

THE LIFE

EMBRACING THE LIFE OF A CHRIST-FOLLOWER

PART 2: THE PICTURE OF A DISCIPLE
Unit 1: A Disciple Surrenders To A Gospel-Centered Life
LESSON 18: THE GOSPEL ISN'T JUST
BASIC CHRISTIANITY

What we want students to learn: That as followers of Christ, the Gospel is something we never grow out of, or something we move beyond.

What we want students to do with what they've learned: To articulate in their own words what it looks like to boldly live out the Gospel in their everyday worlds.

Scripture Focus: Romans 1:11-17

Supporting Scripture: 2 Peter 1:12-15

Overview: In Romans 1, we see Paul eager to preach the Gospel to the Romans. But wait! They're already Christ-followers, right? So why would Paul be so eager to preach the Gospel to people whom already know it? Precisely because Paul knows something that we should all hope to internalize . . . The Gospel is not just introductory material. It's not just basic Christianity. It's not just Christianity 101. You don't EVER graduate from the Gospel. You never move on from it. This lesson, the final one in this unit, will help your students grasp this truth and see how it impacts their life.

TEACHER PREP VIDEO

Each **LIFE** lesson comes with a Teacher Prep Video. These are short videos designed to help you grasp the main point of the lesson as you prepare to teach.

To access your **LIFE** lesson 18 Teacher Prep Video, login to your Lesson Manager, navigate to lesson 18, and click on the "Background" tab. You'll notice the Teacher Prep Video near the top of the Lesson Manager window.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

The *Bible Background* is designed to help you provide some context for the Scripture you'll be studying. The Details gives you background info for each book, The Setting informs you what's happening in and around the passage, and The Main Point gives you an overview of how the passage will be used in the lesson.

- **What do we mean by "context"?** In every **YM360** Bible study lesson, you'll notice we make a point to encourage you to provide the context for the passages you study. By "context" we mean at the very least helping students know **who** wrote the book, **when** it was written, and **why** it was written.
- **What's the big deal?** When we teach the Bible without giving context, students don't get a "big picture" understanding of the story of the Bible. But this view is vital to grasping the story of God's plan of redemption for humankind. As you teach, use the Bible Background to help summarize the context.

THE DETAILS

- **Author:** Paul is the author of Romans.
- **Time frame:** Romans was probably written from Corinth in the winter of 56-57 AD.
- **Purpose:** Since the church in Rome had not received comprehensive theological teaching on salvation and other implications of following Christ, Paul wrote Romans to ensure a good understanding of such things. In addition,

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since many Jewish Christians were rejecting some of the new Gentile converts, it was essential that a level playing field be given to all Believers. This is what Paul was advocating for in Romans.

THE SETTING

This passage is directly related to the foundation for the entire book of Romans. As was customary for most ancient biblical letters, the apostle Paul asserts his authority as an apostle of Jesus (vs. 1-6) and addresses his audience (vs. 7-10). Following these forms of introduction, the apostle launches directly into the theme of all the chapters that are to come, namely, the Gospel. In describing his goal to visit the believers in Rome, Paul explains his plan to encourage and remind this growing church about the Gospel of Jesus Christ and its implications in their life. The theology and manifestation of the Gospel is then explained in chapters 1-16.

THE MAIN POINT

The main point we want to make is that as followers of Christ, the Gospel is something we never grow out of, or something we move beyond. In fact, it informs our decisions, actions and even our thoughts as we seek to follow Jesus and get to know Him better and better. This lesson will help your students understand that they will never move beyond the truth of the Gospel and its implications in their life, as well as challenge them to think about how this truth impacts their world.

LESSON PLAN

The *Lesson Plan* contains three elements: An introductory activity called **The Lead In**; the Bible study section called **The Main Event**; and an application-focused segment called **The Last Word**.

THE LEAD IN

- **Goal:** To help students begin to process how they view the Gospel's role in their own lives.
- **Set-Up:** You will want to make sure you have a laptop or tablet that is connected to Internet to look up the following video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXOdL7YJRN8>

FIRST, ask your students the following question. Allow time for discussion.

- **Have you ever seen full-grown adults play with kid's toys? Describe your experience.**

NEXT, tell the students that you are going to watch a video of adults playing with kid's toys. Then play the video included in the link above. Once the video is over, ask the following questions:

- **What does this video make you think about these adults?**
 - Answer: Answers will vary.
- **Do you think it is immature for adults like these to play with kid's toys? Explain.**
 - Answer: Answers will vary.
- **You most likely wouldn't want to be seen playing with Barbie dolls or Hot Wheels cars (especially around your friends). What other items besides toys are "too young" for students your age to use? (Suggest TV shows, movies, and other items that would seem too immature for students.)**
 - Answer: Answers will vary.

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THEN, explain that in the lesson today you are going to be talking about a common mistake that many Christians make as they grow into more mature disciples of Jesus. Say something like:

- **To most of you, the idea of playing with a kid's toy seems immature and even embarrassing. We don't want others to think that we are not as mature or grown-up as the world tells us we should be. In many Christian churches, followers of Christ view the Gospel in the same way. Many Christians think that the Gospel is for beginners who are new followers of Jesus. But the truth is, the Gospel is the most important part of our growth as Christians, and one that we will never outgrow or move beyond. We're going to see today that as followers of Christ, we will always need the Gospel.**

FINALLY, transition into *The Main Event* portion of the lesson.

THE MAIN EVENT

- **Goal:** To help students understand that as followers of Christ, the Gospel is something we never grow out of, or something we move beyond.
- **Set Up:** You'll benefit from a dry erase board. Make sure students have a Bible or that they are able to look along with a friend. Paper and pencils will also be needed.

FIRST, have the students take a moment to define the word "Gospel" individually. Some of the students may not fully understand what all is included in this word, so feel free to give some help to newer students or guests.

- **Gospel: literally means "good news," specifically the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.**

Explain to your students that the word "Gospel" is a common word that we use in church life, but one which we commonly misunderstand or misuse. Allow a brief time for them to share their definitions of the word. Once some have shared, right down the definition above on the board.

NEXT, explain that although the majority of them have heard and trusted the Gospel, many of them may think that the Gospel is only for beginner believers. Say something like:

- **The Gospel of Jesus is the most important and central part of being a Christian. In fact, it's not only important for young Christians but for the most mature Christians in the church. The Gospel of Jesus is the reason you and I are here today, and it is the foundation of our walk with Jesus. Without Jesus dying on the cross and arising from the grave, we would be separated from God forever.**

THEN, explain that in the lesson today you're going to be looking at the book of Romans to help guide their understanding of why they will never move beyond the Gospel and how it should affect their world. Ask students to turn in their Bibles to Romans 1. While they turn, explain the context of Romans using the Bible Background provided at the beginning of this lesson. Be sure they understand the situation in which the apostle Paul wrote the letter to the Romans.

NEXT, read or have a student read Romans 1:11-17. When students have finished reading, lead them in a short discussion. Refer back to verses 11-13. Ask something like:

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- **Why was the apostle Paul longing to see the church that was in Rome?**
 - Answer: So that he could encourage them and be encouraged by their faith.
- **What was Paul hoping to give to the church in Rome so that he could be an encouragement to them?**
 - Answer: Paul wanted to give to them "some spiritual gift" of encouragement.
- **What are some ways that we encourage one another in the church today?**
 - Answer: Allow a variety of answers.

Say something like:

- **Paul had been longing to encourage the church that was in the city of Rome. He wanted to impart to them some spiritual gift. But the gift that Paul would mention is probably not the first gift that you would think of when we think of mature believers like Paul and the church leaders in Rome. These were not new Christians; they had been following Jesus for some time. Some of us may think that they would encourage each other in some deep and mature way. But Paul roots his encouragement in something else.**

THEN, tell students to keep this thought in mind as they continue studying this passage. Direct students' attention to verses 14-15. Ask the following questions:

- **What is the encouragement that Paul is so eager to share with the believers in Rome?**
 - Answer: The Gospel which was for all people
- **If the people in the church in Rome were already Christians, why do you think Paul wished to speak the Gospel to them?**
 - Answer: The Gospel is not just for those who are not Christians, but for all believers at all times in their walk with Jesus.

Explain to students that in these verses the apostle Paul reveals something that we sometimes miss as Christians. Say something like:

- **Instead of encouraging the believers in Rome with wise words of his own, or with advice from his years of following Christ, Paul is eager to share the Gospel with them! The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus are not truths that only apply when we first become followers of Christ; they apply to both our relationship with God and with others at every stage of our life.**

NEXT, direct your students' attention to verses 16-17. Remind them that you are looking for how the Apostle Paul applies the Gospel to his life even as a mature believer in Jesus. Ask a student to read these verses aloud again. Ask something like:

- **What is the power of the Gospel in this verse?**
 - Answer: It is the power of salvation to everyone who believes
- **What do you think the power that Paul talks about enables us to do?**
 - Answers will vary. Help students see that the Gospel applies to our lives as mature Christians by reminding us of our need for a Savior and motivating us to live in righteousness by faith. Just as the apostle Paul acknowledges, the Gospel doesn't just save us when we decide to follow Jesus; it helps us lived saved lives as well. When we continually preach the Gospel to one another we are constantly reminding each other of the saving grace of Jesus and how much we need Him day-by-day. This motivates us to live lives committed to God.

THEN, explain to the students that the Bible has several passages that instruct Christ-followers to constantly remind each other of the good news of the Gospel. Read 2 Peter 1:12-15 as an example. Say something like:

- **Peter also saw the value in preaching the Gospel to all of his readers. He encourages them to always**

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remind each other of the qualities of the Gospel so that they will always remain steady in their faith in Jesus Christ. Peter wanted his readers to understand that the very foundation for every believer, mature and new, is in the Gospel.

Explain that Paul instructed the church at Rome not to simply remind one another of the Gospel, but also to live it out in their lives. Then, ask them these questions:

- **What do you think it means to “live out” the Gospel in our daily lives?**
 - Answer: Allow students time to answer. Use an example from your own life to illustrate what it means to live out the Gospel.
- **What are some places you consistently go in your life where you can live out the Gospel?**
 - Answer: Try to get the students to see that every relationship and interaction they have is a time when they can live out the Gospel and remind fellow believers of its power in their lives.

FINALLY, remind your students that the Gospel has great power: the power to save. It not only brings new life to new believers, but it also forms the foundation of a growing faith for mature believers. Help them to understand that as Christians, they are called to live out the Gospel in their worlds each and every day. Say something like:

- **The truth for you and me today is that we need the Gospel each and every day. We need to remind fellow believers of its power as well as be reminded ourselves of its saving truth. The Gospel is never something that you will outgrow; instead it is the very glue and motivation for living a Christian life and for growing in a deeper faith. We must always preach the Gospel to ourselves and live it out in our lives!**

Ask if there are any questions, and if there are none, transition into *The Last Word*.

THE LAST WORD

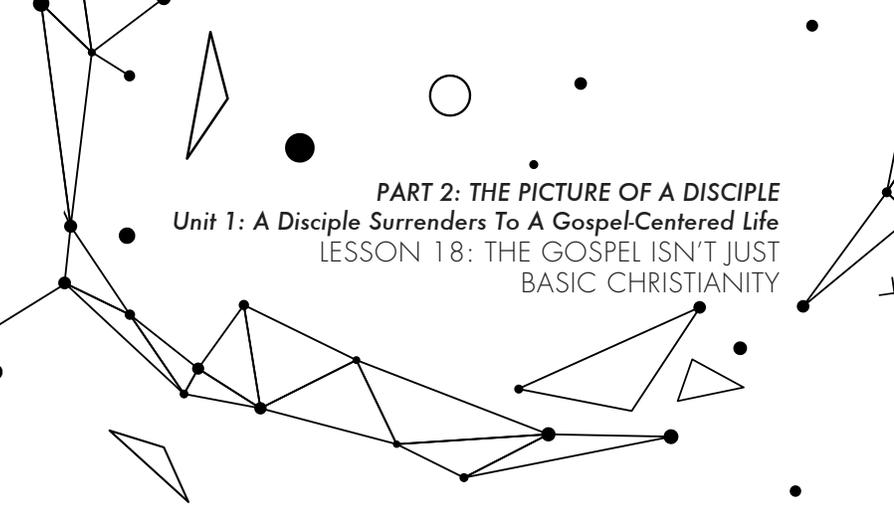
- **Goal:** To articulate in their own words what it looks like to boldly live out the Gospel in their everyday worlds.
- **Set-Up:** Pencil or pen and notecards (one for each student).

FIRST, set the stage for the activity by saying something like:

- **Living out the Gospel in daily life isn't always the easiest thing. In fact, many times in our lives when we choose to follow Jesus, people will ridicule us and look down on us. But just as the Apostle Paul says, the Gospel has the power to save us and the power to enable us to live lives that are radically different from the world.**

NEXT, ask your students to think of examples where living for Jesus in their worlds might cause conflict or ridicule. Keep in mind that you are not trying to deter your students from living out the Gospel; you want them to understand the possible reaction when they do, and that the power of the Gospel will help them to overcome that opposition. Ask the following questions to facilitate a discussion:

- **What are some examples that you have experienced in your own life when you or someone you know**



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lived out the Gospel and faced opposition? How did they overcome that opposition?

THEN, give an example of this in your own life. Then, say something like this:

- **Throughout our time together today we have been talking about the power of the Gospel for every believer. We are going to do an activity where I want you to think of places and ways that you can live out the Gospel in your own world. It could be at school, on a team, wherever you spend your time. Be specific and write those places down. Next, right down the ways that you plan to live out the Gospel in those areas.**

FINALLY, ask the students if they've grasped the concept that the Gospel is never something that they will grow beyond. Allow some time to share the action steps that they have laid out for themselves as they seek to depend on and live the Gospel in their world. Be sure to encourage students and remind them that you too need the Gospel every day.

Challenge your students to follow through on their action steps and let them know that they will have a chance to share these before the lesson next week.

Make sure there are no closing thoughts and then close in prayer.

- Don't forget to distribute the devotions to your students this week. If you're posting them on Instagram, or some other means of electronic distribution, make sure you inform students of when they will be receiving them.
- Use the **Social Media** guide to stay in touch with students via text or Instagram, and to encourage them to follow through with reading their devotions.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU . . .

- Do you have questions about a lesson?
- Something that worked particularly well you want to share?
- Something that didn't work you want to bring up?

We value your feedback! Please do not hesitate to email us with your questions, comments, or concerns, at feedback@youthministry360.com.