

The Timeless Truth of Jesus

Presentations for Children, Youth, & Adults

Teacher's Notes



DON MACLAFFERTY

The Timeless **Truth^{of} Jesus**

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Don MacLafferty

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A Note of Thanks

Special thanks to the following:

All glory and honor to God the Father, His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. God worked in marvelous ways to make these presentations available to His children of all age groups.

Thanksgiving to the many men and women who tirelessly and sacrificially enriched these presentations with their knowledge of God's Word, creative ideas, thoughtful editing, and behind-the-scenes intercessory prayer. This resource would not be possible without God gathering and mobilizing you by the power of the sweet Holy Spirit!

Purpose of *The Timeless Truth of Jesus*

Dear Friends,

Do you long to know and love Jesus more and more each day? Jesus is preparing a place in heaven for you. Soon He will come again.

The purpose of this booklet is to proclaim the beautiful, life-giving, and often-forgotten truths of Jesus Christ so that children, youth, and adults will be transformed by knowing Jesus, and be prepared to meet Him at His promised coming.

To many, Jesus is Savior. To others, He is a friend. These are but a taste of the truth of who Jesus is and who He longs to be in our lives. Scripture is rich with hundreds, if not thousands, of beautiful, and majestic pictures of Jesus. What I share in this booklet is only a small glimpse, but it is the beginning of what changed my life forever. And I believe it will change yours too!

My prayer is that, after completing this 12-part study, your life will not be the same, as you look heavenward in fresh awe and adoring worship of our Lord, Savior, and King, Jesus Christ. As you will soon discover, the truths shared in this Bible study series are fresh, alive, and relevant. Will you join me in seeking to live these life-giving truths of Jesus and also share them with a hungry world in need?

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don MacLafferty". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Don" being more prominent and the last name "MacLafferty" following in a similar style.

Don MacLafferty
President
In Discipleship

How to Use *The Timeless Truth* of Jesus for All Ages

Quick overview and study goals:

- Every truth will be presented with the authority of the written Word of God alone.
- Every truth will be shared so that a 10 year old will understand it.
- Every truth will engage young and old with the written Word of God.
- Every truth will be given with an appeal and challenge to know and to act on God's Word.

Principles and Tips for Presenting to Children, Youth, and Adults

Instructions for you as the Bible study leader:

1. Remember the Holy Spirit is your first teacher.
2. Prayerfully seek His wisdom and blessing before you try to lead or teach anything.
3. Earnestly seek God's leading on who you should recruit to assist. Pray for men, women, and young people of godly character and prayer, who are led by the Holy Spirit.
4. Recruit small group leaders if doing this study with a large group. (If using small group leaders, invest one evening before the opening Bible study to pray with and equip all small groups leaders to be effective in their roles. Confirm that everyone knows what to do.)
5. Ask your team (including small group leaders and song leaders) to come to the venue thirty minutes before the meeting to pray.
6. Pray for the Lord to do more than we can ask or imagine! Claim Ephesians 3:20, 21.
7. If you have a large group, divide participants into 6-8 people per group, including a designated small group leader in each group. If possible, have them sit in circles. (If chairs for sitting in circles are not an option, make smaller groups, so they can press together as they study with each person having a partner.)
8. If possible, pray by name for those who are participating. Ask your small group leaders to pray for those in their circles.
9. After a hearty welcome, a time of praise and worship should be the start of each study/meeting. (See Welcome and Suggested Worship/Prayer Outline below.)
10. After the worship/prayer time, before starting the study: Ask who did the challenge. Ask who would like to share what God did when they did the challenge.
11. Next, a simple connect activity will be given at the start of *The Timeless Truth of Jesus* Bible study to help group members engage and prepare their hearts for the written Word of God. (This is a bridge to help the biblical truth to sink in. A quick debrief from the connect activity might also be included.)

12. Work your small groups: Instruct the small group leaders to make sure everyone participates as you lead the connect activity. Engage the small group leaders in leading their groups in exploring key Bible passages when prompted.
13. Prepare to share your own story that coordinates with the specific timeless truth of Jesus being taught.
14. Prayerfully share the appeal and pray for those who respond and those who do not.
15. Boldly share the challenge. Ask who will join you in doing it.
16. Close the meeting with thanking the people for being a part of *The Timeless Truth of Jesus* Bible study.
17. Follow through with all divine appointments God gives you with those participating in the study.
18. Depending on your available time and format, you may want to incorporate additional songs such as a special music opening song, a congregational hymn opening song, an appeal song and or a closing hymn. Music is such a powerful way to correct with hearts! We have provided a few suggestions in Appendix A for you to consider adding to each day. Each day opens with a worship/prayer time. See Appendix B for song ideas for worship/prayer. Ask God for wisdom as you select the songs that would best accompany with word.

Welcome and Suggested Worship/Prayer Outline:

1. Recruit a young person to assist you in the welcome. Remind people to sit in their same small groups as the first meeting.
2. Recruit a Holy Spirit led song leader to lead two opening songs, and then help the prayer team with singing during the prayer time. See Appendix B for song ideas for Worship/Prayer.
Recruit a 4-person team (youth and adult, if possible) to lead all the small groups in a time of prayerful worship before the study begins. (Before beginning this prayer time, have them give brief instructions, reminding people to keep prayers short and on topic. Then to begin each section of prayer, they should share a scripture and what that scripture means to them. Make sure participants have their part ready so as not to read their instructions! Model to them what is meant by the instructions. Sharing what a Scripture means to them should be a 30-second-maximum moment.)

Lead The Worship/Prayer (about 20 minute) as follows:

Songs

- Two joyful songs about Jesus to start the time of worship.

Praise

- Scripture on the topic of praise for a specific name of Jesus, and why this Scripture is special.
- Prayer Time 1: Praise Jesus for His different names.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of praise.

Thanksgiving

- Scripture on the topic of thanksgiving for something Jesus has done, and why that Scripture is meaningful.
- Prayer Time 2: Thank Jesus for what He does.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of thanksgiving.

Confession

- Scripture on the topic of confession.
- Prayer Time 3: Confess our sins to God.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayer of confession.

Holy Spirit

- Scripture on the topic of the Holy Spirit.
- Prayer Time 4: Ask God for the Holy Spirit.
- Song (1 stanza) to close time of prayer for Holy Spirit.
- Final prayer by worship prayer leader.

The Timeless Truth of Jesus

DAY 1

The Word

John 1:1

Theme: The Authority of the Bible

Helpful item if available: Blindfold

I. Welcome and Worship/Prayer

- Recruit a young person to assist you in a warm and joyful welcome. Encourage people to choose a small group and to stay in it for the series if they are comfortable with their group.
- Recruit a Holy Spirit led song leader to lead two opening songs, and then help the prayer team with singing during the prayer time. See Appendix B for song ideas for Worship/Prayer.
- Recruit a 2-4 person team (made up of children, youth and adults, if possible) to give direction from up front to all the small groups in the time of Worship/Prayer.

Lead Worship/Prayer (about 20 minutes) as follows:

Songs

- Two joyful songs about Jesus to start the time of worship.

Praise

- Read Psalm 138:1-3 & Philippians 2:9-11 aloud. God has magnified His Word—Jesus—above His own name.
- Prayer Time 1: In your groups, praise Jesus as the Word of God.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of praise.

Thanksgiving

- Read Psalm 33:6-9 aloud.
- Prayer Time 2: In your groups, thank the Lord for something specific He has done in your life.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of thanksgiving.

Confession

- Read Ezekiel 36:36 out loud.
- Prayer Time 3: Privately ask God to rebuild the ruined places and replant those places that are desolate in your life.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayer of confession

Holy Spirit

- Read Psalm 147:18 out loud. What does wind and water represent in Scripture? (the Holy Spirit—See John 3:8; 7:38.)

- Prayer Time 4: In your groups, pray for the Holy Spirit to “send out” God’s Word and melt your heart, as you study Jesus as the Word made flesh.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers asking for the Holy Spirit.

Worship/Prayer Leader Prayer

- Final prayer by worship/prayer leader to close prayer time.

II. Introduction

- A. Connect Activity: Ask: who had the most authority in your life? Please stand according to your answer.
 - Who had the most authority in your life—Mom or Dad? If it was Mom, please stand. (You may sit down.) If it was Dad, please stand. (You may sit down.)
 - Who had the most authority in your life—Grandma or Grandpa? If it was Grandma, please stand. (You may sit down.) If it was Grandpa, please stand. (You may sit down.)
 - Who had the most authority in your life—elementary school teacher or doctor? If it was your elementary school teacher, please stand. (You may sit down.) If it was your doctor, please stand. (You may sit down.)
 - Who had the most authority in your life—best friend or favorite aunt or uncle? If it was your best friend, please stand. (You may sit down.) If it was your favorite aunt or uncle, please stand. (You may sit down.)
- B. Debrief with the whole group: Ask for a few volunteers to come up front to share their answers. Ask: What made you value someone’s authority as higher than someone else? What did we learn about authority from our responses in the activity we just did together?
- C. Introduce: Join me in exploring the Bible to discover more of Jesus. He has many special names throughout Scripture. Today we will explore one of His names that establishes His authority.

Dear Father God, as we begin studying The Timeless Truth of Jesus, please open our hearts to what You want to show us in Your Word. We want to understand and know Jesus for ourselves. We want to see and experience Your Word in a fresh new way, as we never have before. Please send the Holy Spirit to give us eyes to see and give us ears to hear what You want to tell us. In Jesus’ name, amen.

III. Timeless Health Truth of Jesus

- A. We have been given a beautiful message of love from our Father in heaven. This message of love is about our health, and it is for everyone. When we are healthy, we can hear Jesus' voice more clearly, which makes us hunger for more of Him. Jesus' health principles, when practiced, are strong medicine and powerful witnessing tools. The principles are so basic that anyone can understand and apply them. Best of all, they are FREE. But we can't share what we are not practicing ourselves, so let's get into it.
- B. Read Genesis 1;29, 30. What was the original diet that God gave to man? (herbs and fruits) What we eat matters to Jesus. Consider the wide variety of foods He created for us to eat and enjoy, along with all the beautiful colors and flavors. For optimal health, include the following in your diet:
- Eat whole, plant-based foods with lots of color and variety, that is vegetables, fruits, legumes, nuts, seeds and grains.
 - Avoid processed and refined foods and ingredients.
 - Eat 2-3 meals per day at regular times, and avoid snacking between meals.
 - Space your meals 4-5 hours apart which allows the stomach to rest and prepare for the next meal.
 - Push away from your meal when about 80% full and then enjoy a walk to help with digestion.

Jesus, the Word, said, "It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

IV. Message

- A. Invite the groups to read John 1:1,14 and to answer these questions:
- What special names do you discover in these verses for Jesus? (*Notice that Jesus is God! The Word, God, the only begotten of the Father*)
 - How does verse 14 clarify that Jesus is the One being mentioned? (*Jesus has an amazing name that eternally links Him to the Bible, the written Word of God. He is called The Word.*)

- B. Invite the groups to read Matthew 4:1-11.
 - 1. How did Jesus show that He was entirely dependent on the written Word of God? (*Jesus quoted the Word of God as the authority behind His beliefs and actions.*)
- C. Invite the groups to read Luke 24:13-35.
 - 1. How did Jesus show that He valued the written Word of God over the five senses? (*Jesus relied on the written Word of God, not feelings, nor senses. Jesus honored the written Word of God as having the highest authority and revelation of who He is!*)
- D. God states in Revelation 13:11-14 that there will be a mighty power in the end of time that will make fire fall from heaven and will deceive the whole world. Jesus is the Living Word and He gives full authority to the written Word of God. Do not make decisions based on what you can see, hear, taste, touch, or smell. Make the written Word of God your highest authority. Jesus, The Word, did...and so can you!

V. Conclusion

- A. Demonstration: Invite a child and their parent to come forward. (If no child is available, invite any two people who know each other well.) Place a scarf or cloth over the child's eyes. Ask for a few volunteers from the audience along with the parent to surround the child in a circle. When cued, have all of the adults talk to the child. Tell the child to go towards the voice of their parent and not listen to anyone else.
- B. As the leader, share your personal testimony about what Jesus' gift of The Word means to you. Share how this gift has changed your life.
- C. Appeal: When you know Jesus as the Living Word, He is the One you trust! Who will follow Jesus' example and follow the written Word of God as your highest authority? (Raise your right hand.) I invite you to raise your hand if this is your conviction.
- D. End with a prayer over those who have responded to the appeal.

E. Challenge:

(You will need to write this out for all to see or print this challenge on small cards for each one to have.)

1. Review Matthew 4:1-11. How did Jesus reveal His dependence on the written Word of God as His authority?
2. Make a list of those who have the most authority in your life. Above your list write, "God's written Word is my highest authority."
3. Begin reading the gospel of Mark, starting with chapter one. Ask God to shape your life according to what you read in His Word.

DAY 2

Lord

Philippians 2:9-11

Theme: Jesus' Triumph over Evil

Helpful items if available: Seven large, empty boxes with labels on front and back written in large letters big enough for all to see in the audience: TEMPTATIONS, FAMILY FIGHTS, DISCOURAGEMENT, SOCIAL MEDIA, FAILURE, ADDICTION, LORD.

I. Welcome and Worship/Prayer

- Recruit a young person to assist you in a warm and joyful welcome. Encourage people to choose a small group and to stay in it for the series if they are comfortable with their group.
- Recruit a Holy Spirit led song leader to lead two opening songs, and then help the prayer team with singing during the prayer time. See Appendix B for song ideas for Worship/Prayer.
- Recruit a 2-4 person team (made up of children, youth and adults, if possible) to give direction from up front to all the small groups in the time of Worship/Prayer.

Lead the Worship/Prayer (about 20 minutes) as follows::

Songs

- Two joyful songs about Jesus to start the time of worship.

Praise

- Read Revelation 5:12.
- Prayer Time 1: Praise the Holy and Almighty God, Jesus Christ, who alone is worthy to receive all glory, honor and power.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of praise.

Thanksgiving

- Read Isaiah 9:6.
- Prayer Time 2: Thank the Lord Jesus for all He has done for you.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of thanksgiving.

Confession

- Read Ephesians 2:4-6.
- Prayer Time 3: Privately appeal to Jesus to save you from your specific sins. Remember He is rejoicing over you when you come to repentance!
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayer of confession

Holy Spirit

- Read Zechariah 4:6.
- Prayer Time 4: Ask for Holy Spirit power to understand the Word as you open it today.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers asking for the Holy Spirit.

Worship/Prayer Leader Prayer

- Final prayer by worship/prayer leader to close prayer time.

II. Review

Ask the small groups to take a few minutes to discuss together how they did on the challenge for Day 1. Ask, Did God reveal any additional insights as you reviewed Matthew 4:1-11? What are you doing with what you learned?

Allow time for feedback.

III. Introduction

- A. Connect Activity: Invite small group leaders to have everyone team up in twos. Each team should either be married couples or same gender. Each team of two should stand up to face each other, raise their hands and press the palms of the person facing them while putting a foot back to brace themselves. Instruct all of them in the room that when you count to three, they should steadily push against each other for 10 seconds (you count) to see who can push the other's hands back.
- B. Debrief: Instruct the small group leaders to ask their group if they had any surprises. Ask what conflicts come to mind when they think about two sides pushing against each other. Ask for a few volunteers to come up front to share their answer.
- C. Introduce: Join me in exploring the Bible today to discover the real Jesus. He has many special names throughout Scripture. Today, we will explore one of His names that testifies of His power in all conflict. Let's pray!

*Dear Father God, we live in a world of conflict. We are being pressed on all sides. We cannot fight this battle in our own strength. Please help us; please fight for us; please strengthen us. And right now, please send Your Holy Spirit to teach us from Your written Word. Give us eyes to see who Jesus is, and how He longs to be our **victory** and **power**. In Jesus' name, amen.*

IV. Timeless Health Truth of Jesus

Is there anything too hard for God? According to Jeremiah 32:17, God has all power, having made the heavens and the earth, and there is nothing too hard for Him. Therefore, you can trust Him with every situation in your life.

- Trust your life with God— completely.
- Trust Him with your spiritual and temporal needs.
- Trust even your unanswered life questions to God.
- Give Him your heart and will each day.
- Abide in Him, and ask Him to abide in you.
- Live for His glory!

Jesus is worthy to be trusted because He alone is Lord. (See Philippians 2:9-11.)

V. Message

Invite the groups to read Revelation 12:7-17.

- Compare Revelation 12:7 with I Thessalonians 4:16, John 5:28, 29, and Jude 9. What voice does Jesus come with when He comes in the clouds? (*The voice of the archangel. Notice how Jesus and Michael, the archangel, are identified as the same person. The archangel is the commander of the angels.*)
- Compare Revelation 12:7 with Revelation 12:9. Who is the dragon? (*Satan is the dragon. Jesus, who is Michael, and Satan the dragon are at war.*)
- Read Revelation 12:9,10. What do we know about the final outcome of this war between Jesus and Satan? (*Satan, the accuser of our brethren has been cast down and salvation is now come and strength and the kingdom of God and the power of his Christ.*)
- Read Revelation 12:11,12. How do we overcome Satan? (*We*

overcome him by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony.)

- Satan is a defeated foe. Look to Jesus for your victory. He has triumphed over Satan. Jesus will be your victory too!

VI. Conclusion

- A. Demonstration: Ask for a teenager volunteer to come forward. Place all seven boxes in a row in front of the volunteer with the labels facing the audience and the volunteer. Ask the volunteer to stack the boxes according to the influence and power each label can have on our life. Instruct them to place the box representing the smallest influence in life on the bottom of the stack and the box representing the greatest influence potential on the top of the stack.

Wait for the volunteer to stack the boxes.

Ask the audience, which box represents the highest power and influence over all? (LORD)

Jesus is Lord! He has the power to be Lord over all other powers and influences in our life! Jesus has the power to break any influence in our life that has made us a slave!

- B. As the leader, share your personal testimony about what Jesus as Lord means to you. Share how Jesus being your victory has changed your life.
- C. Appeal: Who will stand up to follow Jesus, our Lord, wherever He leads? I invite all who will follow Jesus, the Almighty, wherever He leads you - to stand up right where you are.
- D. End with a prayer over those who have responded to the appeal.
- E. Challenge: Read Mark, chapter 2. Pray and tell God that you choose to trust in Jesus, as your Lord, to be your victory in all things. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you anything in your home that does not honor Jesus and throw it out!

DAY 3

Creator

Hebrews 1:1, 2

Theme: Identity, Man and Woman, Family, Day of Rest

Helpful Items: Paper and pencils/pens

I. Welcome and Prayer/Worship

- Recruit a young person to assist you in a warm and joyful welcome. Encourage people to choose a small group and to stay in it for the series if they are comfortable with their group.
- Recruit a Holy Spirit led song leader to lead two opening songs, and then help the prayer team with singing during the prayer time. See Appendix B for song ideas for Worship/Prayer.
- Recruit a 2-4 person team (made up of children, youth and adults, if possible) to give direction from up front to all the small groups in the time of Worship/Prayer.

Lead the Worship/Prayer (about 20 minutes) as follows::

Songs

- Two joyful songs about Jesus to start the time of worship.

Praise

- Read Nehemiah 9:4b,5. Jesus is worthy to be praised for He has created all things.
- Prayer Time 1: Praise Jesus for being the Creator and Preserver of all things.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of praise.

Thanksgiving

- Read Isaiah 40:28,29. The Creator of everything is never worn out or at the end of His understanding. And He promises to give your weak soul His strength and power.
- Prayer Time 2: Thank Jesus for specific areas where He gives you strength during the day.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of thanksgiving.

Confession

- Read Isaiah 44:21-23. The Lord who has formed you also blotted out your sins.
- Prayer Time 3: Privately confess your sins to Your Creator—thank Him “for He has done it”!
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayer of confession

Holy Spirit

- Read Genesis 1:2 and Psalm 139:7,11-16. The Holy Spirit was present at the Creation of the world, hovering over it even while it was in its unformed state. He was also present while you were being created in your mother's womb, even in your unformed state.
- Prayer Time 4: Ask God for the Holy Spirit to "hover" over you today. Ask Him to re-create your life into something beautiful as you partake of His Word.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers asking for the Holy Spirit.

Worship/Prayer Leader Prayer

- Final prayer by worship/prayer leader to close prayer time.

II. Review

Ask the small groups to take a few minutes to discuss together how they did on the challenge for Day 2. Are you allowing Jesus to be your victory? Have you thrown out things that you know did not honor Him? Pray together, that you can continue to walk in victory.

III. Introduction

- A. **Connect Activity:** Invite small groups to do the following: Each person acts out something they have created with their hands. Have the people in your group try to guess what each created.
- B. **Debrief:** When you know you created something with your own hands and it turned out well, how do you feel about it? Ask for a few volunteers to share their answer.
- C. **Introduce:** Join me in exploring the Bible today to discover who the real Jesus is. He has many special names throughout Scripture. Today we will explore one of His roles that gives us a precious name for Him. Let's pray.

Dear God in Heaven, You are such a creative God, and You created so many beautiful things for us to enjoy. Thank You for Your tender care, for so many blessings, and especially for the gift of life. We love You, and we want to honor You with this precious gift of life that You have given us. Please bless our time in the Word today, and please give us a deeper understanding and appreciation for Your Son Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.

IV. Timeless Health Truth of Jesus

The One who created us also knows how to satisfy us. Jesus said, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink” and “whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst, but the water I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.” (John 7:37; 4:14). Just as our spiritual lives require daily nourishment from the “water of life” provided by our Creator, our physical bodies also rely on water as an essential component for sustaining life. Both are vital for our overall well-being and growth.

- Our bodies are 60-75% water; therefore, without adequate water we could become dehydrated and die within 3-7 days (depending on circumstances).
- If we experience thirst, we are already dehydrated.
- Drinking water bathes us on the inside, flushing out impurities.
- Drink plenty of water in between meals.
- Aim for at least 8 cups per day or drink enough to keep the urine pale yellow.
- Avoid juices and sugary or caffeinated beverages.
- End your daily shower with cool water for 30 seconds to boost your immune system.

Jesus, the Creator, the source of all life, created both spiritual and physical water, both of which are essential for your overall well-being and growth.

V. Message

Bible Story:

- A. Invite the groups to read Hebrews 1:1,2. What name has Jesus earned by His unique relationship with our world? (*He is the Creator.*)
- B. Invite the groups to explore Genesis 1 & 2. (Genesis 1:1 declares “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” During this week of creation, in which Jesus created everything precious in our skies, land and seas, He also created three blessings as gifts to mankind forever.)

1. Read Genesis 1:26-27. What did Jesus create? (*Jesus created man and woman.*)

What does the Word of God proclaim after Jesus created man and woman on the sixth day? Read Genesis 1:31. (*It was VERY GOOD. Jesus created male and female and gave humanity the simplicity and beauty of His gift of their gender identity. This is His first gift.*)

2. Read Genesis 2:18-25. How would you describe the marriage Jesus created? (*Jesus made marriage between a man and a woman. He created the woman out of a rib from man to remind men to place a high value on women. Jesus made this first man and woman ONE FLESH so that they would be united in every way: physically, sexually, mentally, emotionally and spiritually with His blessing over them always. Marriage and family are Jesus' second gift of creation.*)

3. Read Genesis 2:1-3. How did Jesus finish the week of creation as He completed all His work of creation? (*First, Jesus rested on the seventh day from all His work. Second, He blessed the seventh day, and third He sanctified this day, or made it holy. Jesus made this day a gift to humankind before there were Jews or Gentiles, churches, synagogues, or denominations or sin! It is the day He has chosen to make holy. This seventh day is Jesus' third gift from His creation week.*)

VI. Conclusion

A. Demonstration:

Give everyone a piece of paper. Invite everyone to take two minutes to create something to give to someone else in the room. Tell them they can write on it, draw on it, or shape it into something meaningful to them. Invite them after two minutes to give what they created to someone else.

What you created is what you had as your God-given right to give as a gift.

Jesus has created gender identity, marriage, and the seventh-day blessing of rest as precious gifts for humanity.

- B. As the leader, share your personal testimony about what Jesus as The Creator means to you. Share how Jesus has re-created your life.
- C. Appeal: Who chooses to receive Jesus' three gifts: His design for your beautiful gender identity, His plan for marriage and family, and His day of blessed rest. I invite all who choose to receive these three gifts from Jesus to come and join me up front on their knees or in the seats provided here.
- D. End with a prayer over those who have responded to the appeal.
- E. Challenge: Read Mark, chapter 3. Ask Jesus Christ to shape your gender identity, your marriage, and your blessed day of rest.

DAY 4

Lawgiver

ISAIAH 33:22

Theme: Unchangeable Law of God

Helpful items if available: Objects to make an obstacle course: chairs, tables, barrels, boxes, etc.

I. Welcome and Prayer/Worship

- Recruit a young person to assist you in a warm and joyful welcome. Encourage people to choose a small group and to stay in it for the series if they are comfortable with their group.
- Recruit a Holy Spirit led song leader to lead two opening songs, and then help the prayer team with singing during the prayer time. See Appendix B for song ideas for Worship/Prayer.
- Recruit a 2-4 person team (made up of children, youth and adults, if possible) to give direction from up front to all the small groups in the time of Worship/Prayer.

Lead the Worship/Prayer (about 20 minutes) as follows::

Songs

- Two joyful songs about Jesus to start the time of worship.

Praise

- Read Psalm 119:7,8. God's law is a simple transcript of His righteous character of love. (See Matthew 22:37-40.)
- Prayer Time 1: Praise Jesus as the righteous and upright lawgiver.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of praise.

Thanksgiving

- Read Psalm 19:7,8
- Prayer Time 2: Thank God for all the ways His perfect law blesses you.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of thanksgiving.

Confession

- Read Psalm 119:9-11.
- Prayer Time 3: Privately ask God to forgive your sins, cleanse your ways, and help you hide the Word (the law) in your heart.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayer of confession

Holy Spirit

- Read Ezekiel 36:26,27.

- Prayer Time 4: Ask the Lord for a full measure of the Holy Spirit so you can walk according to His statutes in His Word today.
 - Song (1 stanza) to close prayers asking for the Holy Spirit.
- Worship/Prayer Leader Prayer**
- Final prayer by worship/prayer leader to close prayer time.

II. Review

In groups of two, take a few minutes to discuss how the challenge for Day 3 is going. Ask each other, Is Jesus shaping your gender identity, your marriage, and your sacred day of rest? Where do you need extra prayer in these areas? Take time to pray for one another in groups of two.

III. Introduction

- Connect Activity:** Invite all small groups to gather in teams of two. Invite each team of two to ask each other:
 - What rule do you remember from your childhood that you still value today?
 - Who made that rule?
 - What did that rule tell you about the person who made it?
- Debrief:** Ask for a few volunteers from the room to come up front and to share their answers to these three questions. Wise rules or laws provide safety and freedom for people.
- Introduce:** Join me in exploring the Bible today to discover who the real Jesus is as our Lawgiver. Let's pray!

Dear Father God, sometimes we struggle with rules or laws. Please forgive us for being rebellious against the laws of heaven. Change our perspective. Show us from Your Word how much You love us, and how You never change, but You do all things for our best good. Open our hearts to what You have for us today in Your Word. We pray all these things in Jesus' precious name, amen.

IV. Timeless Health Truth of Jesus

- Read Psalm 119:9,10. Who wants to protect our hearts and lead us to true freedom? (Jesus, the Lawgiver)

- B. Think about: What things may be binding you and keeping you from physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health as well as healthy relationships with your fellow man?
- Surrender your lifestyle and health habits to Jesus.
 - Exercise moderation in that which is healthful, and dispense entirely with everything that is hurtful or causes harm.
 - Surrender any addictions to Jesus.
 - Surrender bitterness and unforgiveness to Jesus.
 - Self-control not only refers to right eating, drinking, and thinking, but it also includes proper ratios of work, play, time with family, time with friends, and time with God.

Jesus, the Lawgiver, wants to give you self-control for victory, joy, and freedom in every aspect of your life.

III. The Message

- A. Invite every group to read Isaiah 33:22 and James 4:12. How is our Lord Jesus described in relationship to the law? (*Jesus is the Lawgiver.*)
- B. Invite every group to explore Exodus 20.
- C. Read Exodus 20:1,2. What did Jesus bring His people out of? (*Out of bondage*)
- D. Read Exodus 20:3-11. What relationship is Jesus seeking to protect with the first four commandments? (*Our relationship with God.*) What does this tell you about His value on His relationship with His people? (*He values His relationship with us very highly.*)
- E. Read Exodus 20:12-17. What relationships is Jesus seeking to protect with the last six commandments? (*Our relationships with each other.*) What does this tell you about His value on people's relationships with each other? (*He values them very much!*)
- F. Read Matthew 5:17,18. What did Jesus do to the law when He came to earth? (*Jesus came to fulfill the Law.*)

- G. Read Jeremiah 31:33 and Hebrews 8:10. Where does Jesus the Lawgiver most want to place His Law? (*in our hearts*) How long does He want His Law to stay in your heart? (*until all be fulfilled*)

VI. Conclusion

- A. Demonstration: Have an obstacle course set up in front in a way where the audience can easily see it.

Invite a volunteer to come forward and blindfold them. Tell them their task is to walk successfully through the obstacle course without stumbling into anything. Invite another volunteer to come and to give them helpful instructions, without touching them, to safely guide them through the obstacle course without stumbling.

Jesus, the Lawgiver, has given us His Ten Commandments as a forever law to protect our hearts and lead us in the way of true freedom.

- B. As the leader, share your personal testimony about what Jesus' gift of His Ten Commandments means to you. Share how this gift has changed your life.
- C. Appeal: Who will follow Jesus as the Lawgiver?
- D. End with a prayer over those who have responded to the appeal.
- E. Challenge: Read Mark, chapter 4. Re-read Exodus 20:4-17 and write out the Ten Commandments by hand on a piece of paper that you can put in strategic place to remember God's sacred law of love.

DAY 5

Savior

Luke 2:11

Theme: Salvation by Grace Through Faith

I. Welcome and Prayer/Worship

- Recruit a young person to assist you in a warm and joyful welcome. Encourage people to choose a small group and to stay in it for the series if they are comfortable with their group.
- Recruit a Holy Spirit led song leader to lead two opening songs, and then help the prayer team with singing during the prayer time. See Appendix B for song ideas for Worship/Prayer.
- Recruit a 2-4 person team (made up of children, youth and adults, if possible) to give direction from up front to all the small groups in the time of Worship/Prayer.

Lead the Worship/Prayer (about 20 minutes) as follows::

Songs

- Two joyful songs about Jesus to start the time of worship.

Praise

- Read Isaiah 43:11,12.
- Prayer Time 1: Praise Jesus as your one and only Savior.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of praise.

Thanksgiving

- Read John 3:16.
- Prayer Time 2: Thank God for giving His only Son Jesus to save you and give you eternal life.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of thanksgiving.

Confession

- Read Isaiah 12:1-3.
- Prayer Time 3: Privately confess your known sins to God, asking Him for an overflow of joy from the wells of salvation.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayer of confession

Holy Spirit

- Read Titus 3:4-6.
- Prayer Time 4: Ask Jesus for an abundant outpouring of the Holy Spirit to renew you as you open His Word.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers asking for the Holy Spirit.

Worship/Prayer Leader Prayer

- Final prayer by worship/prayer leader to close prayer time.

II. Review

Ask the small groups to take a few minutes to discuss together how they did on the challenge for Day 4. Ask, What is your favorite parable from Mark 4, and how did it speak to your heart? Did you write out the Ten Commandments, and if so, where did you place them in your home?

Allow time for feedback.

III. Introduction

- Connect Activity: Split the small groups in half and have half the members do a quiet charade (with no sounds or words), acting out the saving or rescuing of one person from something/some situation. Have the other half of the group guess what they are being rescued from, and then switch roles. Encourage group members to be creative.
- Debrief: Ask, What does it feel like when you are the one being rescued or saved? How would you feel if no one had come to your rescue? Aren't we glad that Jesus doesn't leave us without a savior? He has come to our rescue. He has come to be our Savior! Ask for a few volunteers to come up front to share their answers.
- Introduce: Join me in exploring the Bible today to discover the timeless truth of Jesus as our Savior. Let's pray!

Dear Father God. We don't deserve to be rescued, but because You love us, You sent Jesus to come to earth to save us. We are grateful. Please speak to our hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit as we open Your Word. Break open our hearts afresh with what Your Son Jesus did for us on Calvary. Help us not to take this great Gift of salvation for granted any longer. In Jesus' name, amen.

IV. Timeless Health Truth of Jesus

- Read Proverbs 3:5-8. What does this verse say we should do with ALL our heart? (*TRUST Jesus*)

- B. Who should we acknowledge and get understanding/insight from? (*Jesus*)
- C. Who will direct our path? (*Jesus*)
- D. What are we to turn away from? (*evil*)
- E. What 2 promises does God give? (See verses 6 and 8.)
 - When we trust Jesus with all our heart, acknowledge Him, and get our wisdom from Him, we can be sure that He will direct our paths.
 - When we trust Jesus and turn away from evil, it will be healing to our flesh and refreshing to our body.
 - Jesus, your Savior, can be trusted.

V. The Message

- A. Invite the small groups to read Luke 2:11. What is one of Jesus' most precious names associated with our eternal salvation? (*Savior*) What does this name mean to you?
- B. Invite the small groups to read Luke 23:33-47. Reflect on verse 34. What was Jesus' prayer on the cross? (*Jesus' prayed for the soldiers who crucified Him, and the church leaders and people mocking Him. His prayer was for you and me - for we also have no idea how our sins have hurt His heart.*)
- C. Imagine what it would have been like to be there that day. Which crowd would you have been part of - the curious onlookers, the mockers, or those standing loyally by His side. (see John 19:25)?
- D. What does Jesus' conversation with the thief on the cross in Luke 23:39-43 reveal about the Savior's heart for us as sinners? (*Jesus has such a heart of mercy to bring salvation to anyone!*)
- E. Invite the small groups to read Romans 5:6-8. What is most amazing about Jesus' death on the cross? (*He died for us while we were sinners!*)
- F. Invite the small groups to read Ephesians 2:8,9 and Titus 3:5-7. How are we saved? (*We are saved by grace through faith. This is the mercy of God. We cannot boast in our obedience or our works. God renews us by the Holy Spirit and makes us right with Him by His grace through Jesus' death for us on the cross.*)

VI. Conclusion

- A. Activity: Have members in small groups share in twos what Jesus' gift of salvation means to them personally.
- B. As the leader, share your personal testimony about what Jesus' gift of salvation means to you. Share how this gift has changed your life.
- C. Appeal: Jesus has given us the ultimate gift by becoming our Savior. Will you invite Jesus into your heart as your living Savior? If you've already invited Him into your heart as your Savior, ask yourself if you've been taking this great gift for granted. If you have, ask forgiveness, and ask God to make it personal to you, that you can know Jesus died for *you*—not just for the whole world, but for YOU. This understanding will change your life. I invite you to come and join me up front if this is your first time to invite Jesus into your heart as your Savior or if you are impressed that you need to recommit your life to Jesus as your Savior.
- D. End with a prayer over those who have responded to the appeal.
- E. Challenge: Read Mark, chapter 5. Ask Jesus to be your Peace for your salvation and for your life.

DAY 6

Lord of the Sabbath

Mark 2:28

Theme: Seventh-Day Sabbath

Helpful items needed if available:

2 chairs

7 large signs with the following printed in black ink:

- Day 1 – Sunday
- Day 2 – Monday
- Day 3 – Tuesday
- Day 4 – Wednesday
- Day 5 – Thursday
- Day 6 – Friday
- Day 7 – Saturday Sabbath (Print this sign in bright colors!
Make this sign more beautiful than all the others, if possible.)

I. Welcome and Prayer/Worship

- Recruit a young person to assist you in a warm and joyful welcome. Encourage people to choose a small group and to stay in it for the series if they are comfortable with their group.
- Recruit a Holy Spirit led song leader to lead two opening songs, and then help the prayer team with singing during the prayer time. See Appendix B for song ideas for Worship/Prayer.
- Recruit a 2-4 person team (made up of children, youth and adults, if possible) to give direction from up front to all the small groups in the time of Worship/Prayer.

Lead the Worship/Prayer (about 20 minutes) as follows::

Songs

- Two joyful songs about Jesus to start the time of worship.

Praise

- Read Psalm 92:1-5. Some versions note that this Psalm is a “song for the Sabbath day.” The whole Psalm is devoted to God’s great love for us.
- Prayer Time 1: Praise Jesus for His unwavering love and faithfulness.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of praise.

Thanksgiving

- Read Psalm 132:13-16. God wants to rest or abide with you forever.
- Prayer Time 2: Thank God for how abundantly He has provided for you.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of thanksgiving.

Confession

- Read Hebrews 4:9-11. Jesus is calling you to cease from your own works and enter His rest.
- Prayer Time 3: Privately ask God to forgive you for the times you depended on your own works and not on His.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayer of confession

Holy Spirit

- Read Isaiah 11:2.
- Prayer Time 4: Ask for the Spirit of God to rest on you and give you all these gifts as you open the Word of God today.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers asking for the Holy Spirit.

Worship/Prayer Leader Prayer

- Final prayer by worship/prayer leader to close prayer time.

II. Review

What did you learn from Mark, chapter 5? Have you acted on Day 5's challenge? Is Jesus truly your Peace and Salvation? If not, surround one another in prayer, and pray for that Peace to fill your life and heart.

III. Introduction

- A. Connect Activity: Invite small group leaders to gather their group in twos. Share your favorite birthday memory. What made it special? Who made it special?
- B. Debrief: Was our favorite birthday more about the gift we received or the giver who gave it? Both are special. Ask for a few volunteers to come up front to share their answer.
- C. Introduce: Join me in exploring the Bible today to discover who Jesus is as the Lord of the Sabbath. Let's pray!

Dear Father God, We live in a world of distractions. We have forgotten our first love. Please forgive us for our busyness, for often being too busy to slow down and follow Jesus. We want to be in tune with His voice and obey Him. As we open Your Word today, please speak to our hearts. Please teach us. Show us who Jesus is as Lord of the Sabbath. We love you. In Your holy name, amen.”

IV. Timeless Health Truth of Jesus

- A. Read Genesis 2:1-3. On which day of creation did Jesus finish his work? (seventh)
- B. What did Jesus do when He finished his work? (rested)
- C. Adam and Eve had no part in creation. They spent their first full day resting with Jesus on the seventh day. From the time of creation, Jesus knew we would need time *each day* to rest:
 - time to rest in sleep (The hours of sleep before midnight are most beneficial.)
 - time to rest in worship with Him
 - time to take breaks from daily labor
 - time to relax during meals
- D. He also gave us the seventh day of each week so we can stop all our regular work to fully rest in Him. These rest times are healing for both body and mind.
- E. Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath, wants to spend time with you daily and on His special day at the end of each week.

V. The Message

- A. Invite the small groups to read Mark 2:23-28. How does Jesus identify Himself in relationship to the Sabbath? (*He is the Lord of the Sabbath.*) What does it mean for Jesus to be Lord of the Sabbath? (*Since He created it, He has authority to decide what is and what is not important with regard to how it is to be kept.*)
- B. Invite the small groups to read Mark 3:1-5. What does Jesus delight to do on the Sabbath? (*Jesus loves to heal and restore on the Sabbath!*)
- C. Read Genesis 2:2,3. Why is the seventh-day Sabbath so special? (*Jesus provided the seventh day of the week as a holy day of blessing and rest for His people.*)

- D. Read Exodus 20:8-11. Why are we to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy? *(Jesus told us to remember the Sabbath to commemorate His work of creating the world in six days and resting on the seventh day.)*
- E. Read Exodus 31:13. What sign does Jesus give us in the Sabbath? *(Jesus gave the Sabbath as a sign that HE is the ONE who makes us holy. The seventh-day Sabbath reminds us of the transformational work of Jesus in our lives by His grace and power! Sabbath is His sign FOREVER! Read Exodus 31:17 to the whole audience. The Sabbath is His sign between Him and us _____. (Allow audience to say the last word out loud - FOREVER!)*
- F. Read Isaiah 58:13,14. How does Jesus call us to experience the Sabbath? *(He desires us to enjoy the Sabbath as our delightful day with Him as we honor Him.)*
- G. Read Revelation 14:6,7. Jesus calls His people in the end of time to worship Him as the Creator of heaven and earth. The seventh-day Sabbath has always been a reminder of His work of creation and restoration!

VI. Conclusion

- A. Illustration: Invite seven adults to stand in a row shoulder to shoulder facing the audience holding the seven signs in order of the days of the week. (Initially the signs should be held with numbers hidden. Place two empty chairs at the end of the group, by the person holding the 7th sign.)

Invite a child and his/her dad or another person of the child's choosing to come up front and slowly walk hand in hand with their daddy in front of the people holding the signs. As they walk past each adult, the adult should turn their sign around to show the number. But when they get to the 7th adult, as the Sabbath sign is turned around, the child and daddy should sit down together in the two empty chairs next to the person holding the 7th sign.

Lesson: Jesus walks with us through every day of the week. However, every seventh-day Sabbath is extra special, as He

provides us with His special blessing and rest as the Lord of the Sabbath!

- B. Share your personal testimony about what Jesus' gift of the seventh-day Sabbath means to you. Share how this gift has changed your life.
- C. Appeal: Who will honor Jesus as the Lord of the seventh-day Sabbath? I invite you to come forward if it is your choice to honor Jesus as the Lord of the seventh-day Sabbath.
- D. End with a prayer over those who have responded to the appeal.
- E. Challenge: Read Mark, chapter 6. Make plans to make your next Friday sunset to Saturday sunset a special time to honor Jesus as Lord of the Sabbath.

Sun of Righteousness

Malachi 4:2

Theme: Christ our Righteousness, The Three Angels' Messages

Helpful Items needed if available: Man's suit, Pure white sheet or robe

I. Welcome and Prayer/Worship

- Recruit a young person to assist you in a warm and joyful welcome. Encourage people to choose a small group and to stay in it for the series if they are comfortable with their group.
- Recruit a Holy Spirit led song leader to lead two opening songs, and then help the prayer team with singing during the prayer time. See Appendix B for song ideas for Worship/Prayer.
- Recruit a 2-4 person team (made up of children, youth and adults, if possible) to give direction from up front to all the small groups in the time of Worship/Prayer.

Lead the Worship/Prayer (about 20 minutes) as follows::

Songs

- Two joyful songs about Jesus to start the time of worship.

Praise

- Read John 1:4,5,9 or John 8:12.
- Prayer Time 1: Praise Jesus for being the Light of the world.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of praise.

Thanksgiving

- Read James 1:17.
- Prayer Time 2: Thank God for every good and perfect gift that He has given you this past week.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of thanksgiving.

Confession

- Read Isaiah 5:20,21.
- Prayer Time 3: Privately ask God to open your eyes to see yourself as you really are. Ask God for forgiveness for times you called darkness light or light darkness.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayer of confession

Holy Spirit

- Read Matthew 3:11.

- Prayer Time 4: Pray for Jesus to baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire and to illuminate His Word as you study it today.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers asking for the Holy Spirit.

Worship/Prayer Leader Prayer

- Final prayer by worship/prayer leader to close prayer time.

II. Review

Question for small groups to discuss: How did your challenge from Day 6 go? Did you read Mark, chapter 6? Did you make Friday sundown to Sabbath sundown a special day, set-aside from work and secular pursuits, to rest and seek for more of Jesus. If this was the first time for you to do this, how did it go?

Give time for reflection. If some experienced challenges, encourage them to pray for one another.

III. Introduction

- A. Connect Activity: In the small groups, in teams of two, take turns (2 minutes each) sharing a time in your life when you owed a debt, and someone stood up as your advocate to defend you or pay your debt.

Because of their intervention, you were cleared of guilt or the cost.

- B. Debrief with the whole group: Ask for one or two short testimonies. Ask: What do we learn about Christ being our righteousness from this short sharing time we just had together?
- C. Introduce: Join me in exploring the Bible tonight to discover who Jesus is as our perfect righteousness. He has many special names throughout Scripture. Tonight, we will explore this special name which makes all the difference in the world. Let's pray!

Dear Father God, We actually owe a debt we cannot pay. We thank You for Jesus, our perfect Righteousness. We come to Him as we are. We praise Jesus for forgiving us, cleansing us from all sin, and setting us free to live for Your glory. We know Jesus is coming soon. Help us to be ready. Please speak to us as we open Your Word. In Jesus' name, amen.

IV. Timeless Health Truth of Jesus

- A. Read Psalm 84:11. Who is a sun and shield? (Jesus)

- B. What does Jesus bestow on those who walk uprightly? (*favor and honor – He withholds no good thing from them.*)
- C. When we see the sun and feel its warmth, we can know for certain that Jesus created it for our good.
 - Rise early to be able to expose your eyes to the light of the dawn.
 - Spend at least 10-20 minutes each day in the sun (*avoid getting burned*).
 - Sun exposure shields our minds from depression.
- D. Jesus, the Sun of Righteousness, wants you to be sunshine to your family and others, reflecting His love everywhere you go.

V. Message

- A. Invite the small groups to read Malachi 4:2 (See also Luke 1:78). What name for Jesus do you discover here? (*Jesus is the Sun of Righteousness.*)
- B. Invite the small groups to open their Bibles to Revelation 14 to explore the righteousness of Jesus. Start with Revelation 14:6-7.
 - Discussion for small groups: What is the everlasting gospel? See Romans 1:16-17. (*It is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes and understands Jesus' faith and righteousness that saves us.*)
 - Revelation 14:7 states: "the hour of His judgment has come." God reveals in the following Bible passages when this hour of judgment is happening in earth's history:
 1. Daniel 7:9,10 testifies of a time of judgment when God opens His books in heaven - for the angels to understand His decisions in the judgment.
 2. Daniel 8:14 tells us when this judgment will take place. Here we find an amazing prophecy about 2,300 days until the sanctuary would be cleansed. In Scripture, time prophecies use a day to stand for a year (See Numbers 4:6, 14:34.). (Note for the teacher: "sanctuary cleansed" and "judgment set" happen at the exact same point in the parallel prophecies of Daniel 7 and 8 therefore they must mean the same thing.
 3. The 2,300 day prophecy, meaning 2,300 years, was to begin

with Artaxerxes' command going into effect in 457 BC (See Daniel 9:25, Ezra 6:14, 7:25.) to rebuild Jerusalem.

4. This 2300 year prophecy ended in 1844 with the process of cleansing of the most holy place in the heavenly sanctuary of the confessed and forgiven sins recorded there.
 5. The cleansing of the sanctuary happened yearly for God's people, the Israelites, on the Day of Atonement. The Day of Atonement was a day for God's people to humble themselves, to repent of their sins, and to seek the holiness of God (See Leviticus 16:29, 30; 23:27-29.).
 6. The first angel declares "with a loud voice" that "the hour of His judgement has come." This angel speaks with a loud voice to get our attention! This judgment started in 1844 and has carried on by God up to this present day. He is searching the books of heaven to judge His people as standing righteous forever in the righteousness of Christ.
 7. Today this judgment continues. These last days before Jesus returns are to be days of humbling ourselves before God, repenting of our sins, and seeking for and receiving the righteousness of Jesus! (See Rev. 7:13, 14; 19:7, 8)
 8. Demonstration: Take an obviously dirty white towel and hand it to a child to hold up in front of them. Say "This is what our lives are like without Jesus, filthy." Invite the child to hand the filthy towel to a teenager or an adult. Ask the teenager or adult to scrub the dirty towel in the basin of soapy water. As the towel is scrubbed, say "During these days of judgement, Jesus stands ready to wash your heart clean and to cover you with His righteousness. It is the joy of Jesus to present you faultless to our Father God, standing in the righteousness of Christ!"
- Is the judgement a thing to be feared if we are trusting in Jesus? See Isaiah 33:22. (*Jesus is our Judge and our King. He will save us!*)

Summary of first angel's message: In Revelation 14:6-7, we find three central themes.

- The everlasting gospel (which shows that we are saved by Jesus' righteousness, not our own),
- The judgment (which is a call to flee to the safety of Christ), and

- Worship of the Creator (which reminds us exactly where we came from and how we got here).

Truth 1: The eternal good news is that Jesus Christ offers us His righteousness as a gift!

- C. Read Revelation 14:8. What is Babylon? See Genesis 11:1-9, especially v. 9. (*Babylon comes from the word Babel, meaning confusion. The second angels message tells us that Babylon refers to spiritual confusion, which is anything taught outside the authority of God's Word. See Isaiah 8:20.*)

Truth 2: The truth about Jesus (as found in His Word) exposes all false systems of faith.

- D. Read Revelation 14:9-11. Why do those in Babylon have no rest? See Exodus 33:14 and Psalm 17:15. (*Those living in Babylon, spiritual confusion, have no rest because they are living without Jesus as their righteousness.*)

What warning is given in the third angel's message? (*It's warning us to beware of a counterfeit worship. Read Revelation 13:6-8. Any call to worship that contradicts or offers an alternative to the worship God called for in the first angel's message will lead to destruction. Jesus is warning us because He wants to protect us!*)

Truth 3: Jesus' righteousness is the rest the world needs and may still find!

Very simply, the first angel's message is what is true. The second angel's message is a warning about what is false. The third angel's message is the results of one's decision between true and false.

- E. Read Revelation 14:12. God's people have THE FAITH OF JESUS. Jesus, the Sun of Righteousness, fights for us and provides us with victory in our battle against Satan and evil.
- F. Read Revelation 7:14-15 (See also Isaiah 61:10). Jesus is our robe of perfect righteousness!

VI. Conclusion

- A. Demonstration: Invite a child and two adults to come forward.

Give one adult a man's suit to hold out in front of him. Give the other adult the white robe or sheet to hold out in front of him. Invite the child to try on the man's suit first. (Lesson: The world will try to dress you with its best, but its best can never dress us like Christ.)

Have the child to give the suit back to the adult and to ask the second adult to give them the white robe or sheet.

Have the second adult wrap the robe or sheet around the child and secure it well. (Jesus covers us and transforms us with His righteousness. His righteousness is the best garment for us to wear.)

- B. Share a personal testimony about what Jesus as the Sun of Righteousness means to you, and how wearing His Righteousness has changed your life.
- C. Appeal: Who will worship Jesus as the One who is their complete Righteousness rather than giving your loyalty to anything formed by man? Add the following sentence. If this is your conviction, please kneel where you are if possible.
- D. End with a prayer over those who have responded to the appeal.
- E. Challenge: Read Mark, chapter 7. Take unrushed time alone with God to evaluate how you worship God and where your loyalty truly is.

DAY 8

Great High Priest

HEBREWS 4:14

Theme: Our Advocate in the Heavenly Sanctuary

I. Welcome and Prayer/Worship

- Recruit a young person to assist you in a warm and joyful welcome. Encourage people to choose a small group and to stay in it for the series if they are comfortable with their group.
- Recruit a Holy Spirit led song leader to lead two opening songs, and then help the prayer team with singing during the prayer time. See Appendix B for song ideas for Worship/Prayer.
- Recruit a 2-4 person team (made up of children, youth and adults, if possible) to give direction from up front to all the small groups in the time of Worship/Prayer.

Lead the Worship/Prayer (about 20 minutes) as follows::

Songs

- Two joyful songs about Jesus to start the time of worship.

Praise

- Read Isaiah 53:12. Jesus loved you so much that He took your punishment—He carried your sins, pouring out His soul to death on the cross.
- Prayer Time 1: Praise God for being your Sin-bearer.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of praise.

Thanksgiving

- Read Romans 8:31-34. Jesus made intercession for you in His death and even now, He is at the right hand of God, interceding on your behalf. He is for you and not against you!
- Prayer Time 2: Thank God that He did not spare His Son Jesus, and for all the things He continues to freely give you.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of thanksgiving.

Confession

- Read 1 John 1:9-2:2. Jesus is your Advocate before the Father. He is faithful to forgive you if you confess.
- Prayer Time 3: Privately confess your sins to your Advocate Jesus, believing that He has forgiven and cleansed you.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayer of confession

Holy Spirit

- Read Romans 8:26. The Holy Spirit takes your meager prayers and translates them into beautiful prayers before the Father in heaven.
- Prayer Time 4: Ask for the Holy Spirit to help you in your weakness, to intercede for you before the Father, as you open His Word right now.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers asking for the Holy Spirit.

Worship/Prayer Leader Prayer

- Final prayer by worship/prayer leader to close prayer time.

II. Review

Question for small groups to discuss: How did your challenge from Day 7 go? Have you taken unrushed time alone with God to evaluate how you worship God and where your loyalty truly is? Are you willing to take the next step? Pray together in small groups.

III. Introduction

- A. Connect Activity: In your small groups share briefly in pairs, about a person in your life who consistently prays for you or supports/encourages you in some way. Share why you believe their prayers or support has made a difference in your life.
- B. Debrief with the whole group: It's wonderful when someone who loves us prays for us or encourages us on a regular basis, but how much more wonderful to know that we have a High Priest in heaven who is constantly, interceding before God's throne on our behalf. I'm so thankful for our heavenly Advocate and High Priest. What about you? Ask for a few volunteers to come up front to share their answer.
- C. Introduce: Today we will be exploring who Jesus is as our Great High Priest. Let's pray!

Dear Father God, Thank You for Jesus, our High Priest. He is our way to come to You! Help us to live in gratitude for His intercession on our behalf. In Jesus' name, amen.

IV. Timeless Health Truth of Jesus

- A. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17. What does Jesus tell us to do without ceasing? (pray) As prayer is vital to our spiritual health, pure fresh air is vital to our physical health.
- Breathe in pure, fresh air to bring the right amount of oxygen to the body and help you think more clearly.
 - Spend time outside each day breathing deeply of pure, fresh air.
 - Whenever possible, open your windows to ventilate your home.
 - Sing praises to the Great High Priest as a wonderful way to move pure, fresh air into the lungs.
- B. Jesus, the Great High Priest who is constantly interceding for you, wants you to breathe pure, fresh air while you also pray without ceasing.

V. Message

- A. Invite the small groups to read Hebrews 4:14 and 7:24,25. What special role does Jesus, the Son of God, have on our behalf? *(He is our High Priest who intercedes FOR us!)* How would you describe Jesus as our High Priest? *(His priesthood is permanent. The salvation He brings His people is forever!)*
- B. Read Zechariah 3:1-5. When Satan accuses us, what does Jesus do? *(He says the Lord rebuke thee and then He removes our sins and clothes us in His righteousness.)*
- C. Invite the small groups to read the story of Abraham and his three visitors found in Genesis 18:20-33. (Invite each one in the group that is comfortable to read one or more verses.) How was Abraham an advocate? *(Abraham provides us a picture of Jesus as High Priest. Abraham advocated for mercy just as Jesus advocates for mercy on our behalf.)*
- D. Invite the small groups to read Malachi 3:1-3 and Hebrews 4:15-16. What final work is Jesus doing in our characters as our High Priest? *(Jesus is our refiner. He is doing a final work of purifying our characters as our High Priest. This is a work He is doing NOW as He prepares a people to meet Him at His soon coming.)*

- E. Invite the small groups to read Daniel 12:1-3,10 and Revelation 7:14. God will have a faithful people in the final days before He returns whose names are written in His book of life. They will shine like the stars as they lead many to righteousness. Do you want to be one of those people?

VI. Conclusion

- A. Demonstration: Invite a child or young teen, or if unavailable, a tiny adult, to come forward along with an adult who is average size but clearly larger than the child or teen. Have the child and adult face each other with their fists up as if they are in a boxing ring. Ask the audience, How will this child do in a boxing match with this adult? Take answers.

Invite the child to go and get the strongest/largest person in the audience to stand between themselves and the first adult.

Have the child say to the adult they recruited, Would you please stand up for me? Have the strong adult say to the child, "Absolutely!" And stand facing the other adult with his hands up ready to fight for the child. This is what Jesus does as our High Priest! He fights for us!

- B. Share a personal testimony about what Jesus as High Priest means to you and how it has changed your life.
- C. Appeal: Who will give 100% of your troubles, sins, etc. to Jesus who is our High Priest and Advocate so you can stand when Jesus comes? I invite you to raise your hand, if this is your choice.
- D. End with a prayer over those who have responded to the appeal.
- E. Challenge: Read Mark, chapter 8. Each day, ask Jesus Christ to be your Advocate and to do His cleansing work in your heart. Be an advocate for someone else in need and point them to Jesus as you intercede on their behalf.

DAY 9

Prophet

Acts 3:22

Theme: Gift of Prophecy, Remnant

Helpful items if available: One pair of very dark glasses, 4 pieces of cloth with four, different solid colors

I. Welcome and Prayer/Worship

- Recruit a young person to assist you in a warm and joyful welcome. Encourage people to choose a small group and to stay in it for the series if they are comfortable with their group.
- Recruit a Holy Spirit led song leader to lead two opening songs, and then help the prayer team with singing during the prayer time. See Appendix B for song ideas for Worship/Prayer.
- Recruit a 2-4 person team (made up of children, youth and adults, if possible) to give direction from up front to all the small groups in the time of Worship/Prayer.

Lead the Worship/Prayer (about 20 minutes) as follows::

Songs

- Two joyful songs about Jesus to start the time of worship.

Praise

- Read Daniel 2:20-23. God alone has wisdom and knowledge of what is to come. He alone can reveal anything to you.
- Prayer Time 1: Praise God for His omniscience (that He knows everything, including all that will happen in your future).
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of praise.

Thanksgiving

- Read Isaiah 43:18,19.
- Prayer Time 2: Thank God for the “new thing” that He is doing (and is about to do) in your life.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of thanksgiving.

Confession

- Read Psalm 51:6,7. God knows you more thoroughly than you know yourself, including sins that are hidden from your own eyes.
- Prayer Time 3: Privately ask God to reveal to you a sin that is hidden from you, and when He shows it to you, pray Psalm 51:7 to Him.

- Song (1 stanza) to close prayer of confession

Holy Spirit

- Read 1 Corinthians 2:9-11. The Holy Spirit alone knows and reveals the deep things of God.
- Prayer Time 4: Ask for Holy Spirit to show you in His Word something your eye has not yet seen, nor your ear heard, nor even entered into your imagination.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers asking for the Holy Spirit.

Worship/Prayer Leader Prayer

- Final prayer by worship/prayer leader to close prayer time.

II. Review

Question for small groups to discuss: How did your challenge from Day 8 go? Are you asking Jesus to be your Advocate? Are you seeking to advocate for others?

III. Introduction

- Connect Activity: Invite the small groups to stand and form a large circle. Invite several people to make a prediction about the financial markets in the coming week. Ask the group which person they choose to believe and why.
- Debrief with the whole group: What makes a person believable? Ask for some volunteers to answer.
- Introduce: Join me in exploring the Bible today to discover who Jesus is as our Prophet. Let's pray!

Dear Father God, there are lots of "would-be" prophets in our world today, sharing doom and gloom about the times in which we live. But we know that what Jesus prophesies in the Bible is trustworthy. Thank You for this Word. Help us to not be confused by the conflicting voices around us. In Jesus' name, amen.

IV. Timeless Health Truth of Jesus

- Read Philippians 2:5. What mind should we have? (*one like Jesus*)
- Read Philippians 4:8. How do we get the mind of Jesus? (*choose to feed our mind on what is good and leave what is harmful alone*).

- C. Thoughtfully consider the following 3 questions.
 - What do I read?
 - What do I feast my eyes on?
 - What do I listen to?
- D. Surrender to Jesus anything that is drawing your mind away from Him.
- E. Jesus, the Prophet, wants you to have a mind like His. Feed your mind with good things.

V. Message

- A. Invite the small groups to read Acts 3:22 (See also Deut. 18:15-19, Acts 7:37). Discover another name for Jesus in this prophecy. (*Prophet*) Jesus the Prophet is over all other prophets. What He speaks is always true to the written Word of God. God says, “You shall listen to Him.”
- B. Invite the small groups to read Matthew 24:24 and Acts 2:17-18 (See Joel 2:28-29). Compare Jesus’ warning and Peter’s prophecy.
- C. Read Amos 3:7. How does God choose to reveal Himself? (*Through His prophets*)
- D. As a small group, study these tests of a true prophet. Read the Bible passage first and then write down what characteristics you find for a true prophet:
 1. Read Isaiah 8:20. (*The prophecy of a true prophet is always in alignment with Scripture, not in conflict with it.*)
 2. Read John 1:1, 14; 1 John 4:2. (*A true prophet will always lift up Jesus as both fully divine and human.*)
 3. Read Matthew 7:15-20. (*A true prophet has godly fruit in their life.*) What does good fruit look like? Galatians 5:22-23.
 4. Read 2 Peter 1:19-21. (*A true prophet does not promote his or her own private interpretation. A true prophet is guided by the Holy Spirit.*)

5. Read Jeremiah 28:9 (See also Deut. 18:21-22). (*The Prophetic predictions of the true prophets are fulfilled.*)
- E. Jesus, the Prophet, identifies His loyal people in these last days. Read Revelation 12:17 and 19:10. What characteristics of Jesus' prophesy will be found in His faithful people? (*They will keep His commandments and hold to His testimony which is the spirit of prophecy. God's people will always hold true prophets and their messages close to their hearts.*)

VI. Conclusion

- A. Demonstration: Invite a teenager and an adult to come forward. Give the teen dark glasses to wear. After the glasses are on, pull several dark pieces of fabric out of a bag. Have the adult hold up one piece of cloth at a time and ask the teen to identify the exact color of the cloth. Ask the audience after the teen answers to say if they agree or disagree. Then ask the teenager to take off the glasses and to identify the colors of each cloth again.

Jesus wants to remove all blinders to His truth so you and I can see Him for who He really is!

- B. Share a personal testimony about what Jesus as Prophet means to you and how it has changed your life.
- C. Appeal: Who will make their stand to follow Jesus by keeping His commandments through His power and righteousness? I invite you to stand where you are, if this is your commitment. Who will hold on to all prophets' messages that are true to God's written Word?
- D. End with a prayer over those who have responded to the appeal.
- E. Challenge: Read Mark, chapter 9. Evaluate your sources of truth with the written Word of God. Are you in a community of faith that is identified by and lives up to solid biblical truth and criteria?

Resurrection and the Life

John 11:25

Theme: Death as Sleep, Resurrection of the Dead

I. Welcome and Prayer/Worship

- Recruit a young person to assist you in a warm and joyful welcome. Encourage people to choose a small group and to stay in it for the series if they are comfortable with their group.
- Recruit a Holy Spirit led song leader to lead two opening songs, and then help the prayer team with singing during the prayer time. See Appendix B for song ideas for Worship/Prayer.
- Recruit a 2-4 person team (made up of children, youth and adults, if possible) to give direction from up front to all the small groups in the time of Worship/Prayer.

Lead the Worship/Prayer (about 20 minutes) as follows::

Songs

- Two joyful songs about Jesus to start the time of worship.

Praise

- Read Revelation 1:17,18. You do not have to be afraid. Your Jesus is alive forevermore and He holds the keys of hell and of death!
- Prayer Time 1: Praise Jesus for being the Resurrection and the Life.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of praise.

Thanksgiving

- Read Psalm 16:11.
- Prayer Time 2: Thank God for showing you the path of life and giving you joy in His presence.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of thanksgiving.

Confession

- Read Galatians 2:20.
- Prayer Time 3: Privately ask God to crucify your old self and to resurrect Himself in you. Ask Him to live out His life of faith in you.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayer of confession

Holy Spirit

- Read John 6:63.
- Prayer Time 4: Ask God for His Holy Spirit who alone can speak life into His Word, as you open it up right now.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers asking for the Holy Spirit.

Worship/Prayer Leader Prayer

- Final prayer by worship/prayer leader to close prayer time.

II. Review

Question for small groups to discuss: How did your challenge from Day 9 go? Are you getting your sources of truth from trust-worthy biblically sound sources? Have you found a community of faith that can be identified by and live up to solid biblical truth and criteria? Do you need prayer to find such a community of faith?

Take time to pray for one another.

III. Introduction

- A. Connect Activity: Invite the small groups to stand in a circle. Give them a total of 60 seconds for each one in the group to share what is the first word that comes to mind when they hear the word *death*. Next, give them another 60 seconds for each person in the group to share the first word that comes to mind when they hear the word *life*.
- B. Debrief with the whole group: How do you contrast the meanings of both words? Which one sounds more final? Why? Ask for a few volunteers to come up front to share their answers.
- C. Introduce: Join me in exploring the Bible to discover who Jesus is as our Resurrection and Life. Let's pray!

Dear Father God, while we live in a world filled with death, we praise You that death is not the end of our story, for Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. As we study Your Word today, open our minds in a fresh way to these beautiful truths. May they not only transform our own lives but teach us how to share these truths with others for Your glory. In Jesus' name, amen!

IV. Timeless Health Truth of Jesus

- A. Genesis 2:7. What did Jesus do to make us living beings? (*breathed into our nostrils the breath of life*)
- B. Jesus gave us our first breath, and He continues to sustain us with each breath we take.
- C. Slow, deep breaths help to calm us. Here is a breathing technique that will help put your nervous system into a relaxed/unstressed state.
 - 1. Put your hand on your abdomen (lower area of your stomach).
 - 2. Breathe in through the nose for a count of 4, letting your abdomen push your hand outward. Your shoulders should not move upward.
 - 3. Hold your breath for a count of 5.
 - 4. Exhale through your nose or mouth over a count of 6. Your hand should feel your abdomen move inward.
 - 5. Repeat this 4-6 times in a row and work up to doing it 5-6 times a day.
- D. Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life, gives you life-supporting breath so you can breathe deeply of pure, fresh air.

V. Message

- A. Invite the small groups to compare John 11:25 and Revelation 1:18. What beautiful name does Jesus claim as His? (*The Resurrection and the Life, The Living One*) What does this name mean to you?
- B. Invite the small groups to explore the story of Lazarus in the tomb in John 11.
 - Read John 11:11-14. What did Jesus call death? (*Sleep.*)
 - Read John 11:34-45. What does this story tell you about Jesus and death? (*Jesus has power over death and can resurrect the dead to life.*)
 - Is there any evidence that Lazarus came back from heaven so Jesus could resurrect him? (*No. Lazarus was asleep in the grave.*)

- C. Invite the small groups to read Ecclesiastes 9:5,6. What does God teach us about death in this passage? (*The dead do not know anything.*)
- D. Invite the small groups to read I Thessalonians 4:13-18. What hope does Jesus give for those who have died believing in Him? (*When He returns, they will be resurrected to meet Him in the air and will then always be with Him.*)

VI. Conclusion

- A. Demonstration: Ask the audience to think of something they thought was dead that surprised them with unexpected life. Have four volunteers come up front and act out what appeared dead that had more life than they realized.
- B. Share a personal testimony about what Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life means to you and how it has changed your life. (If you have lost anyone to death, share what the hope of Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life means to you.)
- C. Appeal: Who will trust Jesus to bring to life at the Resurrection those who have died with faith in Him? I invite you to raise your hand if this is your commitment.
- D. End with a prayer over those who have responded to the appeal.
- E. Challenge: Read Mark, chapter 10. Praise God for the hope we find in Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life. Ask God to redefine your views on death according to His written Word, the Bible.

King of Kings

Revelation 19:16

Theme: Literal Second Coming of Jesus

I. Welcome and Prayer/Worship

- Recruit a young person to assist you in a warm and joyful welcome. Encourage people to choose a small group and to stay in it for the series if they are comfortable with their group.
- Recruit a Holy Spirit led song leader to lead two opening songs, and then help the prayer team with singing during the prayer time. See Appendix B for song ideas for Worship/Prayer.
- Recruit a 2-4 person team (made up of children, youth and adults, if possible) to give direction from up front to all the small groups in the time of Worship/Prayer.

Lead the Worship/Prayer (about 20 minutes) as follows::

Songs

- Two joyful songs about Jesus to start the time of worship.

Praise

- Read Isaiah 24:7-10.
- Prayer Time 1: Praise Jesus, the King of all the earth! (Praise Jesus, our King of glory!)
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of praise.

Thanksgiving

- Read 1 Chronicles 29:10-13. God reigns over all things in heaven and earth, and yet, He is willing to share all He has with you. Even what you give back to God is from Him!
- Prayer Time 2: Thank God for all those things He has given you, spiritual and physical!
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of thanksgiving.

Confession

- Read Psalm 66:1,2. God is so big that He could use earth as a footstool. Although He reigns on His throne, He is willing to dwell in a humble and contrite heart.
- Prayer Time 3: Privately confess your sins to God, asking Him for a humble and contrite spirit.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayer of confession

Holy Spirit

- Read Romans 8:16,17 and John 16:13. This same Holy Spirit who bears witness that you are children of the King of the universe and heirs to the throne with Christ, also promises to guide you into all truth and declare to you the things to come.
- Prayer Time 4: Ask for the Holy Spirit to bring the truth in His Word clearly to your heart today.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers asking for the Holy Spirit.

Worship/Prayer Leader Prayer

- Final prayer by worship/prayer leader to close prayer time.

II. Review

Question for small groups to discuss: How did your challenge from Day 10 go? Has it been difficult to surrender your views of death to Jesus as Lord? Why or why not? Do you need special prayer?

III. Introduction

- A. Connect Activity: Invite all small groups to take three minutes to answer this question: If you could get a phone call right now saying that someone who is alive on this planet was coming to visit you sometime within the next 24 hours, who would you want that person to be and why? Remember, in this imaginary scenario, you can choose anyone who is alive on the planet to come and see you.
- B. Debrief with the whole group: Were you surprised by the choices made by the people in your group? What if you knew Jesus was coming back within the next 24 hours? What would you do? Ask for a few volunteers to come up front to share their answer.
- C. Introduce: Join me in exploring the Bible to discover who Jesus is as King of kings. Let's pray!

Dear Father God, as we live in a world that is unsettled and with many troubling things on the horizon, it is comforting to our heart to know that Jesus is King of kings. He is always on His throne, and nothing catches Him by surprise. Help us to trust in Him completely, and to continue to surrender our lives into His hands. We long for Jesus to come soon! In Jesus' precious name, amen.

IV. Timeless Health Truth of Jesus

- A. Read 1 Corinthians 15:52-58. Who gives us victory over sin and death? (*Jesus*)
- Trust your life with Jesus – completely trust your life with the King of kings!
 - Trust all your unanswered life questions with Jesus.
 - Trust Jesus with your heart and will each day.
- B. Jesus, the King of kings, is trustworthy!

V. Message

- A. Invite the groups to read Revelation 19:11-16. What does it mean that Jesus is “King of kings” and “Lord of lords?” Ask yourself: How does this realization affect my life and choices?
- B. Invite the small groups to read Acts 1:9-11. What does this story teach us about Jesus’ second coming? (*Jesus will return in like manner as he left this earth.*)
- C. Invite the small groups to study and compare I Thessalonians 4:16-18 with Revelation 1:7.
- What Biblical evidence is there in these passages for Jesus’ second coming to be public rather than a secret? (*His appearing will be audible with a shout and every eye will see Him.*)
 - What will happen when Jesus comes again? (*The dead in Christ will rise first and those who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*)
 - How do these passages strengthen your faith? (*They tell us the hopeful future and what to do and what not to do to be prepared for the Lord’s return!*)
- D. Invite the small groups to read Matthew 24:23- 27,44; Luke 21:34 and 1John 2:28.
- What warnings does Jesus give those waiting for His second coming? (*Do not be deceived by false Christs and false prophets. Take heed to ourselves that at any time our hearts be*

overcharged with over indulgence, drunkenness and cares of this life so that day come upon us unaware.)

- What instruction does He give? (*Abide in Him that we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.*)

VI. Conclusion

- A. Interview three volunteers. Ask them, “If you knew a famous person would come to visit you tomorrow, what would be your first two priorities?
Jesus IS coming again soon! In Revelation 22:20, Jesus declared, “I am coming quickly.”
- B. Share a personal testimony about what Jesus as King of Kings means to you and how it has changed your life.
- C. Appeal: Who will dedicate their lives to prepare to meet Jesus when He comes as well as prepare their family, friends and everyone else for Jesus’ soon return? I invite you to come forward if this is your decision.
- D. End with a prayer over those who have responded to the appeal.
- E. Challenge: Read Mark, chapter 11. If you aren’t already, be intentional, and start telling your friends and family about Jesus’ soon return. Share what meeting Jesus face to face as your best Friend, Savior and Lord means to you!

The Lamb of God

Revelation 14:4

Theme: Following the Lamb, Baptism

I. Welcome and Prayer/Worship

- Recruit a young person to assist you in a warm and joyful welcome. Encourage people to choose a small group and to stay in it for the series if they are comfortable with their group.
- Recruit a Holy Spirit led song leader to lead two opening songs, and then help the prayer team with singing during the prayer time. See Appendix B for song ideas for Worship/Prayer.
- Recruit a 2-4 person team (made up of children, youth and adults, if possible) to give direction from up front to all the small groups in the time of Worship/Prayer.

Lead the Worship/Prayer (about 20 minutes) as follows::

Songs

- Two joyful songs about Jesus to start the time of worship.

Praise

- Read Psalm 100:1-3.
- Prayer Time 1: Praise Jesus the Lamb who is also your Shepherd!
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of praise.

Thanksgiving

- Read Psalm 23:1-3.
- Prayer Time 2: Thank Him for the still waters and green pastures where He has led you. Thank Him for soul restoration in the paths of righteousness.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers of thanksgiving.

Confession

- Read Isaiah 53:6,7.
- Prayer Time 3: Privately confess the times you have gone astray and done your own will instead of God's. Thank Him for paying for the penalty of your sins with His own blood!
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayer of confession

Holy Spirit

- Read Acts 20:28. The Holy Spirit has also made you a shepherd

over the people whom you influence, whether your family or church community.

- Prayer Time 4: Pray for God to pour down His Spirit in full measure, so you will be able to understand clearly the Word of truth and be able to share it.
- Song (1 stanza) to close prayers asking for the Holy Spirit.

Worship/Prayer Leader Prayer

- Final prayer by worship/prayer leader to close prayer time.

II. Review

Question for small groups to discuss: How did your challenge from Day 11 go? Are you making an intentional effort to share Jesus' soon coming with someone (or multiple people)?

III. Introduction

- A. Connect Activity: Have everyone stand up and get in pairs of two. Ask one of the partners to close their eyes (and keep their eyes closed), then instruct the second partner not to touch the blind partner, but to lead them by simple spoken instructions, around the room, or around certain obstacles. Do this for a couple minutes, then have the partners switch roles.
- B. Debrief with the whole group: Ask: How did it feel to be blind, and just having to trust the sound of the voice of your partner, as you moved forward? What can we learn from this activity about following Jesus, the Lamb of God, wherever He leads us? Ask for a few volunteers to come up front and share their answers.
- C. Introduce: Join me in exploring the Bible for the final lesson on discovering who Jesus is as the Lamb of God. Let's pray!

Dear Father God, sometimes it's easy to be fearful when we can't see where Jesus is taking us. Help us to follow Him wherever He is leading us. He leads us to green pastures. We want to follow Him all the way. Now open our hearts again as we study this lesson. In Jesus' name, amen.

IV. Timeless Health Truth of Jesus

- A. Read Matthew 28:16-20. Do these verses give us a picture of a sedentary life or an active life? (active)

- Our bodies were created to move, so stretch them throughout the day.
 - Aim for 30-60 minutes of exercise each day – choose an activity that you enjoy.
 - Actively live and follow the Word in your daily life.
 - Try exercising with someone you are discipling to Jesus.
- B. Jesus, the Lamb of God, calls you to GO. Exercise for Him daily.

V. Message

- A. Read Matthew 3:13-17.
- What did Jesus do to fulfill all righteousness? (*Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness.*)
 - Notice verses 13:16. How was Jesus baptized? (*By complete immersion in the water.*)
 - What does this tell us about what we need to do today? (*Be baptized by immersion.*)
- B. Read John 1:36.
- What did John call Jesus? (*The Lamb of God.*)
 - How does Genesis 22:7,8 and the prophecy of Isaiah 53:1-8 help us understand why Jesus would be called the Lamb of God? (*He was made human like us and humans are compared to sheep that have gone astray in verse 6. He lived a perfect life and as our perfect Lamb, took our punishment and like a lamb He opened not his mouth but was stricken or sacrificed for our transgressions just like in the sanctuary service.*)
- C. Read Revelation 14:1-5.
- What does it mean to follow Jesus the Lamb wherever He goes? (*Follow His example of self-sacrifice and humility and Follow His leading at all times in trustful, loving, willing obedience.*)
 - What does it mean that the Lamb's followers have not defiled themselves? (*This is a picture of a group of people who have a pure undiluted faith. They haven't been influenced by the world. Instead, they are people of the Word. They are willing to do whatever the Bible says. Joyfully they lay down their all for the Lord.*)

Important to note: All who will follow the Lamb in heaven must have first followed Him while on earth.

- D. Read Romans 6:3,4,11-14. What connection is there between baptism and our old way of life and our new way of life in Jesus? *(It symbolizes the death of our old way of life and our rebirth into walking in newness of life. We are to therefore reckon ourselves dead unto sin and alive unto God through the blood, life and grace of Jesus!)*

VI. Conclusion

- A. Demonstration: Gather in teams of two. Each team has 3-5 minutes to use whatever objects are at their disposal to demonstrate what it means to be “completely immersed.” Encourage them to share their demonstration with another group of two. Afterward, ask for one volunteer to come forward and demonstrate how Jesus was baptized by going all the way under the water. Jesus gave us an example of how to go public with our belief in Him as our Savior.
- B. Share a personal testimony about following Jesus as the Lamb of God and how it has changed your life.
- C. Appeal: Who chooses today to give your life fully to Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, as your Savior and to follow His example by being baptized as a public expression of your faith in Him?
- D. End with a prayer over those who have responded to the appeal.
- E. Challenge: Read Mark, chapter 12. If you have not been baptized, you are invited to prepare to be baptized soon like Jesus was. If you have been baptized, take time this week to recommit your life fully to Jesus. Ask Him what is your next step in following Him as the Lamb of God.

More Helpful Discipling Resources

Go to indiscipleship.org for the following free downloadable books and resources by Don MacLafferty. All these resources may be used for personal growth and/or for small groups.

- **Footprints for Parents and Mentors** – Small group studies to help parents and other mentors grow as disciples and disciple makers of their children for Christ.
- **Footprints for Kids** – Small group studies for parents, mentors, and children to experience together building your relationship with Jesus, knowing the truth of Jesus, and sharing Jesus with others.
- **Follow** – Step-by-step Bible studies in learning to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. May be used one-on-one or in small groups.
- **Inside Out** – Calling busy families to invest in God and to disciple their children.
- **Come Home** – Small-group studies to call individuals and couples back to worship and live God's vision for the home in preparation for Christ's soon return.
- **The Way** – Teacher's notes on how to live daily as a disciple of Jesus.
- **The Way Back to the Altar** – Comprehensive seven-part Bible study on how to live daily as a disciple of Jesus. Intended for both personal use and small groups, complete with teacher's guide.
- **Meet Jesus Outside: Bible Prayer Walks** – Twenty outdoor adventures for children, youth, and adults to experience the Creator in His Word, His book of nature, prayer, and action.
- **Jesus' Last Love Letter: A Revival for Children, Youth, and Adults** – Teacher's notes for seven interactive, intergenerational meetings to call all to Jesus as Friend, Savior, and Lord.
- **Discipling the New Generations** – Small-group studies for parents/mentors/ students to grow disciples of Jesus who know and live these life-transforming truths by the Holy Spirit's power.
- **Live Like Elijah** – More life-changing stories from the MacLafferty family's personal journey of living by faith. Also included are lessons to help you discover purpose and how to live each day with fearless faithfulness, resting in the providence of God.
- **The Last Elijah** – Revival series for all age groups based on the life of Elijah.

- **Schools in Discipleship: A Field Manual** – Provides practical tools to equip teachers to intentionally partner with parents and pastors to disciple students to Christ.
- **God Still Lives** – Sixteen true stories and testimonies that will encourage all generations to trust God completely and follow Him wherever He leads.

APPENDIX A

Song Suggestions For Prayer

Day	Title	Theme	Special Music Opening Song	Congregation Hymn Opening	Appeal Song	Closing Hymn
1	The Word	The Authority of the Bible	Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet	Wonderful Words of Life (286)	Ancient Words	Break Thou the Bread of Life (271)
2	Lord	Jesus' Triumph Over Evil	My Lord and I (456)	Sing a New Song to the Lord (33)	Lord I want to Be a Christian (319)	Fairest Lord Jesus (240)
3	Creator	Identity, Man and Woman Family, Day of Rest	How Great Thou Art (86)	All Creatures of Our God and King (2)	I Will Be There	Happy the Home (655)
4	Lawgiver	Unchangeable Law of God	The Great I Am, Still Is	Cover with His Life (412)	The Law of the Lord is Perfect	More Love to Thee, O Christ (458)
5	Savior	Salvation By Grace Through Faith	He Hideth My Soul (520)	Jesus Paid it All (184)	Give Me Jesus (305)	My Jesus I Love Thee (321)
6	Lord of the Sabbath	Seventh-day Sabbath	Remember the Sabbath to Keep it Holy	Lord of the Sabbath (393)	All to Jesus I Surrender (309)	We Love The Sabbath (390)
7	Sun of Righteousness	Christ our Righteousness The Three Angels' Messages	My Hope is Built on Nothing Less (522)	There's Sunshine in My Soul Today (470)	I'd Rather Have Jesus (327)	Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus (524)
8	Great High Priest	Our Advocate in the Heavenly Sanctuary	Great is Thy Faithfulness (100)	Praise Him, Praise Him (249)	Just As I Am (314)	Nothing Between (322)
9	Prophet	Gift of Prophecy, Remnant	For Unto Us a Child in Born	God Has Spoken By His Prophets (413)	Be Thou My Vision (547)	I Will Follow Thee My Savior (623)
10	Resurrection and the Life	Death as Sleep, Resurrection of the Dead	Because He Lives (526)	Christ the Lord is Risen Today (166)	In Christ Alone	When I Survey the Wonderous Cross (154)
11	King of Kings	Literal Second Coming of Jesus	Midnight Cry	Tis Almost Time for the Lord to Come (212)	The Lord is Coming Are You Ready?	In Times Like These (593)
12	The Lamb of God	Following the Lamb, Baptism	Lamb of God	The Cleansing Wave (332)	Have Thine Own Way, Lord (567)	I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

APPENDIX D

Song Suggestions For Prayer

Praise for WHO God is!

1. I Love You, Lord
2. Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee, SDA Hymnal #012
3. Oh, Worship the King, SDA Hymnal #083
4. Oh, How I Love Jesus, SDA Hymnal #248
5. Praise Him! Praise Him! SDA Hymnal #249
6. Praise to the Lord, SDA Hymnal #001
7. To God Be the Glory, SDA Hymnal #341

Praise for WHAT God does!

1. Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing, SDA Hymnal #334
2. How Great Thou Art, SDA Hymnal #086
3. I Sing the Almighty Power of God, SDA Hymnal #088
4. Jesus Paid it All, SDA Hymnal #184
5. Sing a New Song to the Lord, SDA Hymnal #033

Confession

1. Amazing Grace, SDA Hymnal #108
2. Be Still My Soul, SDA Hymnal #461
3. Have Thine Own Way Lord, SDA Hymnal #567
4. Just As I Am, SDA Hymnal #314
5. Open My Eyes That I May See, SDA Hymnal #326
6. Rock of Ages, SDA Hymnal #300
7. Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus, SDA Hymnal #290

Ask for the Holy Spirit

1. Come Holy Spirit, I Need You
2. Into My Heart
3. Open My Eyes That I May See, SDA Hymnal #326
4. Spirit of the Living God, SDA Hymnal #672
5. Sweet, Sweet Spirit, SDA Hymnal #262
6. We Are One in the Spirit

Thanksgiving (Meeting 8)

1. Let all Things Now Living, SDA Hymnal #560
2. Now Thank We all Our God, SDA Hymnal #559
3. Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!, SDA Hymnal #27

The Timeless Truth of Jesus

Presentations for Children, Youth, & Adults

Teacher's Notes



Don and his bride April live in Apison, Tennessee. God has blessed them with three children. Don and April love hiking, nature, Divine appointments with people around the world, and singing to their Creator. They have dedicated their lives to building champions of young and old who mentor the new generations to trust, follow, and share Jesus with Holy Spirit power.