

ACTIVATED FOR ACTION

4-WEEK SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

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WHY? WHAT? HOW? NOW!



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WHY – Share the Gospel –

Icebreaker:

“Quick Questions!”

1. Have everyone pair up, then explain steps 2-5 to your students.
2. You and your partner will take turns asking each other a question.
3. The first person to pause longer than 3 seconds or repeat a question that's already been asked is out.
4. After each round, find a new partner.
5. The game is played until the final two students are competing in front of the group.

Alternative Game for online Youth Group: “Trivia Time”

1. Create a list of “Why” questions to ask your students. Here are a few examples to get your creative juices flowing:
 - Q – Why are plants green? A – Photosynthesis.
 - Q – Why did God remove Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden? A – Sin.
2. Ask your questions, one at a time. The student who answers first scores a point. Depending on your online Youth Group platform you could have students respond in a variety of ways:
 - text their answers to you
 - type them in the chat box of your video meeting platform
 - unmute and answer out loud
 - write their answers on a 3x5 card or piece of paper and hold it up to their camera

3. The student who scores the most points wins!
4. You can take this online experience up a notch and try your hand at Kahoot (<https://kahoot.com/>) to develop a fun, short trivia game based on questions that involve the word, “Why”. Depending on the size of your group you may have to pay an additional subscription fee.

Introduction:

SAY:

Whether it’s investing hours of hard work into a fundraiser for a mission trip, buying earrings to support ending sex trafficking, or shoveling snow to earn money to buy a new phone, we’ve all done things because of a “why”. There are few things more compelling in this world than understanding and deeply believing in the reasons behind the actions that need to be taken. If we understand why we are supposed to do something, it can give us the determination and courage to do unimaginable things. In the movie “Harriet,” we see the true story of Harriet Tubman and how she was determined to make a difference for slaves. Here’s a clip that shares a bit of her character:

PLAY: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZrDihnANpM> (play from 2:48-4:39)

If you are in an online Youth Group setting you can either share the link with your students and have them watch it before your meeting, or you can play it from your computer and use the screen sharing function of your online video meeting platform.

SAY:

In this clip we can clearly see that Harriet was driven by the vision of setting her people free. She deeply understood the pain of slavery, as she had experienced it herself, and she knew the joy of freedom. She was known for having a live free or die mentality because she was so driven by the importance of giving liberty to the captives.



Main Passage:

Read or Have a Student Read:

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.” John 3: 14-18

Major Points:

Leader Note:

These connections can be used to develop a brief sermon or shared as you open a small group discussion relating the movie clip to the Bible passage.

- We can see in this passage that the beautiful gift of eternal life is available to everyone, but God is counting on us to share it, similar to how the slaves needed Harriet to come tell them how to get to freedom. He has strategically placed us to extend this offer of redemption to other people around us that might not otherwise hear it. (John 3:14)
- Some of the slaves Harriet set free were her own family and friends, whom she loved, and she was willing to give her life for her cause. Love is a powerful force that fuels us into action. Out of a love for people, especially those we have relationships with, we find great resolve to share the good news of Jesus. (John 3:16)
- Harriet knew her life’s mission was to save slaves from their bondage. In the same way, our life’s mission, as believers, is to share the saving message that releases people from the bondage they are in without Jesus.



- Harriet Tubman was motivated to free slaves. Similarly, we can be driven to free others who are, in a sense, spiritual slaves under condemnation because they don't believe in Jesus. (John 3:18)

Gospel Segue:

Leader Note:

You can use the provided Life in 6 Words app slides as you present the G.O.S.P.E.L.

SAY:

If you're here tonight and you aren't sure if you really believe in Jesus or have eternal life, we want you to know that you are invited to trust in Him. Do you want to live in the freedom and beauty that comes from being saved? It's available to everyone. Jesus has paid for your sins and wants to give you the fulfillment, love, and joy of being in a relationship with Him.

GOD created us to be with Him.

OUR sins separate us from God.

SINS cannot be removed by good deeds.

PAYING the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again.

EVERYONE who trusts in Him alone has eternal life.

LIFE with Jesus starts now and lasts forever!

If you are ready to put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ, or you would like to talk more about this, let me or another leader know.

Take 5 for the Cause:

ASK OR HAVE A STUDENT ASK:

Who has had a chance to have a gospel conversation with a friend? How did it go?



Group Discussion questions:

ASK:

- What part of the Harriet Tubman story can help motivate you in sharing your faith?
- What are some things that get in the way of sharing the message of the gospel?
- Why would we share the message of the gospel with others?
- How can we help each other remember to focus on, and be inspired by, the reasons to share it?

Activate and Prayer:

SAY:

Now, I'd like each of you to take out your phone and download the Life in 6 Words app. Once you have the app downloaded, create an account on the app.

Leader Note:

You can also refer to the Life in 6 Words app slides as you walk them through this process.

Pray as a group, going around the circle one-by-one, praying specifically for each other's hearts to increase in compassion for those who don't know Jesus. If you are in an online Youth Group setting you might need to assign students to pray in a particular order.



WHAT – G.O.S.P.E.L. –

Icebreaker:

“Communication?”

1. Have everyone circle up. Then explain steps 2-6 to your students.
2. The first person will write down a simple sentence of instruction (that is doable in our space) like “Get up and rub the head of the person that is in the red shirt.”
3. The first person will then discretely show that sentence to the person sitting next to them. This second person will draw a picture of the sentence on another piece of paper.
4. The second person will discretely show their drawing to the person sitting next to them. This third person writes a sentence that explains what they saw in the picture on another piece of paper. Continue around the circle, alternating between drawing and writing, until you get to the last person.
5. This last person in the circle then acts out what the instruction is and the first person shares if they got it right or not.
6. Game play continues with another player in the circle writing out the next action to begin another round.

Alternative Game for online Youth Group: “Stuck at Home Scavenger Hunt”

1. Before you start your gathering, text/email/post on your social media channel a list of items your students need to find around their house.



2. Try to make things vague leaving lots of room for interpretation. You might include items on your list like “mouse,” (stuffed, real, or computer?), “cover,” (blanket, Tupperware lid, or mask?), or “glasses,” (sun, drinking, or eye?).
3. You can have your students show their findings in a variety of ways:
 - Text or email you a picture of everything they found. You can then screen share those pictures from your computer for everyone to see.
 - Call out each item on your list, one at a time, and have them hold up their items to their camera
4. You can keep your scoring simple, awarding 1 point for every item found, or you can heat up the competition by awarding additional points for creativity.

Introduction:

SAY:

As we’ve seen in life and in this game, communication is often challenging. Since Christians carry the world’s most important message, we want to share it clearly. Sometimes if we aren’t careful it can come out wrong, similar to how Peter Parker miscommunicates with Edith in this scene from *Spider Man: Far from Home*.

PLAY: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qRQu4tZF1GA>

If you are in an online Youth Group setting you can either share the link with your students and have them watch it before your meeting or you can play it from your computer and use the screen sharing function of your online video meeting platform.

SAY:

Whether it’s answering someone else’s questions, accidentally punching someone out, or nearly causing his bus to crash, everything that Peter is trying to communicate and do in this clip is accidentally misconstrued.



Peter wanted to communicate something simple, but because he was careless, it got out of control quickly and the consequences were messy. In a similar manner, we can easily cause a lot of confusion and chaos when sharing the gospel if we aren't prepared to share it clearly.

Main Passage:

Read or Have a Student Read:

"Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (NIV)

Major Points:

Leader Note:

These connections can be used to develop a brief sermon or shared as you open a small group discussion relating the movie clip to the Bible passage.

- Paul is reminding us in this passage of the strength of the gospel and remembering it clearly. (1 Corinthians 15:1)
- The gospel is what saves us, not our acts of service, attendance to church, or even our Bible reading. We are to consistently and constantly stay focused on the message and meaning of the life and death of Jesus. (1 Corinthians 15:2)
- Unlike the way Peter Parker instructed Edith in that bus scene, Paul models for us how important it is that we "pass on" the gospel clearly to others. (1 Corinthians 15:3)



- He points out the most important parts of the gospel are what Christ did for us, not what we have done as Christians or what we have experienced. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)
- Let's work towards memorizing all these important points (which are on the Life in 6 Words app you downloaded last week):

God created us to be with him. (Genesis 1,2)

Our sins separate us from God. (Genesis 3)

Sins cannot be removed by good deeds. (Gen.4- Malachi 4)

Paying the price for sin Jesus died and rose again. (Matthew-Luke)

Everyone who trusts in him alone has eternal life. (John)

Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever. (Acts-Revelation)

Leader Note:

You can use the provided Life in 6 Words app slides as you present the G.O.S.P.E.L.

Gospel Segue:

Leader Note:

You can use the provided Life in 6 Words app slides as you present the G.O.S.P.E.L.

SAY:

As we work on memorizing these points to share with others, perhaps some of you here aren't sure you've ever really understood the gospel before for yourself. Maybe today is the time for you to confidentially trust in Jesus for the first time. In case you've never heard or haven't completely understood:



GOD created us to be with Him.
OUR sins separate us from God.
SINS cannot be removed by good deeds.
PAYING the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again.
EVERYONE who trusts in Him alone has eternal life.
LIFE with Jesus starts now and lasts forever!

If you are ready to put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ, or you would like to talk more about this, let me or another leader know.

Take 5 for THE Cause:

ASK OR HAVE A STUDENT ASK:

Who has had a chance to have a gospel conversation with a friend? How did it go?

Group Discussion Questions:

ASK:

- What are some of the ways or methods that you have heard people share the gospel clearly?
- What are some ways or phrases that people have used to try to share the gospel that have been confusing, incomplete, or only tell part of the story?
- What are some roadblocks you might encounter in trying to share the gospel clearly?
- How can we help each other be inspired to tell the saving message of Jesus clearly to others?



Activate and Prayer:

SAY:

This week, memorize the G.O.S.P.E.L. by using the slides on the app and become familiar with the corresponding verses that you can see when you hit the book icon on the bottom of each statement on the app.

Leader Note:

You can also refer to the Life in 6 Words app slides as you walk them through this process.

Get in groups of 3 and share honestly what might be in the way of sharing the gospel clearly for you personally (difficulty memorizing, social anxiety, fear of losing friends, etc.). Take some time to pray for each other to be able to share God's truth clearly.

If you are in an online Youth Group setting you might need to assign students to pray in a particular order.



HOW – Cause Circle –

Icebreaker:

“You are Awesome!”

1. Pass out colored paper and a sharpie to each student.
2. Instruct them to write their name in big letters in the middle of the paper.
3. Have them help each other tape their paper to their own back.
4. Explain that you want them to go around to each person and write a couple of words of positive qualities that they see in them on their paper.
5. Play some upbeat worship music during this activity.
6. When everyone is done writing words on everyone else’s paper, have them remove the paper and read it.

Alternative Game for online Youth Group: ***“Who can it be?”***

1. Prior to gathering, ask each student, through an individual text, to send you a positive quality they have seen in another person in the group (For example: “Sara, tell me one thing you love about Mary”). Make sure you get every student covered with at least 1-2 words.
2. Once on the platform with everyone, read the qualities and let students guess in the chat who they think it is describing. Then reveal who it really is.

Introduction:

SAY:

I'm sure as you read (or heard) those words that there are some that surprised you. Hopefully you felt valued and God can use this activity to help you feel His love. There is so much joy in feeling seen and cared for. Truly, the power of kindness goes a long way. In this clip, from the movie *Wonder*, we see how simple this can be when a boy who has a disfigured face is befriended by another boy.

PLAY: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZoL1epfoq-g>

If you are in an online Youth Group setting you can either share the link with your students and have them watch it before your meeting or you can play it from your computer and use the screen sharing function of your online video meeting platform.

SAY:

Those young boys can teach us so much. The way the mom responds, and the symbolism of flashing over to the skipping astronaut all point to the impact of these small caring acts of friendship. Although everything we just saw in that clip, from eating lunch together to playing video games, was simple, it was also very important. The power of love is so evident in small, but significant actions, and God frequently uses acts of kindness to draw us, and others, to His heart.

Main Passage:

Read or Have a Student Read:

"...so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you."

1 Thessalonians 2:8-9



Major Points:

Leader Note:

These connections can be used to develop a brief sermon or shared as you open a small group discussion relating the movie clip to the Bible passage.

- In the start of the clip we saw the boy begin to care for Auggie just by being fun. Truly loving someone includes joyfully caring for them. (1 Thessalonians 2:8)
- As the clip progress we see them begin to talk about more difficult subjects. As we care for people, it's important that we gladly include sharing the message of the gospel with them as well. (1 Thessalonians 2:8)
- You can tell by the variety of settings and activities in this video that these two boys are spending a fair amount of time together. Building a relationship with someone involves making time with them a priority. (1 Thessalonians 2:8)
- Caring for others and sharing the good news of Jesus often involves sacrifice, hard work and shifting priorities. (1 Thessalonians 2: 9)

Gospel Segue:

Leader Note:

You can use the provided Life in 6 Words app slides as you present the G.O.S.P.E.L.

SAY:

Hopefully being here tonight you've felt that we honestly care about you and want to invest in a relationship. We genuinely want to "do life" with each other and we want to grow together in our understanding of God. Because we care about you, we want to make sure you understand the gospel message.



GOD created us to be with Him.
OUR sins separate us from God.
SINS cannot be removed by good deeds.
PAYING the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again.
EVERYONE who trusts in Him alone has eternal life.
LIFE with Jesus starts now and lasts forever!

If you are ready to put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ, or you would like to talk more about this, let me or another leader know, and we'd love to talk about it.

Take 5 for THE Cause:

ASK OR HAVE A STUDENT ASK:

Who has had a chance to have a gospel conversation with a friend? How did it go?

Group Discussion Questions:

ASK:

- In the movie clip we saw a kid showing an act of kindness to another kid. Do you think it's harder as a teen to show kindness and care for others? Why or why not?
- As the friends got closer, the conversation got more serious as plastic surgery was discussed. How do we get more serious in our talks with friends and bring God into the discussion?
- What kind of sacrifices would it take to make praying, caring and sharing for others a bigger priority?
- How can we stay focused on reaching more people with the gospel?



Activate and Prayer:

SAY:

Open your Life in 6 Words app and go to the Cause Circle option. Hit the “plus” button, then the “Add Name” option and enter the names of people in your life that may not have a relationship with Jesus. Be sure to scroll down and select your focus to be either prayer, care or share for each person.

Leader note:

You can also refer to the Life in 6 Words app slides as you walk them through this process.

Hit the “Press to Pray” button on the Cause Circle screen and pray silently for each of the people in your Cause Circle; hit the “I Prayed” button when you are done.



NOW – Groups –

Icebreaker:

“Opposite Charades”

1. Have everyone write 10 nouns on separate little pieces of paper.
2. Put all the papers in a bowl.
3. Divide your group into two teams. Team 1 goes first, and they select a person on their team to be the “guesser”.
4. Instruct the “guesser” to stand a little way from their group (Team 1) and face them.
5. Explain to Team 1 that they, as a group, will start to act out (when the timer is started) what is written on the paper until the “guesser” gets the right answer or the team passes.
6. Set a timer for a minute and then pull a noun out so that Team 1, but not their “guesser,” can see it.
7. Continue to pull out the next noun once the current one is passed or guessed. Play continues until the timer is up.
8. Tally how many Team 1 got right and then switch to Team 2.
9. Play for 3-5 rounds and then add up the score for the winner!

Alternative Game for online Youth Group: “Opposite Charades on a Screen”

1. Have everyone text you, individually, 10 different nouns.
2. Designate who will be the “guesser” and tell them to remove the chat box/screen from their view on their device temporarily.
3. Explain that for the next minute, everyone else on the video chat will act out each noun and the “guesser” will need to guess what the answer is.
4. Text the word to be acted out in the chat box/screen and say, “Go!” If they guess the word, type in the next word to be acted out. Continue until 1 minute is up.
5. Continue play, designating a new “guesser.”
6. Keep track of each “guesser’s” score.
7. Announce who got the most correct answers!

Introduction:**SAY:**

In this game, as soon as you see the word, you have to act quickly! Similarly, we don’t just want to talk about the gospel, we want to experience God working through us now. Obviously, we can’t control Him, but we can control our actions, and He has asked us to be His messenger. He’s asked us to act just as some good people were asked to act in the last Star Wars movie:

PLAY: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Qn_spdM5Zg

If you are in an online Youth Group setting you can either share the link with your students and have them watch it before your meeting or you can play it from your computer and use the screen sharing function of your online video meeting platform.



SAY:

In this clip you clearly see that people have been asked to come together for the cause of fighting for something that is hugely important. Similarly, we have been asked to come together for The Cause of Christ and join Him in building His Kingdom.

Main Passage:***Read or Have a Student Read:***

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

Major Points:***Leader Note:***

These connections can be used to develop a brief sermon or shared as you open a small group discussion to relate the movie clip to the Bible passage.

- Just as the leaders of the Resistance in this clip had the authority to issue a call for help across the galaxy, Jesus has the power and right above all else to tell us what to do and what we should prioritize in the moment. (Matthew 28:18)
- In the movie it was evident that the need was immediate, that the powers of evil had gotten out of control and action was needed quickly. Similarly, Jesus tells us to go! Not when it's convenient, not when you've got life all figured out, and not when you're older, but now! (Matthew 28:19)



- We can accomplish this vision Jesus gives us to reach all people, just as in the movie many different groups came together to fight for justice. Collectively, we might represent different groups at our schools. Maybe some of you are athletes, some of you are in the band, and some of you are artists, but together we can build relationships and have influence on a wide variety of people. (Matthew 28:19)
- In the video they say the force brought them together for a mission, and in this passage, we see that Jesus brings us together for the purpose of reaching and teaching others about his good news! (Matthew 28:19-20)
- Gain strength and courage to act now by remembering that Jesus is with us as we seek to fulfill this mighty cause for Him. (Matthew 28:20)

Gospel Segue:

Leader Note:

You can use the provided Life in 6 Words app slides as you present the G.O.S.P.E.L.

SAY:

Perhaps it's difficult for you to be motivated by this call to action because you're not sure you're even a Christian yourself. Maybe you're sitting there thinking that there's no way you could teach others about Jesus and this cause because you don't feel like you fully understand it. We want to make sure you know that the invitation is available to join right here, right now. It's not your actions that make you a Christian, it's about accepting the actions Jesus already did for you.

GOD created us to be with Him.

OUR sins separate us from God.

SINS cannot be removed by good deeds.

PAYING the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again.

EVERYONE who trusts in Him alone has eternal life.

LIFE with Jesus starts now and lasts forever!



If you are ready to put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ, or you would like to talk more about this, let me or another leader know.

Take 5 for THE Cause:

ASK OR HAVE A STUDENT ASK:

Who has had a chance to have a gospel conversation with a friend? How did it go?

Group Discussion Questions:

ASK:

- In this movie there is clearly a sense of urgency for the good to fight the evil that is trying to take over. How does this relate to where God has placed you in time and location? In what ways is evil trying to take over your generation?
- How important do you think it is to “quickly” share the message of the gospel with your friends who don’t know Jesus? Why or why not?
- In our eagerness to share the good news of Jesus, what are some things we need to be sensitive to in the conversation? What can we do to help us remember to show love in these interactions?
- How can we help each other remember the importance of acting now, but also balance that with an awareness that our job is to share, their job is to agree or not, and the Holy Spirit’s job is to save?



Activate and Prayer:

SAY:

Now let's create a group on the app and set a reminder to pray for each other and the people we are each trying to reach. Let's create space each week in youth group to check in on how those conversations are going. Open your Life in 6 Words app. Go to the groups button on the menu. I, as the leader, will create a group for us and then tell you the group code. You just need to hit "Groups" then "Join Group" and enter this code right now. This will allow us to pray for each other and see how many people collectively we are praying for, caring for, and sharing with, as well as how many people put their faith in Jesus.

Let's get in groups of 2 and pray for the courage, inspiration and motivation to propel us to act now on behalf of our friends who haven't put their trust in Jesus. Let's watch for opportunities to pray for, care for, and share with those around us who haven't accepted the gospel.

If you are in an online Youth Group setting you might need to assign students to pray in a particular order.

