



Teaching Guide
AND Essentials

- **FOR ADULTS** -



GROUP MEMBERS USE *THE BRINK*, *FUSION FAMILY*, OR *FUSION NEXT*
DEVOTIONAL STUDY GUIDES

EZEKIEL

ESTHER

HEBREWS

LUKE

1 & 2 TIMOTHY



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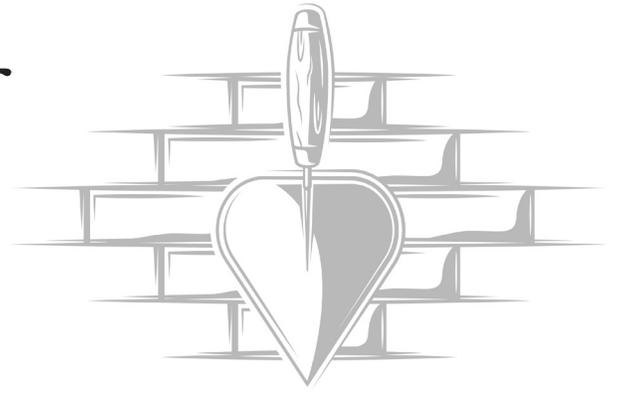
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Adult Teaching Guide



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WELCOME TO THE D6 EVERYDAY FOUNDATIONS ADULT TEACHING GUIDE. This is the one-size-fits-all guide for teaching adult small groups. It correlates with *The Brink*, *Fusion Family*, and *Fusion Next* devotional study guides.

D6 EveryDay Foundations curriculum is built on:

- A high view of Scripture
- Church and Home emphasis
- Family alignment and resources for every age
- Practical biblical application
- Intentional focus on developing biblical literacy and a biblical worldview
- Biblical truth and perspective on important cultural issues
- Spotlights on Bible characters

D6 EveryDay Foundations curriculum helps you build confidence in the unchanging, enduring, and authoritative Word of God. The three-year scope and sequence includes an overview of the story of the Old and New Testaments, emphasizing major characters and themes, as well as the application of God's Word to current cultural issues.

Even if the student never misses a single Sunday in the three-year cycle, the task is too much for curriculum alone. We must also depend on the work of the Holy Spirit and the partnership of families so the truth goes beyond head knowledge to heart knowledge and anchors in a permanent place. Combining both at-church and at-home tools, *D6 EveryDay Foundations* curriculum helps churches equip parents with the mortar to hold together the building blocks of faith.

Elementary and Teen students (and preschoolers when possible) study the same family themes as their parents and grandparents. This family-aligned curriculum philosophy opens the door to everyday opportunities for faith conversations.

D6 EveryDay Foundations curriculum offers a choice of three devotional study guides for adults.

- ***The Brink***—for young adults without children
- ***Fusion Family***—for parents with kids at home
- ***Fusion Next***—for empty nesters

Singles in your group can choose the magazine that best fits their life stage.

In addition to daily devotions to help reinforce biblical principles, readers enjoy relevant articles, columns, and more. Even if your group is made up of various ages, members can choose the guide that fits best.

Every lesson in this teaching guide is built around the CLEAR® Learning System. This time-tested method gives a simple but effective approach to successfully teaching God's Word.

Connect—These suggested activities help capture the group members’ attention and answer the question, *Where is this lesson going?*

Learn—*What does the Bible say?* This section answers this question by digging into the biblical text and explaining it in ways both teachers and group members can understand.

Explore—These notes provide more information for the teacher. They address issues like cultural background, historical context, theological importance, apologetics, and other complementary biblical teachings.

Apply—*What difference does all this make in my life?* Apply statements help group members see how the biblical truths they have just heard fit into everyday life. These Apply statements, along with thought-provoking discussion questions, are included in with the **Learn** section as they most naturally fit.

Respond—The final section in each lesson answers the question, *What now?* Respond encourages group members to take practical steps to apply the biblical principles they have learned. The lessons are further reinforced in the devotional study guides.

Every lesson also includes:

- Lesson objective—identify the lesson’s main goal
- Building Blocks—encourage biblical literacy for the whole family
- Family Verse of the Month—focus on memorizing key Scripture together
- Teaching Tips—give helps and strategies for effective teaching
- Thought-provoking discussion questions—encourage deeper application of biblical truth
- Teaching essentials—downloadable extras (handouts, posters, outlines, PowerPoint, and more)
- The Teaching Guide is also available for download to help you customize the lesson for your group.

Bonus resources:

- Parent Page—weekly tool that provides the key truths of the lesson, application ideas, talking points to extend family discussion, and family activity ideas, as well as a summary of the pre-school lesson
- D6 Family App—this app delivers free resources designed to equip you for generational discipleship
- Family Faith Moment—biweekly email providing simple ideas to turn everyday routines into discipleship moments
- D6 Teacher group on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/D6Family>)—a Facebook forum for D6 curriculum users to share ideas and ask questions



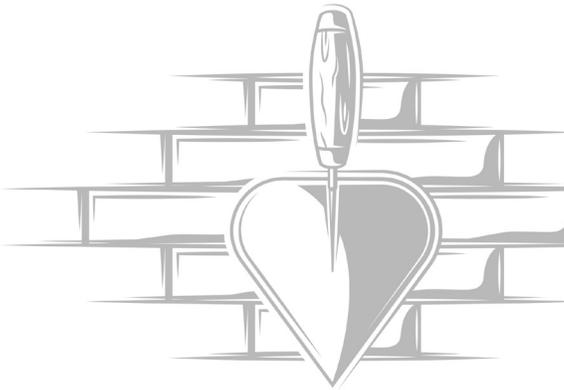
Digital Downloads—To enhance your teaching, digital downloads are available. There you will find PowerPoint slides for each lesson, teaching essentials, and editable teaching outlines. We’re also excited to offer a digital version of this Teaching Guide that includes live hyperlinks so you can click directly on a website or Scripture passage and have it pop up on your device. To access these resources, scan this QR code or visit the following: **d6.family/6882**.

FAMILY THEME

God Restores His People

LESSON OBJECTIVE: Learners turn to God when they get off track and ask Him to restore their relationships with Him and with others.

STUDY TEXT: Ezekiel 36:1–37:28



CHECKLIST

- Study the biblical text and Adult Teacher's Guide.
- Review the *Adult Teaching Outline* (Adult Handout 1-1 or AH 1-1). You can take notes on this editable document as you study. You can also use it as a guide to teach from.
- Review *PowerPoint 1* and insert your own questions if needed.
- Print and make copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 1-2), the *Bring New Life* handout (AH 1-3), and *Parent Page* (PP-1) if you have parents in your group. For free access to these handouts, scan the QR code on page 3 of this teaching guide or go to d6.family/6882.
- Distribute *Parent Page* (PP-1) to parents.

Key Truths

- God Restores His People for His Name's Sake (Ezekiel 36:1–38)
- God Can Restore Us From Hopeless Circumstances (Ezekiel 37:1–14)
- God Can Restore Relationships (Ezekiel 37:15–27)

Verse of the
Month

HEBREWS 13:8

CONNECT

Choose one of the **Connect** options to capture attention and get this session started.

OPTION 1: Consider playing the following song as your group arrives: tinyurl.com/SongEze. The song is based on Ezekiel 37. You can also find the song on Spotify and other music streaming services. After listening, say: *Today we will examine a passage in Ezekiel that brings hope and shows us that God restores His people.*

OPTION 2: Ask your learners to share a time when they saw a Christian's disobedience hurt God's reputation. Then ask them to share a time when a Christian's obedience brought glory to God. After discussion, say: *It's important that we bring God glory by obeying Him and walking in His ways. Today we will see how God's people needed to be restored because they did not obey Him or walk in His ways.*

OPTION 3: Bring in a broken item that has been repaired (a glued mug, a mended chair, a restored tool). Have any of your learners restored something like a vehicle, a piece of furniture, a wood floor, or a house? Why do we sometimes value something even more after it's restored? After discussion, say: *There are times when something can be restored instead of thrown away. Today we will see that God's people needed to be restored because they had turned away from Him.*

LEARN + EXPLORE + APPLY

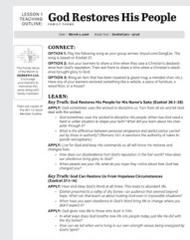
Distribute copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 1-2).

This lesson focuses on Ezekiel 36–37, but the prophetic message recorded in these two chapters actually begins in [Ezekiel 35](#) with a prophecy against Moab resulting from their actions during that time, and their continuing enmity against Israel. Due to space and time constraints, this lesson addresses only the latter two-thirds of the message. For more information, see the final EXPLORE.

KEY TRUTH: **God Restores His People for His Name's Sake (Ezekiel 36:1–38)**

Most prophecies are addressed to people or nations, but Ezekiel 36 is different. It is addressed to the mountains of Israel, to the land itself. At the time of the exile, some of the surrounding nations, such as Moab, took advantage of Israel's troubles, and sought to occupy the mountains of the land for their own use. They were certain the land would be theirs with the Jews out of the picture (**verses 1–5**).

Cue up videos and have them ready to play. D6 Family Ministry does not control ads shown before or after videos.



AH 1-1



AH 1-2

TEACHING TIP

Follow up on every guest to your class with a phone call, text, or note.

You will not have time to read all the Scripture in today's lesson. Select certain passages to read and summarize other passages.

APPLY:

God sometimes uses the wicked to discipline us. Turn from all sin and let God deal with the wicked.



PowerPoint 1

The discussion questions can also be found on the *Adult Teaching Outline* (AH 1-1) and on *PowerPoint 1*, which is customizable. Files *1A* and *1B* are provided for customization.

The Jews longed to return to their land, and in this passage God addressed the land as though it longed for their return as well. In God's plan, they truly were made for each other. Ezekiel, far away in the land of Babylon, described how the land would again be fruitful for God's people (**verses 6–11**). Some had called it a desolate territory that devoured those who lived there because of all the calamities that had fallen upon God's people (**verses 12–15**). Through Ezekiel, God objected. The people's sin and rebellion had consumed them; the land was going to produce again.

DISCUSS:

- *God sometimes uses the wicked to discipline His people. When has God used a hard or unfair situation to shape your faith? What did you learn about His character through it?*
- *What is the difference between personal vengeance and lawful justice carried out by those in authority? (Romans 13:1–4 sanctions the authority of rulers to punish wrongdoers.)*

EXPLORE:

Romans 12:19 says not to seek vengeance because vengeance is God's domain (Psalms 94:1–2; Hebrews 10:30). However, this does not mean we don't want evil to be punished. When evil is punished, the righteous should rejoice (Psalms 58:10). It indicates we are one step closer to the time when God will right all wrong and institute everlasting justice. Exodus 15, Judges 5, and 1 Samuel 18 all record the joyous songs of God's people when judgment fell on His enemies. These references have certain characteristics in common: They describe the victory over the enemy, joyously, and even graphically. They ascribe the victory to God. They are not bragging on themselves; they are bragging on their God. If vengeance is the Lord's, we should be careful not to take what is His. At the same time, when God repays evildoers with evil, it is natural to want to praise Him in glorious terms.

Wherever the Israelites had been dispersed, they had maintained their identity as God's chosen people, despite their disobedience. The pagan nations who received them had to wonder why God had not protected these people who claimed to belong to Him. Was something wrong with Him? Was He defective or weak in some way? God's honor was at stake.

God therefore took great pains to emphasize to Israel that their restoration was not something they deserved. Their unrighteousness was like human filth (**verse 17**). They did not deserve to stay in the

land because they had defiled it (**verse 18**). After all the ways in which they had profaned God's name, restoration was most certainly not for their sake (**verses 19–22**).

Yet, for His own name's sake, God had wonderful restoration plans in mind for Israel:

- He would remove them from where they had settled as captives (**verse 24**).
- He would put them back into the land of Israel (**verses 24, 28, 33**).
- He would cleanse them of sin and give them a new heart (**verses 25–26**).
- He would give them a new spirit (**verse 27**).
- He would prosper them (**verses 30, 34, 37–38**).

What would be the results of all of this?

- It would restore the relationship between God and His people (**verse 28**).
- The people would deeply regret their rebellion and sin (**verse 31**).
- The nations would recognize that God had been at work (**verse 36**).
- Israel would know that God is Lord (**verse 38**).

EXPLORE:

In the ancient world, a god's reputation was tied to the people who worshiped Him. Israel's exile made the nations question Yahweh's power. By restoring His people, God vindicated His name before the nations. Today, our obedience or disobedience shapes how outsiders view the gospel. God's honor is displayed when His people live faithfully.

DISCUSS:

- *How does our disobedience hurt God's reputation in the lost world? How does our obedience bring glory to God?*
- *When people see your life, what do you hope they notice about how God has changed you?*

Much Christian testimony has been compromised through the years because Christians lacked such a concern for God's name. It was for the sake of His own name that God would restore Israel (**verse 25**).

APPLY:

Live for God and keep His commands so all will know He restores and changes lives.

KEY TRUTH: God Can Restore Us From Hopeless Circumstances (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

To the people of Israel, the fulfillment of such promises must have seemed far away. How could a nation that has been scattered in exile for 70 years ever live again? They were as hopeless as a valley full of the dry bones of people who had been dead for 70 years. But God had a surprise for them! He was going to show Ezekiel what He could do even with old dry bones! In the Spirit, God caused Ezekiel to see the valley of bones. That the bones were very dry emphasizes how lifeless they were (**verses 1-2**).

Once Ezekiel had come to terms with what the valley contained, God asked Him if those bones could live again (**verse 3**). Ezekiel knew what his answer would be, but he also knew enough about God to suspect God's question was an introduction to something God wanted to show him.

Ezekiel obeyed God's instruction to tell the bones to hear and obey the word of the Lord (**verses 4-7**). Interestingly, the dead dry bones in this vision were more attentive and obedient to Ezekiel's proclamation than his fellow Israelites living with him in exile (**verses 7-8**).

APPLY:

Hear and obey God's Word at all times. This leads to abundant life.

DISCUSS:

- *Ezekiel preached to a valley of dry bones—an audience that seemed beyond hope. What can that teach us about trusting God even in impossible situations?*
- *When have you seen obedience to God's Word bring life or change where you didn't expect it?*

In **Genesis 2:7** we read that God breathed the breath of life into the man He created. In a similar fashion, the dry bones before Ezekiel reformed into bodies, awaiting the breath of life. At God's direction, Ezekiel called for the breath of life to enter the lifeless bodies, and they stood to their feet (**verses 9-10**).

EXPLORE:

The dry bones vision is symbolic of Israel's restoration, but it also foreshadows the ultimate resurrection hope. The Bible consistently presents God as the giver of life—**Genesis 2** (breath of life), **Ezekiel 37** (breath entering bones), **John 20** (Jesus breathing on His disciples), and **1 Corinthians 15** (resurrection of the body). This points to Christianity's unique apologetic claim: death does not have the last word.

In **verses 11–14**, God explained the experience to Ezekiel. Israel was downcast, as dead as old dry bones. God had other plans. He had formed man to begin with and had given him the breath of life. Restoring the nation of Israel would not present an obstacle to such a God.

DISCUSS:

- *In what ways does God breathe new life into people today, just like He did with the dry bones?*
- *How can we tell when we're living in our own strength versus being energized by God's Spirit?*

EXPLORE:

Ezekiel's experience with the dry bones is not the only instance in which God used a remarkable experience to get His servant's attention and to transmit a message. Moses turned aside to see the burning bush that was not burned up (Exodus 3). God transformed Moses' staff into a snake, and back again (Exodus 4). God worked special signs with Gideon's fleece (Judges 6). Peter, James, and John saw the Lord transformed on the mountain (Matthew 17; Mark 9). We do not expect to undergo such experiences today, however, for a number of reasons. According to 2 Peter 1:16–21, Peter heard the voice of God while he was on the mountainside with Jesus. Yet not content to build only on his experience, Peter prized the certain or sure word of Scripture above even his own special experience. Hebrews 1:1–2 says indeed God used a number of ways to communicate with His people in times past, but now has spoken by the Son, the One who was the subject of so much Old Testament prophecy. We might not see bones coming together, but we should pay even greater attention to the Word of the Lord. Ezekiel never lived in the day of Christ, but we can live every day in His presence, with His Word at our side and in our hearts!

KEY TRUTH: God Can Restore Relationships (**Ezekiel 37:15–27**)

Israel had once split into two kingdoms, but God promised to restore the two parts to fellowship. God gave Ezekiel an object lesson to use in conveying the message of restoration (**verses 16–20**). Just as the two sticks were united in Ezekiel's hand, Israel and Judah would be united into one nation again. Restoring such a fellowship must have seemed just as impossible as restoring life to old bones. Yet, it would happen. God would bring His people (both nations) back to their land. They

APPLY:

God gives new life to those who trust in Him.

APPLY:

God loves all people. He can restore our relationships with Him, and with all other people no matter our differences.

would be one nation again. God would cleanse them, and they would be His people (**verses 21–23**).

DISCUSS:

- *What separates people from a relationship with God and with others? How does God restore relationships with Him and with others?*
- *Has there been a relationship in your life that felt “too far gone,” yet God brought surprising restoration? If so, what happened?*
- *Our world seeks to “cancel” people. God wants to restore people. How can we guard against a “cancel” mentality and learn to pursue restoration the way God does?*
- *What is one practice our group could adopt this month to embody unity that points people to Christ?*

In **verse 24**, we find a repetition of the good shepherd theme. This good shepherd would come through David’s line, a prophecy soon to be fulfilled in Jesus Christ. The reference to Jacob and his children (**verse 25**) continued the theme of restoration: all Jacob’s children, north and south. God would also restore fellowship between Himself and His people, with the sanctuary symbolizing God’s presence with all His people (**verse 27**).

It is true that once sin and hard hearts have shattered a relationship, it will never be the same. Yet God is a master restorer! If He can restore our relationship with Him, He can restore our broken human relationships if we allow Him to ([Ephesians 4:32](#)).

EXPLORE:

God promised to reunite Israel and Judah into one people. Jesus later prayed that His followers would be one so *the world may believe* ([John 17:21](#)). Division among God’s people harms our witness, while unity rooted in Christ demonstrates the reality of the gospel.

[Ezekiel 35](#) pronounces judgment on Mt. Seir (Edom) for its hostility toward Israel. The exact location of Mt. Seir is not precisely known, but its region has been established. Mt. Seir, Moab, and Edom are at various times associated with each other in the Old Testament. Moab and Edom were located on the eastern and southern shores of the Dead Sea, south and southeast of Jerusalem. In one sense, the Moabites and Edomites were “family” with the Israelites. The Moabites were actually descendants of Abraham’s nephew, Lot. After escaping the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot’s two daughters got him drunk and conceived children with him ([Genesis 19:30–38](#)). Those two sons became the

fathers of the Moabites and the Ammonites. Edom is the name given to the descendants of Esau, Jacob's older brother. When the children of Israel were on their way to the Promised Land, God made it clear they were not to attempt to take any of the land of Edom (Deuteronomy 2:5). At times there was relative peace between Israel and Edom (2 Kings 3:9). However, Moab tried to hire the prophet Balaam to curse Israel (Numbers 22–24). The Edomites refused to allow Israel to pass through their territory on their way to Canaan (Numbers 20:14–22). Later, Judah would defeat Edom (2 Chronicles 25:5–12). It seems Edom and Moab mistreated Jews fleeing the Babylonians, and attempted to settle the land once Israel was exiled. God followed up with severe judgment for Edom (Mt. Seir). The Babylonians later dealt harshly with Edom, and the prophet Malachi, at the close of the Old Testament, spoke of Edom's devastation in the past tense (Malachi 1:3). In the intertestamental period, about a century before Christ, the Maccabees conquered the remaining Edomites, many of whom underwent circumcision and conversion to Judaism. God kept all His promises concerning Israel's judgment and her restoration. Babylon, Egypt, Edom, Moab, and other nations all suffered for their gleeful mistreatment of Israel.

RESPOND

Use one or more of these **Respond** options to help your group members put into action the principles they learned in this lesson.

OPTION 1: Give learners small slips of paper. Ask them to write down one area of their life, family, or community that feels like “dry bones.” Collect them anonymously in a basket. Then, as a group, pray over these situations. Encourage learners to take home a slip of paper (not their own) and pray for that situation throughout the week.

OPTION 2: Ask volunteers to briefly share how God has restored and changed their lives. After some share, encourage your learners to ask God to help them make other changes they know need to be made.

OPTION 3: Ask learners to identify areas in which they are struggling and need God to breathe new life like He did for the dry bones. Encourage them to find, dwell on, and obey Scripture verses that deal with those areas and to ask God to breathe new life into those areas this week. The AH 1-3 *Bring New Life* handout can help.

D6 Devotional Study Guides provide resources to help parents disciple their children.



AH 1-3

Encourage your group members to complete the daily devotions in the D6 Devotional Study Guides this week.



PP-1

The *Parent Page (PP-1)* is a resource to help parents discuss the truths of this lesson with their children at home. Give copies of this page to those who will benefit from it and encourage them to use it at home this week. *Parent Page* is also available for FREE download at D6home.com. (No password required.)

Building Blocks

Share these Bible basics with your learners.

The first step in God's plan for salvation is to admit I am a sinner in need of a Savior.

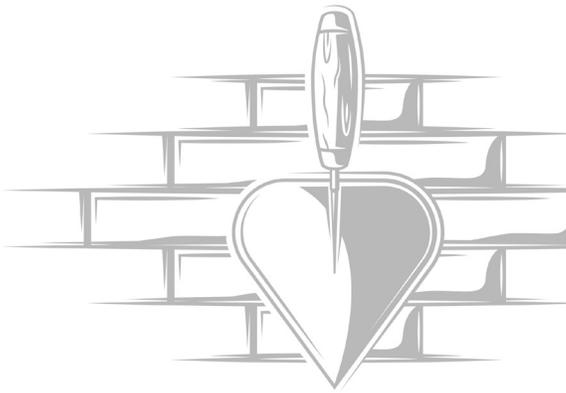
Pray!

FAMILY THEME

Lessons From the Life of Esther

LESSON OBJECTIVE: Learners put life lessons from Esther into action.

STUDY TEXT: Esther 4:1-17



CHECKLIST

- Study the biblical text and Adult Teacher's Guide.
- Review the *Adult Teaching Outline* (Adult Handout 2-1 or AH 2-1). You can take notes on this editable document as you study. You can also use it as a guide to teach from.
- Review *PowerPoint 2* and insert your own questions if needed.
- Print and make copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 2-2), the *God Works in All Things* handout (AH 2-3), and *Parent Page* (PP-2) if you have parents in your group. For free access to these handouts, scan the QR code on page 3 of this teaching guide or go to d6.family/6882.
- Distribute *Parent Page* (PP-2) to parents.

In This Character Study:

- An Introduction to Esther
- Key Events in Esther's Life
- Life Lessons to Apply From Esther
- Ways to Respond

Verse of the
Month

HEBREWS 13:8

CONNECT

Choose one of the **Connect** options to capture attention and get this session started.

OPTION 1: Show this video that discusses an aspect of the book of Esther that has puzzled some scholars: tinyurl.com/NameEsther. Discuss the video with your group. How do they see God at work in the book of Esther? Consider coming back to that question at the end of the lesson. After discussion, say: *While God’s name is not mentioned in the book of Esther, today we’ll examine how God was at work all throughout Esther’s story.*

OPTION 2: Ask your group to think about a time when everything seemed to fall into place—not by coincidence, but in a way that made them say, “Only God could have worked that out.” Invite 1–2 people to share. After discussion, say: *The book of Esther reminds us that even when we can’t see Him, God is always at work behind the scenes, arranging circumstances for His purpose.*

OPTION 3: Ask your learners to identify the following famous people by their real names:

- Laura Jeanne Reese (Reese Witherspoon)
- Paul David Hewson (Bono)
- Shelton Lee (Spike Lee)
- Peter Gene Hernandez (Bruno Mars)
- Eric Marlon Bishop (Jamie Foxx)
- Marion Morrison (John Wayne)

After guesses, say: *We often know people by the names or titles the world gives them, but those don’t tell their full story. Today we’ll meet someone who was known by two names: Hadassah and Esther. Through her life, we’ll see how God can use ordinary people in extraordinary ways.*



AH 2-1



AH 2-2

TEACHING TIP

Keep a class roster. You might overlook dropouts if you don’t keep up with who is attending.

LEARN + EXPLORE + APPLY

Distribute copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 2-2).

Meet Esther

Because Judah had forsaken God, they eventually found themselves in exile in the land of Babylon, transported in three different phases from 605 BC to 586 BC. Their exile from the land God had promised was a disciplinary action by God designed to bring the nation back to

Him in repentance. This study will focus on events during the reign of Persian ruler Xerxes, known also as Ahasuerus (485–465 BC). God used a woman named Esther to save His people.

Key Events and Life Lessons from Esther's Life

KEY EVENT: God Directed Events That Made Esther Queen (Esther 1-2)

In the third year of his reign, King Ahasuerus (Xerxes) threw a feast to display his power and wealth (1:3–4). Accompanying this feast was a series of gifts given to the attendees designed to impress them with the king's vast wealth as well as his generosity (1:5–6). As was typical during such feasts, alcohol flowed freely emboldening the king and others as their drinking seemed to smother inhibitions and drown wisdom (1:7–8). In his inebriated state the king decided that he would show off the queen to impress his guests with her grace and beauty. This offhanded demand not only sought to objectify Vashti but also conflicted with the feast for women that Vashti had organized and undoubtedly was hosting for the ladies of the kingdom (verse 9). When Vashti refused the king's demand the egotistical nobles and drunken king were enraged (1:10–12). After discussing the matter, it was decided that the queen should be deposed for her insubordination (1:13–22).

Though the king could have any woman he wanted, he thought about Queen Vashti. At this point the king's advisors suggested that the king sponsor a process that involved a contest to find the queen's replacement (2:1–4). The biblical writer introduced the reader to a Jewish man named Mordecai. After a brief description of Mordecai's exiled family, we learn he had become responsible for his uncle's orphaned daughter named Hadassah or Esther, who was a strikingly beautiful young woman (2:5–7). As the search began for the new queen, many lovely young women were placed under the care of Hegai, who would sift through the "contestants" and select those who would receive further training and preparation (2:8–9). Esther caught the attention of those in charge. As she cooperated with the instructions of the officials, she never mentioned she was Jewish. Every day Mordecai, her guardian and protector, came by the court to check on Esther and her progress (2:10–11). As she progressed in the evaluation, Esther carefully followed the instructions of Hegai and continued to move through the competition until she won the approval of the king himself. In the end the king loved her more than any of the other competitors and held a feast announcing Esther as the new queen (2:12–18). God's sovereignty worked to bring Esther to the position of queen.

You will not have time to read all the Scripture listed for this lesson. Summarize the commentary and read the Scripture passages you feel are most important.

Discussion questions can also be found on the *Adult Teaching Outline* (AH 2-1), and on *PowerPoint 2*, which is customizable. Files *2A* and *2B* are provided for customization.

Life Lesson 1: Trust that God is sovereign. All through the book of Esther we see that God works through seemingly inconsequential events to bring about His will.

DISCUSS:

- *How did God use the events in Esther’s life—both big and small—to place her in a position of influence?*
- *When do you find it most difficult to trust God? What role might disappointment play in this?*
- *How might remembering God’s sovereignty change the way we respond to disappointment or delay?*

APOLOGETICS:

The book of Esther is unique in that God’s name never appears, yet His presence is unmistakable. This challenges the modern idea that if we cannot *see* or *name* God’s activity, He must be absent. However, God is always at work, even when He chooses not to make His presence obvious. This reinforces the Christian understanding of providence—God’s continuous involvement in sustaining and guiding His creation. Faith means trusting that unseen hand. As *Discipleship* by Robert E. Picirilli notes, believers are called to live faithfully “even when God does not seem to speak,” because obedience is always the right response (Picirilli, *Discipleship*, p. 75).

At the end of the second chapter the author gives two facts about Esther and Mordecai that seem out of place until later in the story. First, the story emphasizes once again that Esther had not told anyone that she was Jewish (**2:19–20**). Second, Mordecai uncovered an assassination plot hatched by Bigthan and Teresh, two eunuchs within the king’s court. Mordecai informed Esther who, in turn, informed the proper officials. When the assassination plot was revealed, King Ahasuerus’ life was spared, and the would-be assassins were executed. Esther made sure Mordecai received credit for saving the king’s life (**2:21–23**).

 **KEY EVENT: God Used Mordecai to Secure Esther’s Help (Esther 3–4)**

Trouble arose for the Jewish people when the king chose to promote a vile man named Haman who was an Agagite (**3:1**). This indicates that Haman was from an Amalekite family (descendants of Esau and long-time enemies of Israel, Exodus 17:8; Judges 6:3). At the king’s command his officials bowed as Haman passed, but Mordecai refused to

bow. Other servants questioned Mordecai's refusal, but he persisted. Upon learning that Mordecai was Jewish, Haman's rage swelled until thoughts of genocide filled his mind (3:2–6). Leveraging the king's foolish trust, Haman misrepresented the Jews and manipulated royal orders for the complete destruction of the Jewish people (3:7–15). God's sovereignty is again seen in determining the date for the attack. The superstitious casting of lots resulted in the last month of the year being chosen, which would allow for plenty of time for all the intervening events to take place.

Upon learning of the coming assault, Mordecai immediately began mourning in sackcloth and ashes as was customary for the Jewish people. Positioning himself at the king's gate, he continued to cry aloud and fast until word reached Esther. Esther sent her servant, Hathach, to take clothes to Mordecai and find out what was happening. Mordecai explained the decree of destruction, showed the evidence, and asked Esther to intervene with the king (4:1–9).

Esther initially resisted Mordecai's request. Anyone who entered the king's throne room without an invitation was subject to execution unless the king extended his golden scepter. The king had not summoned Esther for 30 days and, in view of the fate of her predecessor, Esther realized the king was not averse to deposing queens whom he considered to be unruly (4:10–11). Mordecai refused to let Esther decline this responsibility. He insisted she could not sit safely in the palace and avoid this matter. If she refused to help, deliverance would come from some other place, but she would perish. After all, maybe this was why God placed her in the palace (4:12–14).

Life Lesson 2: God places His people in strategic positions so they can act as His instruments in key moments.

DISCUSS:

- *Mordecai's stand against bowing to Haman could have cost him his life. What helps you stay firm in your convictions when the cost is high?*
- *Mordecai suggested that Esther might have been placed in her position for "such a time as this." What does this teach us about God's provision for and protection of His people?*
- *What are some situations where believers might be reluctant to get involved, even when they should?*

Sufficiently corrected, Esther asked Mordecai to gather the local Jews for three days of fasting along with herself and the young women of her court. After fasting, she would go to the king without an appointment at the risk of her life. Resigned to the utter importance of this

matter, Esther put her fear aside and decided to see the king even if it meant her death (4:15–17).

Life Lesson 3: Be courageous when God calls you to stand for His will and ways.

DISCUSS:

- *How can we prepare ourselves spiritually to be courageous when God calls us to act? (Trusting and obeying God in the daily “little things” will help us be ready to trust and obey Him when “big things” come.)*
- *How can we tell when it’s time to wait on God and when it’s time to act courageously like Esther?*

 **KEY EVENT: God Used Esther to Expose the Plot to Kill the Jews (Esther 5-7)**

After fasting three days, Esther donned her royal attire and made her way to the king’s throne room. Nervous for her life, Esther’s sense of mission for her people outweighed her fear as she pushed through the doors and entered the king’s presence. Seeing his beautiful new queen, the king extended his golden scepter, expressing his acceptance of her entrance. Esther gracefully proposed that he and Haman attend a feast prepared by her. While they feasted the king again asked Esther to tell him what she wanted. At this, she proposed another day of feasting (5:1–8).

As Haman left the feast, he felt cheerful and optimistic about his future. But then he passed by Mordecai, whose presence filled him with rage. Once home, Haman sat with his wife, Zeresh, and gave his account of the events of the day. His wife and friends suggested he build gallows 50 cubits high so he could hang Mordecai in humiliating view of the public (5:9–14).

After that day’s feast, the king was unable to sleep. To make good use of his time he ordered that the book of memorable deeds be brought and read to him. In this reading he learned Mordecai had thwarted an assassination attempt by two palace guards. He asked what had been done to honor Mordecai for his help and learned that nothing had been done for the man (6:1–3).

Ahasuerus decided that such a noble deed should not go without recognition. Haman had just entered the palace wanting to talk to the king about publicly executing Mordecai. The king, however, approached Haman excitedly and asked him his opinion for how the king should honor someone. Mistakenly thinking that the king meant

to honor him, Haman responded with an extravagant answer filled with self-interest. Impressed by Haman's idea, the king instructed Haman to do everything he described for Mordecai. Mortified at the unexpected turn of events, Haman led a royal horse carrying Mordecai through the streets shouting to the public about the king's delight in the man Haman intended to murder. When he told his wife and friends about the day's events, they realized Haman might be in serious trouble (6:4–13).

Haman's conversation with his wife and friends ended abruptly when the king's eunuchs came to escort Haman to that day's feast prepared by Queen Esther (6:14). Once the feast started the king revisited his offer to the queen. This was the third time Esther had heard this offer. She finally made her request. Esther asked that the king intervene for the lives of her and her people. It was a matter of life and death that they had been targeted for destruction by a powerful individual. Rising in anger, the king demanded to know the identity of such a treacherous person. Esther pointed out Haman as the wicked enemy of her people (7:1–6).

Realizing that Haman had manipulated him into endorsing his genocidal scheme, the king went into the palace garden. Possibly feeling that Esther might be persuaded to appeal to the king for mercy, Haman went to her to plead for his life. As the king returned from his walk it appeared that the high official was trying to assault the queen. Immediately, the king passed judgment on Haman demanding his face be covered for execution. Understanding the turn of events, one of the eunuchs mentioned to the king that Haman had constructed huge gallows intended for Mordecai. Without hesitation the king demanded that Haman be hanged on the gallows he had prepared (7:7–10).

Life Lesson 4: Let God take vengeance. He will bring the wicked to punishment (Romans 12:17–19).

DISCUSS:

- *How does it encourage you to know that God is always at work, even when the world seems upside down?*
- *How does Mordecai's story remind us that God's timing for justice is often slower than ours but always right?*

 **KEY EVENT: God Used Esther and Mordecai to Help the Jews Defend Themselves (Esther 8–10)**

In keeping with customs of the time, King Ahasuerus gave Haman's estate to Queen Esther. Additionally, Esther finally revealed her con-

nection with Mordecai, which resulted in the king bringing Mordecai into his presence (8:1). The king took the signet ring that acted as a sign of power for Haman and gave it to Mordecai (8:2).

Though Haman was no longer a threat, there remained an edict allowing for the complete annihilation of the Jews that even the king could not rescind. Esther pleaded with the king to intervene in the matter. Since the king's original decree could not be revoked, he authorized her to write an accompanying edict for the benefit of her Jewish people (8:3–8). Mordecai assisted in the counter-edict under the king's authority permitting the Jews to defend themselves against anyone who might try to attack them (8:9–14). Newly promoted by the king, Mordecai's leadership and wisdom caused great joy in the city of Susa. As news of the edict allowing the Jews to defend themselves spread, they held feasts in celebration (8:15–17).

When the day arrived for the enemies of the Jews to attack, kill, and subdue them, the opposite happened. In the city of Susa the Jews killed 500 men as they defended themselves. Though there was much defensive killing none of the Jews attempted to take plunder from the situation (9:1–15). In response to their victory the Jewish people celebrated with feasts and gifts (9:16–19). Later, with Mordecai's help, the feast of Purim became an official part of the Jewish calendar, remembering the deliverance of the Jews from their enemies (9:20–22). Esther, an orphaned girl, played a key role in God's deliverance of His people (9:29–32).

There will be times when it seems as though the wicked are winning. We must remember, however, that God still exercises justice in His world. Our duty is to remain faithful to Him and trust His justice.

Life Lesson 5: Give thanks to God daily for all the ways He is good to you.

DISCUSS:

- *While the name of God is not mentioned in the book of Esther, where are the places in the story that clearly reflect God's movement?*
- *What are some ways you or your family can celebrate God's faithfulness today?*

Ways to Respond: Encourage your learners to put what they have learned into action this week.

OPTION 1: Ask learners to think of someone who is discouraged or facing uncertainty. Challenge them to send that person a handwritten

note or message this week reminding them that God is still at work behind the scenes, just as He was in Esther's story.

OPTION 2: Ask learners to write or share how God has used big or small events or moments to work in their lives and to bring about His will. God is able to use whatever is happening to bring about His will. Encourage learners to trust God this week and watch for ways He uses various events to work His will. AH 2-3 can help.

OPTION 3: Ask your learners to identify a way God wants them to stand for His will and ways this week even if it costs them. This could mean doing what is right and best when alone, or it could be standing for what is right when others do not. Encourage them to stand firm this week.

Encourage your group members to complete the daily devotions in the D6 Devotional Study Guides this week.

Building Blocks

Share these Bible basics with your learners.

The second step in God's plan for salvation is to believe Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for my sin.

Pray!



AH 2-3



PP-2

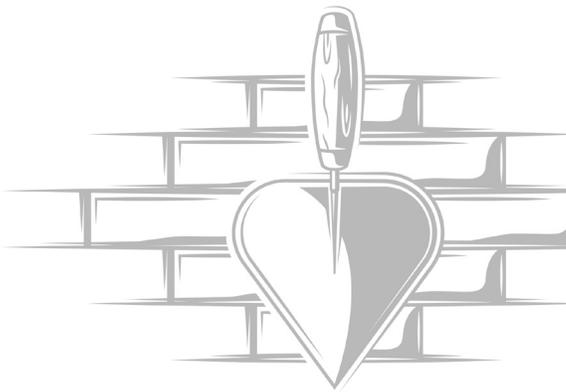
The Parent Page (PP-2) is a resource to help parents discuss the truths of this lesson with their children at home. Give copies of this page to those who will benefit from it and encourage them to use it at home this week. *Parent Page* is also available for FREE download at D6home.com. (No password required.)

FAMILY THEME

Christ Reigns Supreme

LESSON OBJECTIVE: Learners worship and serve Christ who is superior to all and suffered for us.

STUDY TEXT: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:10-18; 4:14-16



CHECKLIST

- Study the biblical text and Adult Teacher's Guide.
- Review the *Adult Teaching Outline* (Adult Handout 3-1 or AH 3-1). You can take notes on this editable document as you study. You can also use it as a guide to teach from.
- Review *PowerPoint 3* and insert your own questions if needed.
- Print and make copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 3-2), the *He Suffered for Us* handout (AH 3-3), and *Parent Page* (PP-3) if you have parents in your group. For free access to these handouts, scan the QR code on page 3 of this teaching guide or go to d6.family/6882.
- Distribute *Parent Page* (PP-3) to parents.

Key Truths

- **Jesus Is Superior to All Others, Including Prophets, Priests, Kings, and Angels** (Hebrews 1:1-4)
- **Jesus' Suffering Brought Us Many Benefits** (Hebrews 2:10-18; 4:14-16)

Verse of the
Month

HEBREWS 13:8

CONNECT

Choose one of the **Connect** options to capture attention and get this session started.

OPTION 1: Show this video that explains why Jesus is supreme to all others and is the true and better Savior: tinyurl.com/JesusTrue. Discuss the video with your group. After discussion, say: *Christ reigns supreme! Today we'll examine the book of Hebrews and see how Jesus is superior to all others.*

OPTION 2: Write the term *GOAT* on the board in all caps. Ask your learners what it means in sports if someone is called the *GOAT* (Greatest of All Time). Then ask which players might be considered the *GOAT* in various sports. After discussion, say: *The greatest players in men's and women's sports are debatable. Today, however, we will see that Jesus is superior to all others.*

OPTION 3: Ask your learners to share a time when they sought out advice or wisdom from someone who had been through what they were going through. How did it help to talk with someone who had experience in what they were facing? After discussion, say: *We go through all kinds of difficulties, trials, and temptations. Today we will see that we can go to Jesus for help because He lived among us and went through the same kinds of difficulties that we go through.*

LEARN + EXPLORE + APPLY

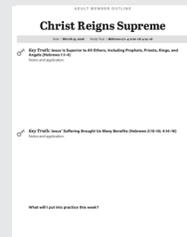
Distribute copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 3-2).

The book of Hebrews was written approximately 30 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Christianity was spreading quickly, and persecution of believers was beginning to break out in many areas. This letter was written to a group of Christians who were in such an area. These Christians were largely from a Jewish background, and they were beginning to suffer at the hands of their unsaved Jewish brothers because they had been accused of deserting the faith of their fathers. Things were getting difficult, and the temptation was to revert to Judaism—go back to the old covenant systems, the old Law, the old priesthood—with the hope of finding relief from persecution. The author of Hebrews was warning his readers *not* to revert back to Judaism. The old covenant forms—things like priests, prophets, sacrifices, and the Temple—were all foreshadows of Christ, the true priest, the true prophet, the true sacrifice, and the true Temple. The old covenant pointed to Christ, but now Christ had come. Over

Cue up videos and have them ready to play. D6 Family Ministry does not control ads shown before or after videos.



AH 3-1



AH 3-2

TEACHING TIP

Encourage your group members to take notes by giving them verbal clues about what is most important.

APPLY:

Hold on to faith in Christ. Knowing Him is worth any difficulty we face in this life.



PowerPoint 3

The discussion questions can also be found on the Adult Teaching Outline (AH 3-1) and on *PowerPoint 3*, which is customizable. Files 3A and 3B are provided for customization.

APPLY:

Trust Jesus' Word. It always comes to pass.

and over again, the author of Hebrews was telling them that Jesus is better than anything they would find back in the old covenant. That seems to be the theme of Hebrews: *stand firm in your faith for Jesus is better*. The author beautifully demonstrates the supremacy of the person of Jesus Christ.

DISCUSS:

- *What kinds of difficulties might believers face for following Jesus? How can knowing His greatness help us endure them?*

KEY TRUTH: Jesus Is Superior to All Others, Including Prophets, Priests, Kings, and Angels (Hebrews 1:1-4)

In Old Testament times, the nation of Israel was led by prophets, priests, judges, and kings. Each of these roles was separate from the others. Rarely did one man wear more than one title. Because of this, it is important to note that Jesus serves in every role. We're familiar with Jesus as Savior (which is similar to the role of *deliverer* that the Old Testament judges fulfilled), but He also wears the titles of Prophet, Priest, and King.

PROPHET—The role of a prophet in the Old Testament was to speak the Word of God. Some prophets would foretell events, perform healings, and do miracles. Jesus did all these things. Multiple times He told His disciples that He would die and then rise again. He spoke of Judas' betrayal and Peter's denial before those things took place. He foretold the coming of the Holy Spirit, the persecution of His followers, and the destruction of the Temple. Perhaps most encouraging for believers today, Jesus prophesied of His coming return. These are just a few examples. Jesus not only spoke the Word of God, but *Jesus is the Word of God*. Moses spoke of a prophet to come (Deuteronomy 18:15). The fulfillment of this prophecy was found in Jesus.

DISCUSS:

- *What are some "voices" in our world today that compete with Jesus for authority in people's lives?*
- *How can we demonstrate that we trust Jesus' Word?*

In **Hebrews 1:1-2**, the writer said that in the past, God spoke to their fathers through the prophets in many ways and at many times, but *now* He has spoken through His Son. Jesus was the final declaration of God's revelation that fulfilled and completed the Old Testament. That is what makes the message of Jesus superior to the message that was given by the Old Testament prophets. He is the Son. There is no

other prophet about which God said, *Here is my Son*. Jesus is the best Prophet of all.

PRIEST—In the Old Testament, the priests were the temporary mediators between God and man. They offered the sacrifices required under the Law. Within that priesthood was a single high priest. He alone offered the sacrifice on the day of atonement that cleansed the people for one year. Jesus not only fulfilled the role of a priest, but He exceeded the role of the high priest by removing our sins forever.

DISCUSS:

- *What does it mean that Jesus made purification for sins possible? How should that affect how we live each day?*
- *Why do you think some people are more comfortable admiring Jesus as a good teacher rather than worshiping Him as God?*
- *What difference does it make that Jesus is not just greater than angels or prophets, but that He also became one of us?*

Hebrews 1:3 says the Son is the *radiance*—the brightness—of the glory of God. The verse ends by saying Jesus *sat down* at God’s right hand in Heaven. Here, *sat down* denotes *rest* or *completion*, and means that Jesus, after making purification for sins possible, had completed the work of salvation. What was needed for salvation is done; it is finished. There is nothing we need to add to it. We simply trust what Jesus did on the cross. Remember, that was the last thing He said on the cross—*It is finished*. The Jews who were tempted to return to Judaism did not need to go back to trying to keep the Law; Jesus had finished the work. He forgives those who trust Him and is our *compassionate advocate*. Jesus is not just a priest, he is our *forever* Priest, the only mediator we need.

KING—God had planned for His people to be governed by a king. Genesis 49:10 declared that one from the tribe of Judah would hold the scepter. Deuteronomy 17:14–20 provides strict stipulations for selecting a king and instructing how he should behave. The kingdom of David and the “son of David” provided numerous prophecies about a future kingdom. All these prophecies pointed to the true King, Christ Jesus, the Son of David. Jesus now sits in the place of honor at the right hand of God (**verse 3**). He has been given supreme authority on the throne. He holds *all authority* and is the *King of Kings and the Lord of Lords*.

The writer ultimately proclaimed in **Hebrews 1:4** that Jesus’ name is superior. The name of Jesus is the name above all names, including the names of the angels. The apostle Paul made a similar statement in Philippians, saying that at the name of Jesus, every knee should

APPLY:

Worship and live for Jesus. He did all that was necessary to save us by offering Himself as a sacrifice for our sin.

bow ([Philippians 2:9–10](#)). So, what does this mean for us? Jesus is the *rightful ruler* made flesh. In Him, God has given us a better prophet (a perfect Prophet), a better priest (a perfect Priest), and a better king (a perfect King). He is also superior to angels. He is superior to all.

EXPLORE:

Imagine how important Jesus' superiority was to people who were tempted to return to Judaism. The writer wanted the readers (and us) to recognize that Jesus was the fulfillment of all the traditions and prophecies and the Law of Judaism. In fact, Jesus is *better*! For deeper study, compare the opening verses of John's gospel with the opening verses of the book of Hebrews. There are parallels and similar language that establish Jesus as the eternal, powerful, Word of God.

KEY TRUTH: Jesus' Suffering Brought Us Many Benefits ([Hebrews 2:10–18](#); [4:14–16](#))

In the second half of Hebrews 2, the author outlined how the suffering of Jesus fully qualified Him as Savior. God became flesh and He suffered. The thought of Jesus needing to be made *perfect* in **verse 10** can feel unsettling. However, the word *perfect* here does not refer to moral perfection. Jesus had no sin. Instead, it means *complete* or *fully qualified* to be our Savior. His willingness to suffer on our behalf benefits all who trust in His saving work on the cross. What are those benefits?

First, **verses 11–13** reveal that *through the suffering of Jesus we were made family*. Because Jesus suffered, we have been made brothers and sisters to Jesus and children of God. There is a spiritual birth that takes place when we put our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior—we are born again, born of the Spirit. When we are born of the Spirit, we are brought into the family of God—becoming children of God. In Christ, we become brothers and sisters with all others who are born of the Spirit. Jesus suffered so that we might be made family.

Second, **verse 14** reveals that *through His suffering, Jesus destroyed the Devil's power over death*. When mankind rebelled in the garden and sin entered the world, death came because of sin. Because we are all guilty of sin, the justice of God requires the penalty be paid by all. The wages of sin is death. However, Jesus fully paid that penalty for us through His death in our place. Death has not yet been eliminated, but through the suffering of Jesus, the power of death has been destroyed.

Third, **verses 15–16** reveal that *through His suffering, Jesus delivered those who were slaves to the fear of death*. He suffered so we might be set free from the tyranny of that kind of fear. The fear of death is a cruel form of slavery. Our culture today is radically enslaved by the fear of death. Believers should avoid the temptation to surrender to fear's demands. This does *not* mean we ignore legitimate danger, but we must not bow to it. Our God has the keys to death, and He has suffered to deliver us from having to fear it.

DISCUSS:

- *How does knowing Jesus willingly suffered for you change the way you face suffering in your own life?*

Fourth, **verse 17** teaches us that *through His suffering, Christ became a merciful and faithful high priest*. The Old Testament priesthood was a picture of what Jesus would ultimately accomplish. Before Christ paid the price for our sins on the cross, the high priest would enter into the Holy of Holies once a year to offer a blood sacrifice to atone for the sins of Israel. The ministry of the priest was to *represent*. Jesus suffered that He might be made a merciful and faithful high priest who knows what we feel. He knows about our hurts, our pains, our fears, and our betrayals. He knows our sadness. He is representing us now before the Father. Jesus is our perfect representative before the Father because He knows and understands what we deal with. Due to this reality, we can confidently approach the throne of grace in prayer, knowing He is a merciful and gracious mediator on our behalf (**Hebrews 4:14–16**).

DISCUSS:

- *When we have struggles, what are sources of information or comfort we sometimes seek out before we take our needs to God? What causes us to have our priorities out of order?*
- *Christ lived among us and understands our struggles. How does that give us confidence to take our needs to God in prayer?*

APOLOGETICS:

Many religions picture their gods as distant and detached, untouched by human weakness. Christianity is different. In Jesus, God entered our world and experienced hunger, exhaustion, temptation, and pain—yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). This truth answers one of our culture's deepest questions: *Can God really understand me?* The incarnation shows that He can. As Robert E. Picirilli writes in *Discipleship*, faith means trusting a Savior who “commands holiness because He practiced it, and walks beside

APPLY:

Jesus' suffering brought salvation and victory over death.

APPLY:

Confidently take every need to God in prayer knowing that Christ, our mediator, understands our struggles.

us with mercy and understanding” (p. 91). Jesus doesn’t simply pardon us from afar—He helps us in the struggle.

Fifth, the last phrase of **verse 17** says Jesus suffered so He could make propitiation or atonement for the sins of the people. The word *propitiation* means to turn aside wrath by offering a gift. Jesus offered Himself to turn away God’s wrath from us. Therefore, *through His suffering, He removed the wrath of God for those who believe*. Jesus literally took God’s wrath for all of us. It allows us to have peace with God. The wrath of God has been turned away—consumed in the person of Jesus Christ. He suffered to take away that wrath so we might have peace with God.

Sixth, **verse 18** reminds us that *because He suffered when tempted, Jesus can help us when we are tempted*. Jesus knows and understands the temptations we deal with. He did not give in to temptation, but He understands the temptation. He was tempted yet endured *without* sin.

APPLY:

Go to Jesus for help with temptation. He was tempted but never sinned.

DISCUSS:

- *Why do we often hesitate to take our temptations to Jesus, even though He invites us to?*
- *What are some practical ways we can “go to Jesus” when we’re feeling tempted or weak?*

Remember, this letter was addressed to Jewish Christians who were being tempted to leave the gospel behind and revert back to legalism under the Law. The writer reminded them of what Jesus accomplished on the cross through His suffering. He suffered so we might have these many privileges, and it completed His saving work—it made Him the perfect Savior. Even in His suffering, the supremacy of Christ is showcased.

APPLY:

Jesus’ suffering brought us many benefits. Thank and obey Him daily.

DISCUSS:

- *What are some ways we can show we are thankful for the benefits Christ brings us?*

D6 Devotional Study Guides provide resources to help parents disciple their children.

RESPOND

Use one or more of these **Respond** options to help your group members put into action the principles they learned in this lesson.

OPTION 1: Ask each person to identify one specific area of life where they tend to feel anxious or weak. You could even encourage them to write down that area of life on a notecard or sticky note and place it in their purse or wallet. Challenge them to take that area to Jesus in prayer each day this week, remembering that He fully understands their struggles (Hebrews 4:15). Encourage them to record how God helps them through it.

OPTION 2: Ask your learners to list benefits we have because Jesus suffered on our behalf. How can we respond to His love and sacrifice in ways that demonstrate our thanks for what He has done for us? Encourage your learners to put some of these responses into action this week. The *He Suffered for Us* handout (AH 3-3) can help members plan their response.

OPTION 3: Ask learners to go to Christ for help to overcome any temptation they are struggling with. Remind them that Jesus was tempted, but did not give in. He understands what it is like to be tempted, and can help those who are being tempted (Hebrews 2:18).

Building Blocks

Share these Bible basics with your learners.

The third step in God's plan for salvation is to ask for His forgiveness and confess Jesus is Lord.

Pray!



AH 3-3

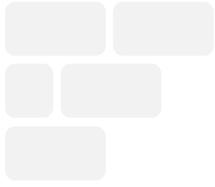
Encourage your group members to complete the daily devotions in the D6 Devotional Study Guides this week.



PP-3

The *Parent Page* (PP-3) is a resource to help parents discuss the truths of this lesson with their children at home. Give copies of this page to those who will benefit from it and encourage them to use it at home this week. *Parent Page* is also available for FREE download at D6home.com. (No password required.)

Notes

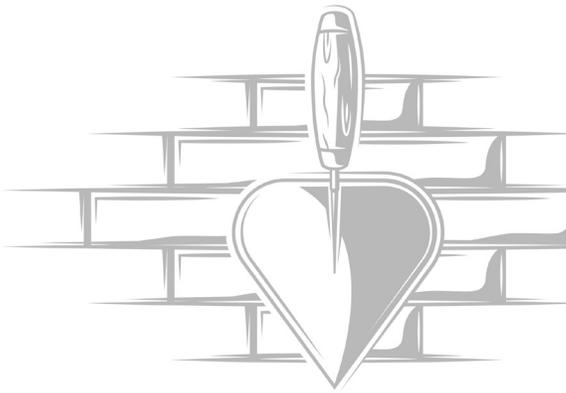


FAMILY THEME

Faith in Action

LESSON OBJECTIVE: Learners demonstrate their faith by putting it into action.

STUDY TEXT: Hebrews 11:1–40



CHECKLIST

- Study the biblical text and Adult Teacher's Guide.
- Review the *Adult Teaching Outline* (Adult Handout 4-1 or AH 4-1). You can take notes on this editable document as you study. You can also use it as a guide to teach from.
- Review *PowerPoint 4* and insert your own questions if needed.
- Print and make copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 4-2), the *Real Faith Works* poster (AH 4-3), the *You Can Trust His Word* handout (AH 4-4), and *Parent Page* (PP-4) if you have parents in your group. For free access to these handouts, scan the QR code on page 3 of this teaching guide or go to d6.family/6882.
- Distribute *Parent Page* (PP-4) to parents.

Key Truths

- True Faith Is Being Sure That What God Says Will Come to Pass (Hebrews 11:1–3)
- True Faith Produces Action (Hebrews 11:4–35a)
- True Faith Trusts God No Matter the Circumstances (Hebrews 11:35b–40)

Verse of the
Month

HEBREWS 13:8

Cue up videos and have them ready to play. D6 Family Ministry does not control ads shown before or after videos.



AH 4-1



AH 4-2



AH 4-3

TEACHING TIP

Use your class roster as a prayer list through the week, praying for every student by name.

CONNECT

Choose one of the **Connect** options to capture attention and get this session started.

OPTION 1: Darrell Green was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2008. He's considered one of the greatest football players of all time. Show this speech from Green: tinyurl.com/GreenHOF. Discuss the video with your group. What stands out about the speech? After discussion, say: *Today we're going to examine a different type of hall of fame. Each person we discuss lived a life that pointed forward to Jesus and reflected faith in action.*

OPTION 2: Ask learners to give examples of simple ways all people demonstrate faith in daily living. Examples might include sitting in a chair believing it will hold us, going to bed expecting the sun to come up in the morning, and flipping the light switch expecting a light to come on. Why do we have faith in those things? After discussion, say: *All people demonstrate faith in certain ways. Today we will see how believers can demonstrate their faith in God.*

OPTION 3: Bring in or describe a book or movie that ends with a cliffhanger. Ask group members to name their favorite cliffhangers in books, TV shows, or movies. Do cliffhangers intrigue or frustrate them? After discussion, say: *As we'll examine today, many people in Hebrews 11 never saw God's promises fulfilled in their lifetime—but they trusted Him anyway. That's real faith.*

LEARN + EXPLORE + APPLY

Distribute copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 4-2) and display the *Real Faith Works* poster (AH 4-3).

The book of Hebrews was written to a group of Jewish Christians who were tempted to revert back to Judaism due to the cultural pressures and persecutions they were experiencing. They considered abandoning the gospel of Jesus to alleviate those pressures. The writer, however, had spent the majority of his letter explaining why Jesus was superior to all the traditions, rituals, systems, and laws that Judaism was founded upon. He shifted in chapter 11 to the heritage of faith that God's people had demonstrated throughout their history. He provided example after example of how their actions demonstrated their faith in God.

KEY TRUTH: True Faith Is Being Sure That What God Says Will Come to Pass (Hebrews 11:1-3)

Hebrews 11:1 describes what faith is. Unfortunately, the word *faith* in today's world has been poorly defined and poorly explained. What is true, biblical faith? Let's begin by establishing what biblical faith is *not*. Biblical faith is not simply a positive feeling. Our feelings rise and fall and can often be misaligned from truth. Biblical faith is not blind optimism. It is not wishful thinking, as our culture tends to assume. Biblical faith is not believing in spite of evidence. It is more than these things.

The author began his description of faith by writing that *faith is the assurance of things hoped for* (some translations use the word *substance* or the phrase *being sure of* instead of *assurance*). The words *assurance* and *hoped* are important and need more explanation.

DISCUSS:

- *What's the difference between believing that God exists and truly trusting in Him?*
- *God wants us to have a confident assurance that what He says is true. How can we develop a deep, confident faith in Him and His Word?*

Interestingly, the Greek word for assurance, *hypostasis*, was used in legal documents to describe “evidence of ownership,” similar to how we would think of a title deed. The writer of Hebrews was suggesting that faith is like a title deed for what we hope for. It is the confident assurance supporting our hope. Many blessings that we claim as followers of Christ are spiritual blessings, which are not seen. But faith gives us confident assurance that those blessings are real. Faith is being sure that what we hope for will come to pass.

People often use the word *hope* to express what they would like to see happen, but without the absolute confidence that it will happen. “I hope it doesn't rain.” “I hope my team wins.” “I hope she says yes.” But those usages really have no correlation to the biblical idea of *hope*. The world likely sees our hope in the same way. However, the thing that makes our hope different is God—the *assurance* that comes from knowing Him. That is why our hope is different from the wishful thinking of the world—our hope is based in a faithful God who cannot lie, and not in a wish.

Hebrews 11:1 ends with *the conviction* (also translated as evidence) of *things not seen*. This is in reference to that inward conviction possessed by the believer that God is going to bring to pass what He has

APPLY:

Develop a confident assurance that what God says is true.



PowerPoint 4

The discussion questions can also be found on the *Adult Teaching Outline* (AH 4-1) and on *PowerPoint 4*, which is customizable. Files 4A and 4B are provided for customization.

promised. One might ask, “How do you know?” Because we have faith. “Faith is just wishful thinking.” No, faith is confident expectation based on the *Person* of God, His unchanging and unwavering faithfulness. Therefore, it is the understanding that He *will* bring these things to pass. When we have this conviction, we simply know that God is going to do what He said He will do.

APPLY:

Live each day with confidence in God’s plan.

DISCUSS:

- *Why can we be confident that what God has said will come to pass? (We know God; He cannot lie; many promises are already fulfilled; we have seen God’s faithfulness; etc.)*

In **verses 2–3**, the writer made two statements about faith. First, the people of old were commended for their faith; their faith was pleasing to God. This was not to say that God did not commend them for their obedience from time to time, but ultimately, they were commended because of their faith. The second statement the author made was that it was by faith that we understand that God created the universe from nothing. Both general revelation (what we see around us) and special revelation (God’s inspired Word) teach us that God created everything. We confidently believe that is true by faith.

DISCUSS

- *How is Creation the starting point of faith? What happens to faith when we lose sight of God as Creator and Sustainer?*

EXPLORE:

What are some things we are confidently assured of in Christ, but cannot yet see?

- Our sins have been washed away
- God is sovereignly overseeing the affairs of mankind
- Jesus will return for His Church
- Physical death ushers us into His presence
- We have an inheritance waiting for us in Heaven
- We will receive a new physical body
- Death, disease, and decay will be vanquished
- We will be transformed into His likeness
- We will be reunited with those who have died in Christ

APPLY:

Faith begins with believing God created all there is.

 **KEY TRUTH: True Faith Produces Action**
(Hebrews 11:4–35a)

In chapter 11, the author demonstrated that faith has always been the means of living in a way that is pleasing to God, even during the Old Testament. Furthermore, it has always been by faith that God's people have endured the challenges that go along with living in this world.

This is true for the people of God today. The world is never going to like, accept, or embrace God's people. We will have to endure. How do we endure? *By faith*. God is not asking anything of us that He did not expect of other believers throughout history.

In **verses 4–40**, the author presented several examples or witnesses who illustrated faith and endurance. In [Hebrews 12:1](#) He referred to them as the *cloud of witnesses*. Chapter 11 is often referred to as “the hall of faith.”

The first of these examples is Abel, who offered God a more acceptable sacrifice than his brother Cain. He was commended for his faithful sacrifices, and his testimony of righteousness continues to echo through history (**verse 4**). Enoch's faithful life led to him being taken into glory without experiencing physical death—his faith was commended for having pleased God (**verse 5**). One can make the argument that the theme of the entire chapter is summarized in **verse 6**. The author reemphasized the importance of faith. Notice the strength of the statement. He did not say that without faith it is difficult or challenging to please God, but that it is *impossible* to please God. **Verse 7** revealed that Noah became the heir of righteousness because he built an ark, believing God would do what He said He would do.

In **verses 8–12**, the author focused on the father of Israel—Abraham—and his wife, Sarah. The Lord asked Abraham to leave what was familiar to him and trust God for what came next. Whenever we are called to do something that is unfamiliar or difficult, it takes a special dose of faith. Abraham, by faith, obeyed—he did so because he trusted God. Abraham was a man of faith, but his faith was not perfect. In fact, he made several poor choices out of fear instead of faith. However, he is listed here as a hallmark display of faith.

The message of **verses 13–16** should resonate in our hearts. This does not mean that our life here should mean nothing to us, but it is a reminder that our eyes should be lifted up to a greater reality, an eternal reality—the goodness of God and what He has prepared for us. We need to acknowledge that we are strangers here; we are exiles, just like the individuals the author said were strangers and exiles. An exile is someone who is living where he or she does not really belong.

That is us. We are now citizens of the kingdom of God by our faith in Jesus Christ, and we are no longer truly at home in this world. The kingdom we now belong to is diametrically opposed to the worldly kingdom that is going on around us. We must stand for righteousness and encourage reform where it is necessary. We must reflect the kindness and grace and wisdom of Jesus in a world that is desperate for it. However, this kingdom is never going to be our home. The apostle Paul told us that because of people's sin, things will become more and more difficult as we get closer to the end ([2 Timothy 3:1-9](#)). Therefore, we lift our eyes to that greater reality waiting for us in Heaven (**Hebrews 11:13-16**).

APPLY:

Live like a citizen of God's kingdom. This world is not our permanent home.

DISCUSS:

- *What does this chapter teach us about what God values most in His people?*
- *How should knowing you belong to God's kingdom change the way you live?*

In **verses 17-35a**, the author continued to show us examples of great things done by people who lived by faith—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, the Israelites, Rahab, and many others. Their faith resulted in action. All these people mentioned in this hall of faith struggled with faith at times. They were carnal, selfish, and many did foolish things. They were imperfect people who made imperfect choices. But they still had great faith and put that faith into action by obeying God's Word.

APPLY:

Like the heroes of the faith, prove your faith by putting it into action.

DISCUSS:

- *Examine Hebrews 11. Which person's example challenges you the most? Why?*
- *How might your story of faith one day encourage others like these stories encourage us?*

KEY TRUTH: True Faith Trusts God No Matter the Circumstances ([Hebrews 11:35b-40](#))

In **verses 35b-40**, the author introduced his readers to others who had great faith but did not experience what the world would consider to be victory or blessing. They remained true to God, trusting Him by faith, and suffered for it. Their experience does not seem to be what we would expect from people of great faith. Yet, these were heroes of faith, nonetheless. This is the part of the letter that should have been most encouraging to the recipients because they, too, were going through really hard times. Like those mentioned in **verses 35b-38**,

they were suffering for their faith. The writer wanted them to know that great faith does not always result in great victory, but they should stay strong in faith anyway. In the midst of great difficulties and horrific persecution, they should lay hold of faith and refuse to let go. The author highlighted that tenacity of faith that says, “I do not care what is happening around me. I am going to have faith in God anyway.”

Those examples from **verses 35b–38** endured with faith and did not receive what they were hoping for, but they died with their faith intact (**verses 39–40**). Often, we only associate great faith with experiencing great miracles, or moving metaphorical mountains, or having great victory over this or that challenge. However, it seems we might miss out on understanding what faith *ought* to produce in our lives. We end up missing what real faith is because our definition of faith is too narrow. That is what the writer of Hebrews was doing for his readers in this passage—he was enlarging their understanding of what faith is. When people hold on to faith, even when it looks like disaster has hit, that is victory. When people have not yet seen God answer but hold on to faith and keep praying anyway—that is victory. That is conquering unbelief.

DISCUSS:

- *Hebrews 11:35–40 tells of believers who suffered greatly for their faith. How does this challenge the idea that trusting God always leads to a comfortable life?*
- *What are some ways faith grows stronger through suffering instead of being destroyed by it?*
- *How can other believers help us stay strong in faith when we feel discouraged or alone?*
- *How does the cross remind us that faith doesn't guarantee comfort but does guarantee God's presence?*

APOLOGETICS:

One of the hardest questions people ask is, “Why does God allow bad things to happen?” If He saved Esther, Daniel, and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, why doesn't He rescue everyone who trusts Him? Hebrews 11 answers that question honestly. Some heroes of faith were delivered, but others were tortured, scourged, imprisoned, and killed (verses 35–37). The difference was not in their faith—but in God's purpose. Evil exists because people are free to rebel against God, yet His sovereignty is never defeated by their choices. The same God who shut the lions' mouths also welcomed martyrs into His presence. Miracles are temporary, but faith endures forever. As Dr. Robert E. Picirilli writes in

APPLY:

Trust God no matter the circumstances. Having faith does not guarantee an easy life.

Discipleship, “Real trust is measured not by how much we escape suffering, but by how faithfully we keep obeying in it” (p. 123). God still rescues—but sometimes the rescue comes through eternity, not before it.

This is seeing something that looks like a major defeat and realizing God has been working in the midst of it. That changes how we view faith, how we recognize it, and it strengthens our trust in God. Even if we are walking through a difficult season, we can have faith that God is doing good things—that He is working for good in the midst of it. The life of faith can sometimes appear very much like defeat, but Jesus provided a greater faith. God’s people have always lived by that faith—the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things unseen.

RESPOND

Use one or more of these **Respond** options to help your group members put into action the principles they learned in this lesson.

OPTION 1: Bring notecards or sticky notes (or encourage group members to use their phones). Invite each person to write: “By faith, I will . . .” and complete the sentence with an area of life that’s a current struggle (e.g., “By faith, I will forgive,” “By faith, I will trust God’s timing,” “By faith, I will share Christ with a friend”). Encourage group members to pray over those sentences during their prayer times this week. Pray together, asking God to help each person live out that statement this week.

OPTION 2: Strengthen your learners’ faith in God’s Word by giving them a copy of AH 4-4 “You Can Trust His Word.” It gives reasons we can have confidence in God’s Word. Discuss the reasons and encourage your learners to obey God’s reliable Word this week.

OPTION 3: The heroes of Hebrews 11 showed their faith not just by what they believed, but by what they did. God calls us to live out that same kind of active faith today. Discuss various ways we can put faith into action at home, at work, at church, and in the community. After discussion, encourage your learners to choose a couple of ways they will demonstrate their faith this week with actions.

D6 Devotional Study Guides provide resources to help parents disciple their children.



AH 4-4

Building Blocks

Share these Bible basics with your learners.

Baptism is a symbol of the believer's death to sin and resurrection to new life in Christ.

Pray!

Encourage your group members to complete the daily devotions in the D6 Devotional Study Guides this week.



PP-4

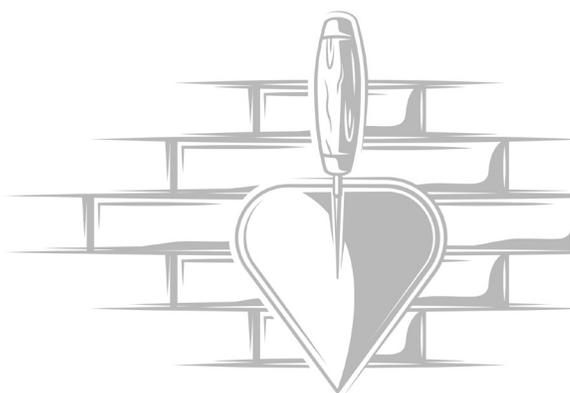
The *Parent Page (PP-4)* is a resource to help parents discuss the truths of this lesson with their children at home. Give copies of this page to those who will benefit from it and encourage them to use it at home this week. *Parent Page* is also available for FREE download at D6home.com. (No password required.)

FAMILY THEME

Preparation for the Cross

LESSON OBJECTIVE: Learners worship and live for Jesus because He gave His life as a sacrifice for our sins.

STUDY TEXT: Luke 22:1-65



CHECKLIST

- Study the biblical text and Adult Teacher's Guide.
- Review the *Adult Teaching Outline* (Adult Handout 5-1 or AH 5-1). You can take notes on this editable document as you study. You can also use it as a guide to teach from.
- Review *PowerPoint 5* and insert your own questions if needed.
- Print and make copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 5-2), the *Great in God's Eyes* handout (AH 5-3), and *Parent Page* (PP-5) if you have parents in your group. For free access to these handouts, scan the QR code on page 3 of this teaching guide or go to d6.family/6882.
- Distribute *Parent Page* (PP-5) to parents.

Key Truths

- Jesus Used the Passover to Help Prepare His Followers for His Sacrifice (Luke 22:1-38)
- Jesus Submitted to the Father's Plan for Our Salvation (Luke 22:39-46)
- Jesus' Betrayal and Arrest Were Part of His Sacrifice (Luke 22:47-65)

Verse of the
Month

HEBREWS 13:8

CONNECT

Choose one of the **Connect** options to capture attention and get this session started.

OPTION 1: Consider showing this video that explains the purpose of the Lord's Supper and how it can be an act of worship: tinyurl.com/SupperPacker. Discuss the video with your group. After discussion, say: *Today we will examine the days leading up to the crucifixion and see how Jesus prepared His disciples for what was about to happen.*

OPTION 2: Begin by asking your learners to name someone who might be considered a significant trailblazer (Examples: Lewis and Clark; Amelia Earhart; Jackie Robinson; Pop and Mom Willey—pioneer missionaries to Cuba; etc.). After several examples, say: *True trailblazers set an example for others to follow. Jesus showed us how we should treat those who treat us badly. Today we will talk about how we can follow His example.*

OPTION 3: Ask learners if they've ever had a meal they'll never forget. Was it because of where they were? Was it fine dining? Excellent food? Are their memories strong because of the people who were there? After discussion, say: *The last meal Jesus shared with His disciples wasn't ordinary—it pointed forward to His sacrifice on the cross and gave His followers a way to remember Him forever.*

LEARN + EXPLORE + APPLY

Distribute copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 5-2).

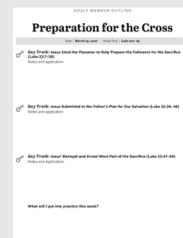
After foretelling the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem, and signs that would indicate the coming of the Son of Man was near, Jesus urged the people to be ready for these events (**Luke 21**). He was teaching every day in the Temple (21:37–38). With the Passover feast approaching, the chief priests and scribes sought a way to put Jesus to death because they were afraid the people would follow Him. Judas provided a way. Under Satan's influence, he met with the religious leaders and planned how to betray Jesus so He could be arrested away from the crowd (**Luke 22:1–6**).

Note the role that fear played in the actions of the chief priests, scribes, and Judas. They acted in secret *for they feared the people* (**Luke 22:2**). The amazing love of God as displayed through the mercy and grace of the Cross delivers us from the grip of fear. We don't have to wonder how God feels about us or will feel about us if we bring our sins into the light. He loves us, before we ever love Him (**1 John 4:19**).

Cue up videos and have them ready to play. D6 Family Ministry does not control ads shown before or after videos.



AH 5-1



AH 5-2

TEACHING TIP

Plan activities and service projects for your group. This can be as simple as meeting at the food court for lunch or helping a widow who needs help around the house.

While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us ([Romans 5:8](#)). He first loved us to make a way for us to love and live rightly. Perfect love casts out fear. The events that led to the Cross involved fear. The Cross provided freedom for us from this fear. Now we can live with a sure hope and confidence in the grace and mercy of God ([Hebrews 4:16](#)).

 **KEY TRUTH: Jesus Used the Passover to Help Prepare His Followers for His Sacrifice ([Luke 22:7-38](#))**

The Passover might be the clearest Old Testament portrait of God's ultimate plan of salvation for people. It directly points to Jesus as the sacrificial Lamb for all ([Hebrews 9](#)). It is therefore perfectly fitting that observance of the Passover was the setting leading directly to the fulfillment of all that it foretold, which would be followed 50 days later with the Feast of Weeks that celebrated the gathering of the firstfruits of the harvest—Pentecost.

This set of events emphasizes Jesus' divine foreknowledge (**verses 7-13**). The predictive nature of events leading to the observance of the Passover thematically demonstrates the further events that followed (the Crucifixion) as the culmination of God's perfect design. Jesus helped His disciples understand that He is the Lamb slain before the foundation of the earth ([Revelation 13:8](#)). God's judgment passes over those washed in His blood by faith. God knew where the road of creation would lead and chose to proceed. He had already counted the cost. When Jesus washed the disciples' feet ([John 13:1-12](#)) that included Judas' feet. As this record in Luke reveals, Jesus knew that Judas had already betrayed Him (**verses 3-6**). He sat at the table with him anyway (**verses 21-22**). None of this caught Jesus off guard or dissuaded Him from proceeding.

APPLY:

Worship and live for Jesus, the Lamb of God who shed His blood to save you.

DISCUSS:

• *How does knowing Jesus understood the cost of the cross deepen your gratitude for His sacrifice? What might it cost us to follow Jesus?*

The revelation of His plan for redemption was not hidden but was revealed mere moments after it became necessary. In the same breath that the curse of sin was pronounced, the blessing of the remedy was foretold ([Genesis 3:14-15](#)). The heel of the Promised One would be bruised, but the head of the enemy, a mortal strike, would as well. All this was about to come to pass. Jesus was about to suffer for all people and eagerly wanted to eat the Passover meal with His disciples (**verses 14-15**). Though suffering was indeed about to come, so too was the fulfillment of God's master plan. Jesus' divine nature allowed Him to see much further than the place where this final Passover meal was

to be held. He looked beyond to the time when He would feast with His friends again in the fullness of God's coming kingdom (**verses 16–18**).

In both of Satan's perceived moments of triumph (the fall of man and the crucifixion of Jesus) the Lord was still truly the victor. God had been preparing the way for the ultimate restoration between God and man all along. These final moments before the Crucifixion highlight that preparation and frame it for what it is: God's perfect plan. Jesus wanted His followers to understand that His body would be broken for us and His blood shed for our forgiveness (**verses 19–20**). He would bear our sins on the cross (1 Peter 2:24). He would be betrayed (**verses 21–23**).

DISCUSS:

- *How does the Lord's Supper help us understand Jesus' sacrifice for us?*

Jesus not only prepared the way for our restoration to God in the world to come, but also for our meaningful service here and now. As the disciples argued about who was the greatest among them (**verses 24–25**), Jesus took the opportunity to teach them a central lesson about the different way greatness is measured in the kingdom of God. Honor was especially given in that society to those who were older, so the call to *become as the youngest* was atypical (**verse 26**). The contrasting example between those who are served at a table and those who wait upon them translates to our own culture (**verse 27**). Jesus highlighted how He, the Son of God, had more in common with the younger ones and servants through His behavior (**verse 27**). His actions were an example.

DISCUSS:

- *What makes a person great in God's kingdom? How is this countercultural to the world's definition of greatness?*

EXPLORE:

Jesus made a way for anyone to do great things for God by rightly defining greatness according to God. Greatness in the kingdom of God does not require talent, intelligence, wealth, resources, power, or anything else often associated with greatness in this world. It requires humble, faithful service; willingness to submit to the will of God, to live for His glory and in service of others. By preparing for the Cross as the ultimate act of glory to God, Jesus prepared the way for anyone to live a life glorifying to God—not just by accepting His sacrifice, but by also following His example

APPLY:

Remind yourself often of what Christ has done for you.

APPLY:

Measure greatness by Jesus' standard, not the world's standard.

of sacrificial service. Anyone, regardless of background or resources, can do that.

In another instance revealing and emphasizing Jesus' divine foreknowledge, He foretold Peter's actions that were to come during the process of His trial and crucifixion (**verses 31–34**). Jesus knew Peter would fail. He did not tell Peter this to set him up for failure, but for forgiveness and restoration. Note that Jesus not only foretold Peter's denial, but also his return to allegiance (**verse 32**). It is hard to imagine how Peter must have felt after denying his Lord. It must have been incredibly difficult to accept forgiveness and move forward with any hope or joy again. But he was able to recall these words of Jesus and know Jesus was ready to forgive before he'd ever faltered. A central purpose of the Cross was to make forgiveness of sins possible. Jesus had prepared Peter's restoration in the process of preparing for the Cross.

APPLY:

Accept and thank God for forgiveness of sin and move forward, seeking to put sin behind you.

DISCUSS:

- *Jesus was willing to forgive, restore, and employ Peter in kingdom service once again. How should that equip us to face our failures?*
- *How does Satan use shame to try to convince us we can never move forward? What is the remedy for shame?*

Jesus foretold that things were about to change (**verses 35–38**). Previously the disciples had been well received and provided for by those who heard them (**verse 35**). Not so moving forward. They would need to carry their own supplies. They would not find warm welcomes, but opposition (**verse 36**). Jesus was about to go from one sought out to one despised, counted among *the transgressors*. His disciples could expect to be treated in the same manner.

Luke 22:37 is a reference to [Isaiah 53:12](#), a clear messianic passage outlining the difficulties the Promised One would have to endure in order to fulfill God's purposes. The two swords were enough. Jesus would not want them used (**verse 38**).

 **KEY TRUTH: Jesus Submitted to the Father's Plan for Our Salvation (Luke 22:39–46)**

Jesus orchestrated the time and location of His arrest by preventing Judas from knowing in advance where they would meet for their Passover meal (Luke 22:7–12). Judas knew that Jesus' custom was to go to the garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives in the evening (**verses 39; 21:37**). He used this knowledge to carry out the plan to

betray Jesus in a private setting (**Luke 22:3–6**). Little did he know, however, that his plan fulfilled God’s plan of salvation from before Creation. Jesus’ disciples were with Him and He instructed them to pray that they would not fall into temptation (**verse 40**). Jesus then went deeper into the garden to pray (**verse 41**).

Despite His dread of what He would face in the Crucifixion, Jesus put the will of the Father above His own (**verse 42**). These words are an example of an overall life philosophy for those who would serve the Father. The strength that appeared from Heaven (**verse 43**) is also an example for us. Jesus’ admonition to the disciples to pray further demonstrates this (**verse 46**). They needed help from Heaven to do what was right in the eyes of God. So do we.

EXPLORE:

In Gethsemane, Jesus prayed for “this cup” to be removed—whether the *cup* represented suffering, the wrath of God, or separation from the Father—but He submitted to the Father’s will. His struggle wasn’t weakness—it was perfect obedience. This challenges today’s culture, which often equates comfort with blessing and difficulty with failure. True discipleship means trusting that God’s will is good even when it’s hard. Faith doesn’t always remove suffering—but it transforms how we face it.

DISCUSS:

- *What does Jesus’ example in Gethsemane teach us about trusting God?*
- *How can we learn to surrender to God’s will when it doesn’t match what we want?*
- *Why do you think submission to God’s will is often misunderstood as weakness, when it actually takes great strength?*
- *How can prayer help us align our desires with God’s will like Jesus did in the garden?*

KEY TRUTH: Jesus’ Betrayal and Arrest Were Part of His Sacrifice (Luke 22:47–65)

The betrayal and arrest that followed (**verses 47–48**) show how critical this help from Heaven is. Even in Jesus’ presence, Judas still fell prey to the enemy and to his flesh. We must guard ourselves not only against the dangers around us, but also within us. The disciples were ready to spring into action to defend Jesus with swords. Jesus quickly put a stop to that and restored what had been wounded by them (**verses 49–51**). The true nature of the battle they were to face was not

APPLY:

Follow Jesus’ example by submitting your will to God’s will. He will help you do God’s will.

physical, but spiritual. Jesus acknowledged that the religious leaders could have taken Him at any time in the last few days, but now was their evil time (**verses 52–53**).

Though Peter was not affected by Satan the same way that Judas was (**Luke 22:3**), he nonetheless succumbed to the weakness of his flesh (**verses 54–62**). In the preparation for the Cross, we see the need for the Cross. Despite his deep commitment and zeal, Peter still fell. Willpower is not enough. We need spiritual strength that only God can provide. And no matter how much we know, in our flesh, we too will fail. We will never be able to fully overcome our sinfulness here on earth. Thanks be to God that Jesus Christ has done so on our behalf (**Ephesians 2:4–8**)!

APPLY:

Ask God daily for the spiritual strength you need for that day.

DISCUSS:

- *How does Peter’s failure remind us that even strong believers can stumble when fear replaces faith?*
- *How do Judas and Peter’s responses to failure differ? What can we learn from their two outcomes?*

The mockery of Jesus’ ability to prophesy (**verses 63–65**) is ironic given the events already recorded in this chapter. He could have but chose not to. He could have done many things. He could have turned from the path in the garden (**verse 42**). He could have called for rescue at any moment (**Matthew 26:53**). He chose to faithfully obey the Father instead.

All these things serve as examples for us. The physical swords were not to be used, and violence (the method most common to earthly conquerors) was not to be their method. Instead, we must equip ourselves to do difficult spiritual battle with power from on high through earnest and zealous prayer, as Jesus did in the garden. In the face of mockery and persecution Jesus did not demand respect or respond in anger. He humbly and meekly submitted to the will of the Father, faithfully serving with love, grace, and mercy even toward those who hated Him. He had previously declared that this was to be our path as well (**Matthew 5:38–48**) and modeled it to the uttermost. Now we are to obey and follow His example.

APPLY:

Be ready to help and serve even those who treat us badly.

DISCUSS:

- *What does Jesus’ calm response to betrayal and arrest teach us about how to face mistreatment or injustice?*
- *What could you do to help and serve someone who has treated you badly?*

RESPOND

Use one or more of these **Respond** options to help your group members put into action the principles they learned in this lesson.

OPTION 1: Remind learners that Peter’s story didn’t end with denial but with restoration. Satan wants us to live in shame and to identify ourselves by our past failures and sins. Jesus wants us to live in the freedom of forgiveness and to live life as new creations. Pray for group members, asking God to help them live in the freedom that only Christ brings. Encourage group members to read and pray over Psalm 103:10–12, 1 John 1:9, and Psalm 51 this week.

OPTION 2: Jesus taught the disciples about the difference between the world’s definition of greatness and that of greatness in the kingdom of God. As a group, brainstorm ways to serve others that reflect kingdom values. Use these prompts:

- *How can we serve someone who might never repay us?*
- *Who in our community is often overlooked or rejected? How could we serve them?*
- *What are small, sacrificial ways we can show God’s love this week?*

Encourage your learners to choose one actionable idea and commit to doing it within the next seven days (writing notes of encouragement, delivering meals, helping a neighbor, etc.). The AH 5-3 *Great in God’s Eyes* handout can help.

OPTION 3: Discuss how Jesus set aside His desires and submitted to God’s will. Ask your learners to identify any area in which they need to submit to God’s will. It could be to stop doing something God does not want them to do or to do something they know God wants them to do. Encourage them to put at least one idea into practice this week.

Building Blocks

Share these Bible basics with your learners.

The Lord’s Supper is a memorial celebration of Jesus’ death for sinners. Believers eat bread and drink juice that represent Jesus’ body and blood given for us on the cross.

D6 Devotional Study Guides provide resources to help parents disciple their children.



AH 5-3

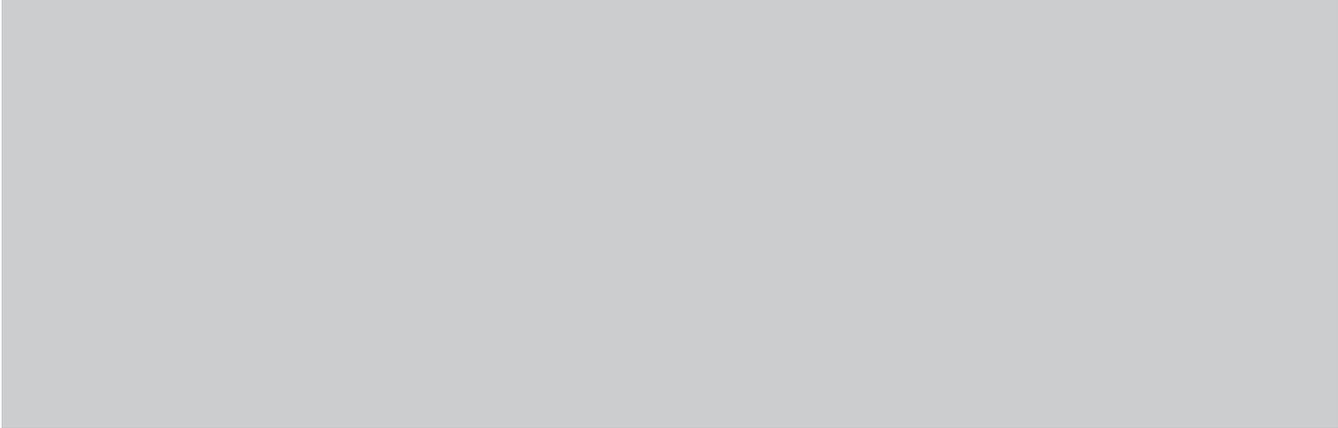
Encourage your group members to complete the daily devotions in the D6 Devotional Study Guides this week.



PP-5

The *Parent Page* (PP-5) is a resource to help parents discuss the truths of this lesson with their children at home. Give copies of this page to those who will benefit from it and encourage them to use it at home this week. *Parent Page* is also available for FREE download at D6home.com. (No password required.)

Pray!



Notes

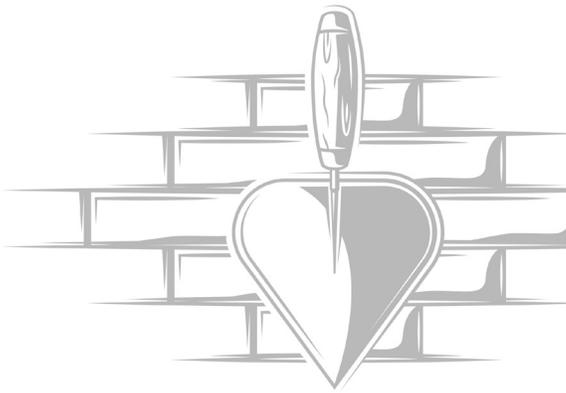


FAMILY THEME

The Risen Savior

LESSON OBJECTIVE: Learners love, serve, and obey Jesus, our risen Savior who conquered death.

STUDY TEXT: Luke 24:1-12



CHECKLIST

- Study the biblical text and Adult Teacher's Guide.
- Review the *Adult Teaching Outline* (Adult Handout 6-1 or AH 6-1). You can take notes on this editable document as you study. You can also use it as a guide to teach from.
- Review *PowerPoint 6* and insert your own questions if needed.
- Print and make copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 6-2), the *Evidence for the Resurrection* handout (AH 6-3), and *Parent Page (PP-6)* if you have parents in your group. For free access to these handouts, scan the QR code on page 3 of this teaching guide or go to d6.family/6882.
- Distribute *Parent Page (PP-6)* to parents.

Key Truths

- Christ Paid the Penalty for Our Sins on the Cross (Luke 23:26-43)
- Christ's Crucifixion Removed the Sin Barrier That Separated Us From God (Luke 23:44-46)
- Christ's Resurrection Conquered Death (Luke 24:1-12)

Verses of the
Month

MATTHEW
28:19-20

Cue up videos and have them ready to play. D6 Family Ministry does not control ads shown before or after videos.



AH 6-1



AH 6-2

TEACHING TIP

Invite a guest teacher or speaker from time to time.

CONNECT

Choose one of the **Connect** options to capture attention and get this session started.

OPTION 1: Begin by showing this video that gives five proofs of Jesus’ resurrection: tinyurl.com/Parr5Proofs. Discuss the video with your group. Can they think of additional evidence for the Resurrection? After discussion, say: *The evidence for the Resurrection is overwhelming. Today we will see why our lives are forever changed because of a risen Savior!*

OPTION 2: Begin by asking your learners to name significant events from world history. Some examples might include the Wright brothers’ first flight; the attack on the World Trade Center buildings; World Wars I and II; the invention of Gutenberg’s Printing Press; etc. What made these events so significant? How did these events change things? After discussion, say: *While there have been many significant events in world history and in our personal lives, nothing compares to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Today we will see how these two events changed everything.*

OPTION 3: Ask your learners to list ways Easter is remembered and celebrated in our culture. When they call out a way, ask if that way is centered on Christ’s resurrection or on cultural matters and practices. After discussion, say: *Many ways we celebrate Easter have nothing to do with Jesus’ resurrection. Today we will see how Easter is really all about the Resurrection.*

LEARN + EXPLORE + APPLY

Distribute copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 6-2).

In our last lesson we studied some of Christ’s preparations for the Cross. That included His celebration of the Passover with His disciples and His prayer of submission to God’s will for Him to die on the Cross. Then His betrayal, arrest, and appearances before Jewish religious leaders and various political leaders set the stage for His great work on the Cross and His triumph over death.

KEY TRUTH: Christ Paid the Penalty for Our Sins on the Cross (Luke 23:26-43)

After a mockery of a trial before the Jewish religious leaders and appearances before the political leaders of the region who found no guilt in Him, Jesus was given over to be crucified. The custom of the

Romans was for the condemned to carry his or her cross (or the cross beam) to the site of the execution ([John 19:16–17](#)). Jesus had experienced so much pain, blood loss, and exhaustion at this point that either He couldn't carry His cross all the way to the place designated for His crucifixion, or perhaps He was not moving fast enough for the Roman soldiers overseeing the procession. The soldiers forced a man named Simon, a Cyrenian, to carry the cross the rest of the way (**verse 26**; [Mark 15:21](#)). Simon was likely a Jewish pilgrim visiting the city for the Passover festivities.

A great crowd of people followed, mourning loudly on behalf of Jesus (**verse 27**). Then in remarkable fashion on this darkest day of His life, the Lord focused on the needs of the people who were present. He warned the women who were mourning that trouble was coming (**verses 28–29**). He said a time was coming in which those women would regret having children. They would begin to wish for a catastrophic event to end the sufferings they and their children would have to endure (**verses 30–31**). After all, if an innocent man (Jesus) was treated in this manner, how much worse would it be for His followers who came after Him?

DISCUSS:

- How do Jesus' words on the cross ("Father, forgive them . . .") help us understand the depth of His mercy and mission?
- Why is it difficult to put someone else's need ahead of your own?

Having been nailed to the cross and with a criminal on each side, Jesus prayed for the forgiveness of those who were executing Him (**verses 32–34**). Several fulfillments of prophecy came to fruition during the crucifixion event, although Luke did not specifically mention this fact. For instance, the dividing of Jesus' clothes, a custom of the day, fulfilled a prophecy given in [Psalm 22:18](#), a thousand years before the Lord's actual crucifixion.

The derision continued in **verses 35–39**. Here, the crowd sneered at Jesus, the soldiers mocked Him, and one of the criminals blasted Him with insults. The inscription, "King of the Jews," placed on a placard above Him proclaiming His offense, was intended as mockery. Ironically, it correctly identified Jesus as the Messiah who had come. Amid all the chaos and insults, Jesus spoke words of hope to the repentant criminal dying beside Him (**verses 40–43**). The word *paradise* could refer to the temporary resting place for the righteous in Sheol that would be emptied after Jesus' death. Jesus paid the penalty of our sins on the cross ([1 Peter 2:24](#)) so we can have eternal life with Him in Heaven.

APPLY:

Like Jesus, put others' needs ahead of your own ([Philippians 2:3–4](#)).



PowerPoint 6

The discussion questions can also be found on the *Adult Teaching Outline* (AH 6-1) and on *PowerPoint 6*, which is customizable. Files 6A and 6B are provided for customization.

EXPLORE:

Scripture sometimes describes *Sheol* (or *Hades*) as the realm of the dead, divided between the righteous and unrighteous (Luke 16:22–26). Before Jesus’ resurrection, the faithful awaited redemption in what was called *Abraham’s bosom*. Some confuse this with ideas like “soul sleep” or “purgatory,” but the Bible teaches neither. Jesus’ death and resurrection secured immediate access to God’s presence for all believers (2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23). The Cross didn’t create a holding place—it opened Heaven itself. Because Christ conquered death, those who trust Him are never separated from His presence, even in death.

The cross of Christ is a declaration of mercy and forgiveness. The love and forgiveness displayed by Jesus are truly amazing. Focus on the love. Consider the forgiveness offered and granted here. Love and thank Jesus for experiencing pain and death for His most beloved creation: humanity.

APPLY:

Love, serve, and obey Jesus for the amazing love and forgiveness He gave you through the Cross.

DISCUSS:

- *How should we respond to the love and forgiveness that Jesus demonstrated on the Cross?* (Love the Savior; accept His forgiveness; commit our lives to serving Him; etc.)
- *How might understanding the cost of our forgiveness lead us to deeper gratitude and worship in daily life?*

EXPLORE:

Did Jesus fall while carrying the cross? Reports of any falls are speculation. No fall is recorded in Scripture. The notion that Jesus fell while carrying the cross comes from the Roman Catholic “Stations of the Cross” and has been traditionally accepted as part of the historical account. Scripture does not indicate why Simon of Cyrene was compelled to carry Jesus’ cross, only the fact that he did. What is clear is that Jesus was carrying His cross (John 19:16–17) and at some point Simon was “assigned” to take over the responsibility. We should avoid making dogmatic statements where Scripture is silent.

KEY TRUTH: Christ’s Crucifixion Removed the Sin Barrier That Separated Us From God (Luke 23:44–46)

The “event” of the Crucifixion came to a close in **verses 44–46**. In recording the details of that dreadful day, Luke recorded three specific things that happened at the point of Jesus’ death. *First*, the sky sud-

denly became dark. There was not a gradual “going down” of the sun and the normal occurrence of daylight fading into darkness. The fact that this darkness was mentioned and the specific time was recorded in which it happened (sixth hour or noon through the ninth hour or 3:00 p.m.) shows that the darkness must have been intense and unforgettable. After all, it gets dark every day, but not in the time or fashion in which it occurred on crucifixion day.

EXPLORE:

Much has been written and speculated about the darkness that occurred during Jesus’ crucifixion. Based on the context and surrounding factors of this day, it is clear that God caused the darkness. Suggestions for *how* He chose to accomplish this are speculation. Some say a storm arose and caused it. Others say an eclipse caused the darkness, but a solar eclipse is not possible during a full moon when Passover occurs. For whatever reason, God chose not to reveal how He provided darkness. Regardless, it was a miraculous event and one that was not expected to occur, especially at the noon hour. The more important question to answer is “Why was there darkness?” Darkness symbolized judgment, namely the judgment of God for sin. This is portrayed in Old Testament passages such as [Isaiah 5:30](#) and [Zephaniah 1:14–18](#) and in New Testament passages such as [2 Peter 2:17](#). When Jesus cried out asking why His Father had forsaken Him ([Matthew 27:46](#)), He was experiencing the separation from God that sin causes as He assumed the judgment for humanity’s sin, which was portrayed in the darkness that covered the entire land from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

DISCUSS:

- *What does it mean to live as children of light?*

Second, Luke spoke of the fact that the curtain in the Temple that separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the Temple tore in half from the top down. This event was recorded by Matthew and Mark ([Matthew 27:51](#); [Mark 15:38](#)). Every Jew knew about this curtain that separated the Holy of Holies from the front portion of the Temple. It was this curtain that separated the people from the place where God manifested His presence. When the curtain was torn in two from top to bottom, it was symbolic of the fact that through Jesus’ death, sinful humanity now had access to God. Christ had become the sacrifice for sin for all time that provided the way for people to approach God. His death was all that was needed to enable people to have a relationship with God. This relationship must not be taken lightly and should be

APPLY:

The light stands for what is good, right, and true. The darkness stands for what is evil, wrong, and false. Live in the light!

APPLY:

Live in a close relationship with God. Jesus made that possible on the cross.

celebrated for all it includes. It does not happen, however, without the finished work on the Cross making it possible for us to know God in a personal way.

DISCUSS:

- *What did the tearing of the curtain in the Temple symbolize?*
- *Why do people sometimes still act as if they need to “earn” their way to God, even after knowing what Jesus did?*
- *How does someone attain a relationship with God? How should knowing that Christ opened the way to God shape the way we approach Him in confession, worship, or daily dependence?*

Third, Luke specifically called attention to the fact that Jesus prayed one final prayer committing Himself to the Father and then breathed His last breath. He had finished this work, and with His final words He released His spirit into the Father’s care.

The act of crucifixion was the most brutal means of death available throughout the Roman Empire. Typically, it was reserved for the worst of criminals and was a long, agonizing process. In the Lord’s case, He died in a relatively short period of time as compared to others. He voluntarily breathed His last breath.

APOLOGETICS:

Skeptics sometimes argue that the Gospel writers exaggerated or invented the story of Jesus’ suffering and crucifixion. Yet historians—even non-Christians—agree these events happened. Ancient sources such as the Roman historian Tacitus and the Jewish historian Josephus confirm that Jesus was executed under Pontius Pilate. The details of His suffering were recorded while eyewitnesses were still alive, giving the accounts remarkable credibility. For believers, this isn’t just history—it’s hope. The Cross shows that God entered real human pain to bring real redemption.

KEY TRUTH: Christ’s Resurrection Conquered Death (Luke 24:1-12)

Chapter 23 ended with a tone of despair. Jesus had died and was buried, causing doubts, questions, and anguish for His followers. Chapter 24, however, begins with a new tone. This is important because everything changed in this chapter. The women returned to the tomb early on the first Sunday after Christ’s death. They planned to use the spices they had prepared to anoint Jesus’ body for burial, a typical Jewish custom (**verse 1**). Upon their arrival, however, they discovered

that the stone had already been rolled away, a detail that is mentioned in all four Gospel accounts (**verse 2**). A tomb of this nature would have had a slanted groove that led down to a low entrance and a large stone would be rolled into the groove and lodged across the opening of the tomb. Although it would have been easy to roll the stone down into the groove, getting it away from the entrance would have been a difficult task. Scholars say it would have taken several men to roll that stone up and away from the tomb, a task not likely accomplished by a handful of women or even secretly by men while an armed guard stood watch. The moving of this stone was a miracle.

In **verse 3**, they entered the tomb to find that Jesus' body was not there. Angels in gleaming clothes appeared to them and reminded the women of what Jesus had told them (**verses 4–7**). Simply put, He would be crucified and then raised again on the third day. It is not surprising to see these women react in fear and bow their faces to the ground. The angels then asked a question that would further remind them of the promises of Jesus while He was still alive: *Why are you trying to find the living among the dead?* **Verse 8** provides a short and succinct statement of fact. At this very moment, these emotionally exhausted and weary followers of Jesus remembered His words. After all, He spoke plainly of His resurrection at least three times, and figuratively many more times. The remembrance of these words brought hope, comfort, and joy.

DISCUSS:

- *How does Jesus' resurrection give us confidence in God's Word?*

Immediately the women went back and told the apostles what they had seen and heard (**verse 9**), just as they were instructed to do (Matthew 28:7; Mark 16:7). Luke was specific in referencing the "eleven," since Judas had already betrayed Jesus and was no longer with the disciples. Luke also recorded some of the names of those delivering this good news (**verse 10**). The fact that it was women bearing such news lends credibility to the Gospel accounts since women were not considered the most credible witnesses, according to the traditional Jewish rabbis. Luke would not have included this detail if he were fabricating this account.

Upon hearing this news, the apostles thought the story was nonsense (**verse 11**). They did not believe these witnesses. Peter and John (John 20:3–6) ran to the tomb and saw for themselves that it was empty, and that Jesus' grave clothes were still there. Peter walked away thinking about everything that had happened (**verse 12**).

APPLY:

Trust God's Word. Jesus rose from the dead just as He said He would.

The Resurrection changed everything. As soon as they found it was true, Jesus' disbelieving, doubting disciples were forever changed. When an individual encounters the empty tomb, as did Peter, and remembers the words spoken by the Lord, it all starts to add up. Jesus' resurrection confirmed this wasn't the end, but just the beginning. The Resurrection still declares that Jesus has conquered death; He is our hope for eternity! Our task then is twofold. First, we must worship. The Resurrection was the crowning moment in God's plan of salvation. The risen Savior is worthy of our worship. Our second response is to tell everyone we can that Jesus is alive. It was after the Resurrection that Jesus commissioned the disciples to go into all the world and declare that He is alive. We must be actively doing the same.

APPLY:

Worship the risen Savior and tell the world He rose from the dead.

DISCUSS:

- *The disciples were slow to believe, even after hearing the report from the women. How do we sometimes struggle to believe God's truth today? What helps us overcome doubt?*
- *How can we answer people who have doubts about Christ's resurrection? (Distribute a copy of the AH 6-3 Evidence for the Resurrection handout to each learner. If there is time, discuss the handout with your group.)*
- *How should the truth of the Resurrection change the way we live, speak, and share our faith each day?*

D6 Devotional Study Guides provide resources to help parents disciple their children.



AH 6-3

RESPOND

Use one or more of these **Respond** options to help your group members put into action the principles they learned in this lesson.

OPTION 1: Read 1 Corinthians 15:1–4 aloud. Invite learners to silently thank Christ for bearing their sin and to ask God for one person to share the resurrection hope with this week. Provide 30 seconds of quiet, then pray together for boldness and clarity.

OPTION 2: Remind your learners of some ways we should respond to the great love and forgiveness Christ showed us on the Cross. Encourage your learners to choose two or three ways they will respond this week and to put those ways into action.

OPTION 3: Encourage your group members to memorize 1 Peter 2:24 this week and to think about the amazing love and forgiveness Christ gives us through the Cross. Encourage them to worship and thank Christ for what He has done, and to walk closely with Him this week.

Building Blocks

Share these Bible basics with your learners.

After His resurrection, Jesus ascended into Heaven. He is seated at the right hand of the Father and intercedes for us.

Pray!

Encourage your group members to complete the daily devotions in the D6 Devotional Study Guides this week. They reinforce these lessons.



PP-6

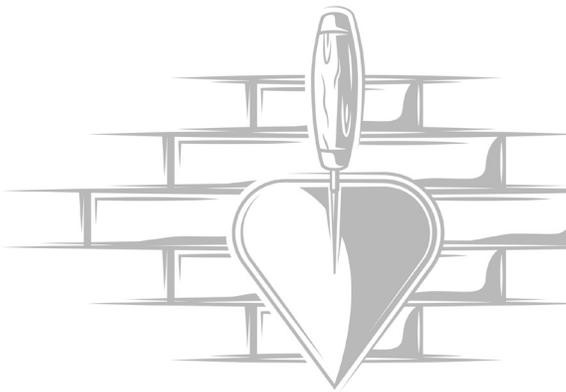
The *Parent Page (PP-6)* is a resource to help parents discuss the truths of this lesson with their children at home. Give copies of this page to those who will benefit from it and encourage them to use it at home this week. *Parent Page* is also available for FREE download at D6home.com. (No password required.)

FAMILY THEME

The Great Commission

LESSON OBJECTIVE: Learners will share the gospel with people around them and help send those who will take the gospel to others.

STUDY TEXT: Matthew 28:16–20



CHECKLIST

- Study the biblical text and Adult Teacher’s Guide.
- Review the *Adult Teaching Outline* (Adult Handout 7-1 or AH 7-1). You can take notes on this editable document as you study. You can also use it as a guide to teach from.
- Review *PowerPoint 7* and insert your own questions if needed.
- Print and make copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 7-2), the *Make Disciples* poster (AH 7-3), the *Sharing the Gospel* handout (AH 7-4), and *Parent Page* (PP-7) if you have parents in your group. For free access to these handouts, scan the QR code on page 3 of this teaching guide or go to d6.family/6882.
- Distribute *Parent Page* (PP-7) to parents.

Key Truths

- **Jesus’ Appearances to His Followers Proved His Bodily Resurrection** (Luke 24:36–43)
- **Jesus Helped His Disciples Understand Their Mission** (Luke 24:44–49)
- **Believers Are to Make Disciples of Every Tribe, Tongue, People, and Nation** (Matthew 28:16–20)

Verses of the
Month

**MATTHEW
28:19–20**

CONNECT

Choose one of the **Connect** options to capture attention and get this session started.

OPTION 1: Begin by showing this video from Francis Chan on how *not* to make disciples: tinyurl.com/ChanDisciples. Discuss the video with your group. When it comes to discipleship, what is the difference between knowing about it and actually doing it? In a real-world setting, what does it look like to put discipleship into action? After discussion, say: *Today we will examine the Great Commission. We'll see that not only is it important to share the gospel, but we must disciple others and help them grow in their faith.*

OPTION 2: Bring a sealed envelope labeled “Good News.” Ask group members what would make them excited to deliver a message like this (baby announcement, good test results, etc.). Open the envelope and reveal a verse like **Romans 1:16** and read it to the group. Then say: *We get to deliver the best news ever—the message that Jesus saves. Today we'll see how Jesus calls every believer to be a messenger of His good news.*

OPTION 3: Ask your learners to list reasons why believers sometimes hesitate to share the gospel with people they encounter. After discussion, say: *There might be many reasons why we hesitate to share the gospel with people around us. Today we will be encouraged to share with others because Jesus will help us.*

LEARN + EXPLORE + APPLY

Distribute copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 7-2) and display or distribute copies of the AH 7-3 *Make Disciples* poster.

After His death on the Cross and His resurrection, Jesus appeared to hundreds of His followers, including His disciples (**1 Corinthians 15:5–8**). He had paid the penalty for our sins on the Cross and anyone who believes can be saved. He gave His followers the mission to take this good news to all people.

KEY TRUTH: Jesus' Appearances to His Followers Proved His Bodily Resurrection (**Luke 24:36–43**)

This passage contains amazing evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. These details help explain why the disciples were so zealous and committed in obedience to the command to share the gospel that followed.

Cue up videos and have them ready to play. D6 Family Ministry does not control ads shown before or after videos.



AH 7-1



AH 7-2



AH 7-3

TEACHING TIP

Consider asking a group member (in advance) to teach one Key Truth of the lesson. This offers variety and develops other teachers.

It is common to think of Jesus post-resurrection in His heavenly, spiritual form. Yet this passage makes it clear that Jesus was resurrected in full bodily human form, the firstborn among the dead (Colossians 1:18). Jesus emphasized that fact to ease the fears of the disciples and to assure them He was indeed the man they had walked with for three years (**verse 38**). A spirit does not have a physical body, nor does a spirit have a physical appetite (**verses 39, 41**). Jesus was hungry. It is interesting to note that the way the fish had been prepared (broiled) is included here (**verse 42**). Luke, the author, was not present during these events. He gathered the information recorded in this Gospel account from those who were. It is understandable that the specific details, down to the cooking of the fish, would have been indelibly etched into the memories of those who lived these moments.

APOLOGETICS:

Consider common objections to the Resurrection. The “stolen body” theory struggles to explain how fearful disciples overpowered guards and then willingly suffered for a lie. The “wrong tomb” theory fails because the authorities could have produced a body. Group hallucinations do not match psychological patterns, and hallucinations do not share meals. The simplest explanation that accounts for the data is that Jesus truly rose. The disciples’ boldness in the face of persecution reflects confidence born from encounters with the living Lord. If the eye-witness testimony of Jesus’ resurrection is not sufficient evidence, no event in ancient history could be substantiated.

APPLY:

Follow Jesus, confident that He rose from the dead in bodily form.



PowerPoint 7

The discussion questions can also be found on the *Adult Teaching Outline* (AH 7-1) and on *PowerPoint 7*, which is customizable. Files 7A and 7B are provided for customization.

DISCUSS:

- *Why is it important that Jesus’ resurrection was bodily and not just spiritual?*
- *The disciples went from fear to boldness after seeing the risen Christ. How does knowing He’s alive give you courage in your daily life?*

Jesus cares for humanity because He is the Son of God, but also because He took on flesh and lived among us. He wanted to assure His friends and ease their fears. He wanted to give them joy and new hope. These details remind us of Jesus’ humanity and that He lived a full human experience. Jesus had friends and acquaintances beyond the disciples. This included Lazarus (John 11:3, 11) and others. Jesus probably had a favorite food, special relationships with customers of Joseph’s carpentry trade, and a unique laugh. He was fully God and fully man before the Resurrection. He is fully God and fully man after the Resurrection (1 Timothy 2:5), but with an immortal body

(1 Corinthians 15:50–53). His human nature did not disappear or diminish. All that shaped His human experience and the compassion that drove Him are still a part of who He is.

DISCUSS:

- *Hebrews 4:14–16* says *Jesus is our High Priest who sympathizes with us. What does it mean that He understands our struggles? How does that help us?*
- *Why do we sometimes hesitate to bring our needs to Jesus even though He fully understands them?*

Jesus walked this earth and was moved deeply by the brokenness He not only saw but literally rubbed shoulders with. He laid down His life to do something about it. Then He took His life up again to do something about it. All this shaped the commands to go and tell others. It must also shape our understanding of these commands.

KEY TRUTH: Jesus Helped His Disciples Understand Their Mission (Luke 24:44–49)

The New Testament record of events does not rely on the memory of men and women, but on the supernatural working of the Holy Spirit upon the minds of men and women (2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:20–21). The connections the biblical authors made between messianic prophecies and the life of Jesus were the direct result of divine revelation and illumination. Jesus *opened the disciples' minds* so they could understand the Scripture (**verses 44–45**). The disciples were now able to see things in the Old Testament record they had previously been unable to understand. The phrasing about the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms was a common way to refer to the entirety of the Scripture that existed at that point in time. The supernatural working upon their minds enabled them to recognize the meaning behind the specific prophetic statements, symbols, metaphors, types, and other devices employed by God to convey His nature, will, and plan for the redemption of mankind through Jesus Christ.

When Luke interviewed the people from whom he gleaned the information for his Gospel account, that same Spirit guided his writing. They were not only able to look back at Scripture with a new understanding, but also to the life of Jesus and His words with a new understanding. The essence of the gospel as succinctly stated by Jesus in **Luke 24:46** would have taken on a new meaning for them at that moment and moving forward. All the dots were being connected—Scripture, the life of Jesus, all they had known, heard, and seen. They had been witnesses of things long declared finally coming to pass (things into which angels longed to look; 1 Peter 1:12), and now

APPLY:

Take your cares and needs to Jesus knowing He understands what we go through (Hebrews 4:14–16).

APPLY:

Have confidence in the truth of the gospel message.

they were to proclaim all this new understanding to all nations and peoples (**verse 47**).

DISCUSS:

- *What evidence in Scripture and history most strengthens your confidence that the gospel is true?*
- *How can you respectfully defend the truth of the gospel when others see it as just one of many beliefs?*

We can trust the message we have received in Scripture because of God’s supernatural guiding hand in the development and transmission of the message (For information on the transmission, see the following EXPLORE note regarding the preservation of textual integrity). We are to take the same approach in proclaiming the gospel message as the original recipients of these commands from Jesus. That is, to rely on the truths given to us by God in His Word, understood through the lens of Jesus Christ as the Messiah and God’s overall plan of redemption, and witnessed through belief in and obedience to Jesus as Lord. The Bible is the foundation, and everything declared must be drawn from it and align with it.

EXPLORE:

Great resources regarding why we can trust the Bible are available from D6 Family Ministry. *The Inspiration & Preservation of God’s Word* collects answers to key questions related to the title from leading pastors and scholars. *How We Get Our English Bible* by Dr. Robert Picirilli covers the transmission of Scripture from the original language manuscripts to the English versions available today.

When we obey Scripture, we will find it is indeed good, right, and true. When we believe in and trust Jesus, we will find He is exactly who He claimed to be. When we disobey and distrust, we will find that nothing else can satisfy our souls, rightly guide our lives, or deliver on its promises. All these things are relevant to our personal testimony. We too are to be witnesses of Scripture rightly understood and applied, as well as the transformational power of real belief in Jesus as Lord.

APPLY:

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you share the good news about Jesus with others.

DISCUSS:

- *What are the essential elements of the gospel message? (God loves us and wants us to have a relationship with Him; we have all sinned and our sins separate us from God; Jesus died on the Cross to pay the penalty for our sins and then arose from the dead; we*

must believe that Jesus is the risen Lord and Savior and call on Him to save us; He saves us and we follow Him as Lord.)

- *What might sharing the gospel look like if you depended on your own strength instead of the Spirit's? How does relying on the Spirit take the pressure off your ability to persuade or argue?*

Our mission depends on the supernatural power of biblical truth and the enabling power of the Holy Spirit. The disciples relied upon the scriptural understanding given by Jesus as the basis for their message. In basic terms, God had promised all that Jesus would be and do, and then the disciples witnessed that Jesus was exactly who God promised and did exactly what God had foretold. Their mission was to wait for the power of the promised Holy Spirit and then spread the good news of Christ to all people (**verses 48–49**). Our message is to be the same. Jesus promised how serving God through belief in Him as Lord would transform our lives. Now, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we are to declare how that has proven to be true.

KEY TRUTH: Believers Are to Make Disciples of Every Tribe, Tongue, People, and Nation (Matthew 28:16–20)

Many people, even unbelievers, are familiar with the Ten Commandments. Many believers are also familiar with the Great Commission. On the surface these passages might seem to have little in common. Though the specifics are different, at their core they both rely upon the same essential truth: the authority of God. The Ten Commandments are prefaced with the clear statement that they are of divine origin (Exodus 20:1, God spoke them). Exodus 20:2 then asserts the authoritative nature of what is to follow on the basis that it comes from their God and on the past demonstration of His power and sovereignty (He delivered them from slavery in Egypt).

Jesus' words in **Matthew 28:18** reflect these core principles. The authority had been given from Heaven, signifying a divine origin. It also extended over all the earth, speaking to His sovereignty over creation, including the lives of people. The ultimate point, then, is that even though **Matthew 28:16–20** is commonly known as the Great Commission, the instructions found therein are as much commandments as the ten found in Exodus 20. Obedience to actively and intentionally share the gospel is not optional for disciples of Jesus Christ. The authoritative nature of these words of the Son of God is further reflected throughout the command.

DISCUSS:

- *What are some practical ways you can obey Jesus' command to make disciples in your home, workplace, neighborhood, and around the world?*

APPLY:

Share the gospel and make disciples, knowing it's a command of Jesus who sends you with all authority.

- *What practical rhythms—family prayer, shared Scripture reading, serving together—help build a disciple-making culture in your household?*
- *<BRINK> For those without children at home, what does discipleship look like among peers, younger believers, or extended family?*

Christ's imperative command was to *make disciples* (**verse 19**). Three participles unpack the process: *going*, *baptizing*, and *teaching*. *Going* implies intentional movement toward people. As you go, do this. *Baptizing* marks new identity in the triune name. Baptism is not what saves us—it is an outward testimony of the inward transformation that occurs through faith in Jesus. It publicly identifies a believer with Christ and with His people. *Teaching* trains obedience, not merely transfers information. Disciplemaking is relational, patient, and thorough. It is an active, intentional endeavor that requires effort. Learning takes effort, especially when it means unlearning old habits to follow Christ's better way.

EXPLORE:

Discipleship has always begun at home. In Deuteronomy 6:4–9, God commanded His people to love Him wholeheartedly and to impress His commands on their children. This was not a task reserved for priests or teachers but for parents and households. God's design was that faith would be passed from generation to generation through daily rhythms—talking about His Word at home, on the road, at bedtime, and in the morning. When Jesus commanded His followers to make disciples, He was not introducing something brand new but expanding this long-standing principle to include all nations. Healthy disciplemaking begins by shaping those closest to us: our children, grandchildren, and spiritual sons and daughters. Parents, grandparents, and mentors embody the Great Commission when they intentionally pass on faith, creating households where love for God is lived and taught.

Authority also marks the ongoing nature of this process of discipleship, which is to be accomplished by teaching people to observe all of God's ways (**verse 20**). Submission to the lordship of Jesus is essential. For Jesus to be your Savior, He must be your Lord. For the gospel to be the true gospel, it must include the lordship of Jesus. Sin is what God defines it as, not what man is comfortable with. The gospel must include a call to repentance, turning from the flesh and toward observation of Jesus' commands.

APPLY:

Baptize new believers and teach them to submit to Jesus as Lord and to obey all of God's Word.

DISCUSS:

- *Why do baptism and obedience go hand-in-hand with being a disciple of Jesus?*
- *Who in your circle could you begin mentoring in the faith this month—a child, grandchild, coworker, roommate, or new believer? What first step could you take?*

Jesus concluded with a reassuring promise that He will be with us always (**verse 20**). We are not alone in the work of sharing the gospel. God is for us. The gates of Hell shall not prevail (Matthew 16:18). We are on the offensive. God has already won (1 Corinthians 15:55–58). Jesus is alive and He is coming back. One day, *the end of the age* will come (**verse 20**). Until then, it is not His will that any should perish. But some will. The end is coming (2 Peter 3:9–10). We should remember that reality every day until that day. Lives depend upon it.

RESPOND

Use one or more of these **Respond** options to help your group members put into action the principles they learned in this lesson.

OPTION 1: Remind your group that Jesus' Great Commission begins right where we live. Parents and grandparents are called to be the primary disciplinators in their homes. Those without kids are also called to take part by disciplining nieces and nephews, kids in the youth group, etc. Give each learner a few quiet minutes to reflect on one way they can be more intentional about shaping faith in those closest to them—reading Scripture together, praying at meals, talking about Sunday's lesson, or serving as a family. Encourage them to write one clear next step on a card or in their phone. Close in prayer, asking God to help every home represented become a place where disciples are made.

OPTION 2: Sharing the gospel includes sharing how we came to know Christ and sharing the biblical truth of how to be saved. Encourage your learners to write a paragraph about how they came to know Christ (Where and when did it happen? What motivated them to ask for forgiveness and trust Christ as Savior? What difference has it made in their lives?). Then ask them to become familiar with what they would share from the Bible about being forgiven and trusting Christ. The AH 7-4 *Sharing the Gospel* handout will help them with this. Encourage them to share their testimony with someone as soon as possible.

D6 Devotional Study Guides provide resources to help parents disciple their children.



AH 7-4

Encourage your group members to complete the daily devotions in the D6 Devotional Study Guides this week.



PP-7

The *Parent Page (PP-7)* is a resource to help parents discuss the truths of this lesson with their children at home. Give copies of this page to those who will benefit from it and encourage them to use it at home this week. *Parent Page* is also available for FREE download at D6home.com. (No password required.)

OPTION 3: Encourage your learners to commit to financially and prayerfully supporting a North American church planter or international missionary who is taking the gospel to people who need to hear. Any amount will help spread the gospel. Your pastor or other church leader should know missionaries who need support.

Building Blocks

Share these Bible basics with your learners.

Jesus commanded His disciples to teach the gospel to everyone. This Great Commission is recorded in Matthew 28:19–20.

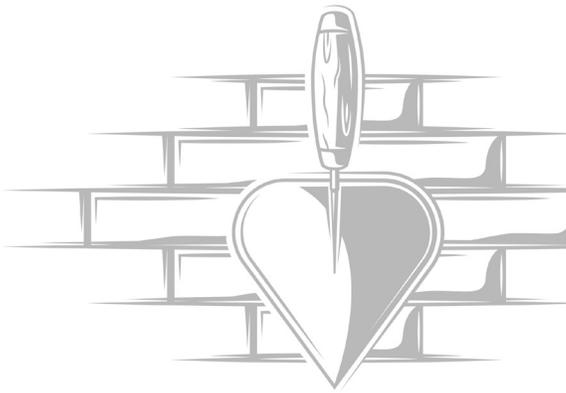
Pray!

FAMILY THEME

Lessons From the Life of Timothy

LESSON OBJECTIVE: Learners put life lessons from Timothy into action.

STUDY TEXT: 2 Timothy 1:1-7



CHECKLIST

- Study the biblical text and Adult Teacher's Guide.
- Review the *Adult Teaching Outline* (Adult Handout 8-1 or AH 8-1). You can take notes on this editable document as you study. You can also use it as a guide to teach from.
- Review *PowerPoint 8* and insert your own questions if needed.
- Print and make copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 8-2), the *A Word to Christian Parents* handout (AH 8-3), and *Parent Page (PP-8)* if you have parents in your group. For free access to these handouts, scan the QR code on page 3 of this teaching guide or go to d6.family/6882.
- Distribute *Parent Page (PP-8)* to parents.

In This Character Study:

- An Introduction to Timothy
- Key Events in Timothy's Life
- Life Lessons to Apply From Timothy
- Ways to Respond

Verses of the
Month

MATTHEW
28:19-20

CONNECT

Choose one of the **Connect** options to capture attention and get this session started.

OPTION 1: Consider showing this video about the friendship between Timothy and Paul: tinyurl.com/TimothyLoop. Discuss the video with your group. What can be gained by a mentorship similar to what Timothy and Paul had? If your group is younger, ask members how they would benefit from having a “Paul” in their lives. If your group is older, ask members how they would benefit from mentoring a “Timothy.” After discussion, say: *Today we will examine the life of Timothy and see how the principles he lived by can be applied to our lives.*

OPTION 2: Begin by asking your learners: *Who first taught you about Christ and the Bible?* Surveys consistently show that most Christians trace their first faith influence to someone in their own family. After discussion, say: *In today’s lesson we are going to learn about one of the dynamic young leaders in the early church who began his walk with Christ due to the influence of his mother and grandmother.*

OPTION 3: Begin by asking your learners if they ever had a godly mentor or example in their lives other than their parents. If so, how did that person mentor them? How did that person set an example for them? After discussion, say: *Good mentors and examples make a huge difference in our lives. Today we will see who taught and mentored a faithful young leader in the early church.*



AH 8-1



AH 8-2

TEACHING TIP

Take it on the road. Could you share the lesson at a local nursing home? Since you’ve already prepared, you can get extra mileage!

LEARN + EXPLORE + APPLY

Distribute copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 8-2).

Meet Timothy

On Paul’s second missionary journey, he and Silas returned to the area of Lystra and Derbe where a young disciple named Timothy joined their team. His mother and grandmother had passed the faith along to him. Believers in that area thought highly of the young man. We will study what Scripture, and later church tradition, tell us about Timothy who was like a son to the apostle Paul.

Key Events and Life Lessons from Timothy's Life

KEY EVENT: Timothy Was Discipled by His Parent and Grandparent and by Paul (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:10-17)

Although Timothy was unable to go to a Bible college or seminary, he received faithful training in Scripture and the ways of God. His training came from two primary sources. First, Timothy learned the ways of God at home. Both his grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice, possessed a sincere faith in Christ and faithfully passed their love for the Savior to Timothy (2 Timothy 1:5).

While parents and grandparents cannot force the next generation to believe in Christ, they can heavily influence the impact of the gospel on the lives of their children. Scripture emphasizes the role of parents on the faith of their children insisting that when parents train their children in the ways of God, the children will remember those ways for the rest of their lives (Proverbs 22:6). Since we know that Timothy's mother was a Jewish woman married to a Greek man, we can assume she experienced certain social challenges in life. As a Jewish woman of faith she would not have fit in with the pagan traditions celebrated by her husband's family. No matter how devoted she was as a wife, she would have never fully fit in with his family. Since she married a Greek man, Eunice would have been regarded with suspicion by her Jewish family and neighbors. One can easily imagine that her faithful devotion to Christ in the face of such social and familial challenges would have had a deep impression on Timothy.

Paul recognized this impact when he wrote to Timothy about his concerns for corrupt-minded people of the last day. Those who would have the appearance of godliness without any true power would easily fall to deception and leave the truth (2 Timothy 3:1-9). In contrast stood Timothy who was anchored deep in the truth of Scripture. Timothy's spiritual stability came at an early age from the training he received from Lois and Eunice. In his home Timothy constantly heard Scripture, watched its truths obeyed in the lives of his mother and grandmother, and received guidance from them in the way of salvation in Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:14-17).

EXPLORE:

Timothy's greatest spiritual influence came from his mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15). They didn't leave his faith to chance—they taught him God's Word intentionally and consistently. Today, some parents hesitate to guide their children's beliefs, saying they don't want to "force religion" or will let them "decide for themselves." But neutrality isn't possible. Every child is being shaped by someone—friends, teachers, screens, and

culture all preach daily messages about truth and identity. When parents step back, the world steps in. Scripture commands parents to teach God’s truth diligently (Deuteronomy 6:6–7; Ephesians 6:4). Passing down faith isn’t indoctrination—it’s obedience. God designed the home to be the first classroom of discipleship. If we don’t disciple our children, someone else will.

Life Lesson 1: Model faithfulness to Christ and teach it to your children or grandchildren daily.

DISCUSS:

- *What steps could you take to train your kids in the faith?*
- *<BRINK> For those without children or grandchildren, what opportunities do you have to “spiritually parent” younger believers or children in your church family?*
- *Do you believe consistency is more powerful than perfection when influencing the next generation for Christ? Explain.*

Discussion questions can also be found on the *Adult Teaching Outline* (AH 8-1), and on *PowerPoint 8*, which is customizable. Files *8A* and *8B* are provided for customization.

Another source of Timothy’s training was the apostle Paul. Paul mentioned that Timothy had followed his teaching, conduct, purpose in life, faith, patience, love, and steadfastness (**2 Timothy 3:10–13**). Especially notice that while his intellectual learning about Scripture and theology were important, the seed of Scripture grew in Timothy’s life fertilized by his exposure to Paul’s Christlike testimony in all areas of life. Timothy’s connection with Paul was so close that the apostle repeatedly called attention to their closeness as both a father in the faith and a brother in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:1; Philippians 2:22; Colossians 1:1; 1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2). Guided by his early training from his mother and grandmother and further disciplined by his constant exposure to Paul, Timothy matured into a man of faith who was poised to be a leader in the church.

Life Lesson 2: All Christians, especially young or new in the faith, would benefit from having a godly spiritual mentor.

DISCUSS:

- *What specific steps can older or more mature believers take to assist, teach, or encourage those who are growing in their faith?*
- *<BRINK> Who has helped shape your walk with Christ so far? How could you begin mentoring someone even if you still feel inexperienced?*

• *How can we create intentional space and time in our lives to learn from and invest in other believers?*

KEY EVENT: Timothy Faithfully Worked With Paul to Spread the Gospel (Romans 16:21; 1 Corinthians 16:10–11; Philippians 2:19–22)

From Paul, we learn that Timothy not only learned from Paul but also faithfully worked with him to spread the gospel. Paul referred to Timothy as a fellow worker in the gospel (**Romans 16:21**; **1 Corinthians 16:10–11**; **Philippians 2:19–22**). Paul identified him as part of the team present as he wrote 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, and Philemon. Paul sent Timothy to the Corinthian church in order to remind the distracted believers there of his teachings (1 Corinthians 4:17).

Life Lesson 3: Spread the gospel and help send others to do so.

DISCUSS:

- *Why is it important for every believer—not just pastors or missionaries—to see themselves as part of God’s mission?*
- *How might our group become a “sending base” for the gospel, locally and globally? In what ways do prayer, encouragement, and generosity help advance the gospel even when we can’t personally “go”?*

Worried that his shortened ministry in Thessalonica had left the new believers in that city unprepared for the persecution they would face, Paul sent Timothy to find out what happened to the church after Paul’s forced escape to the next town (Acts 17:1–10; 1 Thessalonians 3:1–5). Paul rejoiced when Timothy returned to him with a glowing report of the unexpected growth of the gospel in the lives of the Thessalonian believers (1 Thessalonians 3:6–10).

In two other instances we learn of Paul sending Timothy to other churches for deeper and prolonged assignments. In one, Paul wanted to get a recent report on the believers in Philippi so he announced to them in his letter that he intended to send Timothy so he could bring a cheerful report back to Paul. Since he was addressing servant leadership in that section of his letter, Paul went on to describe his *son in the faith*. Paul described Timothy as someone who genuinely cared about the welfare of others. Furthermore, Timothy had proven himself to be a valuable member of Paul’s team numerous times (Philippians 2:19–22).

Life Lesson 4: All believers, including young people, should faithfully serve the Lord in some type of ministry. Pastors and other church leaders can help them find their place of ministry.

DISCUSS:

- *What do you think keeps some believers from stepping into ministry, even when they sense God's prompting?*
- *When it comes to serving and ministry, what might we miss out on if we sit on the sidelines? How have you personally experienced spiritual growth through serving, not just learning?*

In another instance, Paul assigned Timothy the responsibility of leading and stabilizing the church in Ephesus. They struggled in the presence of people teaching false doctrine so Timothy needed to set them straight and guide them toward mature doctrinal thought ([1 Timothy 1:3–7](#)). While serving in this capacity, the young pastor received two letters of encouragement and instruction from Paul (1 Timothy and 2 Timothy). These compelling letters offer a range of content from deeply personal testimony to soaring statements of praise and worship about God's glory and salvation in Christ. Paul instructed Timothy on prayer, the qualifications for overseers and deacons, and how to be a faithful servant of Christ when the culture around you is collapsing into moral and spiritual ruin. Along the way Paul offered counsel on how the people in the church should conduct themselves with one another and how Timothy was to passionately pursue righteousness and godliness. Even though Timothy was young, Paul told him to set an example for other believers to follow ([1 Timothy 4:12](#)).

Life Lesson 5: All believers, including young people, should set a godly example for others to follow.

DISCUSS:

- *Think of someone whose faith example has shaped you. What specific habits or attitudes in their life inspired you most?*
- *What does it look like to “set an example” in a culture that values independence over imitation?*

Paul expected Timothy to guard the precious deposit of the gospel by the power of the Holy Spirit ([2 Timothy 1:14](#)). Timothy was to act like a soldier, a qualified athlete, and a wise farmer ([2 Timothy 2:1–7](#)). He was to conduct his ministry as a craftsman whom God approves ([2 Timothy 2:15](#)). Paul warned that evil days were coming, but Timothy was to remain faithful to the unchanging Word of God ([2 Timothy 3:1–17](#)). Timothy's responsibility to the church was to uncompromis-

ingly preach the Word faithfully whether that preaching was popular with the broader culture or not (2 Timothy 4:1–5).

Scripture does not tell us about the rest of Timothy’s ministry. Church tradition, however, claims that Timothy ministered in Ephesus for the rest of his life. While there he continually opposed the pagan rites and festivals of the city. According to the tradition recorded in the 16th century work of John Foxe, Timothy strongly countered a festival for the false goddess Dianna in Ephesus. As he preached against the festival a mob formed and executed Timothy. It is unclear if the mob stoned Timothy or beat him to death, but the church recognizes Timothy as a minister who was faithful until his death.

KEY EVENT: Timothy Learned to Overcome Fear (2 Timothy 1:1–7)

As Timothy developed, he faced a few challenges in the process. Paul seemed to address one in particular. While we cannot be sure from the context that Timothy was giving in to his fear, we read clearly that Paul was warning and encouraging against such fear. As a young man dealing with heavy problems in the church, Timothy might have been intimidated by some of the false teachers or overwhelmed by the issues he had to address in the church. This anxiety might have overwhelmed him, causing him to simply defer to the decisions of older people. This, however, is not what Paul instructed Timothy to do. Paul countered this anxiety by reminding Timothy of who he was.

Paul encouraged Timothy to remember several factors in contrast to his fear. First, Paul himself loved Timothy (**verses 2–4**) and had strong confidence in his ability to guide the Ephesian church through their challenges. Second, Timothy had prepared for this level of spiritual testing and leadership his entire life. As a child he received deep instruction from his mother and grandmother in the ways of God (**verse 5**). This influence prepared him to grow even more when under the influence of Paul. Third, God had gifted Timothy spiritually as a leader. He needed to exercise his God-given gifts in a way that would allow those gifts to continue growing in his ministry as he led the church (**verse 6**).

Fourth, Timothy should remember that others in the church recognized God’s gifts in his life by laying hands on him (**verse 6**), which was the church’s way of acknowledging God’s gifts in an individual. Finally, and most importantly, Timothy needed to remember that fear, timidity, and cowardice do not come from God (**verse 7**). Instead, the Spirit of God equips His people with spiritual strength, love for others, and a disciplined mind that lives with self-control.

Life Lesson 6: Don't give in to fear or be timid. Instead, ask God for spiritual strength, love for others, and a disciplined mind with self-control.

DISCUSS:

- *Paul told Timothy that fear doesn't come from God. When you feel timid or overwhelmed, what truths about God help you move forward in faith rather than shrink back in fear?*
- *What fears do you face as you step into new responsibilities or leadership? How might trusting the Spirit's power change your next decision?*

EXPLORE:

Timothy's life brings up an important point about discipleship. Though Timothy grew tremendously under the tutelage and mentorship of Paul, his mother and grandmother laid the groundwork for his spiritual development (**2 Timothy 1:3–7**). Scripture only states that his father was a Greek. There is no indication he was a believer or participated in Timothy's spiritual development. This blended religious home was less than ideal, but Eunice overcame that challenge through her faithful teaching of her son. Today we have resources that were not available to the early church. Some churches have excellent discipleship through Sunday School, small groups, and youth groups. Additionally, those who wish to delve deeper can attend an excellent Christian college or seminary. There are textbooks, lectures, and podcasts available to anyone who is willing to study. These resources are blessings, but one thing has never changed: the greatest resource for Christian discipleship is the home. Early in the Bible we witness God institute the family as the primary means of evangelism and discipleship. As Moses trained the nation of Israel in God's Law, he told them that God, the True God, is One. That monotheistic truth set Israel apart from other nations. Moses explained that the people were to regularly discuss Scripture and God's ways as a normal part of their everyday lives. When they sat in their houses, when they walked together in the streets, when they got ready for bed, and when they got up in the morning, families should regularly and constantly discuss the things of God (Deuteronomy 6:4–9).

Ways to Respond: Encourage your learners to put what they have learned into action this week.

OPTION 1: Remind learners that discipleship isn't limited to parents—it's the calling of every believer. Just as Paul invested in Tim-

othy and Timothy invested in others, God calls each of us to help someone grow in faith. Encourage your group to think of one person they could begin discipling or encouraging spiritually—a younger sibling, cousin, youth group student, or new believer in the church. Give them a moment to jot down that name and pray silently for that person. Then challenge them to take one step this week to connect—send a message, invite them to coffee, or share a Scripture that has helped them. Close in prayer, asking God to raise up a generation of “Pauls” and “Timothys” who will carry faith forward through intentional relationships.

OPTION 2: Give your learners a copy of the AH 8-3 *A Word to Christian Parents* handout. Read and discuss [Deuteronomy 6:4–9](#) and the rest of the information on the handout, even if your learners are not parents. If you have parents in your group, encourage them to disciple their children like Timothy’s mother and grandmother disciplined him. This handout can help them.

OPTION 3: All believers, including young people, should faithfully serve the Lord in some type of ministry. If your learners are not yet serving the Lord in some ministry, encourage them to find a place of ministry where God can use them. Connect them with pastors or other church leaders who can help them find a place to serve. Could they find a place of service in your class or group?

Encourage your group members to complete the daily devotions in the D6 Devotional Study Guides this week.

Building Blocks

Share these Bible basics with your learners.

The apostle Paul wrote 13 books of the New Testament: Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. (Some people also think he wrote the book of Hebrews.) These are called the Pauline epistles.

Pray!



AH 8-3



PP-8

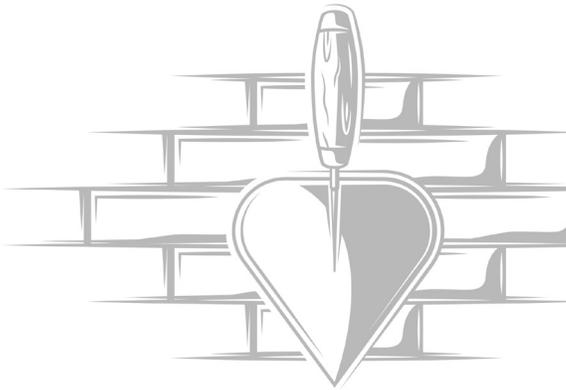
The Parent Page (PP-8) is a resource to help parents discuss the truths of this lesson with their children at home. Give copies of this page to those who will benefit from it and encourage them to use it at home this week. *Parent Page* is also available for FREE download at D6home.com. (No password required.)

FAMILY THEME

Grounded In God's Truth

LESSON OBJECTIVE: Learners conform to God's truth and share the truth with those around them.

STUDY TEXT: John 17:6–20



CHECKLIST

- Study the biblical text and Adult Teacher's Guide.
- Review the *Adult Teaching Outline* (Adult Handout 9-1 or AH 9-1). You can take notes on this editable document as you study. You can also use it as a guide to teach from.
- Review *PowerPoint 9* and insert your own questions if needed.
- Print and make copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 9-2), the *Dig Deeper* handout (AH 9-3), the *Choose God's Truth* handout, and *Parent Page* (PP-9) if you have parents in your group. For free access to these handouts, scan the QR code on page 3 of this teaching guide or go to d6.family/6882.
- Distribute *Parent Page* (PP-9) to parents.

Key Truths

- Jesus' Followers Are Saved by Believing the Truth About Jesus (John 17:6–8)
- Jesus' Followers Are Changed by the Truth (John 17:9–12)
- Jesus' Followers Take the Truth to the World (John 17:13–20)

Verses of the
Month

MATTHEW
28:19–20

CONNECT

Choose one of the **Connect** options to capture attention and get this session started.

OPTION 1: Begin by showing this video that discusses if objective truth exists: tinyurl.com/WallaceObjective. Ask your group why so many people reject absolute truth. Is it because they actually don't believe truth exists or because they want to live contrary to what is true? After discussion, say: *Truth is under attack in today's world. Today we'll see why God's truth is absolute and opinion and culture can't change it.*

OPTION 2: Begin by asking the following question: *Can you think of a time you believed something was true, only to find out later it wasn't?* Invite a few short stories (harmless ones work best—news stories, Internet myths, etc.). After discussion, say: *We live in a world full of opinions, claims, and misinformation. Today we'll see that God's truth never changes—even when the world's messages do.*

OPTION 3: Ask your learners if they have heard the following statements: “All roads lead to Heaven,” “You have your truth and I have mine,” or “All that matters is that you are sincere.” These ideas are based in moral relativism which denies that there is universal truth. After discussion, say: *Today we will see that absolute truth exists, and all truth is God's truth.*

LEARN + EXPLORE + APPLY

Distribute copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 9-2) and the *Dig Deeper* handout (AH 9-3).

Moral relativism is the idea that there are no absolutes or universal truths. Good and bad are relative concepts. In other words, all truth is relative. All moral principles are culturally dependent. Those who adhere to moral relativism insist we not pass judgments on others or impose our views on others. The impact upon our culture is seen when people claim an *unborn* baby is not a baby or that gender is on a continuum. John 17 provides us with the foundation we need to be grounded by truth.

KEY TRUTH: Jesus' Followers Are Saved by Believing the Truth About Jesus (John 17:6-8)

The context for this passage is critical. Jesus prayed this knowing He would soon be taken into custody and crucified for our sins. Jesus ac-

Cue up videos and have them ready to play. D6 Family Ministry does not control ads shown before or after videos.



AH 9-1



AH 9-2



AH 9-3

TEACHING TIP

Connecting Bible truths to your learners' situations is effective teaching. Help them make practical applications.

knowledged that He had fulfilled His mission ([John 17:1–5](#)). What was on Jesus’ mind in the last moments before He made His final journey to the Cross? We were, and our need for truth. First, His followers are saved by believing the truth about Jesus, and the only people who are truly His followers are those who keep the truth ([John 17:6](#)). *Word* is synonymous with truth. The truth came to Jesus from the Father ([John 17:7](#)). Next, Jesus gave those words (the truth) to those who follow Him, and we must accept it ([John 17:8](#)). We believe and live by the truth, and it saves us. It is important to see the value Jesus placed upon truth as there are some today who actually claim Jesus was a moral relativist. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Which is a better way to live: by God’s absolute truth or by moral relativism? People who choose to live by God’s absolute truth are learning to live by God’s commands and by the fruit of the Spirit. They follow the one true God and put Him first, which brings blessings. They honor their father and mother. They don’t murder, commit adultery, steal from others, lie about others, or covet others’ possessions. They are not perfectly sinless but they pursue a lifestyle that seeks to obey God. God produces in them characteristics like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Imagine if everyone lived by these truths and characteristics. The truth disabuses us of the notion that we can earn our salvation ([Ephesians 2:8–9](#); [Titus 3:5](#)). The truth keeps us from engaging in fruitless efforts to find other gods ([John 14:6](#)). The truth teaches us that we must repent of our sins ([Acts 3:19](#)) and follow Christ ([Matthew 16:24](#)) who paid for our sins and appeased the wrath of God (propitiation) on our behalf ([1 John 2:2](#)).

Moral relativists, on the other hand, believe there is no absolute truth. They decide what constitutes *good behavior*. But if it’s up to the individual to decide what is *good*, there is no objective standard. Good for one person might not be good for another. What does moral relativism lead to in a culture? When you get down to it, no one really wants to live in a culture without certainty and truth. Perhaps one of the best ways to share the truth is by pointing out what moral relativism leads to and how a society is bankrupt without the truth.

APPLY:

Accept God’s Word as absolute truth and choose to live by it, and not by what feels good to us.

DISCUSS:

- *What happens when feelings become our guide instead of God’s Word? How have you seen that play out in everyday life?*
- *Why is it freeing—not restrictive—to let Scripture, rather than culture, define right and wrong?*

EXPLORE:

There are many helpful resources on this subject. Check out John Piper’s article, “The Challenge of Relativism”: tinyurl.com/PiperRelative. Another resource is Norman Geisler’s book *When Skeptics Ask: A Handbook on Christian Evidences*. For the impact of truth upon a culture, see Alvin Schmidt’s, *How Christianity Changed the World?* or *What if Jesus Had Never Been Born* by D. James Kennedy and Jerry Newcome.

You could say that moral relativism goes back to Eden, when Satan asked Eve, *Did God really say . . . ?* ([Genesis 3:1](#)). Then Satan directly attacked truth when he said, *You will not die* ([Genesis 3:4](#)). Perhaps the best example of moral relativism is found in [John 18:37–38](#). Twice Jesus referred to truth. He bore witness of the truth, and those who follow Him embrace truth, to which Pilate responded, *What is truth?* ([John 18:38](#)).

APOLOGETICS:

Our culture often says, “Live your truth.” The phrase sounds humble and freeing, but it collapses when tested. Two people can’t hold opposite truths about God, morality, or eternity and both be right. Truth isn’t invented by individuals—it’s revealed by God, who is Truth Himself ([John 14:6](#)). When people claim, “My truth,” what they really mean is *my opinion* or *my experience*. Scripture teaches that reality doesn’t bend to preference. Truth corresponds to what *is*, not what we wish it to be. That’s why Jesus prayed, “Your Word is truth” ([John 17:17](#)). When someone says, “That’s your truth, not mine,” don’t argue—ask questions. Gently invite reflection: “Can two opposite things both be true?” or “Would you want a doctor or pilot to follow *their* truth?” Loving questions can open hearts faster than debate. Scripture calls us to speak the truth *in love* ([Ephesians 4:15](#)). The goal isn’t to win arguments but to win people. Remember, the same Spirit who illuminated truth to you can open their eyes also ([2 Corinthians 4:6](#)). Show humility, listen well, and let grace carry the weight of truth.

DISCUSS:

- *Jesus said the wise man built his house on the rock* ([Matthew 7:24–25](#)). *How is God’s truth like a rock for our lives?*
- *What are some areas of life—family, work, relationships—where truth must become your foundation rather than convenience or habit?*



PowerPoint 9

The discussion questions can also be found on the *Adult Teaching Outline* (AH 9-1) and on *PowerPoint 9*, which is customizable. Files *9A* and *9B* are provided for customization.

APPLY:

Live in obedience to God’s Word, building your life on His truth.

KEY TRUTH: Jesus' Followers Are Changed by the Truth (John 17:9-12)

In [John 8:32](#), Jesus said that His followers would know the truth and the truth would set them free. When we embrace the truth by following Christ, He begins to change us ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)). The way we used to live is exchanged for a new life ([Galatians 5:16-26](#)). We are changed or sanctified by the truth. In [John 17](#), Jesus prayed for those who have been changed by the truth. They are no longer part of the world, but they are His (**John 17:9**). Their changed lifestyles bring glory to Jesus (**John 17:10**). In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus described His followers as salt and light that gave glory to the Father ([Matthew 5:13-16](#)). Jesus prayed for the protection and unity of those changed by the truth (**John 17:11**). Jesus guarded them and only Judas was lost, which was a fulfillment of Scripture (**John 17:12**).

APPLY:

Live differently from the world, showing that God's truth is changing your life.

DISCUSS:

- *What's the difference between truly being transformed by truth and simply trying to look like a good Christian?*
- *Where do you most feel the tension between God's truth and the world's values? How do you stay encouraged when living differently feels costly or isolating?*

How does the truth change us? When we embrace the truth that there are no other gods but *the God* of the Bible ([Exodus 20:3](#)), it changes the focus of our lives. Rather than chasing other “gods” like materialism and pleasure ([Psalm 16:4](#)), we find ourselves worshiping the one true God ([Matthew 4:10](#)). Rather than making things into “gods,” we put them into their proper perspective. The truth changes the way we speak ([Exodus 20:7, 16](#)). It's not just that we don't use the Lord's name in vain, but as the truth molds us, we use our words to bless rather than curse ([Romans 12:14](#)), to bring life rather than death ([Proverbs 18:21](#)). Truth changes us from living hectic lives to resting in our Savior ([Hebrews 4:9-11](#)).

As truth shapes us it impacts how we treat others. We honor and love our parents, regardless of their spiritual status ([Exodus 20:12](#)). That truth spills into other areas like the way we interact with all authorities like teachers, law enforcement, and government officials ([Romans 13:1-7](#); [1 Peter 2:13-17](#)). Truth changes us. Rather than trying to destroy enemies, we actually try to help them ([Luke 10:25-37](#)) and even love them ([Matthew 5:44](#)). Truth leads us to avoid sexual sin like adultery ([Exodus 20:14](#)) and other sexual immorality ([1 Thessalonians 4:3-5](#)). We have proper respect for others ([1 Timothy 5:1-2](#)), being careful of their reputations ([Exodus 20:16](#)) so as not to harm

them ([James 4:11](#)). Truth changes us to respect the property of others ([Exodus 20:15](#)), and leads us away from envying others and what they have ([Exodus 20:17](#)). We become content with what we have ([1 Timothy 6:6–8](#)). Yes, there is truth, there are moral absolutes, and when we embrace them, they change our lives.

DISCUSS:

- *What does depending on the Holy Spirit actually look like in a normal day—not just in crisis moments?*
- *How does the Holy Spirit help you distinguish between your own preferences and what is actually true according to Scripture?*

APOLOGETICS:

In past generations, apologetics focused on *proving* the facts of Christianity. Today, the greater challenge is *persuading hearts* that truth matters more than feelings. In a “post-truth” culture, many people no longer reject biblical truth outright—they simply filter it through emotion. Someone might say, “I believe Jesus rose from the dead, but I also believe my feelings define who I am.” Dr. Timothy Paul Jones explains that in this age, people often affirm the Resurrection while ignoring what Scripture says about identity, sexuality, or holiness. The challenge, he notes, isn’t that people no longer believe; it’s that they believe selectively (“Dealing With Deconstruction,” *The Brink*, Nov/Dec 2023, pp. 22–26). Feelings have become the final authority. But Jesus said, *Your Word is truth* ([John 17:17](#)). God’s truth doesn’t shift with emotion or culture. It anchors us when feelings fluctuate and the world blurs right and wrong. His commands don’t enslave—they protect. Like guardrails on a mountain road, truth keeps us from plunging into destruction. Real freedom isn’t found in following our feelings; it’s found in following Christ. When we live by His truth, we are free—not to do whatever we want, but to become who we were created to be ([Romans 6:18](#)).

EXPLORE:

The world looked very different 2,000 years ago. Little value was placed on human life, especially children, women, the sick, and the disabled. Education was sorely lacking. Slavery was prevalent. Change was needed, and Christianity brought change wherever it went. It positively affected science (see Isaac Newton, Blaise Pascal, Gregor Mendel, Louis Pasteur, and others), architecture, music,

APPLY:

Ask and depend on the Holy Spirit to help you live out God’s truth each day.

and many other subjects. This provides evidence for how truth leads to change.

KEY TRUTH: Jesus' Followers Take the Truth to the World (John 17:13-20)

Jesus prayed that His followers would have His joy (**John 17:13**). We bring Him joy by taking the truth and sharing it with others (Matthew 28:19-20). Followers of Christ are not called to share their opinions but to share the inspired Word (truth) of God. The world hates truth followers because they live differently from the world (**John 17:14**). For this reason, Jesus warned in the Sermon on the Mount that followers of His would suffer (Matthew 5:10-12). We can be tempted to wall ourselves off from the world when it dislikes our ways. That was not Jesus' intention, however. Rather than removing His followers from the world, Jesus prayed that they would be kept from evil. Just as Jesus did not belong to the world, neither do we (**John 17:15-16**).

APPLY:

Expect the world to dislike you and your ways when you live differently than they do.

DISCUSS:

- *Why is it dangerous for believers to crave the world's approval? What helps you stay steady when following Christ puts you out of step with popular culture or even people you love?*
- *How does belonging to a church family help you endure opposition or criticism for your faith?*

Jesus prayed that we would be made holy or sanctified by God's Word which is truth (**John 17:17**). We are called to grow and mature in Christ (Hebrews 5:12). Rather than withdrawing from the world, we are to go into it as Jesus did. Jesus has sent us into the world to share the truth (**John 17:18**). We are made holy by His truth (**John 17:19**). We can see how this prayer played out by the actions of the first disciples as seen in Acts 2. However, let us remember that this prayer is for us too, as Jesus made clear (**John 17:20**).

DISCUSS:

- *What barriers make it difficult to talk about truth today? What bridges help people listen?*
- *What are some simple, everyday ways we can share the truth with people around us?*

We have good examples of how we are to share the truth from Old Testament examples like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. These Jewish men shared the truth by their words and actions.

APPLY:

Take the truth to the world.

Daniel demonstrated his belief in moral absolutes by his refusal to eat something that would defile him ([Daniel 1:8](#)). Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) demonstrated their belief in the one true God by refusing to bow to Nebuchadnezzar's image. We teach truth by our words *and* our actions ([James 2:14-16](#)). Jesus also taught this in [Matthew 25:31-46](#). So, we look for pain points in the lives of people, those who are sick, hungry, disabled, etc., and we try to meet their needs. Jesus said when we give them food, clothes, or a visit, we are giving to Him. That is what the early disciples and those who came after them did. As they spread the truth in word and deed, they changed the world.

RESPOND

Use one or more of these **Respond** options to help your group members put into action the principles they learned in this lesson.

OPTION 1: We live in a world overflowing with information but starving for truth. Every day, social media, news feeds, and online voices try to shape what we believe. Encourage learners to evaluate how much time they spend hearing from the world compared to hearing from God. Challenge each person to spend the coming week replacing at least one daily scroll session with time in God's Word. Remind them that the Bible isn't just another opinion; it's the plumb line that helps us recognize what's false ([Psalm 119:105](#); [John 17:17](#)). Close in prayer, asking God to help everyone hunger more for His truth than for the world's noise.

OPTION 2: Ask your learners to identify moral relativism messages this week on television, social media, in conversations, etc. Encourage learners to write down the moral relativism message, and then to find truth from God's Word. Urge group members to accept and obey the truth they find in God's Word. The *Choose God's Truth* handout (AH 9-4) can help.

OPTION 3: Ask your learners to identify someone in their sphere of influence who needs to hear the truth about the gospel or some other issue. Encourage learners to find a way to lovingly and respectfully share the truth with that person and with others.

Building Blocks

Share these Bible basics with your learners.

Truth corresponds with reality and is consistent in all times and situations. Truth is a characteristic of God's unchanging nature.

D6 Devotional Study Guides provide resources to help parents disciple their children.



AH 9-4

Encourage your group members to complete the daily devotions in the D6 Devotional Study Guides this week.



PP-9

The *Parent Page (PP-9)* is a resource to help parents discuss the truths of this lesson with their children at home. Give copies of this page to those who will benefit from it and encourage them to use it at home this week. *Parent Page* is also available for FREE download at D6home.com. (No password required.)

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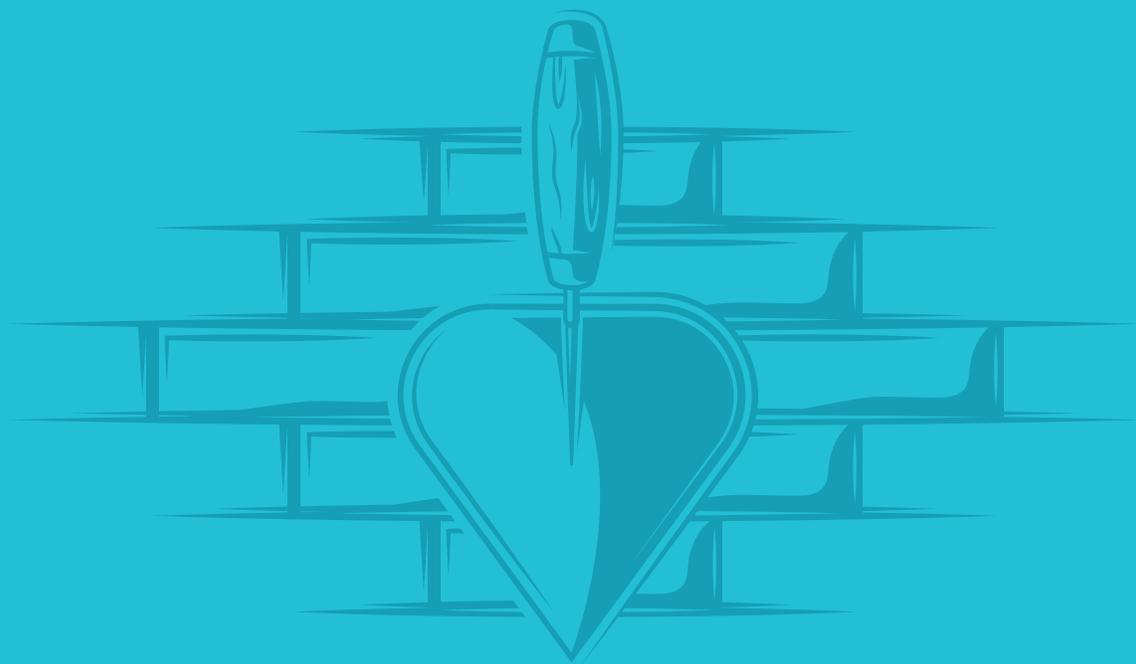
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