

THE LIFE

EMBRACING THE LIFE OF A CHRIST-FOLLOWER

Part 3: The Cost of Discipleship
Lesson 52: Jesus Wins!

What we want students to learn: That no matter how tough things get, we can be comforted by the fact that in the end, Jesus wins.

What we want students to do with what they've learned: To put their hope in Jesus as the victor, trusting in a present and a future where Jesus overcomes the world.

Scripture Focus: John 16:32-33

Supporting Scripture: Revelation 19:6-9

Overview: As you wrap up this unit, and your study of *The LIFE*, it's important to help your students see that even though living as a Christ-follower has its challenges, for the disciple of Christ, there is tremendous hope for today and for the future. Scripture is clear: Jesus, and those who through Him are welcomed into the family of God, wins in the end. Jesus is the victor. And no matter how tough this world can be at times, if we are in Christ, we win too. His victory is ours. This lesson is about helping your students embrace this truth and be encouraged and emboldened by it in their everyday lives.

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 52 Teacher Prep Video, login to your Lesson Manager, navigate to lesson 52, 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:** The Gospel of John was written by John the Apostle, son of Zebedee. A fisherman who left his trade to follow Jesus, John also penned the Book of Revelation, as well as the three letters in the New Testament that bear his name.
- **Time frame:** The Gospel of John was probably written between 85 and 95 AD. John most likely wrote his gospel in Ephesus before he was exiled to Patmos.
- **Purpose:** John's stated purpose for writing this book can be found in John 20:30-31, the last two verses in his gospel: "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John's goal seems to have been to clearly communicate a full theology of Jesus as the Messiah, the promised Son of God.

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The Setting

The passage for this lesson comes from the gospel of John, which was written by one of the Jesus' disciples. John wrote to both Greek and Gentile audiences, which makes his account of Jesus's life unique. In the first part of chapter 16, Jesus is trying to comfort His disciples who are worried about the time that is coming when Jesus will leave them. We must understand that it had to be scary for the disciples to know that their teacher and Savior was leaving them.

The Main Point

We want to show that believers can have hope in Jesus Christ to overcome the trials and tribulations of the world. Being a Christ-follower has its hard times, and these challenges often feel like they are unconquerable. Jesus tells us that He has already overcome the world and that if we place our hope in Him, then we too will be given the strength and comfort to overcome our present trials.

Lesson Plan

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

The Lead In

- **Goal:** To show students that when trials and difficulties come their way we can rely on others. Ultimately we want to rely on Jesus as others may fail us.
- **Set-Up:** You are going to look up 6-8 "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" questions from the Internet. Simply Google search "who wants to be a millionaire questions." Once you have these questions, you can also make two graphics for "Ask The Audience" and "50/50" Lifelines, though these aren't necessary to have.

FIRST, tell your students that you are going to play a game called "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" Explain to them that this is a trivia game where the questions get more difficult, but that they don't have to be alone while they answer the questions. Explain to them that there are two lifelines that they will have access to while they answer the trivia questions. Each lifeline can only be used once on their journey through the questions, so make sure that they use them wisely!

NEXT, explain each of the Lifelines. The first Lifeline is "Ask the Audience" in which you will poll the audience for which of the four answers they believe to be correct. The contestant will get to choose whether or not to use the answer that the majority of the group votes on. The second Lifeline is "50/50" where you as the teacher will eliminate two incorrect answers giving them a 50/50 chance of getting the correct answer.

THEN, bring up one or two contestants to play. You want to make some of these questions easy, but it is OK to grab some more difficult questions for the end. Be sure to encourage audience participation once the contestant has locked in their answer saying things such as, "Do you think that he/she got it right?" and "What do you think the right answer is?" Once the contestants have finished the game, follow up with some of the following questions:

- **Would it be possible to have known the answers to all of these questions by yourself? Why or why not?**
 - Answers will vary.
- **How were the lifelines beneficial? Is it possible that they hurt your chances of finding the right answer?**
 - Answers will vary.

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FINALLY, you are going to want to explain to them that often life as a disciple is going to take us through trials and difficult circumstances. When we are in these circumstances, we often turn to those around us for help. Sometimes we turn to Jesus. When we look at other “lifelines” other than Jesus for help, we can often be let down. Today we are going to talk about how Scripture tells us that we can have confidence in Jesus because He has already overcome the world! Say something like this:

- **Sometimes some of the smartest people we know can be wrong. Sometimes some of the people that we believe in the most let us down. Scripture gives us confidence that Jesus is never going to let us down, and that we can confidently follow Him during times of trial because He has already won. Let’s take a look at what Scripture has to say about where we should look to for comfort.**

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

The Main Event

- **Goal:** That no matter how tough things get, we can be comforted by the fact that in the end, Jesus wins.
- **Set Up:** You may benefit from a dry-erase board, but it’s not essential. You’ll want to make sure students have a Bible or a Bible app.

FIRST, talk to your students about what it would have been like to be a disciple under Jesus. We have been studying what the life of a disciple and follower of Jesus looks like today, but what do they think a normal day looked like. Ask some questions like these:

- **What do you think conversations looked like with Jesus on a regular basis? Was He always teaching?**
 - *Answer:* Jesus taught His disciples just like He taught the crowds, but we must believe that Jesus was also a friend to the disciples.
- **How do you think the disciples felt about Jesus leaving them?**
 - *Answer:* They were afraid, nervous, and sad that their teacher was leaving. The concept of joining Him again in heaven was a difficult concept to grasp.
- **Why would they have been scared about Jesus leaving them?**
 - *Answer:* The teachings of Jesus were not well accepted by the religious elite. There was worry that when Jesus left them that harm might come upon them, or that they would be rejected by society.

NEXT, tell students that the disciples were justified in their fear of Jesus leaving them. They had spent years with Him, and it was a scary thought that Jesus was not going to be with them much longer. When we open up our Bibles to John 16 we see that Jesus has been comforting His disciples for the entire chapter telling them about how when He leaves His helper will come. He also tries to comfort them telling them that their sorrow will turn to joy when they see Jesus again. Say something like:

- **Jesus wanted the disciples to be comforted in knowing that there was hope beyond the temporary sorrow and pain that was coming. He was trying to get their hearts and minds focused on the future victory that Jesus was going to have over sin and death. Jesus knew that He needed to provide even more comfort for the disciples, which is what brings us to our passage today.**

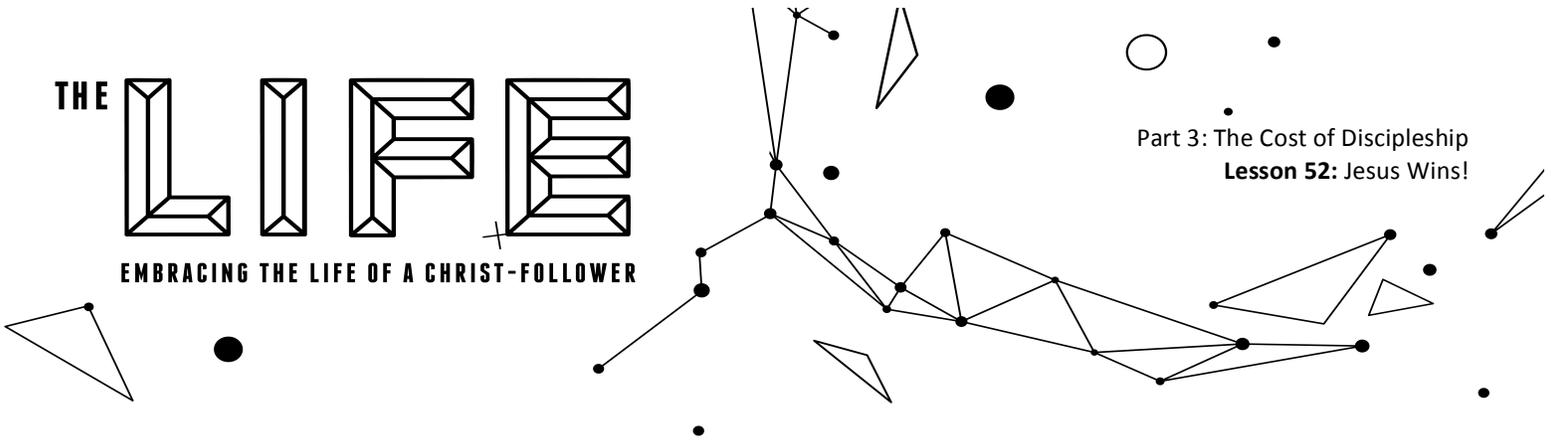
THEN, read or have a student read John 16:32. Explain to your students that Jesus was talking to them about trials that were coming their way. Tell students that Jesus understood that there would be consequences for His disciples following Him when He was gone. Ask your students some of these questions about the passage:

- **Jesus is making a reference to an earlier passage of Scripture, Zechariah 13:7, which talks about how sheep scatter when the shepherd is struck. Why do you think sheep scatter when a shepherd is struck?**

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- *Answer:* They scatter from fear. They fear that the same will happen to them, and they do not have the strength of their leader, therefore they run believing that the obstacle or attack is greater than them.
- **Why should we find comfort that Jesus was struck and crucified?**
 - *Answer:* Jesus was struck and crucified in our place. The wrath that was due to us for our sin was greater than we could ever have handled. Jesus lovingly took our place. Jesus took on Himself the trial that we deserved.

NEXT, tell students that Jesus willingly took this great trial that was due to us, but the story doesn't end there. Explain to students that Jesus not only faced our greatest trial, but Scripture tells us that He overcame it. Read or have a student read John 16:33. Ask your students some of the following questions:

- **Where does Jesus say our peace is to come from?**
 - *Answer:* Our peace is to come from Jesus and our hope in Him.
- **What does the world offer us when we seek refuge in it? How is this different from Jesus?**
 - *Answer:* The world is going to offer us tribulation, but Jesus wants to offer us peace. The world brings us pain while Jesus brings comfort.
- **Though we live in the world and it offers us tribulation, how do we have peace?**
 - *Answer:* Jesus has already overcome the world. Jesus faced death, the world's greatest effort to induce suffering. He won, so we are able to have His peace.

THEN, explain to students why this is such a big deal. Talk to students about how Jesus was not telling the disciples that life was going to be trial-free for them. He has asked us to live as shining examples for Him in this dark world, but that when we place our hope in Him there is nothing that this world can do to us. Say something like this:

- **Imagine when you were a little kid and you tried to wrestle with an adult. It didn't matter how much effort you put into your attack, because the adult was always stronger. A toddler can't even move the thumb of an adult because the adult is much stronger. In our lives, the world is like the toddler trying to overpower Jesus. Death is the worst thing that this world had to offer, and Jesus gained the victory over it by rising from the grave!**

FINALLY, tell students that the life of a disciple is not an easy one, but it is one filled with hope thanks to the victory of Jesus. Explain to students that as we wrap up our lesson today we want to talk about how God has given us the strength and hope to overcome any trial that come our way.

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

The Last Word

- **Goal:** That students can learn to put their hope in Jesus as the victor, trusting in a present and a future where Jesus overcomes the world.
- **Set-Up:** If you want to assign one student to read Revelation 19:6-9, as well as have a picture of something related to the Olympics.

FIRST, ask students about the Olympics. Ask them if they knew that the Olympics come around every four years, and that the entire world turns their eyes toward the Olympic stage. Tell student that the Olympics is the pinnacle of many sport performances where the best athletes in the world are crowned. Ask something like:

- **With the Summer and Winter Olympics alternating, we get to watch the tournaments and events every two years and it's exciting stuff. What do you think the Olympians did during the four years leading up to the Olympics?**

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- *Answer:* There was a lot of hard training that got them to the Olympics. They practiced and trained hard the entire time. They didn't just sit around eating chocolate and pizza all day and then wind up at the Olympics.
- **Do you think the athletes ever get frustrated during their training? Do you think they ever wonder if it's all worth it?**
 - *Answer:* They definitely get frustrated and it's almost certain that they have moments of questioning.

NEXT, tell students that like the Olympics, a day is coming where we will stand in the victory circle with Jesus. Read or have a student read Revelation 19:6-9. Tell students that often the book of Revelation can be shrouded in some language that seems super strange to our ears. Explain that the ceremony you just read about is what happens once Jesus has come back and reclaimed the world with a complete victory over sin. Ask some students the following questions about the passage:

- **Why do you think there is a great multitude gathered for this ceremony?**
 - *Answer:* This is the culmination of creation. This is where Jesus is reunited with His people and creation with no sin being present. It will be worth celebrating!
- **What do you think it means when it says the marriage of the Lamb? Who does that involve?**
 - *Answer:* This is where Christ is reunited with us, believers. Jesus is going to finally be with us in a perfect world that is not corrupted by sin. This is why He came to earth and died for our sins, so that He could be together with us forever.
- **What does it say about those who are invited to be in the presence of the ceremony?**
 - *Answer:* It says that those who are invited are blessed, but we are not only invited, we are the bride of the ceremony. Jesus has prepared the way for His believers and disciples as a blessing for the rest of eternity!

Tell students that when the Olympian stands on that platform holding the gold medal, their hard days and trials are all in the review mirror. All the time and energy and frustration is now worth it. When we place our hope in Jesus as believers, there will be a day in the future where our trials and tribulations will pale in comparison to the joy of being reunited with Christ for eternity. Say something like this:

- **No matter what trials and pains we face as believers we know that Jesus is greater. We know that in the future, Scripture promises that Jesus will not only have defeated death, but He will eliminate all sin and we will be reunited with Him for eternity. When we face these trials we must firmly believe that our help and hope comes from Jesus, the greatest victor this world has ever known!**

FINALLY, allow time for any closing thoughts or questions from your students.

- 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.