



JANUARY 2010 TEACHING PLANS

YOU HAVEN'T MADE IT THIS FAR IN LIFE without encountering your fair share of stress. Between figuring out how to pay for college, juggling class assignments and work commitments, dealing with roommates and social obligations, and somehow trying to squeeze in more than a few hours of sleep a night, college life can feel like one big stressful endurance test.

The good news is, the Bible provides some excellent advice for living in stressful times. Throughout the Book of Mark are guidelines you can use to make it through another day, another week, another semester. And by putting these principles into practice, you won't just be surviving — you'll be living a life worthy of your calling as a Christian. So what's going to be covered in January and February?

This month, we'll study some of the ways Jesus can meet our needs — by giving us courage, helping our faith grow, enabling us to get along with others, and allowing us to be successful according to His standards. Finally, we'll look at some scenarios in which Jesus helps us face our problems — when our priorities are challenged, when we feel overwhelmed, when we're facing difficult decisions, and when life is unfair.

So have at it. Dig in. See what God is teaching you through the Book of Mark, and see how it applies to your life right now. In the midst of all the chaos, Jesus is the constant. He's been there before and can guide you through whatever tough times you're facing. And with that

kind of resource at your fingertips, stressful times don't stand a chance.

WHAT'S INSIDE ... The goal of the *Collegiate* online features is to bring you a structured teaching plan with additional helps and relevant questions to equip you to lead a strong discussion-based lesson. Here's a breakdown of what's inside: *Getting Started* helps introduce the topic and get your students engaged in the lesson. *Need to Knows* provides the lesson overview and key verses of each lesson. *Explore the Bible* leads your students through the Scripture passages of the lesson, helping them understand the text, its historical and cultural context, and what it means to them today. *Apply to Life* gives you ideas for furthering the application of the Scripture, so students can take active steps to process what they're learning and how it impacts their lives. Be sure you also utilize the commentary provided (threadsmedia.com/collegiate) to help with your preparation and personal study of the lessons. As always, we're here for you. Please send us your questions, thoughts, and suggestions. Let us know what we could do better and how these teaching plans could be even more relevant to your students and your ministry.

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THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON IS ON PAGE 36 OF THE WINTER ISSUE OF *COLLEGIATE*.
- THE SONGS "MY SAVIOR" BY SARAH REEVES, FROM THE ALBUM *SWEET SWEET SOUND*, AND "IN CHRIST ALONE" BY KEITH AND KRISTYN GETTY, FROM THE ALBUM *IN CHRIST ALONE*.

NEED TO KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This session is about two of Jesus' miracles: feeding the 5,000 and walking on water. The emphasis is on acting courageously based on the power and presence of Jesus. The session encourages college students to express their faith in courageous ways.

FOCAL PASSAGES

MARK 6:35-52



COURAGE UNDER FIRE: STEPPING UP WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "In Christ Alone" by Keith and Kristyn Getty playing in the background as students arrive.

Susan B. Anthony, the 19th-century women's suffragist, made the following comment about courage. Think about her statement in terms of faith in Christ:

"Cautious, careful people, always casting about to preserve their reputation and social standing, never can bring about a reform. Those who are really in earnest must be willing to be anything or nothing in the world's estimation, and publicly and privately, in season and out, avow their sympathy with despised and persecuted ideas and their advocates, and bear the consequences."¹

- How can these comments, originally made in reference to the American woman's right to vote, relate to the way we express our faith in Christ?
- Is it typically easier for people to feel passionately about an issue like women's rights, or about expressing their faith? Why is that?
- What about following Christ takes courage?

This week we're going to look at two of Jesus' miracles: the feeding of the 5,000, and Jesus' walking on water. As we move through these passages, focus on ways Christians can act courageously as a result of the power and presence of Jesus.

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 36 in the Winter issue of *Collegiate* magazine for additional verses and a video to watch.

1. http://womenshistory.about.com/cs/quotes/a/qu_s_b_anthony.htm

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 36 of the Winter 2009–10 *Collegiate* magazine.

1). IN OVERWHELMING NEED (MARK 6:35-37)

READ MARK 6:35-37.

³⁵When it was already late, His disciples approached Him and said, “This place is a wilderness, and it is already late!” ³⁶Send them away, so they can go into the surrounding countryside and villages to buy themselves something to eat.” ³⁷“You give them something to eat,” He responded. They said to Him, “Should we go and buy 200 denarii worth of bread and give them something to eat?”

Have someone read “In Overwhelming Need” on page 36 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- When faced with people in need, what was the disciples’ first response?
- How typical is that kind of response in our churches and on our college campuses? Give some examples.
- What was different about the way Jesus responded to the needs of the people?

In responding to the people’s needs the way He did, Jesus set the scene for an incredible miracle.

2). IN OBEYING GOD (MARK 6:38-44)

READ MARK 6:38-44.

³⁸And He asked them, “How many loaves do you have? Go look.” When they found out they said, “Five, and two fish.” ³⁹Then He instructed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in ranks of hundreds and fifties. ⁴¹Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke the loaves. He kept giving them to His disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. ⁴²Everyone ate and was filled. ⁴³Then they picked up 12 baskets full of pieces of bread and fish. ⁴⁴Now those who ate the loaves were 5,000 men.

Have someone read “In Obeying God” on page 36 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- What does Jesus’ response to this situation teach us about His character?
- What does it teach us about our obedience to Christ?
- Does this passage say anything to us about the relationship between God’s plan and our participation in it?
- In what ways might this situation have been different if the disciples hadn’t obeyed Jesus?

When we obey God, He allows us to be part of the amazing things He does every day. Obeying God is one way we act courageously as Christians. But sometimes certain situations call for far more courage than others.

3). IN OBVIOUS DISTRESS (MARK 6:45-52)

READ MARK 6:45-52.

⁴⁵Immediately He made His disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶After He said goodbye to them, He went away to the mountain to pray. ⁴⁷When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and He was alone on the land. ⁴⁸He saw them being battered as they rowed, because the wind was against them. Around three in the morning He came toward them walking on the sea and wanted to pass by them. ⁴⁹When they saw Him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out; ⁵⁰for they all saw Him and were terrified. Immediately He spoke with them and said, “Have courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” ⁵¹Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. They were completely astounded, ⁵²because they had not understood about the loaves. Instead, their hearts were hardened.

Have someone read “In Obvious Distress” on page 36 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- What empowered the disciples to be able to act courageously in this situation?
- We rarely—if ever—find ourselves in a boat in the middle of a storm. But what are some circumstances of college life that can cause distress?
- How can this passage encourage us as we seek to live courageously in times of obvious distress?

THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON IS ON PAGE 38 OF THE WINTER ISSUE OF *COLLEGIATE*.
- THE SONGS "HERO" BY JARS OF CLAY, FROM THE ALBUM *THE LONG FALL BACK TO EARTH*, AND "SONG OF HOPE" BY ROBBIE SEAY BAND, FROM THE ALBUM *GIVE YOURSELF AWAY*.
- COMPILE A LIST OF SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES FROM RICHARD FOSTER'S *CELEBRATION OF DISCIPLINE* AND JOHN ORTBERG'S *THE LIFE YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED* FOR OPTION 2 OF "APPLY TO LIFE" TO CLOSE THE SESSION.

NEED TO KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This session is about Jesus' refusing to meet the Pharisees' demand for a sign, His subsequent conversation with the disciples, and His disciples' coming to a partial understanding of who He was. It emphasizes being open to spiritual truth in order to develop spiritual understanding.

FOCAL PASSAGES

MARK 8:11-13,16-21,27-33



SHARPER IMAGE: DEEPENING YOUR FOCUS ON GOD

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "Song of Hope" by Robbie Seay Band playing in the background as students arrive.

In our culture today, we hear a lot about hope.

- When you think about the people you interact with on a day-to-day basis, what seems to be the source of hope in their lives?
- Are these sources valid foundations of hope for people?
- As Christians, what is our source of hope? Try to be as specific as possible.
- Do people naturally gravitate toward viewing Christ as their source of hope? If not, what's the process like?

In developing our faith and viewing Christ as our source of hope, we have to be open to spiritual truth in order to develop spiritual understanding.

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 38 in the Winter issue of *Collegiate* magazine for additional verses and a word study.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 38 of the Winter 2009–10 *Collegiate* magazine.

1). LITTLE HOPE (MARK 8:11-13)

READ MARK 8:11-13.

¹¹The Pharisees came out and began to argue with Him, demanding of Him a sign from heaven to test Him. ¹²But sighing deeply in His spirit, He said, “Why does this generation demand a sign? I assure you: No sign will be given to this generation!” ¹³Then He left them, got on board the boat again, and went to the other side.

Have someone read “Little Hope” on page 38 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- What was preventing the Pharisees from seeing the truth about Jesus?
- In your college classrooms, or when talking with friends, do you see any similarities to the way the Pharisees approached Jesus? What are they?
- When have you felt like the Pharisees in this passage? What helped you see past your unbelief and open your eyes to spiritual truth?

If we close our minds and keep them closed to the truth about Jesus, we can’t develop our spiritual understanding. Often, we can’t open our minds to Jesus because we’re focused primarily on material things.

2). SOME HOPE (MARK 8:16-21)

READ MARK 8:16-21.

¹⁶They were discussing among themselves that they did not have any bread. ¹⁷Aware of this, He said to them, “Why are you discussing that you do not have any bread? Do you not yet understand or comprehend? Is your heart hardened? ¹⁸Do you have eyes, and not see, and do you have ears, and not hear? And do you not remember? ¹⁹When I broke the five loaves for the 5,000, how many baskets full of pieces of bread did you collect?” “Twelve,” they told Him. ²⁰“When I broke the seven loaves for the 4,000,

how many large baskets full of pieces of bread did you collect?” “Seven,” they said. ²¹And He said to them, “Don’t you understand yet?”

Have someone read “Some Hope” on page 38 of *Collegiate* magazine.

We live in a time of economic uncertainty, and this reality occupies much of our thoughts and affects the decisions we make.

- How does this economic uncertainty affect you or the people around you?
- Why is it so easy to be caught up in the material things of the world?
- Does worry about material things prevent you from opening your eyes to spiritual truth? How?

Facilitator’s Note: Connect the dots with other passages:

READ MATTHEW 6:26.

²⁶Look at the birds of the sky: they don’t sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you worth more than they?

ALSO, READ MATTHEW 10:29-31.

²⁹Aren’t two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father’s consent. ³⁰But even the hairs of your head have all been counted. ³¹Don’t be afraid therefore; you are worth more than many sparrows.

- To what degree should we be focused on material things?
- What are some ways we can turn our focus from material things to spiritual things?

When we shift our gaze from material things to spiritual things, we’re more likely to see the world through spiritual lenses. If we’re open to receiving it, we will recognize spiritual truth that’s presented to us and will further develop our spiritual understanding.

3). MORE HOPE (MARK 8:27-33)

READ MARK 8:27-33.

²⁷Jesus went out with His disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the road He asked His disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸They answered Him, “John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹“But you,” He asked them again, “who do you say that I am?” Peter answered Him, “You are the Messiah!” ³⁰And He strictly warned them to tell no one about Him. ³¹Then He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, be killed, and rise after three days. ³²He was openly talking about this. So Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. ³³But turning around and looking at His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind Me, Satan, because you’re not thinking about God’s concerns, but man’s!”

Have someone read “More Hope” on page 38 of *Collegiate* magazine.

Peter’s eyes were open to spiritual truth, and He understood that Jesus is the Messiah. But he was still torn between what Jesus described as God’s concerns and man’s concerns.

- What types of things would you characterize as man’s concerns?
- What types of things would you characterize as God’s concerns?
- In what ways do our concerns prevent us from focusing entirely on the things God is concerned about? Think in terms of your past, your present, and your future.
- How is our effectiveness compromised if we continue to focus on the things the world is concerned about?

THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON IS ON PAGE 40 OF THE WINTER ISSUE OF *COLLEGIATE*.
- THE SONGS "BY OUR LOVE" BY CHRISTY NOCKELS, FROM THE ALBUM *LIFE LIGHT UP*, AND "GIVE ME YOUR EYES," BY BRANDON HEATH, FROM THE ALBUM *WHAT IF WE*.

NEED TO KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This session is about Jesus showing concern for people in four different situations, all of which illustrate that He always acted on the side of life for others. The lesson encourages college students to take action to enhance the lives of other people.

FOCAL PASSAGES

MARK 3:3-5; 5:33-42; 10:14-16



LIFE TOGETHER: HELPING EACH OTHER ALONG THE JOURNEY

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "Give Me Your Eyes" by Brandon Heath playing in the background as students arrive.

- Does the world tend to see people the way Jesus sees them?
- Do Christians?
- What prevents us from seeing people the way Jesus does, and treating them the way He would?
- Name some ways Christians are called to act counter-culturally with regard to valuing life. Think in terms of the entire spectrum of human life — from conception to death, and everything in between.
- What responsibilities would a creator have?

God cares about the people He has created, and He wants for us to see people the way He does. One of His concerns is for people with special challenges.

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 40 in the Winter issue of *Collegiate* magazine for some statistics, a related quote, and a verse to memorize.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 40 of the Winter 2009–10 *Collegiate* magazine.

1). CHECK YOUR INTENTIONS (MARK 3:3-5)

READ MARK 3:3-5.

³He told the man with the paralyzed hand, “Stand before us.” ⁴Then He said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. ⁵After looking around at them with anger and sorrow at the hardness of their hearts, He told the man, “Stretch out your hand.” So he stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

Have someone read “Check Your Intentions” on page 40 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- By healing the man’s hand on the Sabbath, what was Jesus communicating to the people watching? What was He communicating to the man with the paralyzed hand? What’s He communicating to us today?
- What prevented the people in the synagogue from wanting to help the man with the paralyzed hand?
- In your church, how readily do people reach out to those with special challenges? Give some examples you’re aware of.
- In our culture, what kinds of circumstances or attitudes prevent people from helping those with special challenges?

We express concern for people with special challenges by helping them whenever and in whatever ways we’re able. Sometimes, the special challenge a person has may take the form of a chronic problem.

2). CARE ABOUT QUALITY (MARK 5:33-34)

READ MARK 5:33-34.

³³Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came with fear and trembling, fell down before Him, and told Him the whole truth. ³⁴“Daughter,” He said to her, “your faith has made you well. Go in peace and be free from your affliction.”

Have someone read “Care About Quality” on page 40 of *Collegiate* magazine.

In this passage, a woman has been dealing with a bleeding disorder for 12 years.

Facilitator’s Note: Connect the dots with other passages:

READ LEVITICUS 15:25-30.

²⁵When a woman has a discharge of her blood for many days, though it is not the time of her menstruation, or if she has a discharge beyond her period, she will be unclean all the days of her unclean discharge, as she is during the days of her menstruation. ²⁶Any bed she lies on during the days of her discharge will be like her bed during menstrual impurity; any furniture she sits on will be unclean as in her menstrual period. ²⁷Everyone who touches them will be unclean; he must wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will remain unclean until evening. ²⁸When she is cured of her discharge, she is to count seven days, and after that she will be clean. ²⁹On the eighth day she must take two turtledoves or two young pigeons and bring them to the priest at the entrance to the tent of meeting. ³⁰The priest is to sacrifice one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering. In this way the priest will make atonement for her before the LORD because of her unclean discharge.

Because of her bleeding disorder, this woman had been ceremonially unclean for 12 years.

- For this woman, what were the social, emotional, and spiritual ramifications of her condition?

- By healing her, what did Jesus provide for this woman?
- In our society, what kind of condition might be comparable to this woman’s?
- As Christians, how can we respond to people with these types of chronic problems?

Jesus also showed concern for people facing deathly illness.

3). COMFORT THE SICK (MARK 5:35-42)

READ MARK 5:35-42.

³⁵While He was still speaking, people came from the synagogue leader’s house and said, “Your daughter is dead. Why bother the Teacher any more?” ³⁶But when Jesus overheard what was said, He told the synagogue leader, “Don’t be afraid. Only believe.” ³⁷He did not let anyone accompany Him except Peter, James, and John, James’ brother. ³⁸They came to the leader’s house, and He saw a commotion—people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹He went in and said to them, “Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep.” ⁴⁰They started laughing at Him, but He put them all outside. He took the child’s father, mother, and those who were with Him, and entered the place where the child was. ⁴¹Then He took the child by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum!” (which is translated, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). ⁴²Immediately the girl got up and began to walk. (She was 12 years old.) At this they were utterly astounded.

Have someone read “Comfort the Sick” on page 40 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- In what ways did Jesus show concern for the family of the little girl who died?
- How can we take the principles from this passage and apply them to our situations today?

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

4). PROTECT THE NEXT GENERATION (MARK 10:14-16)

READ MARK 10:14-16.

¹⁴When Jesus saw it, He was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to Me. Don’t stop them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵I assure you: Whoever does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”
¹⁶After taking them in His arms, He laid His hands on them and blessed them.

Have someone read “Protect the Next Generation” on page 41 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- In our society, what kind of value do we place on children? How is this manifested?
- Why does Jesus care about children? Is it because of the potential they have to be productive members of society, or does it go deeper than that?
- From these four passages, what can we glean about the concern we, as Christians, should have for enhancing the lives of others?

THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON IS ON PAGE 42 OF THE WINTER ISSUE OF *COLLEGIATE*.
- THE SONGS "GO" BY KRISTIAN STANFILL, FROM THE ALBUM *ATTENTION*, AND "WE NEED EACH OTHER" BY SANCTUS REAL, FROM THE ALBUM *WE NEED EACH OTHER*.

NEED TO KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This session is about Jesus' teaching on greatness, His affirmation of all who are on His side, and His instructions about being a good influence. The emphasis is on actions that promote better relationships with others.

FOCAL PASSAGES

MARK 9:33-42,47-50



LIVING FOR OTHERS: FORGING RELATIONSHIPS WORTH HAVING

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "We Need Each Other" by Sanctus Real playing in the background as students arrive.

Christians are created for real community.

- Are Christians known for getting along with other people? Give some examples.
- What kinds of attitudes or circumstances prevent us from having good relationships with each other?
- What kind of effect should Christians' presence have on the world?

As Christians, we should care for each other, work toward common goals, sacrifice ourselves for the sake of others, and enrich the lives of the people around us. Whether we are known as great people is of little importance; whether we're known as people who care about others is of great importance.

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 42 in the Winter issue of *Collegiate* magazine for additional verses and a movie suggestion.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 42 of the Winter 2009–10 *Collegiate* magazine.

1). SHOW OTHERS YOU CARE (MARK 9:33-37)

READ MARK 9:33-37.

³³Then they came to Capernaum. When He was in the house, He asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?”³⁴But they were silent, because on the way they had been arguing with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵Sitting down, He called the Twelve and said to them, “If anyone wants to be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”³⁶Then He took a child, had him stand among them, and taking him in His arms, He said to them, ³⁷“Whoever welcomes one little child such as this in My name welcomes Me. And whoever welcomes Me does not welcome Me, but Him who sent Me.”

Have someone read “Show Others You Care” on page 42 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- What does this passage say about our relationship priorities?
- What are the typical reasons we don’t put others first?

For many of us, the transition to college is a time of learning how to live with others and practicing putting the needs and desires of other people before our own. But at the same time, it’s a time when we’re asked to brag on ourselves (think: writing a resumé) and encouraged to be somewhat exclusive (Greek life, for example).

- In what ways does college life encourage us to show others we care?
- In what ways does it encourage us not to?

- What does it look like when we put others ahead of ourselves?

It’s not enough, though, to show others we care about them. As Christians, we work together toward a common goal. Since God can also work through other believers and their churches, we’re to view them as coworkers, not as competitors.

2). SEE OTHERS AS COWORKERS (MARK 9:38-41)

READ MARK 9:38-41.

³⁸“Teacher,” said John, “we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.”³⁹“Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “No one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, ⁴⁰for whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward.

Have someone read “See Others as Coworkers” on page 42 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- What is it that causes us to compete with each other?
- How do Christians typically compete with each other?
- What’s at stake if we as Christians present ourselves to the world as being in competition with one another?
- Practically speaking, what does it mean for the church to be the body of Christ?

In our relationships with each other, it’s often necessary to sacrifice for the sake of someone else.

3). SACRIFICE FOR OTHERS’ SAKE (MARK 9:42-43,47-48)

READ MARK 9:42-43,47-48.

⁴²“And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck. ⁴³If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out.

.....
⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where ‘their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’

Have someone read “Sacrifice for Others’ Sake” on page 42 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- According to this passage, why do we sacrifice ourselves for the sake of others?
- When have you witnessed someone sacrificing for someone else in this way?
- What was the effect of the sacrifice upon the relationship?
- In what ways is it counter-cultural to sacrifice for someone else’s sake?
- Based on this passage, describe the degree to which we’re called to sacrifice ourselves for the sake of others.

We’re to refrain from leading others astray, even to the point of sacrificing something important to us for their sakes. In addition to sacrificing for others, we’re also called to enrich the lives of the people around us.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

4). SEASON OTHERS' LIVES (MARK 9:49-50)

READ MARK 9:49-50.

⁴⁹Everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other.”

Have someone read “Season Others’ Lives” on page 42 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- What sort of impact do Christians have when we enrich the lives of people around us?
- Is it possible to impact society through enriching the lives of others? How? (Consider drawing from some examples from the 2000 movie *Pay It Forward*).

We can work toward improving the moral atmosphere of the world and toward increasing our efforts to live peaceably with others.

THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON IS ON PAGE 44 OF THE WINTER ISSUE OF *COLLEGIATE*.
- THE SONGS "STAY HUMBLE" BY TYLER JAMES, FROM THE ALBUM *SWEET RELIEF — EP*, AND "AMERICAN DREAM" BY SWITCHFOOT, FROM THE ALBUM *OH! GRAVITY*.

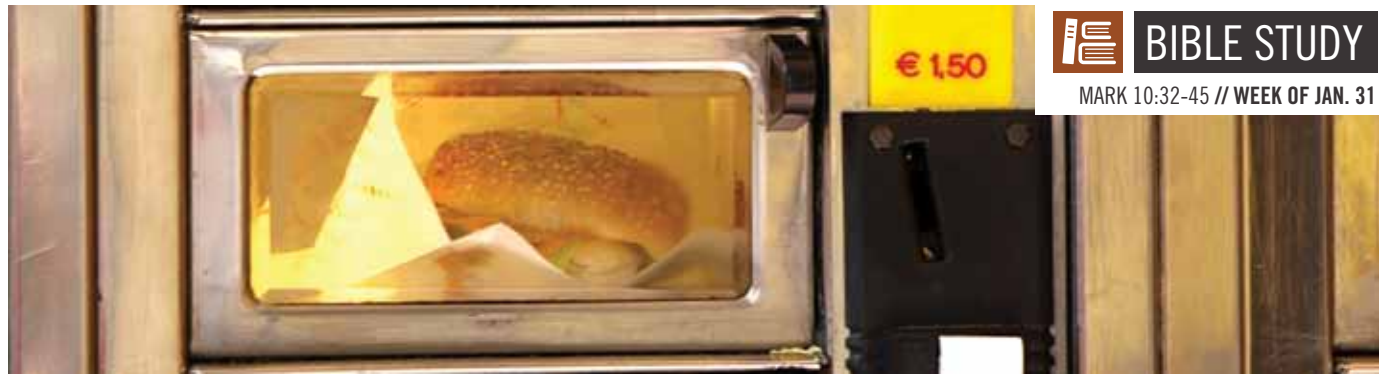
NEED TO KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This session is about Jesus telling the disciples for a third time of His approaching death and resurrection and His teachings about suffering and service. The lesson encourages college students to define success in Jesus' terms, not their own.

FOCAL PASSAGES

MARK 10:32-45



WINNING WITH AN UNLIKELY COMBINATION

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "American Dream" by Switchfoot playing in the background as students arrive.

- How does the world define *success*?
- On your college campus, what standards are used to determine if a student is successful?
- In general, how does your church define *success*?
- How do you define *success*?

In the Bible, Jesus defines *success* uniquely. His definition rocked the world for His followers, and it's still rocking our world today. If we're smart, we'll order our lives for success according to Jesus' standards.

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 44 in the Winter issue of *Collegiate* magazine for a movie suggestion and a recommended read.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 44 of the Winter 2009–10 *Collegiate* magazine.

1). FOLLOW THE RIGHT MODEL (MARK 10:32-34)

READ MARK 10:32-34.

³²They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. ³³“We are going up to Jerusalem,” he said, “and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, ³⁴who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.”

Have someone read “Follow the Right Model” on page 44 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- What kind of model for success did Jesus provide?
- What does it look like today for Christians to follow Jesus’ model?
- If you chose to follow Jesus’ model for success, how are you treated by your classmates or professors?
- Do Christians who follow Jesus’ model suffer for it? In what ways? What about in other countries?

Being successful is based on following the model Jesus provided, which means doing what God wants and may include suffering. In addition to following the right model, being successful involves directing our attention to the requirements of discipleship rather than to honors we would like to have.

2). FORGET ABOUT HONORS (MARK 10:35-41)

READ MARK 10:35-41.

³⁵Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do for

us whatever we ask.” ³⁶“What do you want me to do for you?” he asked. ³⁷They replied, “Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.” ³⁸“You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said. “Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?” ³⁹“We can,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, ⁴⁰but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.” ⁴¹When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John.

Have someone read “Forget About Honors” on page 44 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- Why is forgetting about honors so counterintuitive today?
- In what ways does your college community encourage you to strive for honors? In what ways does it encourage you to forget about them?
- Instead of honors, what should we focus on?
- What does it mean to drink the cup Jesus drinks and be baptized with the baptism Jesus is baptized with?

Godly success means following Jesus’ model and forgetting about honors. It also involves seeking opportunities to serve others instead of trying to control them.

3). FOCUS ON OTHERS (MARK 10:42-45)

READ MARK 10:42-45.

⁴²Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Have someone read “Focus on Others” on page 44 of *Collegiate* magazine.

Facilitator’s Note: Connect the dots with other passages:

READ MATTHEW 10:16-25.

¹⁶“Look, I’m sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as serpents and as harmless as doves. ¹⁷Because people will hand you over to sanhedrins and flog you in their synagogues, beware of them. ¹⁸You will even be brought before governors and kings because of Me, to bear witness to them and to the nations. ¹⁹But when they hand you over, don’t worry about how or what you should speak. For you will be given what to say at that hour, ²⁰because you are not speaking, but the Spirit of your Father is speaking through you. ²¹“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will even rise up against their parents and have them put to death. ²²You will be hated by everyone because of My name. But the one who endures to the end will be delivered. ²³When they persecute you in one town, escape to another. For I assure you: You will not have covered the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. ²⁴A disciple is not above his teacher, or a slave above his master. ²⁵It is enough for a disciple to become like his teacher and a slave like his master. If they called the head of the house ‘Beelzebul,’ how much more the members of his household!

- What do these two passages say about the way we’re likely to be treated because of our commitment to follow Jesus?
- Even when we’re persecuted, what should be our response?
- How is serving others a mark of Christian success?
- How can we serve others? Think in terms of family, friends, superiors, subordinates, etc.

