**TEACHING SET UP**

CHAOS – Week A

MAIN POINT GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

**You can’t always control the chaos but you can control how you respond.**

For students to move from

“The Un-Plan” to the wise preparation

of trusting God in chaos

MAIN SCRIPTURES

*The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the Lord. (Proverbs 21:31 NIV)*

*Those who trust in themselves are fools, but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe. (Proverbs 28:26 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.

**We also want to unite in pointing to Jesus’ saving grace each message** – a Cross Connection segment is written in the message outline.

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 your life felt chaotic…bonus points if it was while you were in middle or high school*
* Chaos is when things are unstable, unpredictable, and confusing. When you don’t know which was is up.
* Chaos is inevitable.
* **You can’t always control the chaos, but you can control how you respond.**

TENSION

* Life as a teenager is chaotic.
* School, chores, homework, practice, family drama, friend drama, work, bullying, your boyfriend or girlfriend say “We need to talk”…your lives can get super busy, super stressful, super chaotic
* **Sometimes in the chaos we aren’t sure what to do and we make poor choices.**
* Your grades start slipping, your parents get on you for forgetting your chores, your girlfriend dumps you and you decide you will have a drink at that party.
* The thing is, that doesn’t make things better. Now you are hungover and still have all these problems to deal with.
* We don’t plan for things to go so wrong, but sometimes it just seems to happen.
* *MIDDLE SCHOOL: Speakers may hang out here longer with middle school audiences to help them fully connect the dots*

TRUTH

* We don’t plan for things to go so wrong, but sometimes it just seems to happen. This is called the UNPLAN. Not having a plan in the face of chaos… and there is a better way.
* **When stress and chaos ensue, we must cling to the hope and wisdom God has for us. That is the way of walking wisely…**
* Proverbs is a whole book about wisdom….full of bunches of gold nugget of wise advice.
* For example: *Those who trust in themselves are fools, but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe. (Proverbs 28:26 NIV)*
* How many times do we get caught up in thinking we know best and things don’t work out the way we thought they would.
* Our knowledge is limited: God’s is unlimited.
* God is so much smarter than us. Why not tap into His wisdom?
* Now, our next verse may seem alittle odd – but with alittle context I know you’ll see how great it really is for us:
* *The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the Lord. (Proverbs 21:31 NIV)*
* *If you don’t have a horse, like me, you might wonder why this is one of our main verses today. But look at this verse as a metaphor.*
  + *Whose job is it to make ready the horse? Solomon’s. This is a job that could be done relatively stress free. But what is a person getting a horse ready for battle worried about – getting the horse ready? No, they are worried about the battle.*
  + *Whose job is it to assure a victory? The Lords.* ***The pressure is off, what a free feeling, to know God is holding my future so I can put my trust in His hands.***
* **Cross Connection: Remember God loves you so much He sent His son to die for you. He is on your side. He has got you. You can trust Him with your future, with your life.**
* There will be moments when everything is overwhelming
  + When you have academic struggles, athletic pressures, family arguments, friend drama
  + Remember – your job is to prepare the horse for battle, victory rests with the Lord. God holds your future in His hands so you can focus on your part without worry or fear.

APPLICATION

* At this point, the message moves to a “you” mentality in order to teach the application. The “you” is the student. Take God’s truth and unpack how it relates to each student so that he or she can apply it to everyday life.
* There are a few things I want you to do when things get stressful and chaotic:
  + Identify WHAT is stressing you out (maybe it’s super obvious, maybe you aren’t sure – identify it for yourself and be specific (for example, instead of just thinking “my family” think “the way my sister and I fight all the time”
  + Think – what is your role? What can you control and is your responsiblity? What’s your “horse to get ready?” (For example, I can set aside more time to study, ask my sister to forgive me and let her know I’d like to find a way to fight less, etc.)
  + Pray about what is NOT in your control: (For example, how your sister reacts to your apology) - ask God to bring HIS victory (that may look different than you expect)

LANDING

* **You can’t always control the chaos but you can control how you respond.**
* God controls the outcome and He has you in His hands.
* He loves you and has good plans for you.
* Trust – if you make ready the horse, the victory is the Lords.
* **Talk in your small groups: In the chaos of life, how can we turn to God and make wise choices?**