

THE LIFE

EMBRACING THE LIFE OF A CHRIST-FOLLOWER

Part 2: The Picture Of A Disciple
Unit 6: A Disciple Invests In Multiplication
Lesson 43: Multiplication, Part 1: Evangelism

What we want students to learn: That ingrained in our identity as Christ-followers is the act of sharing the Gospel with those who don't have a saving relationship Jesus.

What we want students to do with what they've learned: To intentionally increase their efforts at being people who openly share the Gospel message with others.

Scripture Focus: Matthew 28:18-20

Supporting Scripture: Mark 16:15-16

Overview: There are two types of multiplication that, as Christ-followers, we want to see our teenagers involved in: Kingdom multiplication, and individual multiplication. Kingdom multiplication is evangelism, sharing the Gospel in word. Individual multiplication is the expectation that as Christ-followers, your students will be shepherding younger Christ-followers. It's disciple-making. (This lesson will focus on evangelism, while the next lesson will focus on disciple-making.) Though we can never limit the Spirit's ability to lead people to salvation spontaneously, the most effective evangelism your students can embrace is "life-on-life." This kind of multiplication is personal. It's grace driven. It's your students seeking out the lost in their sphere of influence and inviting them into their lives to see how Christ has rescued them. It's Kingdom multiplication one person at a time. This lesson will challenge your students to consider their Kingdom impact and how they are using their lives to bring people to Christ.

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 43 Teacher Prep Video, login to your Lesson Manager, navigate to lesson 43, 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 of what's happening in and around the passage. *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:** Matthew, a former tax collector, was a disciple of Jesus and a firsthand witness to the stories he relates in his gospel.

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- **Time frame:** Most people hold to Matthew's gospel being written in the late 50's or 60's AD, though there are some who think it was written after the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD.
- **Purpose:** Matthew was writing to a primarily Jewish audience to convince them that Jesus was indeed the long-awaited Messiah. But he was probably aware of a Gentile audience, as his gospel makes the case that the saving truth of Christ is for all nations.

The Setting

At the beginning of chapter 28, Matthew recorded the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus told the disciples to let His followers know that He would soon be in Galilee. At the end of the chapter Jesus is on a mountain in Galilee, and His disciples worshipped Him there, but some doubted. It was at this point that Jesus gave what has come to be known as "The Great Commission."

The Main Point

The main point of this passage is that all Christ-followers are to go out and spread the good news of the Gospel to those around us. This isn't something we can be flippant with or be passive in our approach. It's something that requires our time, energy, and commitment. It involves us investing our lives into others and having the boldness to share with them about who God is and what He's done in our lives.

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 get students thinking about the concept of identity and what we, as believers, are known for.
- **Set-Up:** Before the lesson time, write down several famous peoples' names on a sticky nametag. These people can be from the past or present. They can be from the Bible, history, or current culture. (*Please note: This game is not necessarily an endorsement of any of the following people.*)

FIRST, explain to students they will be playing a game called, "Who Am I?" This is not a team game. The key to this game is to be honest, fair, and for students to try and guess what famous person they are, as a famous individual's name will be placed on their back with a nametag. They may only ask "yes" or "no" questions.

NEXT, place the name of a famous person (past or present) on each student's back. If your group is too large to do this with each student, select a few of them to participate in front of the group. Students should not yell anything out about the name that is on their friend's backs. Some potential people you could use can be:

- Peter (from the Bible)
- Peyton Manning
- Donald Duck
- Esther (from the Bible)
- The name of a church staff member
- Bruno Mars
- Lebron James

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- Minnie Mouse
- Donald Trump
- Abraham Lincoln
- Christ-follower (be sure this is on at least two different students)

THEN, after the youth leader says, “Go,” allow students to walk around one minute asking each other “yes or no” questions only (“Am I alive?” “Am I famous?” “Do I play sports?” “Am I from history?”) trying to figure out who they are. Once they’ve been given one minute to ask their questions, see how many students can guess who they are. Students should only guess once the questions are done. If there are a number of students that didn’t figure out who they are, you can give them one more minute to ask more questions and then give them time to make another guess once the questions are over.

FINALLY, explain to students that this was a fun way to get them thinking about the idea that we know people based on certain characteristics and identity-markers. Say something like:

- **We tend to know people and identify people based on certain characteristics, what they do, how they act, and so on. For example, we might personally identify Peyton Manning by saying things like, “Super Bowl MVP” or “Omaha.” These are things football fans naturally associate with Peyton Manning. For two of you, you had the words “Christ-follower” on your back. Were you able to figure out who you were? If so, what identity-markers helped you figure it out? As a Christ-follower, part of what we should be known for is sharing our faith with others. That’s the identity marker we’re going to dig into today.**

Transition into *The Main Event* portion of your lesson.

The Main Event

- **Goal:** For students to understand that ingrained in our identity as Christ-followers is the act of sharing the Gospel with those who don’t have a saving relationship with Jesus.
- **Set Up:** You’ll want a dry-erase board or the ability to display something on a screen. Make sure students have a Bible or a Bible app that they can along with a friend. They may also benefit from having something to write with and on.

FIRST, lead students in a discussion of what they believe are the most important aspects of being a Christ-follower. These are the things that they believe they should be doing on a consistent basis at an effective level. Write their answers on the board. The answers will vary, but inevitably we want to stress that as a part of a Christ-followers’ identity is personally sharing the Gospel with others. Explain to your students that this means seeking out the lost in their sphere of influence and inviting them into their lives to see how Christ has rescued them. Ask something like:

- **Is sharing the Gospel something that’s hard for you? Why or why not?**
 - Answers will vary.
- **Why do you think we let these kind of factors impact us when it comes to sharing the Gospel with others?**
 - Answers will vary.

THEN, read or have a student read Mark 16:15-16. Ask something like:

- **What does this passage communicate about the seriousness of sharing the Gospel? Why is it so important?**
 - *Answer:* It affirms the command to share the Gospel with everyone and stresses that knowing Christ is the only way to salvation.

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NEXT, explain that the main passage you're going to look at is one of the most famous passages in the Bible, Matthew 28:18-20. While students are looking, make sure you take a few moments to provide the context for the passage using the *Bible Background*. Pay close attention to the Setting. Summarize it for your students so that they grasp when this passage of Scripture occurs in Jesus' ministry.

THEN, read or have a student read Matthew 28:18-20. Ask something like:

- **As we think about some of the issues we have with sharing the Gospel, why is it important for us to recognize that Jesus has all authority?**
 - *Answer:* If Jesus has all authority in heaven and earth, what do we have to be afraid of? What are we nervous about? We are sharing the good news of the one who is in total control. This truth should give us peace and comfort.
- **What are the action words and phrases in this passage?**
 - *Answer:* Go, Make Disciples, Baptizing, Teaching
- **Let's talk about the word "go." What does it mean for us?**
 - *Answer:* It means that we have to be active in sharing the Gospel. Yes, we go and take the Gospel to other nations, but we also go and take it to those around us on a consistent basis. It means that we can't just sit back and be passive with the good news of the Gospel.
- **Next is the phrase "make disciples." What's important about the word "disciple" here? Why is it different than just making "church members" or something like that?**
 - *Answer:* Disciples are serious about following their leader. So, Jesus wants us to go and not just get people to join a church or go down front during a service. He wants us to help people learn to really follow Him.
- **Next is the word "baptizing" and "teaching." Why are these critical parts of the process?**
 - *Answer:* It goes back to what we just said about making disciples. Baptism is an important declaration of what Jesus has done in someone's life. It signals a turning point. And then, continued teaching is critical as disciples continue to grow in their relationship with Christ.
- **The passage calls us to teach everything that Jesus commanded. Is that possible to do in an afternoon? A weekend? What does this teach us about making disciples?**
 - *Answer:* Of course we can't teach someone all that Jesus commanded in such a short time. It means making disciples is a long process that requires us to invest our lives into others.
- **Next, is the phrase "I am with you always." At the beginning of this passage, we read that Jesus has all authority. Now we read this. How is this also comforting to you as believer?**
 - *Answer:* In the tough moments of life when we don't "feel" as if Jesus is close, He is there. In our best moments and our worst moments, Christ still loves us and wants a personal relationship with us. This is one of the most intriguing parts of the Christian faith.

FINALLY, wrap up this section of the lesson by saying something like:

- **The two passages communicate to us the importance of sharing the Gospel. We looked at two passages where Jesus explicitly commands us to go out into the world and share the good news. He even gives us some details on what's expected of us in the process. Now, let's dive deeper into some of the things that keep us from obeying these commands.**

Ask if there are any questions, then transition into *The Last Word*.

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The Last Word

- **Goal:** To pray through and think through intentionally how we can increase our efforts at being people who openly share the Gospel message with others.
- **Set-Up:** You'll want students to have a sheet of paper and something to write with.

FIRST, explain to students that though we can never limit the Spirit's ability to spontaneously lead people to salvation, the most effective evangelism your students can embrace is investing in the lives of those who don't know Christ. Say something like:

- **We all have strengths and weaknesses, good days and bad days. We are never going to be perfect when it comes to sharing our faith with others. Take some time and think about your struggles and weaknesses in this area. Write down on a piece of paper the top 2-3 things that keep you from sharing the Gospel with others.**

THEN, after you give them a few moments to write down their answers, ask if any of them would be willing to share what they wrote down. Write some of the common answers on the board. Ask something like:

- **What promises did Jesus give in the passage we just studied that we can cling to when we are fearful?**
 - *Answer:* He promises that He has all authority and that He will always be with us.
- **Let's take a second and think through how knowing and trusting Jesus impacts these fears. Take a look at these answers. If you have some unique ones on your paper, look at them for a second. How does Jesus overcome these fears or concerns?**
 - *Answer:* Answers will vary. If an answer is something along the lines of "fear of rejection," remind them that because we are accepted in Christ, we have no reason to fear the rejection of people. If the answer is along the lines of "fear of knowing what to say," remind them that Jesus is near to them and will strengthen them and also that it's ok to respond to questions with, "I don't know, I'll work on finding an answer."

THEN, say something like:

- **Take a moment and look at what you wrote down on your list. Beside each answer you gave, write down how Jesus overcomes that fear. Now, think specifically about someone you need to be intentional about sharing the Gospel with? What's your hang-up? How can you be intentional in sharing the Gospel with this person? Maybe it's talking to them over a meal or while you're playing video games. It doesn't have to be a super intense, overwhelming setting. Hang on to this paper and cling to it when you're thinking about who you are going to share the Gospel with here in the near future. Use it as a reminder to calm your concerns, fears, and nerves and remember that Jesus is near to you.**

FINALLY, spend some time in prayer over these specific concerns. You can lead the entire prayer if you want, or try and include some of the students in praying out loud for themselves and the group that they would have no fear when it comes to being bold witnesses for Christ.

- 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?

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- 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.