



A 4-WEEK STUDY
FROM THE NEW
TESTAMENT ON

EVANGELISM

FROM OUR ANNUAL *TEACHING STRATEGY*

COMMUNITY → EVANGELISM

SENT
together

WRITTEN AND DEVELOPED WITH . . .
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APRIL WHAL**

SERIES OVERVIEW

We all want to be part of something significant. We want to make a difference! We dream of making an impact and leaving the world better than we found it. Some people try to change the world all alone, but the people who've made the biggest and most positive differences in the world know you can't do anything truly significant on your own. Jesus told us this on his last day on earth. He gave his followers a mission that would change the world – but he made it clear we couldn't do it alone. He was sending us on a mission together. In this four-week series from the New Testament, we'll learn from Jesus and some of his earliest followers that Jesus **sends us on a mission** – a mission that can **bring healing**, that can only be accomplished **together**, and that we can **boldly** choose to be a part of.

WEEK 1

This week, we'll unpack the Great Commission from Jesus and hear Paul's words on staying committed to following God.

- **BIG IDEA:** Jesus sends us on a mission.
- **BIBLE:** Matthew 28:16-20; Romans 12:1-2; Mark 16:15

WEEK 2

This week, we'll explore why Jesus healing someone was controversial and hear the words of Paul on how to treat others.

- **BIG IDEA:** Jesus sends us to bring healing.
- **BIBLE:** Matthew 9:1-13; Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 12:9-18; 1 Peter 2:24

WEEK 3

This week, we'll focus on Jesus giving a mission to seventy-two disciples and Paul's word of encouragement for when we feel unqualified as followers of Jesus, Jesus shows us love and validation.

- **BIG IDEA:** Jesus sends us out together.
- **BIBLE:** Luke 10; Acts 1:6-8; Romans 5:1-8

WEEK 4

This week, we'll discover that Jesus tells his disciples not to be afraid and be challenged by Paul to preach Jesus.

- **BIG IDEA:** Jesus sends us out boldly.
- **BIBLE:** Matthew 10:26-31; 2 Corinthians 4:5-7; Psalm 100:5

MEMORY VERSE: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" – Matthew 28:19 (NIV)

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES

Every ministry is different. Whether you're teaching middle schoolers, high schoolers, teenagers with special needs, or all three, here's how to hack this series to fit your unique and diverse audience.

HACKS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

REVISE

To make this series more accessible for middle schoolers, here's what to adjust . . .

In Week 1, add some clarity in the In Order of Importance poll. The "Your Worst Enemy" category in this poll is meant to be hyperbolic, but some middle schoolers might miss the sarcasm without extra explanation. To ensure no students mistakenly believe they should have enemies or need to identify their worst enemy, say something like, "Hopefully you don't know any real people you'd consider your worst enemy, so think of the most hatable movie villain you can."

In Week 2, give extra examples of brokenness and healing. Because the ideas of "brokenness" and "healing" can feel abstract for a middle schooler's still-often-concrete thinking, be sure to give plenty of examples and explanations when you use these words. You may want to give examples of brokenness and healing in all four of the areas mentioned this week: physical, emotional, spiritual, and systemic.

In all four weeks of this series, give middle schoolers plenty of ideas of how they can join Jesus' mission. Your middle schoolers may be excited about the idea of joining Jesus on his mission, but not sure how they can possibly get involved. So every week, be sure you are giving practical steps for them to take, helping them envision exactly how they can use their words and actions to share the good news of Jesus.

REPLACE

And here are the Building Blocks you may want to swap for something else . . .

In Week 3, replace one of the Scripture passages with extra time spent on the object lesson. This week has a little more Scripture teaching than we usually include, but you may find your middle schoolers will struggle to stay engaged with three different passages of Scripture. If that's the case, cut one of the passages and spend more time explaining the Tres Hermanas object lesson. Your middle schoolers always benefit from concrete visual aids, so this isn't a cop-out from teaching them the Bible – it's strategically helping them remember what they learned from Scripture in a more age-appropriate way, without overwhelming them.

REMEMBER

Many of your middle schoolers are likely still deciding if their faith is something that actually matters to them personally or not, so it's important to not make assumptions when you're talking about evangelism. Not everyone listening (even the church kids!) will have made decisions to follow Jesus, and even those who have may not yet see their faith as something that is fully their own. As you teach, make space for all your middle schoolers, no matter where they are on their faith journeys.

HACKS FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

REVISE

To make this week more accessible for students with special needs, here's what to adjust . . .

In Week 1, adjust the categories in the In Order of Importance poll. The "Your Worst Enemy" category in this poll is meant to be hyperbolic, but some students with certain disabilities or conditions may interpret this literally. To ensure no students mistakenly believe they should have enemies or need to identify their worst enemy, adjust try a new category entirely, like a trending celebrity you know your students would have strong feelings about.

In Week 2, add clarity about God's choice to heal us physically. Because this week involves a story of Jesus healing someone of a disability, it's important to address the reality that God will not heal all of our physical challenges or disabilities here on earth, but that's okay! God made all of us with love, care, and purpose, and our differences are things we should celebrate and not expect God to take away. Encourage your volunteers to monitor any conversations that unfold on this subject and manage them carefully.

In Week 4's Confidence Test, ensure any game ideas that come from your volunteers are inclusive. As your volunteers share their unique skills that could help them win this game, filter their ideas through the lens of any disabilities you know impact your group. If any of your volunteers' skills or competition ideas require students to be able to move, hear, see, or participate in ways students' disabilities would not allow them to participate, find a new skill or adjust the activity!

REPLACE

And here are the Building Blocks you may want to swap for something else . . .

In the Reflection section of Week 4, replace the word "step" with "go." The word "step" is woven throughout this series, but if you have students with limited mobility, this is an easy way to be more inclusive of those who aren't able to take physical steps. "Go toward honesty," "go toward someone," and "go together" are comparable replacements for the original action steps.

REMEMBER

Whenever there are reflection times that require writing (like there are in Weeks 1 and 4), it might be helpful to provide a buddy to students with certain types of disabilities. If any of your students need help writing, understanding the instructions, or responding to the prompts in other creative ways (like with pictures) make sure you have a process in place for this.

VOLUNTEER DEVOTIONAL



STUDY

"Evangelist" might not be your dream job title. (High five if it is!) But did you know that "evangelism," or sharing the Good News about Jesus, is a part of your life's purpose? This month, you'll be studying the Gospels and looking through the lens of community to see how Jesus sends each of us to do different things. Jesus sends you together with others to bring healing and to create a bold statement about God's love that exists for everyone. As you read through these stories, ask God to reveal the mission that's for you and the community you've been called to serve. You may never have the word "evangelist" in your social media bio, but you will always have opportunities to share the Good News that has been shared with you.

To get ready for this series, **spend a few minutes reading the stories we'll be teaching students this month.** As you do, think about what God has taught you (and is still teaching you) about sharing the Good News through these passages, and how these Big Ideas have been true in your life.

WEEK 1: Jesus sends us on a mission.

Matthew 28:16-20; Romans 12:1-2

WEEK 2: Jesus sends us to bring healing.

Matthew 9:1-13; Romans 12:9-18

WEEK 3: Jesus sends us out together.

Luke 10:1-3; Romans 5:1-8

WEEK 4: Jesus sends us out boldly.

Matthew 10:26-31; 2 Corinthians 4:5-7

PRAY

If you've said yes to serving and spending time with teenagers, then you probably have a pretty good idea that you've been called to share the Good News with others. The problem that we leaders sometimes face is feeling like we don't have what it takes. We may not feel like we know enough about God or the Bible. Or, we don't have a ton of experience working with students. Maybe you think your energy has run out and you can't sit through one more small group question tangent. This month, pray for the confidence you need to keep going! Who you are in relationship to teenagers and what you do to communicate God's love is huge! Ask God to show you all of the ways you're being equipped to serve.

Which passage of Scripture or Big Idea from this month is most relevant to you right now? Spend a few minutes asking God to show you how you've already grown in this area, plus the next step you need to take in order to keep growing.

GROW

So what's your next step? Do you need to celebrate the mission Jesus has given you or accept one that you've been invited to? Do you need to respond to someone in your life with a healing conversation, a healing response to their need, or a healing opportunity for reconciliation? Do you need to express gratitude for others who serve together with you in community? Do you need to accept the boldness Jesus offers to share about God's love with the people you meet?

Whatever your next step is right now, take it. Then help students do the same.

WEEK 1

DISCUSSION GUIDE For Middle Schoolers



We all want to be part of something significant. We want to make a difference! We dream of making an impact and leaving the world better than we found it. Some people try to change the world all alone, but the people who've made the biggest and most positive differences in the world know you can't do anything truly significant on your own. Jesus told us this on his last day on earth. He gave his followers a mission that would change the world – but he made it clear we couldn't do it alone. He was sending us on a mission together. In this four-week series from the New Testament, we'll learn from Jesus and some of his earliest followers that Jesus **sends us on a mission** – a mission that can **bring healing**, that can only be accomplished **together**, and that we can **boldly** choose to be a part of.

THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

Jesus sends us on a mission.

BIBLE

Matthew 28:16-20; Romans 12:1-2

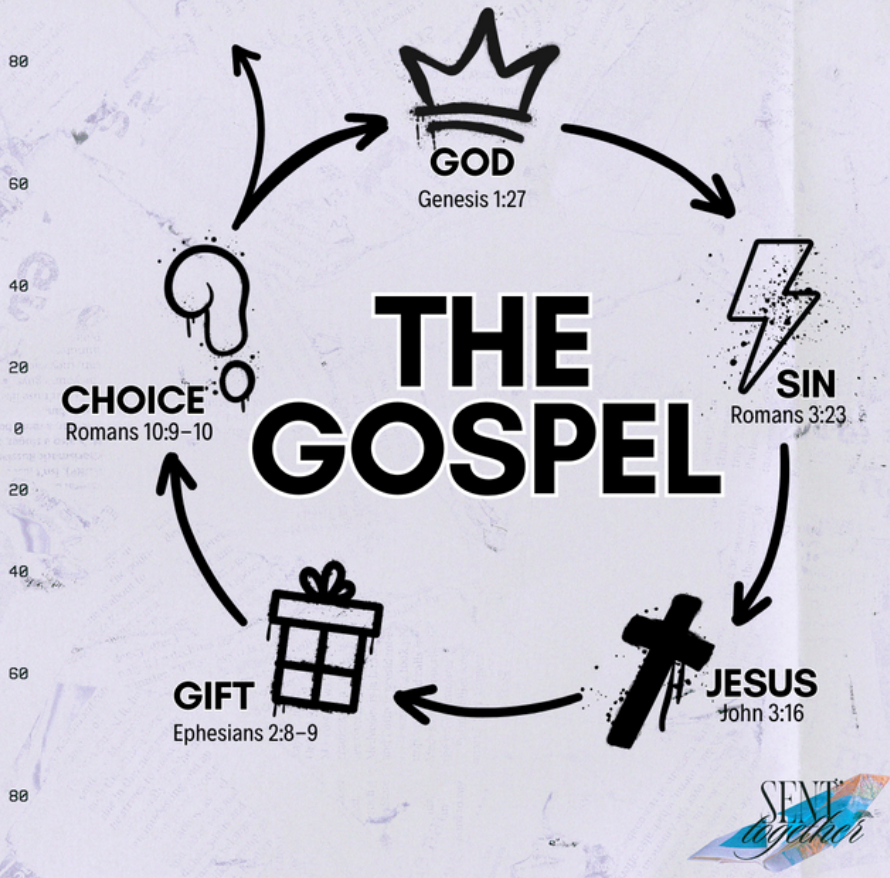
- What's something pointless you love to do?
- Have you ever not taken a task seriously because you thought was pointless? Tell us about it!
- Read Matthew 28:16-20. What stands out to you in this passage?
- In your own words, how would you explain the mission Jesus asked us to be a part of?
- If you were one of Jesus' disciples being sent out on this original mission, what questions would you have had for Jesus?
- What are some ways you've seen people participate in Jesus' mission with their words? What about with their actions?
- What are some obstacles preventing you from joining Jesus on his mission? What would help you overcome them?

ACTIVITY

Practice Sharing the Gospel – Use the handout sheet to read through the Gospel

- Break your group into pairs.
- Goal is for each person to practice 'Sharing the Gospel' with another person
- Take turns Reading through 'The Gospel'
- Bring everyone back together and ask How did it go?






- **What's a way you can join Jesus' mission to share his love with others this week?**
- Message Recap – Steps for Telling Your Friends.
 - **Don't Let Questions Stop You** – are you afraid of questions others could ask?
 - **Find a Focus** – what's your focus & how can you share God's love there?
 - **Share Your Story** – Jesus has made an impact in your life, write your story to share with others
 - **Find Your Few** – who can go with you, support your in sharing Jesus's mission?



Dear God,
 I know I have disobeyed You and I need you. My sin separates me from you. I am sorry I have disobeyed you, but today I turn back to You. I believe that Jesus died on the cross and that my sins can be forgiven. I believe that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive. I trust Jesus to save me. God thank you for your forgiveness and help me to obey you and live for you the rest of my life. **Amen**

GOSPEL INVITATION

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 offers 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?

WEEK 2

DISCUSSION GUIDE for middle schoolers



We all want to be part of something significant. We want to make a difference! We dream of making an impact and leaving the world better than we found it. Some people try to change the world all alone, but the people who've made the biggest and most positive differences in the world know you can't do anything truly significant on your own. Jesus told us this on his last day on earth. He gave his followers a mission that would change the world – but he made it clear we couldn't do it alone. He was sending us on a mission together. In this four-week series from the New Testament, we'll learn from Jesus and some of his earliest followers that Jesus **sends us on a mission** – a mission that can **bring healing**, that can only be accomplished **together**, and that we can **boldly** choose to be a part of.

THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

Jesus sends us to bring healing.

BIBLE

Matthew 9:1-13; Matthew 28:19-20;
Romans 12:9-18; 1 Peter 2:24

QUESTIONS

- **What's the most valuable thing you've ever broken?**
- **When you break something, or see something that's broken, are you more likely to try and fix it, ask someone else to fix it, or ignore it? Give us an example!**
- **What are some reasons a person might say they feel broken? Can you relate to any of those reasons?**
- **Read 1 Peter 2:24. How does Jesus heal brokenness in our lives? What about in the world?**
- **What's something you've noticed that's broken in the world or in the life of someone you know? Why does it matter to you?**
- **This week, what's one way you could bring healing to a person or to the world? How could we do that together?**



Share your habit stacks with each other! See if anyone has identified a habit stack that would be helpful to someone else in the group.

WEEK 3

DISCUSSION GUIDE for middle schoolers



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THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

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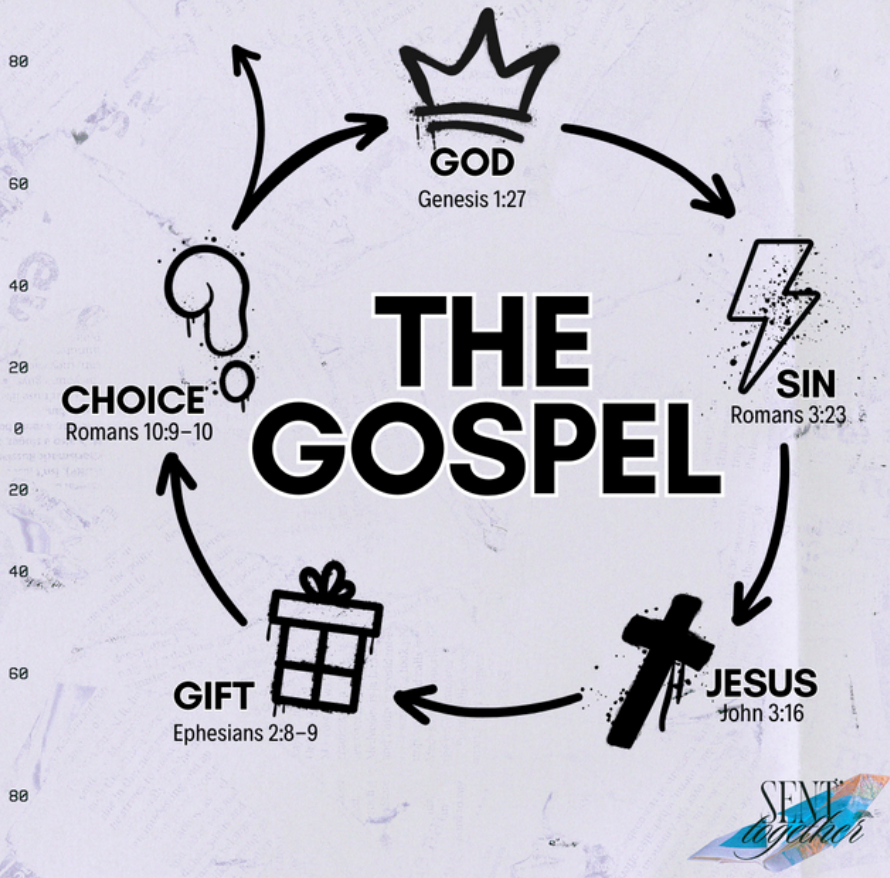
Luke 10; Acts 1:6-8;
Romans 5:1-8

QUESTIONS

- **Let's debate: what's the best team sport? What's the worst?**
- **Has a misunderstanding ever made it difficult for you to work well with a team member, partner, or classmate? What happened?**
- **When Jesus sent his followers out in pairs, what are some ways you think they were able to support each other on their mission?**
- **What obstacles keep you from sharing the good news of Jesus with others? How could the support of other people help you overcome those obstacles?**
- **Read Acts 1:8. How do you think God's Spirit helps us when we're sharing the good news of Jesus? Do you have any firsthand experience with that?**
- **This week, what are some ways we could work together and support each other as we share the good news of Jesus?**








Share your habit stacks with each other! See if anyone has identified a habit stack that would be helpful to someone else in the group.



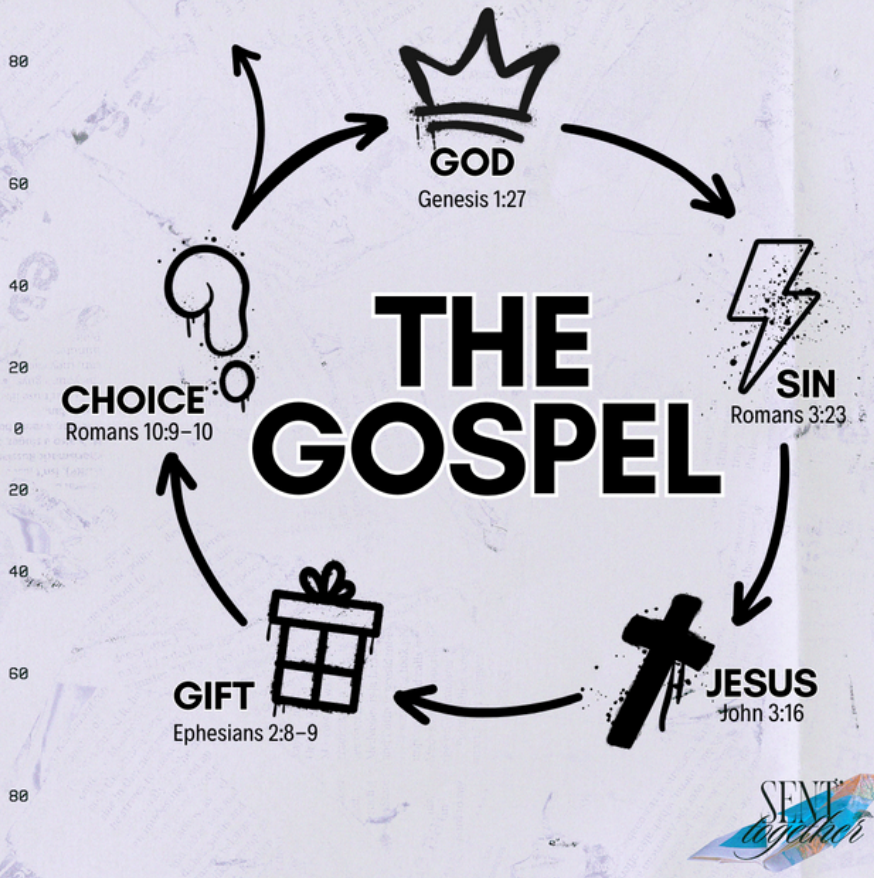
Dear God,
 I know I have disobeyed You and I need you. My sin separates me from you. I am sorry I have disobeyed you, but today I turn back to You. I believe that Jesus died on the cross and that my sins can be forgiven. I believe that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive. I trust Jesus to save me. God thank you for your forgiveness and help me to obey you and live for you the rest of my life. **Amen**

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GOSPEL INVITATION

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 _____ (Gen 1:27)

 _____ (Rom 3:23)

 _____ (John 3:16)

 _____ (Eph 2:8-9)

 _____ (Rom 10:9-10)

If you haven't made this choice yet, what is holding you back?

WEEK 4

DISCUSSION GUIDE for middle schoolers



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THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

Jesus sends us out boldly.

BIBLE

Matthew 10:26-31; 2 Corinthians 4:5-7;
Psalm 100:5

QUESTIONS

- **What's the boldest thing you've ever done? How do you feel about that choice now?**
- **When have you seen someone be bold in a good way? Why was their example inspiring?**
- **Who is someone who helps you have boldness in your faith? How do they do that?**
- **Read Psalm 100:5. How can noticing God's faithfulness in the past help us be bolder in the future?**
- **How can our group help each other grow in confidence about our ability to share with others the good news of Jesus?**
- **What is one bold step you want to take on your mission this week?**

ACTIVITY

Invite students to share the opportunities and hesitations they wrote during their time of reflection.

What are my OPPORTUNITIES?

What are my HESITATIONS?

Who can I be HONEST *with?*



What are my OPPORTUNITIES?

What are my HESITATIONS?

Who can I be HONEST *with?*

