

LEADER GUIDE

How to Use This Curriculum

Memory Verse

We have provided a memory verse with each lesson that you can pass along to your students if you like memorizing scripture together. You'll also find this verse in the "social media image" in your Rooted Reservoir account with each lesson. This image can be shared with students throughout the week to further expose them to the memory verse.

Real-life Problems

The Real-life Problem is a reality alluded to in the text, which as a result of the fall, readers still struggle with today. This section helps leaders focus from the very beginning on the context in which students live, and allow students to connect to the passage in their hearts and bodies (not just their heads) right off the bat.

We recognize that the context of each student ministry is different, so sometimes this will hit home with your group better than other times. As you teach through the passage, think about how the aspect of brokenness named here plays out in your specific context.

The Good News

This section is a laser focus on the gospel truth that can be drawn from the passage. It helps leaders and students keep the good news in view as they study.

I. Introduction

OPENING QUESTIONS

Begin your time together with one of the three opening questions to help "break the ice" and facilitate group discussion and conversation around the subject that will be covered in the lesson. Each question relates to a particular theme in the lesson. We have provided three different questions in order to give you options that are suitable for the level of vulnerability that your group has developed. You have the freedom to ask whichever of the three questions you think will be best for your students.

PRAY

Open your time together in prayer.

REHEARSING THE GOSPEL

Often times in Bible study we can throw the word "gospel" around with our students without actually having a clear definition of what the gospel is. We've included the suggestion of beginning each Bible study lesson by having students rehearse this gospel catechism.

What does gospel mean?

Good news

What's the good news?

Jesus died for my sins

Why did He die for your sins?

So that I can have abundant life in relationship with Him now and forever

What is grace?

God's undeserved love for sinners

REVIEW

The weekly review questions are related to the overview of the book of the Bible being studied. We ask the same three review questions each lesson to help remind students about the broader context of the book that may inform what they read today.

What's going on?

REMIND

This section will provide you with a brief summary of what was learned in the previous lesson to set the stage and give context for the readers to understand where they are picking up in the passage. You can choose to share this with your students to reorient them to where you are in the text and remind them of all that you've learned so far, or you can ask them to remind one another.

TODAY WE'LL LEARN

This section will provide you with two to three main points to orient you to the central focus of the lesson. It's important to keep these points in mind in order to keep the lesson organized and focused as you study together. Sharing these with students will also provide them with a helpful roadmap for what they're about to learn.

Read

One option is to let students read the passage silently and answer the comprehension questions in their student guide before reading together as a group and moving forward with the lesson.

Another option is to read the passage out loud and work through the questions as a group.

II. Questions for Discussion

★ Are you short on time or teaching to a younger group? Just go through the questions that have a star next to them for a shortened, but effective version of the study.

A. WHAT?

This section emphasizes **comprehension** questions, walking through the text to make sure students understand what literally happened, what was said, and the basic meaning of the words and events before we move on to interpretation (So what?) and application questions (Now what?). The answer to a comprehension question is usually something you can find or point to in the passage. By opening with a few comprehension questions, it helps students to build confidence in responding as well as to mentally grasp the meaning of the text. While it might seem elementary, we believe the "what" questions are an essential part of the study, as it gets students interacting directly with the text in a concrete way.

B. SO WHAT?

This section asks **interpretation** questions, "Why does any of this matter? Why is this included in Scripture? What does it mean?". Interpretation questions can have more than one answer that can be supported by the text. These questions may be a bit more difficult as they require the reader to think more critically about the "why" behind what is being said.

C. NOW WHAT?

It's now time to ask **application** questions. Application questions require the group to take the information learned and consider how it applies to their lives. This section asks students to consider questions like "How does this apply to my life?" and "How do I live in light of this truth?". These questions should be both thought- and heart-provoking while also still related to the text. It's helpful to consider these questions in community as well as individually.

Illustrations

Illustrations are provided to help elaborate on a specific teaching point. In this section you might find a video link, graphic, story, song lyrics, or metaphor from daily life that will help students connect to the passage in some real, tangible way. Feel free to add in your own illustrations as well!

Main takeaway

Here you will find the main takeaway from the lesson to share with students. This will be a clear and concise overview of what was just discovered. You can share this with students and parents to help them remember the main ideas of the lesson. The main point is where you can tell students "if you remember nothing else from this lesson, remember *this*."

III. Closing

REMEMBERING THE GOOD NEWS

We want to close with a Gospel nugget in a way that directly or indirectly expresses the good news with students. This should serve to encourage students who are Christians and share the gospel with students that may not be.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

This is a prayer for leaders to read and pray over students at the end of the lesson. Based on your context it may also be appropriate to have students share prayer request and pray for one another.

Supporting Resources

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

These questions are provided for students take a few moments to answer on their own, possibly in a journal or notebook. It can be helpful to give students time and space to talk with the Lord about the truths revealed. You are also free to use these questions in place of some of the "Now what?" questions if you feel your group would be comfortable sharing.

QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

We recognize that the primary place discipleship takes place is in the home. To that end, we've also provided some questions that you can send to the parents of your students. Encourage parents to read the passage and discuss these questions at home or in the car with their child.