



JANUARY 2011 TEACHING PLANS

GET A REACTION

BY MATT TULLOS

If you're a physics major — or even if you just managed to stay awake in your Science 101 class — you're probably aware of the third leg of Newton's Laws of Motion: For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. It doesn't take a physicist to translate that law into the core of our spirituality as Christians. Every choice we make either builds upon the legacy of our relationship with God or inhibits that legacy.

In 1 and 2 Kings, we read story after story — historical accounts — of God's covenant blessings on Israel that were conditional upon their obedience to His commands. We see kings become fools and fools become kings, violence, divine declarations, wild prophets, and wicked temptresses. It all seems so outlandish, doesn't it? But compared to the stories in everything from USA Today to *TMZ.com's* celebrity gossip, it's obvious that these matters aren't really outdated.

Ultimately, God has a plan and purpose for human history, and He will see it through to completion. Along the way it's up to each of us to ask ourselves some important questions: Does my character count? Do my decisions really matter? Where's my future headed? How we individually answer those questions determines our role in His storybook.

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" provide 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 use 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 ministry.

Lindsey Bush
Editor, *Collegiate*
lindsey.bush@threadsmedia.com

© 2010 LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention



WHO'S IN YOUR ENTOURAGE?..... 2
1 KINGS 12:3-24

FIRE AND WHISPERS..... 5
1 KINGS 18:20-19:18

IDOL REWIND: BUILDING A CULTURE OF FAITH .. 10
2 KINGS 22:11-23:25

GRACE THAT GETS UNDER YOUR SKIN..... 13
2 KINGS 5:14-27

THE RIGHT NOT TO REMAIN SILENT..... 16
2 KINGS 7:3-16

THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON ON PAGES 36-37 OF *COLLEGIATE'S* WINTER ISSUE
- THE SONG "GOD GAVE ME YOU" BY DAVE BARNES FROM THE ALBUM *WHAT WE WANT, WHAT WE GET* (CHECK OUT [HTTP://THREADSMEDIA.COM/COLLEGIATE/LEADERS](http://threadsmedia.com/collegiate/leaders) FOR A LINK TO THIS QUARTER'S ENTIRE PLAYLIST.)

NEED-TO-KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson is about Rehoboam's disastrous choice to continue his father's oppressive social policies. The emphasis is on principles of good decision-making. The lesson encourages college students to consistently utilize good decision-making principles.

FOCAL PASSAGES
1 KINGS 12:3-24



WHO'S IN YOUR ENTOURAGE?

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "God Gave Me You" by Dave Barnes playing in the background as students arrive.

Set the lesson's tone by introducing the idea of pride coming before the fall.

- Discuss a time when you purposefully ignored wise counsel.
- What consequences did you endure?
- What did you learn from this situation?
- How did the influence of your friends affect your decision?
- Why is it so hard for us to seek advice from people who tell us the truth?

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 36 in *Collegiate's* Winter 2010/11 issue for a thought-provoking quote that relates to the lesson topic.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 36 of *Collegiate's* Winter 2010/11 issue.

Most everyone has wondered what it might be like to be the king of it all. We've all looked at a friend's decision, oil spills, health bills, or Super Bowls and said, "What they should've done is ..." I'd even argue that most of us do it constantly. *If I were in charge things would be different. Things would be better. Things would work out because the problem isn't me. It's all those idiots running the world.*

This was the deal for a guy named Rehoboam. He had been given the keys to the kingdom, and he was ready to do it his way. He thought he knew it all. Most guys are experts on marriage until they get married. Most leaders are experts on leadership until they actually do the heavy lifting.

1) PROBLEMS IN THE TRANSFER OF POWER

READ 1 KINGS 12:3-5.

³ They summoned him, and Jeroboam and the whole assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam:

⁴ "Your father made our yoke difficult. You, therefore, lighten your father's harsh service and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you."⁵ Rehoboam replied, "Go home for three days and then return to me." So the people left.

Have someone read "Problems In the Transfer of Power" on page 36 of *Collegiate*.

ALSO READ PROVERBS 11:14.

Without guidance, people fall. But with many counselors, there's deliverance.

- Who do you seek advice from?
- Can you remember a time when you rejected the advice of other believers?
- Have you ever not wanted good advice because you were afraid you might not want to take it?

2) CHOOSING THE RIGHT CROWD

READ 1 KINGS 12:6-8.

⁶ Then King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had served his father Solomon when he was alive, asking, "How do you advise me to respond to these people?"⁷ They replied, "Today if you will be a servant to these people and serve them, and if you respond to them by speaking kind words to them, they will be your servants forever."⁸ But he rejected the advice of the elders who had advised him and consulted with the young men who had grown up with him and served him.

Have someone read "Choosing the Right Crowd" on page 36 of *Collegiate*.

- Why is diversity important when seeking advice?
- What wisdom can you take away from the elders' advice about leadership?
- What's one word that describes leadership to you?

3) AVOID GETTING STONED

READ 1 KINGS 12:16-18.

¹⁶ When all Israel saw that the king had not listened to them, the people answered him: What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. Israel, return to your tents; David, now look after your own house! So Israel went to their tents,¹⁷ but Rehoboam reigned over the Israelites living in the cities of Judah.¹⁸ Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, (who was in charge of forced labor, but all Israel stoned him to death. King Rehoboam managed to get into the chariot and flee to Jerusalem.

Have someone read "Avoid Getting Stoned" on pages 36-37 of *Collegiate*.

- Have you ever worked under a tyrant? What did the experience teach you?

- What would be your advice for a person who finds himself under the authority of an unethical boss?

King Rehoboam took upon himself the role of a tyrant. Ultimately after his work was done, his legacy ended.

4) WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU FAIL

READ 1 KINGS 12:22-24.

²² But a revelation from God came to Shemaiah, the man of God:²³ "Say to Rehoboam, son of Solomon, king of Judah, to the whole house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people,²⁴ "This is what the LORD says: You are not to march up and fight against your brothers, the Israelites. Each of you must return home, for I have done this. So they listened to what the LORD said and went back as He had told them.

Have someone read "What To Do When You Fail" on page 37 of *Collegiate*.

Rehoboam had to escape, and the work of generations crumbled because he built on sand. Once again, God's people fell into idol worship and divisiveness.

- Why do churches and Christians have to be on guard against idol worship and divisiveness? What does being on guard look like on a daily basis?
- Have you ever wanted a do-over on decisions you've made because of anger, impulse, or inexperience? If you feel comfortable, share what happened. What would you change?
- Does God give leaders who've failed second chances? Why or why not?

THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON ON PAGES 38-39 OF *COLLEGIATE'S* WINTER ISSUE
- THE SONG "YOURS TO TAKE" BY JIMMY NEEDHAM FROM THE ALBUM *NIGHTLIGHTS*
- POSTERBOARD TO CREATE A VISUAL FOR THE "GETTING STARTED" SURVEY ACTIVITY
- PRINTOUTS OF THE DRAMATIC READING IF YOU CHOOSE "OPTION 2" ON "APPLY TO LIFE"

NEED-TO-KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson is about Elijah's confrontation with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel and subsequent flight for his life. The emphasis is on taking a bold stand for the Lord. The lesson encourages college students to stand boldly for the Lord amid pressures to conform to the world.

FOCAL PASSAGES

1 KINGS 18:20-19:18



FIRE AND WHISPERS

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "Yours To Take" by Jimmy Needham playing in the background as students arrive.

Make a list of the columns below and have students choose one item from either side. Feel free to add to the survey to make it more appropriate for your group.

SIDE A

PB & jelly sandwich
Elvis
Super Bowl
Electric
Jazz
Ford
Coke
Boots
Flintstones
Frozen yogurt

SIDE B

PB & banana sandwich
The Beatles
Olympics
Acoustic
Classical
Chevy
Pepsi
Flip flops
Jetsons
Cupcakes

Now create two sides of the room: Side A and Side B. As you call out the choices again, invite students to walk to whichever side they chose. Ask for responses as to why they made the particular choice.

- What is the hardest decision you've ever had to make?

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 38 in *Collegiate's* Winter 2010/11 issue for a thought-provoking quote, an eye-opening statistic, and a historical tidbit that relates to the lesson topic.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 38 of *Collegiate's* Winter 2010/11 issue.

Life is full of decisions, and they seem to get tougher the older you get. The things you decide to do today will have an impact on you for the rest of your life. The story we're reading this week is a snapshot of the ultimate choice everyone must make. Who will you worship?

- Who are objects of worship today?

1) THE STAND

READ 1 KINGS 18:20-21.

²⁰ So Ahab summoned all the Israelites and gathered the prophets at Mount Carmel. ²¹ Then Elijah approached all the people and said, "How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If Yahweh is God, follow Him. But if Baal, follow him." But the people didn't answer him a word.

Have someone read "The Stand" on page 38 of *Collegiate*.

- When have you been closest to God?
- When are you most vulnerable to compromise your decisions?
- What brings you closer to God?

2) THE PRAYER

READ 1 KINGS 18:37-39.

³⁷ Answer me, LORD! Answer me so that this people will know that You, Yahweh, are God and that You have turned their hearts back." ³⁸ Then Yahweh's fire fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. ³⁹ When all the people saw it, they fell facedown and said, "Yahweh, He is God! Yahweh, He is God!"

Have someone read "The Prayer" on page 38 of *Collegiate*.

- Considering what Elijah was asking God to do in front of all these people, does it seem strange to you that the prayer was so short?
- Have you ever been in a worship service where you felt like people were just trying to impress, but there was no real power? What did that feel like?

3) THE BREAKDOWN

READ 1 KINGS 19:1-3.

¹ Ahab told Jezebel everything that Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "May the gods punish me and do so severely if I don't make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow!" ³ Then Elijah became afraid and immediately ran for his life. When he came to Beer-sheba that belonged to Judah, he left his servant there.

Have someone read "The Breakdown" on pages 38-39 of *Collegiate*.

- Why is it difficult to follow Christ alone?
- Have you ever doubted God's protection or love for you? How did you overcome it?

4) THE REALITY CHECK

READ 1 KINGS 19:13B-18.

^{13b} Suddenly, a voice came to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴ "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of Hosts," he replied, "but the Israelites have abandoned Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they're looking for me to take my life." ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, "Go and return by the way you came to the Wilderness of Damascus.

When you arrive, you are to anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ You are to anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel and Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Then Jehu will put to death whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death whoever escapes the sword of Jehu. ¹⁸ But I will leave 7,000 in Israel—every knee that has not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him."

Have someone read "The Reality Check" on page 39 of *Collegiate*.

- Why is it so easy to get discouraged about life?
- What are you depending on Jesus for today?
- Have you ever felt God asking you, "What are you doing here?" How did you respond?

ALSO READ ECCLESIASTES 5:1-3.

- How does pessimism and complaining destroy your spirit?
- Can you share a time when you were pessimistic? What did you learn from that experience?

FIRE

BASED ON 1 KINGS 18:16-39

BY MATT TULLOS

READER 1: Fire!

READER 2: It's what our world needs.

ALL: Fire

READER 2: A symbol of passion and glory.

ALL: Fire

READER 2: We've heard people say,

READER 1: Look at that quarterback. He's on fire!

READER 3: I'm fired up about the future of this business.

READER 4: Somebody needs to light a fire under that guy!

ALL: Fire

READER 1: *(to audience)* When have we felt a fire in this place that was so powerful, so life-changing that it took our breath away?

READER 2: A fire so life-changing that it made us question our purpose.

READER 5: A fire so defining that we looked back on it, remembering the power of God.

READER 1: A fire so offensive to the world that it caused rage in kings and leaders.

READER 2: If there is anything the church of the 21st century needs, it is fire:

READER 5: a glow,

READER 6: a passion,

READER 4: a hunger,

READER 2: A burning desire to transform the world instead of conforming to the world.

READER 1: When Ahab saw Elijah, he said to him,

READER 4: *(as Ahab)* You troublemaker! I'm the King! Don't you know that you never mess with the King?!

READER 5: *(as Elijah)* You don't have any idea what real trouble is, Ahab. You left God. You abandoned Him and followed the teachings of Baal. You brought Baal into the temple of the Almighty.

READER 4: You think I'm scared of you and your threats?

READER 1: So the showdown began:

READER 6: a showdown greater than high noon at the OK Corral.

READER 2: The Super Bowl of the divine.

READER 6: Thousands upon thousands of truth seekers came to Mount Carmel.

READER 1: On Mount Carmel in one corner:

READER 4: 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah.

READER 1: And in the other corner, the single-minded, radical, unflinching man of God: Elijah.

READER 2: Can you see them strut their stuff?

READER 4: One man! Who do you trust: 950 wise men or one half-baked preacher-man from the south?

READER 5: *(as Elijah)* How long will you sit on the fence, trying to make up your mind about who the real God is? "If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."

ALL: Silence.

READER 1: "The people said nothing."

READER 5: *(as Elijah)* "I am the only one of the Lord's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets."

READER 4: So, what are you saying? What do you want us to do? You think you can convince all these people that Jehovah is God just because you say so?

READER 6: You think you can just call on Him, and He'll send rain

READER 4: or smoke

READER 6: or fire?

READER 4: This is the real world, Elijah!

READER 5: *(as Elijah)* "Get two bulls for us."

READER 3: Hold on. Let's write this down.

READER 4: Two bulls.

READER 5: *(as Elijah)* Choose one for yourself, cut it up, and put it on one altar. Give me the other, and I'll put mine on the altar. You call on your god, and I'll call on mine. "The god who answers by fire—he is God." Deal?

READERS 4, 3, & 6: Deal!

READER 1: And then the fun began. The prophets of Baal began to cry out,

READER 6: "O Baal, answer us!" Baal, I've got crystals! Show your supernatural powers. The truth is out there!

READER 4: And with music,

READER 6: mood rings,

READER 4: crystal balls and spells,

READER 6: chants,

READER 4: séances,

READER 6: and dancing,

READER 1: they were sincere, they were devout, they had faith.

READER 5: But having sincere, devout faith in an impotent god is meaningless.

READER 1: Elijah taunted them:

READER 5: *(as Elijah)* "Shout louder!" Maybe he's having a power lunch with the other false gods. Maybe it takes a little time for his fireball to warm up.

READER 2: The day passed, and they didn't give up.

READER 1: "So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears."

READER 2: They cut themselves and bled, trying to get Baal's attention.

ALL: "Midday passed,"

READER 1: "and they continued their frantic" ya-da-ya-da worship "until the time for the evening sacrifice."

ALL: "But there was no response"—

READER 2: no fire,

READER 5: not even a spark.

READER 1: "No one answered."

READER 2: "No one paid attention."

READER 5: *(as Elijah)* "Come here to me."

READER 1: "They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the Lord, which was in ruins."

READER 2: The culture had left the altar in ruins—

READER 1: forsaken,

READER 2: avoided,

READER 5: simply a historical relic.

READER 1: “Elijah took twelve stones ... With the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord.”

READER 3: Guess you are ready?

READER 5: (*as Elijah*) Not quite.

READER 1: Elijah stooped down with a small shovel and began to dig.

READER 3: What are you doing?

READER 5: (*as Elijah*) I’m making a trench.

READER 3: For what?

READER 5: (*as Elijah*) For the water.

READER 3: Wait a second. Water’s not going to help the situation any.

READER 5: (*as Elijah*) My God doesn’t need any help.

READER 3: Now what are you doing? You’re putting water on the bull? That’s absurd.

READER 5: (*as Elijah*) What is absurd is worshipping Baal.

READER 1: Then he said to them,

READER 5: (*as Elijah*) “Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood.”

READER 3: We already did that.

READER 5: (*as Elijah*) “Do it again.”

READER 6: And they did.

READER 5: (*as Elijah*) One more time.

READER 3: Oh, come on!

READER 5: (*as Elijah*) Just do it.

READER 1: “The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.”

READER 5: “Elijah stepped forward.”

READER 2: No dance,

READER 1: no sacred strutting,

READER 2: no bonus bleeding,

READER 1: no chants, crystal balls, or sacred cloth.

READER 2: Elijah prayed,

READER 5: (*as Elijah*) “O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”

READER 1: Then BAM!

READER 2: Without any hesitation,

READER 1: without any constant chanting,

READER 2: without bargaining,

READER 1: without fancy words

READER 2: or theological speech to explain the situation to omniscient God.

READER 1: KABOOM!

ALL: Fire!

READER 1: A fire that consumed the sacrifice.

ALL: Fire!

READER 1: That sent false prophets and pagan shamans running.

READER 2: Fire that lapped up every drop of water.

ALL: Fire!

READER 1: All-consuming fire that made short work of the altar.

READER 2: It burned the wood,

READER 1: the soil,

READER 3: the sacrifice.

READER 2: And “when all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried,”

ALL: “The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!”

READER 1: And so what about us?

READER 2: Have we been dancing around the sacrifice of time, money, and influence,

READER 1: The culture had left the altar in ruins—

READER 2: forsaken,

READER 3: avoided,

READER 4: simply a historical relic—

READER 1: to please our own false gods?

READER 2: Have we been so interested in popularity and going with the crowd that we have forsaken God’s presence?

READER 1: Have our kids learned much of our pleasure and little of God’s purpose?

READER 6: Will we, today, fall at Your feet and proclaim,

READER 3: “The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!”

READER 5: Before we see the fire?

READER 1: The fire is coming.

READER 2: This morning the altar is open.

READER 1: “The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!”

THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON ON PAGES 40-41 OF *COLLEGIATE'S* WINTER ISSUE
- THE SONG "AWAKENING" BY CHRIS TOMLIN FROM THE ALBUM *PASSION: AWAKENING*
- CREATE AND PRINT SEVERAL COPIES OF THE "GETTING STARTED" SURVEY ACTIVITY

NEED-TO-KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson is about national reforms King Josiah carried out based on God's law. The emphasis is on renewing culture in line with God's ways. The lesson encourages college students to prayerfully work to build a godly culture of life.

FOCAL PASSAGES

2 KINGS 22:11–23:25



IDOL REWIND: BUILDING A CULTURE OF FAITH

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "Awakening" by Chris Tomlin playing in the background as students arrive.

Give each student a pen and a slip of reproduced paper with these question on them:

- 1) If my life were a car, it would be a _____.
- 2) If my life were a novel, it could be called:
 - *Great Expectations*
 - *A Tale of Two Cities*
 - *Call of the Wild*
 - *Gone With The Wind*
 - *Heart of Darkness*
 - *Invisible Man*
 - *Red Badge of Courage*
- 3) If my life were a theme song, it would be entitled, _____.

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 40 in *Collegiate's* Winter 2010/11 issue for a thought-provoking quote, a correlating Scripture passage, and a recommended book that relates to the lesson topic.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 40 of *Collegiate's* Winter 2010/11 issue.

Sometimes life is like the Internet. We get online to find out information about bakeries in the area, and before long, we're investigating Big Foot! It's easy to get distracted by the pretty lights of our day-to-day existence. Focus is important. Priorities are even more important.

1) READ ME FIRST

READ 2 KINGS 22:11-13.

¹¹ When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes. ¹² Then he commanded Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Achbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the court secretary, and the king's servant Asaiah: ¹³ "Go and inquire of the LORD for me, the people, and all Judah about the instruction in this book that has been found. For great is the LORD's wrath that is kindled against us because our ancestors have not obeyed the words of this book in order to do everything written about us."

Have someone read "Read Me First" on page 40 of *Collegiate*.

- What's important yet easy to forget in your life?
- What distracts you today?
- How can you place boundaries to protect yourself from distractions?

For years, the nation of Israel experienced the pain of defeat, sin, rebellion, and conflict. God used this pain to bring about a change in their nation.

- What pain brings about change in your life?
- Why is it so hard to change?
- How can we experience pain collectively as a country, church, or group? Can you site an example of pain in one of these areas?
- How is it changing us?

2) DO LIFE TOGETHER

READ 2 KINGS 23:1-3.

¹ So the king sent messengers, and they gathered all the elders of Jerusalem and Judah to him. ² Then the king went to the LORD's temple with all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, as well as the priests and the prophets—all the people from the youngest to the oldest. As they listened, he read all the words of the book of the covenant that had been found in the LORD's temple. ³ Next, the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant in the presence of the LORD to follow the LORD and to keep His commandments, His decrees, and His statutes with all his mind and with all his heart, and to carry out the words of this covenant that were written in this book; all the people agreed to the covenant.

Have someone read "Do Life Together" on page 40 of *Collegiate*.

- When has the Bible meant the most to you?
- Was there ever a time when the Bible changed your outlook on life?
- Why do you think it's important for people to meet together to read the Bible?

3) GUARD THE KIDS

READ 2 KINGS 23:10.

¹⁰ He defiled Topheth, which is in the Valley of Hinnom, so that no one could make his son or his daughter pass through the fire to Molech.

Have someone read "Guard the Kids" on pages 40-41 of *Collegiate*.

- What are some things in our culture that steal the souls from children?
- Have you ever witnessed false religion bringing harm to children?

- Are there any children that you have an opportunity to impact this year? How are intentionally ministering to them for Christ?

4) TAKE AN INVENTORY

READ 2 KINGS 23:24-25.

²⁴ In addition, Josiah removed the mediums, the spiritists, household idols, images, and all the detestable things that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem. He did this in order to carry out the words of the law that were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the LORD's temple. ²⁵ Before him there was no king like him who turned to the LORD with all his mind and with all his heart and with all his strength according to all the law of Moses, and no one like him arose after him.

Have someone read "Take An Inventory" on page 41 of *Collegiate*.

- What evil influences are most dangerous in our culture?
 - Violent video games
 - Horror or occult movies
 - Death or Goth Metal
 - Anti-Christian television
 - Pornography
 - Atheistic philosophy taught on campus as truth
- What other influences are dangerous that aren't as obvious to us?

THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON ON PAGES 42-43 OF *COLLEGIATE'S* WINTER ISSUE
- THE SONG "GARBAGE IN" BY TAL & ACACIA FROM THE ALBUM *WAKE ME*

NEED-TO-KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson focuses on the greedy actions of Elisha's servant Gehazi after Naaman was healed. The emphasis is on avoiding greed as a motive for acting toward others. The lesson encourages college students to ensure their actions toward others are motivated by grace, not greed.

FOCAL PASSAGES

2 KINGS 5:14-27



GRACE THAT GETS UNDER YOUR SKIN

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "Garbage In" by Tal & Acacia playing in the background as students arrive.

- What requires you to have faith this week?
- Have you ever felt like God was asking you to do something that seemed foolish or illogical? Describe a situation if you feel comfortable.
- In the past, has stubbornness hindered you from getting to know God better? How so?

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 42 in *Collegiate's* Winter 2010/11 issue for a thought-provoking quote, a recommended book, and a challenging word study that relates to the lesson topic.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 42 of *Collegiate*.

- **Have you ever thought of desperation as a needed or necessary virtue?**

For Christians, it really is. Desperation leads us to the end of ourselves and into the presence of God. It moves all the petty chips of our lives into His hands. Desperation is a realization that we can never be good enough or strong enough to live a life of independence from God. It helps us realize that we're powerless against our own sin and that our only hope is in God.

Desperation compels us to open up our closets, treasures, secret wounds, and addictions because pride is no longer an option for us. The fuel of desperation involves coming to the cold realization that God is real, that He is holy, and that He is the only One for you. Desperation involves a face-down submission to God's presence.

- **According to the above description of desperation, would you consider yourself desperate?**

1) GRACE: NOT FOR SALE

Naaman was a man of great pride and prestige. It can be tough to swallow when people who seem so invincible get sick. Movie stars get cancer, quarterbacks suffer injuries, and even presidents get heart blockages. Rich people are often faced with the reality that there are certain things money can't and won't buy.

READ 2 KINGS 5:14-16.

¹⁴ So Naaman went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, according to the command of the man of God. Then his skin was restored and became like the skin of a small boy, and he was clean. ¹⁵ Then Naaman and his whole company went back to the man of God, stood before him, and declared, "I know

there's no God in the whole world except in Israel. Therefore, please accept a gift from your servant."

¹⁶ But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, I stand before Him. I will not accept it." Naaman urged him to accept it, but he refused.

Have someone read "Grace: Not for Sale" on page 42 of *Collegiate*.

- **Why is it hard for some people to ask for help?**
- **Do you find it difficult to ask for help? Why?**
- **Discuss a time when you became desperate and dependant. How did it feel? What did desperation lead to?**

2) THOUGHTS OF A PROFIT

READ 2 KINGS 5:20-22.

²⁰ Gehazi, the attendant of Elisha the man of God, thought: My master has let this Aramean Naaman off lightly by not accepting from him what he brought. As the LORD lives, I will run after him and get something from him. ²¹ So Gehazi pursued Naaman. When Naaman saw someone running after him, he got down from the chariot to meet him and asked, "Is everything all right?" ²² Gehazi said, "It's all right. My master has sent me to say, 'I have just now discovered that two young men from the sons of the prophets have come to me from the hill country of Ephraim. Please give them 75 pounds of silver and two changes of clothes.'"

It's easy to let our logic get the best of us. Being committed to Christ often requires us to look beyond logic. There's no doubt Gehazi thought he was doing what he should, but ultimately he just didn't get it.

Have someone read "Thoughts of a Profit" on page 42 of *Collegiate*.

- **Can you ever remember second guessing someone in authority? What were the circumstances?**

- **If you had it to do over again, would you do the same? Why?**
- **Has your logic ever gotten the best of you? How?**

3) NO GOOD FROM GREED

READ 2 KINGS 5:24-27.

²⁴ When Gehazi came to the hill, he took the gifts from them and stored them in the house. Then he dismissed the men, and they left. ²⁵ Gehazi came and stood by his master. "Where did you go, Gehazi?" Elisha asked him. "Your servant didn't go anywhere," he replied. ²⁶ But Elisha questioned him, "Wasn't my spirit there when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is it a time to accept money and clothes, olive orchards and vineyards, sheep and oxen, and male and female slaves?" ²⁷ Therefore, Naaman's skin disease will cling to you and your descendants forever." So Gehazi went out from his presence diseased—white as snow.

Politicians often make the mistake of saying, "I deserve this funding" even though the motives may appear shady. Sooner or later, politics will force the politician to answer those little missteps in crowded rooms and before journalists. Then the little missteps can have devastating consequences.

Have someone read "No Good From Greed" on pages 42-43 of *Collegiate*.

- **Why do you think God had such a disdain for what Gehazi did?**
- **What do you treasure that money can't buy?**
- **What are natural consequences or fruits of greed?**

THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON ON PAGES 44-45 OF *COLLEGIATE'S* WINTER ISSUE
- THE SONG "DESPERATE" BY FIREFLIGHT FROM THE ALBUM *FOR THOSE WHO WAIT*
- ENOUGH COPIES OF THE "GETTING STARTED" SURVEY ACTIVITY FOR EACH STUDENT
- A NEWS OR MOVIE CLIP SHOWING PEOPLE IN NEED FOR "OPTION 2" IN "APPLY TO LIFE"

NEED-TO-KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson is about the Lord's deliverance of Samaria during a time of siege and famine. The emphasis is on declaring God's goodness to others who need to hear. The lesson encourages college students to gladly assist others in learning the good news of what God has done.

FOCAL PASSAGES

2 KINGS 7:3-16



THE RIGHT NOT TO REMAIN SILENT

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "Desperate" by Fireflight playing in the background as students arrive.

Give students the following questionnaire called "What Would You Do?" Ask them to try not to over-spiritualize their answers.

- I would walk 500 hundred miles for _____.
- I would spend my last dime on _____.
- I would walk from my house to this restaurant to eat at _____.

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 44 in *Collegiate's* Winter 2010/11 issue for a thought-provoking quote, and eye-opening statistic, a correlating Scripture passage, and a recommended book that relates to the lesson topic.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

This week's story is one of the greatest stories nested away from most believers' biblical catalog of memory. It's a very simple story about four starving lepers who come across the most amazing feast and make the choice to share the good news. Perhaps you've heard someone in the body of Christ say, "I'm just a beggar telling other beggars where to find the food." That idea finds its roots in this story. Take time to read and reread this story so that you know it as well as other more familiar stories in the Bible. It's just as powerful and full of insight.

1) THE POWER OF DESPERATION

READ 2 KINGS 7:3-7.

³Four men with skin diseases were at the entrance to the gate. They said to each other, "Why just sit here until we die?"⁴ If we say, "Let's go into the city," we will die there because the famine is in the city, but if we sit here, we will also die. So now, come on. Let's go to the Arameans' camp. If they let us live, we will live; if they kill us, we will die."⁵ So the diseased men got up at twilight to go to the Arameans' camp. When they came to the camp's edge, they discovered that there was not a single man there,⁶ for the Lord had caused the Aramean camp to hear the sound of chariots, horses, and a great army. The Arameans had said to each other, "The king of Israel must have hired the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Egypt to attack us."⁷ So they had gotten up and fled at twilight abandoning their tents, horses, and donkeys. The camp was intact, and they had fled for their lives.

Have someone read "The Power of Desperation" on page 44 of *Collegiate*.

- When have you been the most hungry in your life?
- Why were you hungry?
- How did you feel?
- What do you love to eat when you're really hungry?

- Can you think of a time when you were desperate for something, and you did something you wouldn't normally do?

Read the following poem:

*Outside of Your grace ...
I'm the stumbling man in the alley at dawn.
I'm the terrified, hunted, cornered by wolves.
I'm the dusting of snow in the crack of the walk.
I'm a vapor, a memory, used and then tossed.
I'm the uncherished orphan
the darkest of night
the stone cold dark shack
the bird wounded in flight.
I'm the desperate wandering soul
in the cavern
the broken lost has-been
alone in the tavern.
I'm every sad story that's never been told.
I'm hungry, hopeless, ashamed, and alone.*

2) DON'T JUST SIT THERE

READ 2 KINGS 7:8-9.

⁸When these men came to the edge of the camp, they went into a tent to eat and drink. Then they picked up the silver, gold, and clothing and went off and hid them. They came back and entered another tent, picked things up, and hid them.⁹ Then they said to each other, "We're not doing what is right. Today is a day of good news. If we are silent and wait until morning light, we will be punished. Let's go tell the king's household."

Have someone read "Don't Just Sit There" on page 44 of *Collegiate*.

Bill Hybels, pastor of Willow Creek Community Church, invites Christians into a life of "holy discontent." He claims that when we see things that make us angry

(hunger, injustice, pain or need), we should pour our passions into driving away those things.

- What do you see around you that stirs up a "holy discontent" with the way things are in the world?
- When is that last time you've said, "Somebody has got to do something!"?
- Are there times when you turn your head away from these things because you're afraid God might call you to do something?

3) SHARE IN THE JOY

READ 2 KINGS 7:15-16A.

¹⁵So they followed them as far as the Jordan. They saw that the whole way was littered with clothes and equipment the Arameans had thrown off in their haste. The messengers returned and told the king.
¹⁶Then the people went out and plundered the Aramean camp. It was then that six quarts of fine meal sold for a shekel and 12 quarts of barley sold for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD.

Have someone read "Share In the Joy" on page 45 of *Collegiate*.

- What unused stuff could you give away to someone who would treasure it?
- How does it feel to meet a need?
- Can you remember a time when you served someone or gave to someone and ended up feeling more blessed and joyful than the person who received it?

