND HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD.

## PRAYER GATHERING DAY 4 — A-C-T-S

Share, **“This is our last night of prayer gathering, which gives us one final chance to learn about prayer and put it in practice. Tonight, we’ll be focusing on a helpful acronym called ACTS. Has anyone heard of this before?”**

Share, **“A-C-T-S is a method of praying that organizes our prayer around four categories — Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication.”**

Ask, **“Let’s break it down. What do you guys think adoration means?”** (Praise, worship, honor, etc.)

Share, **“Adoration is giving God praise and honor. We see this often in books of the Bible like the Psalms, where the writer picks out specific attributes of God, like His faithfulness or love, and praises God for it.**

Ask, **“What is something about God that you can praise?”**

Share, **“The next one is Confession. This is an opportunity to deal with the sin in our lives. God isn’t afraid of our sin or embarrassed by us, He actually wants to hear from us, even when we feel dirty and ashamed. Jesus made you worthy of praying a long time ago.”** (1 John 1:9 and Hebrews 4:16).

Share, **“Thanksgiving is a fairly simple one to grasp, but it has a profound effect on us to make it a practice. Recognizing that God gives good gifts and has given us everything in our lives (Matthew 7:11, James 1:17), prayer is a great time just to say thank you. Making a practice of gratitude in prayer also shifts us from approaching prayer as a time to just ask for things.”**

Ask, **“What’s something in your life right now that you are thankful for?”**

Ask, **“The final letter in the acronym is Supplication. Does anybody know what this means?”** (It’s the action of asking for something, but it’s characterized by humility and earnestness)

Share, **“Asking God for things when we pray is the easiest part of prayer to grasp, but our posture when we ask is important. We have to check ourselves to see if any part of us feels entitled to what we are asking for. God doesn’t have to give us what we ask for. And even if God doesn’t answer our prayer in the way we’d hoped, we can trust Him and His will.”**





# LESSON 4: GREAT OPPONENT / GREATER GOD

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE HEART THROUGH JESUS' RESURRECTION KNOWING THAT HE IS GREATER AND HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD.

Share, **“Before we try the ACTS method out, I want to reiterate what we talked about yesterday. Prayer is NOT scripted or formulaic. You don’t have to pray the ACTS method every time you pray, but it’s a helpful tool for us to pray holistically.”**

Ask, **“Does anybody have any prayer requests?”**

Share, **“We are going to pray a little differently tonight. I’m going to ask for four volunteers to pray and then I’ll close us in prayer.”** (Assign each letter to one person — adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication — and then close in prayer. If you don’t think your students are comfortable enough to do it, then it’s okay if you lead the prayer time and model ACTS for them.)

