**TEACHING SET UP**

On the Lot – Week B

MAIN POINT GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

**Reading the Bible can help us**

**See ourselves clearer.**

To encourage students to see themselves through the lens of God’s Word

MAIN SCRIPTURES

*“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” – Hebrews 4:12 NIV*

*“Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror****24****and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.”* *– James 1:23-24 NIV*

*“Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands.” – Psalm 119:73 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

* Have you ever been on a movie set? Lights. Camera. Action. Those three words are big on a movie set.
  + In this series we are looking at how God’s Word is like these three elements on a movie set.
  + Psalm 119 is all about God’s Word itself and we’ll study this Psalm and some other scriptures to learn more about how God’s Word impacts our lives and empowers us to live for God.
* Last week we talked about how God’s word is a big light in our lives. This week we are going to look at how God’s Word, the Bible, is like a camera.
* *Speaker note: Share a personal story about a time someone took a funny or horrible picture of you.*

TENSION

* Sometimes camera capture flattering images of us, sometimes they capture not-so-flattering images where we had no idea “that is what I looked like!”
* People use camera’s to capture pictures. Some people use the selfie camera like a mirror, to see how they look. Maybe they are checking out how their hair looks or to see if they have something in their teeth.
* The Bible can be that selfie camera, it can show us things about ourselves we might not have realized otherwise. This process is not always comfortable. But just like I would want to know if I had something in my teeth, so I can fix it and be better for knowing it, I want to know if there is a way I can live better.
* A big example of what I’m talking about, and one I think we can all relate to is the commandment: Honor your mother and father. OUCH! I don’t always do that. Reading that verse can make me feel like I’ve been caught with food in my teeth. But knowing it can help us grow into better people.

TRUTH

* We read the Bible to learn about God, and ​last week we learned that the bible acts as a light that directs our path.​ ​**But God also gave us the word so we can learn a lot about ourselves,**​ too​**.** Kind of like looking at ourselves through the lens of a camera, or in a mirror.
* As a matter of fact, Paul’s second letter to a young leader named Timothy says this:
* **For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.**
* Now that sounds like it could be useful. But let’s be honest, who likes to be corrected? Being corrected is uncomfortable. Chances are you’ve been corrected- maybe by a parent... OK let’s be real- definitely a parent. Maybe you’ve been corrected by a teacher or a coach. Have any of you been corrected by a sibling?? \*Shudders\* The actual worst.
* No matter who it is- when someone shows us when and where we are wrong- our pride tends to flare up, OR we start to lose confidence in ourselves or our abilities. This IS NOT God’s intention for the bible in your life.
* The Bible is meant to ​**reveal**​, to be powerful, precise, sharp- as it says clearly in Hebrews chapter 4 verse 12.
* **For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.** 
  + Now at first glance this verse can seem kinda scary. Like the bible was meant as a tool to perform surgery. Words like “sharp” “cut” “joint” and “marrow” seem to back that idea up. But not literal physical surgery. But spiritual surgery.
  + Here’s the thing. Of the many way the bible is ​*useful.*​ It’s useful also because it ​**reveals** ​in us those things that might need to be changed, improved,
* **Reading the Bible can help us see ourselves clearer.** 
  + **HSM+:** *For High school students, giving them space to critically think on their faith is an important, phase specific discipline.* **Have students get in groups and give them 3 minutes to discuss how they see God’s Word as a “selfie” camera – revealing God’s work in your life or your need for God. Ask some groups to share with everyone after the time is up.**
* The Bible can also show us those areas we need to start live more like Jesus.
* **Cross Connection**: The Bible shows us who we are on a foundational level. It shows us that we are sinners in need of a Savior, that Jesus is that Savior and that having faith in Him starts a life long relationship with Him. The Bible shows us it’s not about being a good person or doing enough good things, but about putting our faith in Jesus as God.
* *Share a personal example of a time where you applied a Bible verse to your life and became better for it. Talk through your struggle or uncomfortableness, but how it was worth it.*

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.
* *Share a personal example of a time where you applied a Bible verse to your life and became better for it. Talk through your struggle or uncomfortableness, but how it was worth it.*
* Our action steps today may sound simple, but they are actually much easier said than done:
  + *1) Learn God’s Word*
  + *2) Live God’s Word*
* *As we learn God’s Word, it will show us a different way to live and a different perspective on reality than we had before.*
* *As we learn God’s Word, it will show us a different side of ourselves than we may have seen before.*
* *Knowing is only half the battle, living out of the truth of God’s word is the other half.*
  + *“Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror****24****and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.”* *– James 1:23-24 NIV*

LANDING

* “Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands.” – Psalm 119:73 NIV
* **Reading the Bible can help us see ourselves clearer.**
  + Maybe you aren’t sure who you are – well the Bible says you are made in God’s image and loved by Him.
  + Maybe you aren’t sure what choice to make in a situation you are in right now – taking principles from the Bible can help you see yourself and the situation clearer.