**TEACHING SET UP**

Let Go(d) – Week A

MAIN POINT GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

**Forgiveness sets us free.**

To help students understand that goodness of God’s forgiveness freely offered to them

MAIN SCRIPTURES

***23****for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Romans 3:23 NIV)*

***8****But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8 NIV)*

***8****Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.****9****For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.****10****The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. (Romans 6:8-10 NIV)*

HOPE: MULTIPLE CAMPUSES, 1 CHURCH.

At Hope we have multiple campuses so each week there are different speakers delivering the message to different sets of students. We want to balance giving each speaker and each campus freedom to tailor the message to fit them while uniting as one church in the same direction we teach our students.

**We ask that all speakers teach the provided main point and main Scripture**. We have provided a detailed message outline, but there is freedom in how much of that you use and how much you’d like to tailor to either fit you or your campus better. Talk to your campus staff about how to best go about this for your specific week.

**GOSPEL RESPONSE + INVITATION WEEK:** Every 4-6 weeks we have a clear invitation and next step for students to accept the Gospel into their hearts for the first time. This is the week for that and we’ve provided an example is in the teaching example; Talk to your Student Campus Pastor about how your campus leads students into their direct follow up step.

TEACHING OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

* The introduction is intended to connect you, the speaker, to the audience usually through a personal story or observation.
* *Speaker note: Share a personal story about a time when you were treated with favor and emphasize how with each favor you didn’t complain*
  + *For example, as the younger sibling the rules were way less strict for me than my older sister, but I didn’t complain.*
* People don’t complain when the unfairness benefits them

INTRODUCTION [ALTERNATE]

* I love that—Jesus changes everything. The only issue is, we try to change ourselves before letting God change us. How many of you guys have NY Resolutions? [have a few answer out loud]
* Bad New Year’s Resolutions [IN Pro Presnter]
* Go into the tension
  + A lot of people use NY Resolutions to create a new, better version of themselves. Maybe you are right there, too. Maybe you want to get your grades up, or even get healthier and better friendships, because you know that in the past, all your friends, or a lot of them, have messed up and hurt you big time.
  + We are a people who tend to hold grudges against those who wrong us. Because some things that people do are just, mean and unfair.

TENSION

* But what about when you feel like something is unfair – you are being treated unfair – the rules are unfair, etc?
* Suddenly, you turn into a JUGDE of what is fair and what is unfair. **When people offend us, they become in our debt – they owe us.**
* The same is true with forgiveness. We know we should forgive, but are their times its ok not to forgive:
  + When have we forgiven too much?
  + Are we enabling other people and just letting them walk all over us?
  + We create this scale in our brains:
  + VISUAL OPTION: Have a 1-10 scale on the stage, have students come up and open envelopes with different offenses in them and decide where on the scale to place it. OR you can read them and ask for audience participation on where on the scale to place the offence
    - She ate the last cookie
    - She kissed my boyfriend
    - He told a rumor about me
    - They bullied my best friend
    - My dad missed my game
    - They posted something I politically disagree with
    - After 1 date they ghosted me
* Someone offends us and all of the sudden we become JUDGE.
* *MIDDLE SCHOOL: Speakers may hang out here longer with middle school audiences to help them fully connect the dots*

TRUTH

* I want us to stop and think today: Do we have the right to JUDGE? Whose job is it to JUDGE what is FAIR and UNFAIR?
* We know the source of all truth is the Bible. So lets go in their and see I went in their to see what it has to say about all this. It’s actually a good news, bad news kinda situation.
* Imma start with the bad news, you may have heard it before:
  + “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23 NIV)
  + We have all committed offenses – lied, stolen, cheated – and the FAIR consequence of our offenses? The Bible actually says that is death.
  + **When we sin, we become in God’s debt – the fair thing we deserve? His punishment and death.**
  + This is actually horrible news, (pause) but thankfully the news doesn’t stop there.
* ***8****But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8 NIV)*
  + Sometimes we may feel like we’ve messed up too much for God to love us, so we start pulling back from Him. But this says He died for us WHILE we were still sinners
* **GOSPEL INVITIATION**: God wants us to be in relationship with Him. Jesus gives us the opportunity to be in relationship with God because of Jesus’ sacrifice.
* **GOD** All of us were created to be in a relationship with Him. Genesis 1:27
* **SIN** Because of sin, that relationship was broken. Romans 3:23
* **JESUS** Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave to pay the penalty for our sins and fix what has been broken. John 3:16
* **GIFT** Jesus ofers forgiveness and eternity in heaven as a free gift. Ephesians 2:8-9
* **CHOICE** God loves us completely, so he allows us to choose whether to receive or reject this gift. Romans 10:9-10
* If you haven’t made this choice yet, what is holding you back?
* **You can make this choice today.** Pray with me something like this: “Because of my sin, I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I trust and follow you as my Lord and Savior. Guide my life and help me to do your will. In your name, Amen.”
* If you’ve said this prayer come up to talk to me at the end of the message or tell your small group leader today\*\* *(ask your Campus Pastor your direct next steps for students)*
* **The forgiveness of God sets us free.**
* The forgiveness of God brings us life.
* I want THAT freedom and THAT life for you.
* ***8****Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.****9****For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.****10****The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. (Romans 6:8-10 NIV)*
* ***HIGH SCHOOL +: empower your audience to think through the implications of Scripture as well as critically think WHY this is so important for them***
  + ***What kind of life do you want? The kind of life you see celebrities have? When you look under the service to see all the gossip and scandal and problems they have – is that really the kind of life you want to be pursuing?***
  + ***What would it look like for you to pursue the kind of LIFE God wants for you. The kind of FULL LIFE the Bible talks about?***

APPLICATION

* Remember – no matter your offense – no matter the fair punishment for your sin – God offers you forgiveness.
* God’s forgiveness should change our lives.
* Look at Paul – the dude actually used to be a part of killing Christians – and God forgave Him and ended up using Him to write most of the New Testament
* So LEAN into God, LEAN INTO His forgiveness, LEAN INTO His direction for your life, LEAN INTO getting to know Him better.
* Don’t let any guilt you feel over your sin drive you away from God, instead ask for His forgiveness and let His forgiveness set you free.

LANDING

* **The forgiveness of God sets us free.**