**TEACHING SET UP**

On the Lot – Week C

MAIN POINT GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

**Living out the words of the Bible leads to more freedom, not less.**

For students to see God’s boundaries

as a good thing

MAIN SCRIPTURES

*“But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.” – James 1:25 NIV*

*“I have rejoiced in your laws as much as in riches.* ***15****I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways.* ***16****I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word.” – Psalm 119:14-16 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

* In this series we are looking at how God’s Word is like three elements on a movie set: lights, camera, action!
	+ 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.
	+ Today we are looking at ACTION.
* Have you ever been somewhere you know you shouldn't have been?
	+ Maybe you hopped the fence or maybe you went somewhere your parents said not to?
* Have you ever thought why you shouldn't be there?
* Share a personal story of a time you where somewhere you shouldn’t have been, why you didn’t understand getting in trouble at the time, but you do now
	+ (ex: When I was in middle school I ran cross country. One day about mid-season I decided I didn't want to go since it was going to be the hardest run of the season! So I skipped practice and well... My mom found out and I got in trouble. I didn't understand why at first but then I realized if I got hurt or something happened to me then no one would know where I was or would be there to help me! Moral of the story, my mom had set boundaries for my safety.)

TENSION

* If we’re honest, we’ve probably all passed a boundary we knew we shouldn’t.
* It’s so tempting to just do whatever we want and not worry about boundaries. That FEELS like freedom, but really it’s a TRAP.
* **Fences and boundaries can be for our own good too.**
	+ The fence in our backyard mark a safe area were our kids can run around safe. If they get outside the fence, there are thorns and poision ivy that are not so fun.
	+ At the beach, lifeguards have a safe swim zone for us so we don’t get swept up by a dangerous undertoe.
* **Boundaries in the spiritual world are just as real, just a little harder to see!**
* We’ve been talking about the importance of the Bible. Well, the Bible has boundaries that God wants us to live within. Now, if you’re like me, the word “boundaries” probably isn’t too exciting. We think of it as something that holds us back, but really boundaries are in our lives to actually give us more. **Let me explain how God gives us boundaries so we can live a healthy, Godly life!**
* Because **living out the words of the Bible leads to more freedom, not less!**

TRUTH

* There is a verse we will talk about during service that comes from the book of **James, chapter 1 verse 25, which says *“But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.”*** See, God gives you boundaries to keep you healthy. Not to steal any freedom or dull your life down!
* Walk inside the fence and you walk with God just like it says in **2 Corinthians 3:17 which says "*now the Lord is the spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom*** *"* . Depending on which translation you use, it either says "freedom" or "liberty" both meaning "the power to act as one pleases". That's called free will! God won't force you to do anything. But if you follow the boundaries given to you by the Bible, you can actually have more freedom.
* You see**, living out the words of the Bible leads to more freedom, not less!**
* There will always be a consequence for passing the boundaries God has set for us! At the end of the day it comes down to the fact that God just wants to see us succeed, but to do so, we have to read the Bible and learn our boundaries! God loves everyone of you!
* **Cross Connection: Jesus died to save each one of us – not so He could give us a list of rules but to offer us the most fulfilling life ever.**
* Don't ever think that He does anything intentionally hateful to you! God spells out his love in the Bible for you!
* **Reading the Bible gives us more freedom through understanding God’s will in our life!** God’s plan isn't to make life harder but rather to make it easier! He'd rather see you live a joyful Godly life rather than a life full of sadness and anger!
* The Bible shows us it’s not about just hearing the words of God, but believing and living them. We all have an important choice to make: put our faith in Jesus as our Savior for eternal life or perish.
* What I want you to hear is God gives us boundaries for our protection. If you accept those boundaries is totally up to you. But life is definitely greener on God’s side!
* ***“I have rejoiced in your laws as much as in riches. 15I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways. 16I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word.” – Psalm 119:14-16 NIV***
	+ The author sees God’s laws as riches, as something to delight in.
	+ Usually I think more something like ice cream to delight in – why? Because it’s so good! What if we saw God’s laws that way*?*
	+ **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 gives us freedom. Ask some groups to share with everyone after the time is up.**

APPLICATION

* We’ve talked about how on a movie set lights, camera, action are three important words. Well, this week is all about ACTION. By making changes in my life to live out God’s word, to put them into ACTION, my life has become better. It hasn’t always been easy at first, but it’s always been worth it.
* Share a quick example of this from your life *(when you followed Biblical wisdom and it turned out better than you originally imagined – for example as I was waiting for my mom to pick me up from school one day a friend asked me to go smoke with her. I told her I couldn’t because my parents would be so mad and I knew the Bible said to honor my parents. She made fun of me, but then my mom walked up behind us. We didn’t know she was already there and heard the whole conversation. My mom called her mom and she got in trouble – and I earned some trust with my mom that day. I didn’t know how it would turn out, I just knew that God asked us to honor our parents and so even though it was hard in that moment – I did. And because I earned trust with my mom, she gave me more freedom to hang out with friends when I asked in the future. So living out God’s word directly lead to more freedoms for me with my friends in this case.)*

LANDING

* **Living out the words of the Bible lead to more freedom, not less.**
* The words of the Bible can guide and transform our lives. They give us freedom, love, peace, guidance – who doesn’t want a life full of those things?
* Living inside the lines God sets for us, in safe boundaries, can fill our lives with blessings and even more freedom. It can save us from some pretty awful consequences.