XP3 Students
Series Catalog
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Why XP3 Students?

You need a plan… you need a strategy… you need tools to implement that plan and strategy… and you need them to fit YOU.

XP3 Students fits into a bigger picture and a bigger strategy. As part of the Orange strategy, XP3 combines the two primary influences that impact a student’s life, the church and family, and brings them together to show a generation who God is more effectively than either could alone.

In addition to the general content you are used to receiving with a curriculum, XP3 Students includes two unique components:

Parent Cue – designed to cue parents so that BOTH parents and students can have a point of conversation about the subject matter, and to learn from one another. The Parent Cue also provides content to post or email to encourage parents to fight for the relationship with their teenager.

XP – designed to help move students past information to experience by giving them an experiential activity with every series so they can live out the truths being covered. It also encourages students to be active in the church, local community and the world so that they can demonstrate God’s restoration.

We want to help you help your students have a lasting understanding of these three things:
• I am created to pursue an authentic relationship with my creator.
• I belong to Jesus Christ and define who I am by what He says.
• I exist every day to demonstrate God’s love to a broken world.

When students graduate, they are aware of their spiritual identity and feel personally responsible to own their own faith. Teaching with the END in mind means the integration of Wonder, Discovery, and Passion.

What Is XP3 Students?

XP3 Students is a comprehensive curriculum designed to fuel three relationships—God, self and others—through five filters: grow spiritually, connect relationally, serve actively, examine Biblically, and decide personally.

XP3 will offer fresh content that covers 48 weeks per year. All series will be featured and released in seasons. Each season is three months—which is 12 weeks of content—and will include four series.

• Fall – Aug, Sept, Oct
• Winter – Nov, Dec, Jan
• Spring – Feb, Mar, April
• Summer – May, June, July

The following pages will give you an overview of each XP3 Students series with a breakdown of each session’s bottom line and the Scripture used. It will also provide information on the XP (experiential piece) and Parent Cue, as well as highlight any bonus material included with the series. This is a great resource to help you have a general understanding of each of the series from which you can choose as well as any specific information pertinent to that series.
SCOPE AND CYCLE

2015-2018

2015-2016

Fall 2015 (Aug, Sept, Oct)
- Book Study: Proverbs (examine biblically)
- Prayer (grow spiritually)
- Authority (connect relationally)
- Greatest Commandment (grow spiritually)

Winter 2015-2016 (Nov, Dec, Jan)
- Knowing God (examine biblically)
- Christmas (serve actively)
- Forgiveness (connect relationally)
- Culture (decide personally)

Spring 2016 (Feb, March, April)
- Easter (examine biblically)
- Regret (decide personally)
- Dating (connect relationally)
- Embracing Change (decide personally)

Summer 2016 (May, June, July)
- Injustice (serve actively)
- Apologetics (examine biblically)
- Time Management (decide personally)
- Character Study: Timothy (examine biblically)

2016-2017

Fall 2016 (Aug, Sept, Oct)
- Making Wise Choices (decide personally)
- Spiritual Habits (grow spiritually)
- Family Relationships (connect relationally)
- Social Media (decide personally)

Winter 2016-2017 (Nov, Dec, Jan)
- Showing Kindness (connect relationally)
- Christmas (grow spiritually)
- Following Christ (examine biblically)
- Leveraging Influence (serve actively)

Spring 2017 (Feb, March, April)
- Escaping Reality (decide personally)
- Paul - Encountering Jesus (grow spiritually)
- Friendships (connect relationally)
- Easter (examine biblically)

Summer 2017 (May, June, July)
- Money Matters (grow spiritually)
- Dealing with Hurt (examine biblically)
- Potential (decide personally)
- Character Study: John (examine biblically)

2017-2018

Fall 2017 (Aug, Sept, Oct)
- Jealousy & Comparison (decide personally)
- Family Dynamics (connect relationally)
- Reading the Bible (grow spiritually)
- Dysfunctions (decide personally)

Winter 2017-2018 (Nov, Dec, Jan)
- Speech (connect relationally)
- Christmas (serve actively)
- Identity (examine biblically)
- Getting Messy (serve actively)

Spring 2018 (Feb, March, April)
- Worry/Stress (decide personally)
- Story of Easter (examine biblically)
- Judging Others (connect relationally)
- Book of ACTS (examine biblically)

Summer 2018 (May, June, July)
- Growing in Faith (grow spiritually)
- Biblical Accuracy (examine biblically)
- Temptation (decide personally)
- Character Study: Abraham (examine biblically)
Words are powerful. You probably already knew that. Words can make your day or ruin it. Words can make friends or create enemies. On a global level, words can start a revolution or bring peace. Now, think about how much more powerful God’s words are. Simply by speaking He caused the world to be created along with everything in it—mountains, oceans, thunderstorms, planets, the sun. He spoke all of it into existence! By His words, He caused nations to rise and fall, and people who were dead to come back to life. God’s words are the most powerful force in our entire world, but if we’re honest…most of us don’t think of them that way. We hear “God’s Word” or “the Bible” and think about an old dusty book, something complicated, outdated, or even boring. But what if it was never meant to be that way? What if we’re missing out by seeing it as simply a history book or something to study? As we take a closer look at God’s Word, we may be surprised at what we find. God is inviting us to hold, read, and experience the same Word that created everything we see. It’s more than a book. It’s better than a story. It’s alive.

Session One: Out Of The Fish Bowl
Bottom Line: Give God’s Word a chance to change you.
Scripture References: Hebrews 4:12
What words come to mind when you think about the Bible? Exciting? Mind-blowing? Life-changing? If you’re honest, probably not. Even though we aren’t quick to admit it in church, many of us don’t feel all that excited about reading the Bible. Maybe for you it just seems like a history book filled with random facts about random people that don’t really matter. Or maybe it feels more like a foreign language textbook with lots of words and phrases that don’t make sense. Either way, it’s hard to see how an old book written by a bunch of dead guys about an invisible God could be relevant to anything we’re doing today. But that was not how it was intended to be experienced. Through a letter written to the Hebrews, we discover that the Bible is more than just a recording of the past. If we give it a chance, God’s Word has the power to change our present and shape our future.

Session Two: Baby Bottle
Bottom Line: Find a way to feed yourself.
Scripture References: Hebrews 5:12-14
Have you every taken care of a baby? It isn’t easy. They constantly need your help. They need to be fed, changed, carried, and fed again. Eventually babies grow up and learn to feed and care for themselves. It’s a natural process, and it’d be weird if they didn’t! The truth is, we’re all growing up in different ways, and our lives aren’t maturing and growing at the same rate. One area where we tend to stay immature is our faith. We depend on our pastors, our small group leaders, and our parents to spiritually “feed us” or tell us what God’s word says, what to think, and what to believe. But we were never meant to be infants forever. In the a letter written to the Hebrew Christians, we find that God’s desire is for us to grow up and be healthy spiritually as much as physically. And the only way for us to do that is to find a way to feed ourselves.
Session Three: **Forget Me Not**  

*Bottom Line:* When you memorize, it opens your eyes.  

*Scripture References:* Joshua 1:8; Jeremiah 15:16  

Memorizing just doesn't sound like much fun, does it? Maybe you’ve had to memorize something for school and found yourself wondering why? In a world where you can Google the answer to just about anything, why would anyone bother to memorize? There must be a better use of our time. That may have been exactly how Joshua felt. He was just about to take over leading the nation of Israel from Moses. It was no easy task and there was a ton that needed to happen. At this pivotal moment in history, God tells Joshua that the key to his success hinges on him committing his time and attention to knowing and meditating on scripture. It probably seemed counterintuitive. He had work a lot of other work to do. But through his story we find that keeping God’s word in us is the first step to dealing with anything that’s going on around us.

**XP**  

THE XP for ALIVE is an individual XP inviting students to reflect on a passage of scripture while personalizing it by inserting their own name.

**Parent Cue**  

The Parent Cue for the ALIVE series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to model healthy curiosity for their students and “Try This”, which challenges parents to read and discuss one verse of scripture with their student.

**Supplemental Video**  

Bumper video (1:16) – included with series download  

Teaching Video – Clay Scroggins– Session 1 (16:53)  

Teaching Video – Clay Scroggins – Session 2 (15:30)  

Teaching Video – Clay Scroggins – Session 3 (14:55)  

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.
All In
3 week series / 15 credits
Category: Serve Actively
Featured: Winter 2014 - 15

Have you ever taken a big risk? I’m not talking about eating your mom’s broccoli casserole after too many days in the fridge. I’m talking about something that could have only ended with a big win or a big disaster. Asking a girl to prom that has never talked to you. Pep-rally dance-off. Stealing second base in the last inning of the playoffs. If you’ve ever gone all in, taken a big risk, there’s only one reason you did it. The payoff. For every risk, there’s the promise of a reward. And if the reward is worth it, if it’s enticing enough, you just might be willing to do things you might otherwise never consider. Did you know that serving the people around you can be risky? Not only is there no guarantee of being successful, of actually helping someone, but serving also means putting our comfort, our convenience, and our reputation on the line. On the other hand, choosing not to serve others has risks as well. Not only could we miss out, but those around us may go without something that they really need. Either way, there’s a lot on the line. So the question you have to ask is: Am I going to play it safe or am I going to go all in?

Session One: Give Something
Bottom Line: You have the power to serve in a powerful way.
Scripture References: Proverbs 3:27
Let’s be honest, the subject of giving to help others makes us all a little nervous. It’s not that we don’t want to help others or give to the needy. It’s just that most of us feel like we don’t have much to offer. Maybe you have an allowance or a part-time job, but that doesn’t mean you’re exactly rolling in the dough. What can your two or five or even ten bucks do to help someone, really? As a student, it’s easy to feel powerless when it comes to giving and serving others. But what if that isn’t true? What if we have more power to help others than we realize? What if giving isn’t as complicated as we make it? The book of Proverbs teaches that we all have the power to give. And by doing so, we may get more in return than we ever imagined.

Session Two: Do Something
Bottom Line: Courageous > Comfortable.
Scripture References: Matthew 25:31-40
Humans love to comfortable. It’s why we invented air conditioners, sweat pants, and Snuggies. The problem is that sometimes our love of comfort hold us back from doing really great things. It’s why many of us are tempted to shy away from the idea of serving others. Serving can mean getting up early, giving up weekends, working really hard, and being around people you might otherwise avoid. It’s naturally uncomfortable. And yet people who serve seem to find it worth the risk every time. How is that possible? Jesus made it clear that people who serve, even in small ways, are a big deal to God. He even went as far as to say that serving another person is the same as serving Him. While His words won’t protect our comfort, they may just lead us toward something even better, something that will push us forward instead of holding us back—courage.
Session Three: Be Something
Bottom Line: Being kind is a state of mind.
Scripture References: Luke 10:30-37
Have you noticed that there are a million shows on right now that have a group of people called “judges?” Whether it’s singing, dancing, or baking cupcakes, all of these shows have judges that watch the contestants’ every move. They evaluate, score, and criticize—as the entire world watches. Being a student can be brutal in the same way—you are surrounded by judges who constantly decide where you fit in the social system. It feels like everything you do or say or wear can affect your social ranking. Even being nice to someone of a different status is a huge risk. In one of his most famous parables, Jesus told a story that isn’t all that different. In a world of strict social categories, a man of lower status sees a man of higher status in need. And what he does demonstrates exactly what it means to go all in when faced with a risky social situation.

XP
THE XP for All In is an individual or Small Group XP helping students to partner with Operation Christmas Child this holiday season.

Parent Cue
The Parent Cue for the All In series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to combat entitlement by creating opportunities to server others, and “Try This”, which challenges parents to participate in Operation Christmas Child with their student.

Supplemental Video
Bumper video (1:16) – included with series download
Teaching Video – Joseph Sojourner – Session 1 (10:09)
Teaching Video – Joseph Sojourner – Session 2 (11:03)
Teaching Video – Joseph Sojourner – Session 3 (10:31)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.
Alter Ego

Everyone loves a superhero. Superman. Wonder Woman. Iron man. They swoop in and fight the bad guys, save the day, and somehow make their spandex suit look cool all at the same time. But chances are, if we ran into one of them on street, we wouldn’t recognize them. Because almost all superheroes have another side—their mild, unassuming, simply-not-as-awesome alter ego. Their real, every-day life identity is rarely as impressive. In that way, we all have something in common with superheroes. There’s a public side of us. A super-identity that most of the world gets to see. We’re funny. We have friends. We’re confident. But deep in our hearts, we know there’s an alter ego—a less than super side we’d rather hide away. As we take a closer look at three habits that often bury themselves in our alter egos, we find that God has something to say about each one that can free us from living a double-life.

Session One: **No Worries**
*Bottom Line:* When God’s worrying about your worries, you don’t have to.
*Scripture References:* Philippians 4:6-7

What do you worry about? Your looks? Reputation? Whether your parents will get you a Chihuahua for your birthday? Everybody worries. We stress about our family, school, future, friends, and about a million other things. Unfortunately, our worries don’t seem to accomplish much. Think about it. Have you ever stressed out about something so much it fixed itself? Probably not. But what’s the alternative? The Apostle Paul had plenty to worry about. He had been threatened, beaten, shipwrecked, and arrested, but he still found the courage to say, “Do not be anxious about anything.” As we take a closer look at Paul’s words, we find that God has given us an alternative. He has provided a way for us to give away our worries and replace them with peace.

Session Two: **Bad To The Bone**
*Bottom Line:* Shame holds you back. Jesus pulls you close.
*Scripture References:* Hebrews 4:14-16

Have you ever been so embarrassed you wanted to run and hide? Probably so. Those moments sneak up on all of us. Maybe you dropped your lunch in front of everyone at school or maybe you tripped on the bleachers at a game. For a moment, it felt awful, but it was temporary. The problem is many of us live with that feeling all the time. It isn’t just because of a moment. It’s because of who we are. We feel like we’re not as smart, not as cool, or just not as good as those around us. That feeling is called shame, and just like embarrassment, shame makes us want to run away from everyone, including God. The question we have to ask is, What are going to do with our shame? Are we going to trust it? Hide behind it? ignore it? The writer of Hebrews tells us there is a better way. Because of what Jesus did, we aren’t required to give in to shame’s demands. And even when shame tells us to run and hide, Jesus tells us to run toward Him.

Session Three: **All About Me**
*Bottom Line:* Others first, me second.
*Scripture References:* Philippians 2:3-11

Lots of things come naturally to us. Breathing. Eating. Sleeping til noon. And for most of us, selfishness is on that list. As little kids we learn to yell, me first and that’s mine. Even though it’s natural, living selfishly doesn’t improve the quality of life. In fact, it’s exhausting and lonely. Most of us would agree that focusing on ourselves is a miserable way to live, but we still act selfishly anyway. So how do we fight it? In a letter to some of the earliest Christians, the Apostle Paul addresses that very question, and what he says may surprise you. Spoiler alert—it’s not twenty-seven steps to being less selfish. No, Paul gives one challenge. One idea that can change the way you see everyone around you and help you escape the trap of selfishness once and for all.
THE XP for ALTER EGO encourages students to “let God worry about their worries” by writing out their worries on a rock and throwing it away.

Parent Cue
The Parent Cue for the ALTER EGO series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to be mindful of what traits and tendencies they’re passing on to their students and “Try This”, which challenges parents to write an apology letter to their student and include how they may be working on issues that affect their child.

Supplemental Video
Bumper video (1:06) – included with series download
Teaching Video – Holly Crawshaw – Session 1 (11:47)
Teaching Video – Jeremy Zach – Session 2 (11:46)
Teaching Video – Holly Crawshaw – Session 3 (12:14)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.
Think about the last big fight you had. Maybe it was with a friend or a coworker who talked badly about you. Or maybe it was when a coach pulled you out of the game for no reason. Maybe for you, the biggest battles happen at home with someone in your family who seems completely unreasonable. No matter where your battlefield is or who you’re battling with, there’s a good chance it stresses you out. No one likes conflict. Even those of us who enjoy the fight don’t really like the feelings of regret that come afterward. But what else can we do? If avoiding doesn’t work and exploding doesn’t help, do we have any other options? And, is there a way to win the fight without losing a friend? The truth is conflict has been around since…well since humans have been around. It affects everyone. Thankfully, the Bible has something helpful to say to all of us when it comes to conflict in our relationships. And while there’s no guarantee that we’ll never face another battle, we can discover how to make our way through it and have stronger faith and relationships on the other side.

Session One: Let’s Fight
Bottom Line: Making peace > making a point.
Scripture References: Ephesians 4:3
Life just isn’t the same without friends around. Think about it—doesn’t having friends around make everything a little better? It wouldn’t be as much fun to turn 16 if no one was around to celebrate with you. Youth group would be pretty boring if you were the only person there. Simply put, relationships make things better. But isn’t it also true that the same relationships can also be difficult at times? When you get close enough to somebody, there’s going to be conflict. There are going to be arguments, disagreements or fighting. And how we handle those moments can make or break the relationship. In his letter to Ephesians, Paul offers some guidance on how to handle conflict that, if we can put it into practice, has the power to change the way we fight. Through Paul’s words, we discover the real win in an argument is when we fight for something more than being right.

Session Two: Angry
Bottom Line: Our response to anger can keep us out of danger.
Scripture References: Proverbs 29:11
If you’ve ever been in any kind of relationship, then you know conflict is going to happen. Friendships, siblings, dating, parents—no matter what kind of relationship you have or how close you are, there’s no getting around conflict. And because of that, we have to find a way to disagree without destroying the relationships we have. But how do we do that when at the root of almost every reaction to conflict is anger? Sure anger might be what makes conflict in TV and movies so exciting, but, in real life, it can make us completely unhealthy if we don’t learn to handle it well. King Solomon, considered to be one of the wisest men who ever lived, wrote a book in the Bible full of practical wisdom called Proverbs. And what better place to look for wise ways to handle anger than in a book written by someone known for his wisdom? Solomon’s seemingly simple instructions offer us a practical solution to help keep ourselves from letting our anger become a danger.

Session Three: Crossfire
Bottom Line: You can’t control conflict, but you can control yourself.
Scripture References: John 14:27
Have you ever seen one of those live news reports where a journalist is broadcasting in the middle of a combat zone? Like when they’re reporting from a rooftop in a country that is in the middle of war. It’s crazy. Blasts and explosions light up the sky all around them as they duck to avoid gunfire. If you’ve ever seen one of those reports, you know the conflict, literally, swirls around them. Has conflict ever felt like
this for you? Like you’re right in the middle of a battle you can’t control? When conflict happens around us, even if it has nothing to do with us, it affects us. In fact, fighting around us can often be more stressful than fights we’re directly involved in because we have control over it. We can’t fix it. We can’t run from it. We can’t really do anything about it because it has nothing to do with us. But it still hurts us. The good news for us is that conflict of this kind is not new to Jesus. In fact, before He left the Earth physically, He spoke to His disciples about peace in the middle of conflict. And, as we’ll come to understand, that same peace is available to us today, too.

**XP**

THE XP for BATTLEFIELD includes an “Apology Guide” (available in your series download) where students will work through finding the words to apologize and own their responsibility in a conflict.

**Parent Cue**

The Parent Cue for the BATTLEFIELD series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” where Doug Fields encourages parents to “let the punishment fit the crime” when it comes to discipline and “Try This”, challenges parents to make a plan for rules and consequences that fits this phase of life.

**Supplemental Video**

Bumper video (1:06) – included with series download  
Teaching Video – Doug Fields – Session 1 (tbd)  
Teaching Video – Doug Fields – Session 2 (tbd)  
Teaching Video – Doug Fields – Session 3 (tbd)

*The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.*
Branded
3 week series / 15 credits
Category: Connect Relationally
Featured: Winter 2013-2014

Branding— it’s everywhere. You can’t turn on the TV or drive down the street without seeing hundreds of ads and billboards. Companies spend millions of dollars trying to shape how YOU see THEM, developing their brand. But what about the Church? What are WE known for? Philippians chapter 2, has a lot to say about the way we love others. As we unpack this chapter, we discover that our love for people, both inside and outside the church, ultimately determines what we are known for—our brand.

Session One: Unified
Bottom Line: Together we can do more.
Scripture References: Philippians 2:1-2
Being branded is a reality. We can’t escape it. Based on any number of things, people will brand us with something—positive or negative. In a series of letters, the apostle Paul urged the churches he served to guard their brand—their identity—by choosing to “agree with one another whole heartedly” and extend the love and acceptance that they had experienced to others. What Paul knew was that by being known for these things we develop a positive brand and gain influence in the world around us.

Session Two: Unselfish
Bottom Line: Together we can act small
Scripture References: Philippians 2:3-5
Isn’t it true—fair or unfair—that Christians sometimes have a negative brand? If not by people you know, then by culture itself? Don’t some people just assume that Christians are going to be self-righteous, judgmental, maybe even closed-minded, or worst of all, boring? Believe it or not, church was never supposed to be like this. In fact, it’s almost as if Paul anticipated this problem when he reminds us to live unselfishly, to be known for looking out for others interests more than our own. By doing this, we can change our brand little by little.

Session Three: Unique
Bottom Line: Together we can be different
Scripture References: Philippians 2:14-16
What makes a person appealing? What is it about them that makes you want to spend more time with them? When it comes to the Christians, usually the passion a person has for their faith and the way they treat others are what makes people want to run toward them or run away. The apostle Paul encourages us to shine like bright lights and live in a way that attracts other people to our faith. What if the most important thing we could do for the world around is to live in such a way that others see our faith and want to join in?

XP
The XP for the Branded series can be easily contextualized for large or small groups. For this XP, students will host a “branding event”- a party event or a night out in which their only focus is to build relationships with new students. There’s no agenda or teaching time. Students are simply encouraged to invite their friends and focus on fun.
Parent Cue
The Parent Cue for the Branded series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to inject fun into their family routine, especially during the hard times when fun seems like the hardest thing to do, and “Try This,” which gives parents a strategy for inviting students to do something fun as a family and allowing them to be part of the planning process.

Supplemental Video
Bumper video (0:45) – included with series download
Teaching Video – Joseph Sojourner – Session 1 (11:25)
Teaching Video – Jamey Dickens – Session 2 (15:57)
Teaching Video – Ben Crawshaw – Session 3 (17:58)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.
What is the biggest challenge you've ever faced? Maybe it's a basketball game against your archrival. Maybe it's passing your math class. Maybe it's just trying to get up and go to school on time. Whatever it is, you're probably familiar with the little knot that forms in your stomach. The nerves. The feeling of being completely overwhelmed. The Bible tells the story of a guy named Nehemiah who was all too familiar with that feeling. Growing up in service to a king in Babylon and then Persia, Nehemiah probably didn't think his life would make much of a story. But when he learns that his family's homeland is in ruins, something changes in Nehemiah. He decides to do something about it—to go there. To build.

Nehemiah decided to face, head-on, the God-sized challenge of rebuilding the wall surrounding Jerusalem and creating a safe place for his people. And through his story, we may just find the tools we need to face the challenge of improving our town or our school. It's time to build.

Session One: Home Sweet Home
Bottom Line: Your place is part of His plan.
Scripture Reference: Nehemiah 1:3, 11
Think about where you live for a minute. Do you like it there? And what about your school? Is it the perfect place to be or are there some things you wish you could change? It's easy for the place we live and go to school feel like a placeholder—somewhere that we wait for our real life, as an adult, to begin. Maybe you've never thought about it before now, but what if God placed you there on purpose? What if there was a reason for you to live where you live and know who you know? Nehemiah found himself in a similar situation. Growing up in a country where he didn't fit in probably didn't make Nehemiah feel like he had any real purpose or that God was even paying attention. But as he began to pray, Nehemiah discovered that couldn't be farther from the truth. In fact, his situation was anything but random. And as we take a closer look at his story, we discover that, like Nehemiah, where we live may matter more than we ever dreamed. It may just be the exactly where God has positioned us to become part of a much bigger Story.

Session Two: Against The Wall
Bottom Line: Step out, and let God step up.
Scripture Reference: Nehemiah 2:5, 17; 6:15
Paralyzed. Have you ever felt that way at the beginning of a big project? Maybe it was a research paper or presentation for your class. Maybe it was cleaning up your room after a sleepover with your friends. Or maybe it's something even bigger than that. Maybe you dream of doing something big with your life—something that matters. But the idea of actually doing it is really intimidating. You aren't sure where to start. So it just seems easier to plan on back away slowly. Big results require big actions—and you just don't feel ready for that. Nehemiah faced a similar challenge—he wanted to do something, felt called to do something, that seemed nearly impossible. But what Nehemiah didn't let the fear take over. He didn't stand, paralyzed, on the sideline. Instead, he discovered that the most important step you take may also be the smallest. The first step.

Session Three: Get A Job
Bottom Line: Through serving, you become who you are meant to be.
Scripture Reference: Nehemiah 4:16-17; Romans 12:6)
52 days. It's not a long time. Less than two months. Less than half a season of your favorite tv series. Less than two units in your chemistry class. That's how long it took Nehemiah to build a wall around his entire city—not with cranes, but with bricks and human hands. It's really amazing. But Nehemiah didn't do it alone. There are lists in the Bible of different people, different families who pitched in. Some of them used their specific talents. Others just jumped in where they were needed. And, in doing so, they
became a picture of what the Church was meant to be. People of various talents and abilities working toward one goal—unique but unified. And we have the opportunity to do the same. To work as one body, toward one goal. As we do, we may just discover that we are becoming the people we were meant to be all along.

**XP**

For the BUILD XP, your group will work together to improve the home one member of your church or community by performing yard work, small repairs, or housework. It may serve as a Saturday project or an optional fourth week of your series.

**Parent Cue**

The Parent Cue for the Build series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to help their students focus on the present and appreciate their hometown, and “Try This,” which challenges parents to share a story of where they grew up and how their hometown still shapes them.

**Supplemental Video**

Bumper video (1:11) – *included with series download*
Teaching Video – Jamey Dickens – Session 1 (16:16)
Teaching Video – Jamey Dickens – Session 2 (16:46)
Teaching Video – Crystal Chiang – Session 3 (13:08)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for **FREE** in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.
Catching Fire
3 week series / 15 credits
Category: Connect Relationally
Featured: Winter 2014-15

When you were a little kid, did you ever try to light something on fire using a magnifying glass? Did you love sitting around a campfire? Or dream about the day when you’d be old enough to light the fireworks yourself? It seems there’s something in all of us that is fascinated by the power of fire. But along with that power comes a lot of responsibility. Depending on how it is used, fire has the power to make our lives better or to destroy everything we care about. But flames aren’t the only things with that kind of power. The Bible teaches that our words, our comments, and our conversations, can have a lot in common with fire. We’ve all seen how words used recklessly can quickly get out of control and leave everything a charred mess. But imagine what would be possible if we began using the power in our words for something good and beautiful instead? What if instead of using our words to destroy, we used them to build something amazing?

Session One: Out of Control
Bottom Line: Words have the force to set your life on a course.
Scripture Reference: James 3:5-6
Have you ever seen a fire get out of control? It can be really scary. One minute you’re enjoying the smell of a candle. The next, you’re watching flames climb the drapes. One second you’re lighting a tiny campfire in your backyard. The next, you’re explaining to your dad why all the grass is gone. While the initial spark always seems small and weak, a careless mishap can catch fire and spread faster than we ever imagined. In the New Testament, James, Jesus’ brother, teaches that our conversations work the same way. Words that seem minor and insignificant to us can spread like wildfire, doing more damage than we ever intended and taking our lives in a direction we never meant to go. But James gives us insight on how to take control of the words we speak and determine whether we use our speech to cause harm or to do good.

Session Two: Sweeter Than Honey
Bottom Line: Words help heal.
Scripture Reference: Proverbs 16:24
You can’t beat a good fireworks show. One little spark, one little match, and the whole sky lights up. When you look at the tiny boxes fireworks come in, it’s hard to imagine what they can become and how little a spark it takes to make them explode into something mind-blowing. Our words work that way too. We can’t always see the power of a single compliment. And, let’s be honest, sometimes saying nice things can feel awkward. But as we take a closer look at a Proverb from King Solomon—a man known for his wisdom—we see that those positive words may be one of the most powerful tools we have—in the lives of others and in our own lives. Just as careless words have the power to destroy, words well spoken have the power to heal.

Session Three: Controlled Burn
Bottom Line: When you forgive, it helps you live
Scripture Reference: Ephesians 4:31-32; 5:1
Many of us know the power of words all too well. Words someone said (or didn’t say) to us have left us angry and bitter and our hearts are still a little charred. Sure, it’s important to be careful with the words you control, but what do you do when you’re the one who has been hurt? The Apostle Paul knew that part of having relationships with others is the possibility of getting burned. In his letter to the church at Ephesus, he reminds us that there is only one way to move past hurt and begin to really live. It won’t come naturally, but if we’re willing to do the hard work of forgiving, we just may find that we’re healthier and happier, after the fire, than we ever were before.
**XP**
The XP for the Catching Fire series is a Small Group XP where students will experience the power of kind words as they write compliments on paper plates worn on the backs of their friends.

**Parent Cue**
The Parent Cue for the Catching Fire series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to be mindful of the words they speak to their students, and “Try This,” which challenges parents to focus on speaking positively.

**Supplemental Video**
Bumper video (1:11) – included with series download
Teaching Video – Clay Scroggins – Session 1 (13:41)
Teaching Video – Clay Scroggins – Session 2 (13:21)
Teaching Video – Clay Scroggins – Session 3 (14:23)

*The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the "Additional Resources" panel once the series has been license.*
Do you every wonder if your life would be better with just a little more money? Of course you have! Maybe you want to buy more clothes, more music, or maybe you want to go to a concert with your friends. Wanting money is a no-brainer. But is that all there is to it? Is our only role with money to spend what we have and want more when it’s gone? As students, it’s easy to feel powerless when it comes to cash. Someone else pays the bills. Someone else makes the decisions. But what if I told you that you have more power than you realize? You have the power to help your family, change your habits, and even impact others in a big way. The truth is, money matters. Right here. Right now. And when you choose to change the way you think about it, God can do some big things in you and even bigger things through you.

Session One: Think About It.
Bottom Line: We don’t make money. It makes us.
Scripture Reference: Proverbs 10:16
How much money is in your pocket right now? Is it enough for a Frappuccino? A movie ticket? A gumball? No matter how much money you have, you probably feel like it’s not much. Sure, you get a little for lunch or gas, but it’s not like you’re paying the mortgage. All of the important stuff is taken care of by someone else. You probably don’t worry about how the bills get paid or how much you pay for insurance. It’s easy to feel like money doesn’t really affect us. Maybe it causes tension in our house, and we probably wish we had more. But what can we really do? Should money even matter when you’re a teenager? According to King Solomon, the way we think about money, our attitude toward it and those who control it can make a huge impact on our lives and our relationships—even when we’re young. And because of that, money matters right now.

Session Two: Fight for your Right
Bottom Line: Don’t let what you don’t have rob you of what you do have.
Scripture Reference: Hebrews 13:5
There’s just a great feeling that comes with buying something new. And that’s convenient because there is always something new to buy. New game system. New sneakers. New phone. No matter how awesome our stuff is, there’s always a newer slightly-more-awesome version coming out soon. And it’s completely normal to want it. The danger is when confuse what we want with what we deserve. That’s called entitlement—and it’s a trap that can hold us back from really enjoying our lives. But it doesn’t have to be that way. The writer of Hebrews tells us that there’s an alternative to entitlement, and when we choose it, we can enjoy something that no new gadget could ever give us. We can be free.

Session Three: Breaking Bread
Bottom Line: Jesus can make a big change with a small amount of change.
Scripture Reference: John 6:7-8; 11-13
Any time there’s a disaster, earthquake, or tornado, what’s the first thing that comes to mind when you want to help out? Money, right? Because we’ve all seen how money used the right way can help people. And most of us would agree that it’s great thing to do. Maybe you even plan to participate…one day. Eventually. When you have more than just a few bucks for lunch. See, even if we’re in favor of being generous, most of us feel a little hesitant to give. We think that our tiny bit of cash isn’t enough to make any real impact anyone’s life. But what if we’re wrong? What if we have more and can offer more than we ever realized? Through the story of a young boy on a fishing trip, we see that, when we are generous, God can use even a small amount to make a big impact.
XP
The XP for the CHANGE series encourages small groups to find extra cash in forgotten places and use that to help others.

Parent Cue
The Parent Cue for the Change series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to pace the gifts and privileges that their students receive, building anticipation for bigger and better things as they grow, and “Try This,” which challenges parents to invite their students into the budgeting process.

Supplemental Video
Bumper video (0:57) – included with series download
Teaching Video – Justin Warner– Session 1 (11:27)
Teaching Video – Justin Warner – Session 2 (11:03)
Teaching Video – Clay Scroggins – Session 3 (15:08)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.
When was the last time you felt totally out of control? Maybe it was when your car hydroplaned, just for a second. Or maybe your plans got changed at the last minute leaving you with nothing to do. Or maybe a friend or family member’s behavior left you shaking your head. We all have moments like that—moments that leave us feeling tense, anxious, and wondering how we’re supposed to handle it all. The problem is, sometimes those out-of-control moments end up becoming a regular part of our lives. Whether it is with the stress and uncertainty of our future, the pressure that comes with our relationships with others or even the anxiety of where we are with God, chaos can start to feel like it’s everywhere. It’s no surprise that God never intended for our lives to be defined by stress. Thankfully He doesn’t tell us to handle it on our own, either. He invites us to bring our worries and anxiety to Him. And when do, we find that He doesn’t just remove the chaos from our lives. He replaces it with something better—peace.

Session One: Stressed
Bottom Line: God holds your future, so you can focus on the present.
Scripture Reference: Proverbs 21:31; 1 Peter 5:7
What stresses you out? Is it school? Work? Money? Everyone has something that tops the list for them. If we’re honest, we know that sometimes stress is helpful. It helps us to make deadlines and can motivate us to make wise choices. But there’s also a darker side, isn’t there? Left unchecked and unmanaged, our healthy stress can quickly turn into distress, making our lives feel chaotic, out of control and leaving us paralyzed. Maybe that’s why the Bible has so much to say about it. God knows that our tendency toward stress and anxiety isn’t His best for us, and through the wise advice found in Proverbs, He teaches us how to handle it all.

Session Two: Approved
Scripture Reference: Proverbs 29:25
Relationships are complicated. Parents. Grandparents. Girlfriends. Boyfriends. Teachers. Friends. Teammates. They all have the potential to stress us out. Whether it’s trying to impress your friends, keep a boyfriend/girlfriend happy or please parents who never seem satisfied, we all feel the pressure to win other’s approval in some way. It’s exhausting, and nothing brings chaos to our lives like the constant pressure of wondering if everyone likes or accepts us. But what else can we do? Pretend like it doesn’t bother us? Live our lives as if no one else matters? And, is it really even possible to not care what anyone thinks? The book of Proverbs offers another option. And while it doesn’t make us immune to the pressure to impress others, it does provide a way out. A way to step out of the chaos that it brings to our lives and begin to move toward peace.

Session Three: Done
Bottom Line: God values your presence over your performance.
Scripture Reference: Matthew 11:28-30
Many of us can relate to the problem of having too much to do. Between school, work, family, and friends, there always seems to be more on our list than we have time for. That’s why it can feel so discouraging to go to church and hear about how much more we should be doing in our relationship with God. Read the Bible. Serve in children’s ministry. Go on a mission’s trip. And do all of that while keeping a good attitude, giving regularly, and a whole list of other things. It’s exhausting. And it can leave us feeling discouraged and distant, like God is continually disappointed in us. But what if this was never how He intended for us to live? In a conversation with His followers, Jesus painted a very different picture. And what He says has the power to change the way we see our to-do list and bring us closer to Him in the process.
XP
The XP for the CHAOS series encourages students to utilize a “stress flow chart” to help them map a healthy response to things that stress them.

Parent Cue
The Parent Cue for the Chaos series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to model healthy stress-management behaviors, and “Try This,” which challenges families to try having dinner without technology present.

Supplemental Video
Bumper video (0:57) – included with series download
Teaching Video – Sarah Anderson– Session 1 (11:05)
Teaching Video – Ben Crawshaw – Session 2 (17:50)
Teaching Video – Crystal Chiang – Session 3 (12:03)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.
Christmas: Behind the Scenes
2 week series / 10 credits
Christmas Series
Featured: Winter 2013-2014

We’ve all seen the nativity with perfectly positioned characters, well-behaved animals, and a holy glow surrounding it all. We see everyone in the scene as if they are one big happy family celebrating the first, and probably the only, perfect Christmas. Contrast this perfect picture with our own lives, our own families and holiday drama, and we may feel the Christmas story looks nothing like our own. But what if you able to pull back the curtain and see past the picture-perfect silent night? When we look closely, we find that the REAL Christmas story, the uncut, behind-the-scenes version looks more like our own than we would have ever imagined. And the same God who scripted these imperfect characters into His story is calling to join him there as well.

Session One: Messy
Bottom Line: God has a part—even for people who are falling a part.
Scripture References: Luke 2:8-15
Have you ever looked at a crowd of people and wondered where you fit? Most of us have. For many of us, this feeling is especially noticeable at Christmastime. In the busyness of family plans and the frenzy of crowded malls, we find ourselves a little lost, wondering if we even matter. In this way, not much has changed since the first Christmas. A dirty group of shepherds with a poor reputation were the last group anyone would have expected to play a key role in God’s story. And they remind us that no matter how insignificant we feel, no matter how much we think we know who God will or won’t use, we all have a part to play.

Session Two: Awkward
Bottom Line: Don’t let your feelings drive your faith.
Scripture References: Matthew 1:20-21, 24
Why does it seem people get so crazy around the holidays. Whether their fighting with their family or fighting for the best bargain, emotions seem to run a little higher this time of year. And when emotions are involved, everything is more complicated. Joseph was a young man with some big decisions. With a pregnant fiancé and his reputation on the line, there were a ton of emotions and no clear answer. For Joseph to move forward with God, he had to move past his emotions. In his story we find that choosing God’s direction over how we feel can be the most important decision we ever make.

Project: SHINE
This winter, Orange is partnering with 410 Bridge to offer you a special XP that can lead to huge impact. Two simple things are key to a child’s educational success in Kenya: textbooks—and light. In many schools, six or more children share a single textbook and once a child leaves school and completes vital chores, it’s too dark to study without electricity! We can change that! Project: Shine gives your students an opportunity to raise resources for solar lights and textbooks to help kids in Kenya change their own lives… and change their entire communities!

XP
The XP for the Christmas Behind the Scenes includes two devotionals for students to reflect on the ideas of Christmas Behind the Scenes. Each week, students can use the excerpt to experience the story discussed in large group. Student pastors may wish to make these documents available online, in print, and in as many formats as possible to ensure that all students have access.
Parent Cue
The Parent Cue for the Christmas Behind the Scenes series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents take steps toward a more peaceful holiday and “Try This,” which gives parents a devotional plan for Christmas Eve with their student.

Supplemental Video
Bumper video (1:00) – included with series download
Teaching Video – Clay Scroggins– Session 1 (14:15)
Teaching Video – Ben Crawshaw – Session 2 (16:33)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.
Do you have any close friends? Ones you feel completely comfortable around? Friends you can talk to for hours? If so, you’re lucky. Friends like that are awesome. But chances are you have other friends too. Maybe you grew up around each other. Maybe you work at the same job or go to the same school. It’s not that you don’t like them. They’re great. You just aren’t that close. For most of us, our relationship with God feels like it swings between those two extremes. Maybe you can remember a time, after a retreat or a church camp, when God felt super real and personal. You were BFFs. But then, somehow, things drifted in the other direction. There was distance. And, while you’re definitely not against God, you wouldn’t describe yourself as “close” anymore. We all go through times when our relationship with God seems more “far” than “near”, but what do we do about it? Why does it feel so complicated? And is there anything we can do to keep the drift from happening? Thankfully, in His word, God makes it super clear that His desire is to be close with us. And as we journey back toward Him, we may just find Him running in our direction as well.

Session One: Confidence
Bottom Line: God is always drawing us in His direction.
Scripture References: Genesis 12:2-3, 15:6
Think back to elementary school. Who were your closest friends? Who did you hang out with all the time? Maybe you spent every single second with the same one or two friends for years, but then, as you got older, something changed. You can’t put your finger on why, but, for some reason, you just drifted apart. The same could be said for a lot of us when it comes to our relationship with God. At some point you used to be close to Him, but lately, you just aren’t. And even though you go to church and hear how much God wants a relationship with you, you feel like being close to Him is difficult, complicated, and nearly impossible at times. This week, we’re going to take a look at Abraham and the lengths God went to in order to pursue a close relationship with him. And as you see how much God wanted a relationship with him, maybe you’ll begin to understand the lengths He’s gone to be close to you, too.

Session Two: Electricity
Bottom Line: If you want to get the most out of life, stay close to the Source of it.
Scripture References: John 15:5
Have you ever seen the show The Amazing Race? Sure, it’s one of five billion other reality shows on television right now, but it’s definitely one of the best. Every week as teams literally race around the world, they are given unique tasks to complete in cities they know next to nothing about—usually including the language! At some point in every episode, the teams find themselves having to ask for help. Some ask for help quickly and run off on their own to try and figure it out while others ask for more than that—they ask for someone to guide them as they go. Isn’t this how many of us approach God? We go to Him for help with big moments—impossible tasks—and then move on quickly without Him. We don’t remember that He wants to do more than just help us. He wants to guide us. He wants to go with us. He wants us to remain with Him. Even Jesus’ own disciples struggled to grasp what it looked like to stay close to Him. And as we look at how He explained it to them, we get a clearer picture of what it means to remain in closeness with God and the impact that can have in our lives.
Session Three: **Distance**  
**Bottom Line:** Pick what you pursue.  
**Scripture References:** Romans 2:1a, 4; Hebrews 12:1b-2a

Do you have a friend who is easily distracted? Like really easily. One minute you’re walking through the mall together and the next thing you know you’re by yourself because your friend got sidetracked. Or maybe there’s a little more to it than. The two of you were really close, but then they got pulled away by a new hobby, a new relationship, a new group of friends. And as you start moving in two different directions, the distance between you grows. In the same way, when we start to pursue other things more than God, without even realizing it we can move in another direction—one that leads us further away from Him. This isn’t a new problem. In fact, Paul spent a lot of time in the Bible talking to some of the earliest churches about the very same thing. As we look at what Paul has to say about chasing the wrong things, you may find yourself with a desire to turn back and pursue Him—the best thing.

**XP**

THE XP for CLOSE invites students to connect with God by using 3 devotions from the LIVE FREE devotional journal.

**Parent Cue**

The Parent Cue for the CLOSE series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to find ways to connect, even when their kids are really different from them. and “Try This”, which challenges parents to take an interest in what their kids are interested in.

**Supplemental Video**

Bumper video (1:00) – included with series download  
Teaching Video – Joseph Sojourner – Session 1 (10:25)  
Teaching Video – Ben Crawshaw – Session 2 (16:52)  
Teaching Video – Karina Willis – Session 3 (11:09)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.
Comparison Trap
Andy Stanley Collection
3 week series / 15 credits
Category: Decide Personally
Featured: Fall 2014

On a scale of one to ten, how do you measure up? Are you tall enough? Pretty enough? Smart enough? Funny enough? And on that scale, which number represents enough? Do you have to score a ten or will a solid seven do? How about a five? It's better than average, right? Most of us measure how we're doing by how everyone else is doing. Not a day goes by that we're not tempted to glance to the left and to the right to see how we measure up to the people around us. This is especially true at school. We see everyone else's grades, clothes, athletic ability, talent, and popularity. And it's easy to feel like we don't measure up. So we adjust course, try harder, spend more, and then compare again. It's exhausting. In this 3-part series, Andy Stanley explores the difficult—but not impossible—challenge of escaping The Comparison Trap.

Session One: The Land Of Er
Bottom Line: There's no win in comparison.
Scripture References: Ecclesiastes 4:4-8
Have you ever heard of a win-win outcome? Comparison is the opposite of that. When we look to our left and our right to compare ourselves to others, we are engaging in a lose-lose activity. And, we may not even realize how destructive it is. Being smart-er or funny-er or awesome-er may feel like a short-term win, but for ourselves, our friends, and our family, comparison is a game with no winners. King Solomon was wise-er (not to mention rich-er, cool-er, and powerful-er) than anyone around him. And what he says about all of it may come as a surprise. Through his words we find that real satisfaction may not come from winning the game of comparison, but from bowing out of the competition altogether.

Session Two: Looking Around
Bottom Line: Take your cue about you from the one who made you.
Scripture References: Galatians 4:4-6
Who is the one person you’d love to hear say, “you’re awesome”? Is it your dad? A coach? A sibling? A teammate? We all have a tendency to look toward other people when we want to know if we’re okay. And if we’re honest, most of us have a nagging suspicion that we fall short no matter how hard we try. It’s human nature to look for approval, but what if we’ve been looking in the wrong place? God has something to say about whether we’re okay, whether we “measure up”. And it may not be what you think. As we take a closer look, His opinion of us may provide something we haven’t yet found comparing ourselves to others.

Session Three: It’s In The Bag
Bottom Line: What you’ve been entrusted with is far less important than what you do with what you have.
Scripture References: Matthew 25:14-30
Have you ever looked at someone else and thought, “Does he/she have more _____ than me?” Comparison is being caught in the trap of constantly asking how we measure up to others. “Do they have more money than me?” “Do they get more attention from others?” “Are they more talented than me?” We preoccupy ourselves with these questions, but God has a better plan. Jesus was a great storyteller. He used the story of three servants, each entrusted with a certain amount of money, to illustrate the question God would have us ask—a question that will free us from the comparison trap once and for all.
XP
The XP for the COMPARISON TRAP series is an individual XP that challenges students to find five different ways to celebrate five people in five days.

Parent Cue
The Parent Cue for the Comparison Trap series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to focus on each student’s unique strengths and avoid the comparison trap and “Try This”, which challenges parents to find the positive and compliment their student on something they would normally criticize.

Supplemental Video
Bumper video (0:55) – included with series download
Teaching Video – Joseph Sojourner – Session 1 (12:48)
Teaching Video – Joseph Sojourner – Session 2 (12:00)
Teaching Video – Justin Warner – Session 3 (11:26)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.
Continuum
8 week series / 40 credits
Category: Examine Biblically

The Bible is a big story. It’s the story of the beginning. It’s the story of God’s people. It’s the story of a great rescue. And, ultimately, it’s the story of you and me—and the love God has for His people. Each part of God’s story is richly connected to the next and has something to say to every one of us. So, let’s take a journey through the story and discover a God who has something to say to us, here and now, through a story that started “In the beginning.”

Session One: Paradise
Bottom Line: In the beginning a good God created a good world that reflected how good He is.
Scripture References: Genesis 1:1a, 10b, 26, 27-29, 31
Our experiences in this big place called Earth often leave us unsure of what we are doing here, and on our darkest days it can cause us to question who is in control. This feeling of randomness and confusion isn’t unique to us; it has existed since the beginning of time. When the first words of Genesis were written, the writer was telling us something that speaks to the deepest questions of existence. In the beginning, there was a good God engineering it all. While the world changed drastically because of sin, the nature of God didn’t. We may still feel like life is a random series of events or a movie that we showed up to late, but the first words spoken in Genesis give us context for the story and a picture of the God who is authoring all of history.

Session Two: Exposed
Bottom Line: When sin entered the world, everything was broken, but God didn’t abandon His creation.
Scripture References: Genesis 3:1, 6, 22, 23-24
You don’t have to look very far before you come face to face with hurt, pain and brokenness in our world. As much as we don’t like it, it is a reality we live with. And anytime we encounter it, we can’t help but ask “why”? Why disease? Why death? Why sin? Why insecurity? Why anything that seems to combat a good God? How did we get here? As God’s story continues, we are presented with the place where things take a turn. A snake outsmarts humanity and, as a result, the world exists as we know it. But we are left wondering, how does God fit into it all?

Session Three: Promise
Bottom Line: God initiated a promise with His people even though they didn’t deserve it.
Scripture References: Genesis 12:1, 2; 15:1, 5, 6
After such a low point in the continuum of God’s story—after the garden—it is hard to imagine how things could begin to look up. But the goodness of God wasn’t lost in the brokenness of humanity. God pursued a man named Abraham. And to Abraham, He made a promise—a promise that had nothing to do with what he could or couldn’t do. Following one of the lowest points in the story, God continues to make sure we haven’t lost His message. He is for us, and He wants a relationship with us—and we didn’t do a thing to earn it.

Session Four: Faithful
Bottom Line: No matter what Israel did or didn’t do, God never deserted His people or His promise.
Scripture References: Exodus 6:2-8; 16:2; Numbers 14:2-4
Life rarely takes us in a straight line. There are peaks and there are valleys. And chances are, the time spent in the valleys are times when God feels distant—maybe even mad at us and inconsistent. The Hebrew people, the people God chose to be in relationship with, found themselves in enough valleys that no one would have faulted God if He had left them. But God’s story tells us of one thing over and over. His faithfulness. And if God didn’t abandon Israel, we are in a good place. God won’t call it quits on us, and the sooner we believe that, the better off we will be.
Session Five: **The Rock**  
**Bottom Line:** God fulfilled what He promised in Jesus, who demonstrated a new way to live.  
**Scripture References:** Matthew 7:24, 25, 26, 27

Maybe you can relate to the feeling of being in a situation you thought was hopeless. It was a done deal. Over. Finished. You considered the chapter closed. That was how the people of Israel felt: like God was done with them. He was silent. There was no indication things would change. Until Jesus showed up. And what Jesus taught and how Jesus lived gave the people of Israel every indication that the story wasn’t over yet. God wasn’t done with them yet. He was up to something. He used His Son Jesus to demonstrate a way to live that was more than the right thing to do—it was the smart thing to do. Because it offered people a foundation worth building their lives on—a foundation for the people during Jesus’ time, but also a foundation for us.

Session Six: **The Cross**  
**Bottom Line:** Jesus gave His life to rescue those who put their faith in Him.  
**Scripture References:** Romans 3:23; 5:8; 6:23

The cross was the turning point of history—no doubt about it. It changed the story forever. If we have grown up in church, we know this. We also know it should be the turning point of our own lives too. And it is—or at least feels like it is—for awhile. But then we find ourselves falling back into the same old habits, falling into familiar patterns. And it starts to feel like we just can’t get it right. But the cross already did something incredible—it forever changed the trajectory of our lives. It was a demonstration of God’s love. And we can live in that. Accept that. Relish that. And begin living in light of that. Because of the cross, we don’t have to do a thing. It has already been done for us.

Session Seven: **Sunday**  
**Bottom Line:** Jesus Christ defeating death proved God had a plan since the beginning.  
**Scripture References:** Matthew 27:46; Luke 24:1-8; Revelation 21:4

Pain is a part of the story—everybody’s story. And for the disciples, the day they saw Jesus die was a day when their pain had probably never felt more real. It seemed like God had abandoned and forgotten them. That was on Friday. But then Sunday came—and Jesus was alive! This plot-twist changed the world of the disciples. But it still means something for us today. The resurrection of Jesus gives us hope that God has a Sunday—someday—for all of us. One day, all the pain, all the brokenness, all the hurt will be gone. The resurrection is a guarantee of the someday we all long for—of a world made right when our current world feels so wrong.

Session Eight: **Go**  
**Bottom Line:** Jesus’ followers shared His message of love with the world.  
**Scripture References:** Matthew 28:18

Have you ever wondered why we do what we do every week at church? What did Jesus really have in mind for us as we follow Him? After Jesus died, and was resurrected, He told His disciples what their purpose from then on should be—to go. Go—and make disciples. Go—share God’s story. In other words, our job, as followers of Jesus is to get off the couch. It isn’t our job to just get something, but to be something, to go somewhere. What if we started taking this responsibility more seriously? What if we got what being the church and not just getting from the church meant for our lives? When we begin to invite others into God’s story, when we share Jesus’ message of love, we participate in the transformation of people—and ultimately the world around us—by participating in God’s big story in the way He always intended.

**XP**  
The XP for the Continuum series is a large-group event designed to be done “Amazing Race-style”.

Parent Cue
The Parent Cue for the Continuum series includes three sections: “Be a Student of What They are Learning,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Be a Student of Your Student,” which highlights some research about the importance of the idea of story in an adolescent’s development and an “Action Point,” which encourages parents to either sit down and watch their student’s favorite movie or tell their student the story of their own faith journey.

Supplemental Video
Bumper video (2min. 08sec) - included with series download
Teaching Video – Ben Crawshaw – Session 1 (14:32)
Teaching Video – Ben Crawshaw – Session 2 (16:36)
Teaching Video – Jamey Dickens – Session 3 (16:35)
Teaching Video – Jamey Dickens – Session 4 (14:56)
Teaching Video – Justin Warner – Session 5 (14:59)
Teaching Video – Ben Crawshaw – Session 6 (15:48)
Teaching Video – Clay Scroggins – Session 7 (13:16)
Teaching Video – Clay Scroggins – Session 8 (16:01)
Entourage

3 week series / 15 credits
Connect Relationally
Featured: Spring 2014

When we hear the word entourage, most of us think of celebrities walking the streets of Beverly Hills, barking orders at their "people"—people paid to hang out with their famous "friends." The actual definition of entourage is a group of people attending or surrounding an important person. Even if we don’t feel important enough for an actual entourage, most of us want at least a handful of people who like to hang around us—people who laugh at our jokes, go to the movies with us, and simply have our back. In the Old Testament King David, his son Absalom, and David’s grandson Rehoboam were no different. As royals, each had an entourage and through their experiences we see that the choices we make with those around us can change everything.

Session One: All About Me
Bottom Line: Be a friend who cares less about me and more about we.
Scripture References: 1 Samuel 18:2-4, 19:4-6.
Most of us have thought about how we want great, loyal friends. But most of us have never thought about becoming a better friend. As a young man, David found himself with growing popularity, growing hatred from the king, Saul, and in need of one good friend. Enter Jonathan. As the king’s son, Jonathan had every right to celebrate himself and cling to his power. Willing to give up his popularity, safety and even his right to the throne, Jonathan models what it means to be a good friend by putting others first.

Session Two: Drama
Bottom Line: When you have conflict, win the friendship not the fight.
Scripture References: 2 Samuel 15:3-4
Conflict happens in every entourage. No matter how well we treat our friends, no matter how great they are, at some point we all experience it. But that doesn’t have to be a bad thing. In fact, sometimes conflict can be the very thing to make friendships stronger. The relationship between David and his son Absalom came with tons of baggage, manipulation, drama—it’s the stuff reality TV shows are made from. At a key moment in their history, Absalom had to decide what was most important to him. In friendship, we are often faced with the same decision. Will you choose to win the friendship or win the fight?

Session Three: The Inner Circle
Bottom Line: Your friends can either make you or break you
Scripture References: 1 Kings 12:6-7, 10-11; Proverbs 13:20
How did you get the friends that you have? Was it a choice or did those friendships just sort of happen? Most of us don’t put a lot of thought into who we choose as friends but maybe we should. That was true for Rehoboam. Even though he was the son of the wisest man ever, Rehoboam looked to his friends for help with making a decision that would change the course of his entire kingdom. Through his story we find that our entourage, the friends closest to us, can help us make wise decisions or foolish ones. They can make us. Or they can break us.

XP
The XP for the Entourage series helps students identify members of their personal entourage and make good choices when it comes to friends.
Parent Cue
The Parent Cue for the Entourage series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to intentionally invest in their teen’s friends and “Try This,” which allows parents to identify specific friends that they can pray for or invite into their home.

Supplemental Videos
Bumper video (1:09) – included with series download
Teaching Video – Jamey Dickens – Session 1 (15:53)
Teaching Video – Crystal Chiang – Session 2 (15:20)
Teaching Video – Clay Scroggins – Session 3 (15:42)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been licensed.
Flipped
4 week series / 20 credits
By: Doug Fields
Examine Biblically
Featured: Spring 2014

Have you ever had a moment that made you stop and think, "Wow, this changes everything"? Maybe it was finding out you didn’t make the team or that your parents were splitting. Maybe it was finding out you’re good at something or bad at something you didn’t expect. In these moments our lives change direction quickly. The funny thing is nearly everyone who met Jesus had one of those moments. They came in with a plan, a direction, an identity. And as soon as they spent any time with Jesus, those ideas were turned upside down. And, as we look at four of these stories, we find that an encounter with Jesus has the power to flip our lives as well.

Session One: Up In A Tree
Bottom Line: Jesus wants to love you, not judge you.
What are you afraid of? Spiders? The dark? People who twerk? Most of us have at least a few things that scare us. Sometimes they’re surface fears. Simple fears. But most of us also have a few deeper fears. Those are the ones that we don’t talk about as much. And, if we’re not careful, they will cause us to miss out on some really great things in life. Zacchaeus was a little man with some big fear. Fear that controlled him and caused him to keep a safe distance from everyone, including Jesus. In his story we find that getting to know Jesus, and what He really cares about, can flip our fear and lead us closer to Him.

Session Two: Losing Control
Bottom Line: When your ability runs out, Jesus’ ability keeps going.
Scripture References: Matthew 8:5-10
Who really calls the shots in your life? Think about the most powerful person you know. Reality is, no matter how powerful that person is, there are some things he or she still can’t control. Jesus met a man like that. This guy had assistants for his assistants. Everyone followed his orders. But at the end of the day, someone he cared about was really sick and there was nothing he could do to change that. However, he understood something about authority that we could all learn from. He understood that when his ability had run out, Jesus’ ability kept going. And trusting Him to be in charge flipped everything.

Session Three: Peel The Label
Bottom Line: There’s a label that beats all other labels: His.
Scripture References: Mark 5:24-34
Funny. Pretty. Jock. Nerd. Popular. Smart. Not Smart. We all have a tendency to label the people around us. In fact, we tend to label ourselves too. We think about ourselves in terms of categories. But have you ever thought you gave someone the right label only to find out that they were totally different? Or have you ever heard someone else label you and thought, “that isn’t really me”? That’s the problem with labels. They aren’t always true. And even if they are, they’re always changing. Nearly everyone who met Jesus had their lives flipped, and in the case of a woman with the worst possible label, He changed her whole identity. He gave her a new label that would last. One that changed her whole world and can change ours too. Because there’s a label that beats all other labels: His.
Session Four: **Does It Matter?**

**Bottom Line:** Jesus wants to be what you want.

**Scripture References:** Mark 10:17-22

Everyone dreams about what they want to be when they grow up. Maybe you want to be a doctor or an artist or an engineer. Maybe you want to be known for being a great athlete or a great speaker. Whatever it is, chances are you want to become someone or do something that you feel is important. Something that matters. And you work toward becoming whatever that is. Jesus met a man who had already met his goal. He was rich. He was powerful. He was well known and important. But surprisingly, Jesus said he still lacked something. This young man had achieved everything that he thought mattered, but through his story we find that God wants more for us than just achievement or fame. He wants us to pursue Him first.

**XP**

The XP for the FLIPPED series helps share a story of when Jesus flipped their lives or their mindset about something.

**Parent Cue**

The Parent Cue for the Flipped series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to let their student live out their own story and “Try This,” which challenges parents to connect with other parents in a similar stage of life.

**Supplemental Videos**

Bumper video (1:12) – included with series download

Teaching Video – Clay Scroggins – Session 1 (15:08)

Teaching Video – Justin Warner – Session 2 (10:59)

Teaching Video – Justin Warner – Session 3 (11:57)

Teaching Video – Joseph Sojourner – Session 4 (11:34)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been licensed.
Winning is fun, isn’t it? No one ever starts a basketball game hoping to lose. We don’t go to band practice because we want to take last place in our competition. We don’t start a video game wanting our character to be eliminated first. No way. We play to win. Why? Because winning is awesome. It feels great. In fact, sports and video games probably aren’t the only place you want to be a winner. Do you want to be successful when it comes to school? Sure! How about money? Your future? Dating? You probably answered “all of the above”. Basically we all want to win at life. And while there’s no way to guarantee you will win in every area, there are some things you can do to help you get there. In fact, there’s an entire book in the Bible, the book of Proverbs, dedicated to giving solid advice that can help us win at life. During this series, we’ll take a look at five verses from Proverbs that can set you up for the win in the areas you care about the most.

Session One: Whitewater Rafting
Bottom Line: Gentle > Harsh.
Scripture References: Proverbs 15:1.
Have you ever been whitewater rafting? You jump in a boat with your friends and make your way down a river, laughing and splashing along the way. But there’s also something terrifying that can happen—rapids. There are places in every river where something stirs up the water and if you aren’t careful, you and your friends can be headed for disaster. You don’t have to be in a boat to feel that way with your friends. Things are going fine. Everyone is happy. Then your friendship hits some rapids. There’s drama. And if we aren’t careful, sometimes our responses create more problems than before. But what else can we do? King Solomon, the author of Proverbs, tells us we have another option when it comes to conflict with those closest to us. And while his words don’t guarantee we’ll never see rapids in our friendships, they do help us steer around them and find our way to calmer waters.

Session Two: “I’m Gonna”
Bottom Line: Doing takes you where talking won’t.
Scripture References: Proverbs 14:23; Colossians 3:17
We all love to talk about what we’re going to do. Maybe you plan to get your grades up or make varsity this year. Maybe you’re going to finally clean out your room. The problem is that when it comes to our future, there’s a big difference between wanting to do something and actually doing it. We can all think of one or two things we have been wanting to accomplish but can’t quite seem to get to the finish line. It’s not that we’re lazy or bad people. We just have a lot going on, and it’s easy to get distracted. Add a few of those unfinished projects together and it starts to feel overwhelming. We’re even less motivated to get started. It’s a cycle. Maybe that’s why the book of Proverbs gives us some good advice making sure the things we want to do actually happen. Through the wise words of King Solomon, we find that, though it won’t be easy, the key to reaching our goals may be as simple as taking one step at a time.

Session Three: Bad Date
Bottom Line: Everything gets its start from your heart.
Scripture References: Proverbs 4:23
Nobody wants to be bad at dating. In fact, most of us would say we want to be good at it. You want to be successful when it comes to hanging out with people you’re romantically interested in. You want to be impressive to the people you have a crush on. Basically, you want to win. But it isn’t exactly easy, is it? Dating can be confusing, intimidating, and even painful at times. Nobody is sure they’re handling it the right way. The book of Proverbs offers advice to help you live well in every area—and that includes your relationships. And while it can’t tell you whether you’ll run into your crush this weekend, it can help you figure out how to go for the win in your dating life now and in the future.
Session Four: **Give Me More**  
**Bottom Line:** Generosity gets you what selfishness never will.  
**Scripture References:** Proverbs 11:25  
Would you like to upgrade your phone? Of course you would! What about your wardrobe? How about a better car or a bigger house? Chances are you said yes to all the above. We all love to get more and better stuff. And, after the first upgrade, we usually want another. One dose of “more” always leads us to want another. It’s normal. But sometimes our normal way of doing things has unintended side effects. In this case, our quest for more can keep us dissatisfied and make us miserable. Maybe that’s why King Solomon, who had more riches and more upgrades than we can imagine, gives us such clear advice when it comes to this area of our lives. Through his words we discover that giving, not getting, is how we go for the win when in our endless desire for more.

Session Five: **It’s A Small World**  
**Bottom Line:** Where impatience makes you world smaller, patience makes it bigger.  
**Scripture References:** Proverbs 19:11  
Some people just get on your nerves more than others, don’t they? Whether they’re constantly late, always talking, totally irresponsible or just plain annoying, we all have someone in our lives who drives us crazy. And most often—that person is in our family. So what do you do when the person who frustrates you the most lives in your own house? How do you cope when everything they do makes you lose your patience with them? Patience is something King Solomon talked about often in the book of Proverbs. And thankfully he doesn’t say, “just try harder” when it comes to those who get on your nerves. Instead, he gives us a clue into one surprising thing that can grow our patience in any situation. And if we’re willing to give it a try, we may just find it easier to go for the win with our families.

**XP**  
The XP for the For The Win series is an individual XP where students will choose one of the proverbs from this series that was most helpful to them and memorize that scripture.

**Parent Cue**  
The Parent Cue for the For The Win series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to think about the five proverbs their students are learning during this series and “Try This,” which challenges parents to evaluate which of the five proverbs would be most helpful in their own life and memorize it.

**Supplemental Videos**  
Bumper video (1:00) – included with series download  
Teaching Video – Crystal Chiang – Session 1 (14:03)  
Teaching Video – Sarah Anderson – Session 2 (10:53)  
Teaching Video – Ben Crawshaw – Session 3 (17:33)  
Teaching Video – Jamey Dickens – Session 4 (15:17)  
Teaching Video – Jamey Dickens – Session 5 (15:13)  

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been licensed.
We've all made resolutions and set goals, but too often we fall short of what we expected to accomplish. Unfortunately it’s often the same when we try to become the Christian we really believe God has called us to be. We fall short of the goal and become increasingly discouraged. In this series, your student will learn that following Christ is more about the small steps we make every day, not about the huge leaps of faith that we think we need to make. They will set a goal, determine the first step and then make it. The series will end with a celebration!

**Session 1: To The Moon**
*Bottom Line: Following Christ is about steps, not leaps.*
*Scripture References: Mark 8:34-35; John 8:11; Philippians 2:12,13*
So many times we look at our lives with great expectations, thinking we should be leaps from where we are. We expect perfection. We expect to arrive at some level. The reality is that following Christ isn’t about leaping to instant perfection. We’re walking with Him daily—a walk that involves steps, not leaps. Following Jesus Christ is about the small steps we make every day, steps of obedience, steps in relationship with Him. Sometimes those steps are small, sometimes they are big—but they are all still steps, moving us forward.

**Session 2: The Walk**
*Bottom Line: The way you get from where you are to where you want to be is one step at a time.*
*Scripture References: John 16:13; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; 2 Corinthians 5:5; Exodus 34:6-7*
The goal of every Christian is to become more like Jesus. But the problem comes when we think we’re going to achieve that today. It’s a lifelong journey, a process, a walk. Following Jesus is about the steps we take every day, and as Christians, we have divine help in taking those steps—the Holy Spirit. What is the step God is asking you to take? And, what’s holding you back from taking it?

**Session 3: Imitators**
*Bottom Line: Celebrate the steps you take in your relationship with God, and celebrate the steps others take as well.*
*Scripture References: Luke 15:11-32*
What if you acknowledged the steps you took every day in your own “walk” with God? What if you realized that even though you may not be where you want to be, you may be exactly where God wants you to be, learning the things you need to know one step at a time? It brings a lot of freedom, doesn’t it? But not only that, what if we started celebrating not only the steps we take every day, but the steps those around us do as well? Because what may not be a big deal for you, may be huge for someone else. And all that celebration begins to turn into one big party.

**XP**
The XP for the Forward Motion series involves having your small group leaders throw a celebration party for their small group to celebrate the steps they are taking.
Parent Cue
The Parent Cue for the Forward Motion series includes three sections: “Be a Student of What They are Learning” - provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series; “Be a Student of Your Student” – offers an Orange Parents blog post by Reggie Joiner humorously entitled “How to Raise a Jerk”; “Action Point” - which encourages parents to help their students take a step toward learning something new.

Supplemental Video
Bumper video (0:59) - included with series download
Teaching Video – Jeremy Zach – Session 1 (13:10)
Teaching Video – Jeremy Zach – Session 2 (13:15)
Teaching Video – Jeremy Zach – Session 3 (14:42)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been licensed.
In any kind of competition or event, winning is almost always connected to how prepared you are. Though practice and the skill building may not seem necessary in the moment, when it’s game on, those skills are what will make all the difference. Daniel was a young Jewish boy who encountered his game on moments over and over—moments he was able to thrive in because of how he had honed his faith skills. Daniel’s life offers us a glimpse into just what is possible in our own lives when we become intentional about growing and developing a living and active faith in God.

Session 1: Captive
Bottom Line: Our faith grows when we apply the Bible to our lives.
Scripture References: Daniel 1:8, 12-16; Psalm 119:32
Maybe when you think about the Bible it seems like an outdated, black and white history book. Maybe you have opened it, hoping for a life changing moment, and closed it without anything magical happening. But what we read isn’t always about what’s happening in our lives at that moment. It’s about building a foundation, preparing us for game time. Daniel was a young Jewish boy in a tough spot. Armed only with his knowledge of Scripture, Daniel’s life and faith flourished because he was prepared when it was Game On.

Session 2: The New Guy
Bottom Line: Prayer is about knowing Someone, not getting something.
Scripture References: Daniel 2:18a, 20-23
What is prayer? Why do we pray? What happens if you pray for something and it doesn’t work? At some point or another, most of us have employed the ask-thank-ask for more strategy of praying. At one of the scariest times in his life, Daniel prays a different way. Daniel chooses to focus on WHO God is instead of WHAT God can give him. Through prayer, knowing God’s character and ability made all the difference for Daniel when it was Game On.

Session 3: Into The Lion’s Den
Bottom Line: You talk by the way you walk.
Scripture References: Daniel 6:3, 7, 15-16, 19-22
Our faith can be a difficult thing to talk about. What if you use the wrong words? Or the right words in the wrong way? What if you don’t know all of the answers? It’s a lot of pressure! When Daniel was called to appear before the king, it was not his words that so distinguished him. It was the way he behaved even in a tough spot. Through his actions, Daniel earned the right to be heard. When our walk matches our talk, we gain influence and both our talk and our walk become more powerful.

Session 4: Visions
Bottom Line: Worship is not doing things for God but walking with God.
Scripture References: Daniel 9:4-6
Sometimes, as Christians there’s a lot of pressure to always get it right—to live with a “checklist” of things in mind we should do for God. We think, “If we do this, then God will be happy with me—this is worship.” Daniel understands that worship isn’t about accomplishments and chooses to worship God by being honest about both his successes and failures.
XP
The XP for the Game On includes four excerpts from the student devotional Know God. Each week, students can use the excerpt to experience the faith skill discussed in large group. Student pastors may wish to make these documents available online, in print, and in as many formats as possible to ensure that all students have access.

Parent Cue
The Parent Cue for the Game On series includes three sections: “We’re teaching this,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to value their role as the primary spiritual influence in their student’s life, and “Try This,” which gives parents tips engaging in conversations about faith with their students.

Supplemental Video
Bumper video (1:17) – included with series download
Teaching Video – Jamey Dickens – Session 1 (18:18)
Teaching Video – Clay Scroggins – Session 2 (17:54)
Teaching Video – Holly Crawshaw – Session 3 (12:39)
Teaching Video – Ben Crawshaw – Session 4 (17:32)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been licensed.
Hooked
2 week series / 10 credits
Category: Decide Personally
Featured: Summer 2015

When it comes to junk food, nearly everyone has a weak spot. Maybe for you, it’s the perfect salty bag of chips. Or maybe it’s beef jerky or those tiny pizza rolls. Maybe you have a sweet tooth and you just can’t pass on ice cream or cookies… or both. Whatever it is, we all have something that taps into our weak spot, our cravings. When it’s around us, we just can’t seem to help ourselves. And it’s more than just junk food, right? That “gotta-have-it-right-now” temptation can pop up in a lot of different areas. Gossip. Movies. Spending money. Sex… Temptation is everywhere. But what are we supposed to do about it? Most of us know that giving in never makes our lives better, so what is it about the things that tempt us that makes us feel so powerless to say no? Thankfully, Scripture has a lot to say when it comes to temptation. And while there’s no promise that it will ever go away, we can find the courage to resist it, replace it, and avoid getting hooked.

Session One: Bait & Switch
Bottom Line: Look for the hook.
Scripture Reference: James 1:13-14, 16
Have you ever felt like you’ve been tricked? Maybe you got a sweet deal on designer sunglasses only to discover they were knockoffs. Maybe you clicked something online that seemed legit only to get a virus that won’t go away. Or maybe a friend begged you to loan them 20 bucks and magically “forgot” to pay you back. No matter what it was, it’s never fun to feel like you’ve been fooled. In the Bible, James, Jesus’ brother, says that temptation works the same way. It tricks us. It entices us by hiding the real danger behind lies and excuses that make it look harmless or even good for us. And that is how we get hooked. But James also reminds us that we have a choice. We can choose to recognize those lies, call them what they are, and look for the dangers hidden behind them. And when we do, we will find the strength to resist them and win the battle against temptation.

Session Two: The Cookie Jar
Bottom Line: God cares more about what we embrace than what we avoid.
Scripture Reference: James 1:13-17
You can’t beat a good fireworks show. One little spark, one little match, and the whole sky lights up. Have you ever been tempted to pull a fire alarm—not because something was on fire but just because you knew you weren’t supposed to? Or what about speeding? Do you tend to creep over the speed limit even when you aren’t in a hurry? Play games on your phone in class even when you know your grades are bad and you should pay attention? There is just something about breaking rules that feels irresistible. Even when it doesn’t benefit us at all, knowing something is off-limits makes it more appealing than ever. That’s why simply knowing we shouldn’t or telling ourselves “don’t do that” isn’t helpful when it comes to fighting temptation. But what other options do we have? In the New Testament, James doesn’t talk about temptation by simply telling us all the bad things we shouldn’t do. Instead, he gives us something else to focus on—a strategy that is less about avoiding bad things and more about embracing something better.

XP
The XP for the Hooked series is an Individual XP where students will receive a wallet-sized card to remind them to choose to avoid the wrong things and embrace the right things.
**Parent Cue**
The Parent Cue for the Hooked series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” encourages parents to avoid two of the most common parenting pitfalls: over-protecting and under-protecting and “Try This” which challenges parents to model healthy behaviors by finding a replacement for the things that tempt them.

**Supplemental Video**
Bumper video (1:00) – included with series download
Teaching Video – Reed Moore– Session 1 (11:49)
Teaching Video – Reed Moore – Session 2 (11:35)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.
Judgment Call
3 week series / 15 credits
Connect Relationally
Featured: Spring 2015

When was the last time you had to make a tough call? Was it when deciding what to eat for lunch? To drink Coke or Pepsi? Go to the gym or skip it? The truth is, we make judgment calls all day long, from what we watch on TV or who we hang out with to more complicated decisions like whether to attend a party or stick with a tough friendship. And, in every decision, we’re forced to ask the question, “Which option is better?” The problem is, our natural tendency to judge leaks into places it shouldn’t—like our relationships. We start thinking of people as options and deciding which ones are better or worse. Many of us are even tempted to make those judgments about ourselves. Unfortunately, most of the time, we make decisions about people without all the facts. We don’t know someone’s whole story, their whole situation, or their whole potential. We miss the big picture. Maybe that’s why, in the Bible, God makes it super clear: Judgment is His call. Not ours.

Session One: Busted
Bottom Line: Drop the rock.
Scripture Reference: John 8:3-11
What makes a good person or a bad person? That’s easy, right? We all have an opinion about how the best kind of people behave. And if we’re honest, we usually conclude that we are the best kind of person. That the way we live, think, and act is the best way to be. Maybe that’s why it’s so easy to judge people who are different from us. We assume that, even when we sin, their sin is probably worse than ours. That was exactly what happened when some religious leaders brought a woman to Jesus. She had been caught in the middle of something scandalous. And while the religious leaders had problems of their own, they were pretty convinced that they weren’t as bad as her. Everyone watching thought they knew what Jesus would do, how He would react. But as He often did, Jesus surprised them all. And through His response, we find that we, like the religious leaders, have only one option when it comes to judging others. We must drop the rock.

Session Two: Bad Girl?
Bottom Line: With other people, assume the best and trust God with the rest
Scripture Reference: Joshua 2:1-5; Matthew 1:5
Who would you nominate for most likely to succeed? What about most likely to not succeed? Most likely to screw up? Most likely to disappoint everyone? The truth is, it’s easy to look at people around us and make judgments about who they will eventually become. We see their current actions and we feel like we can predict their future. But that isn’t always true. No matter how well we know someone, we can’t see what will happen when God enters their story. As we look at the lives of Israel’s spies and one very unlikely helper, we find that God’s plan is something we can’t ever predict. And we have to trust that, no matter how it seems, He is at work in others’ story as much as He is at work in our own.

Session Three: Not Against
Bottom Line: Even when you fail, He is for you.
Scripture Reference: Romans 2:4; 5:20
There’s nothing worse than feeling like a failure. Whether it’s a bad quarter in the football game, a failing grade, or a total face-plant in the middle of your dance recital, failure is not fun. And for a lot of us, that feeling isn’t limited to school or sports. Sometimes, we even feel like a failure in our relationship with God. We make mistakes. We sin. And it’s easy to judge ourselves harshly and become discouraged. The Apostle Paul was no stranger to that feeling. Prior to writing most of the New Testament, Paul wasn’t such a good guy. He was an epic failure. And through his words, we discover the encouraging truth that even when we fail, God is for us.
**XP**

The XP for the Judgment Call series is designed for the Small Group Leaders to send a postcard to each of their students that begins with, “This is who I see in the future you…”

**Parent Cue**

The Parent Cue for the Judgment Call series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which reminds parents that influence is better than judgment when it comes to students’ friends, and “Try This,” which challenges parents to invest in the life of one of their student’s friends this week.

**Supplemental Video**

Bumper video (0:57) – included with series download
Teaching Video – Joseph Sojourner – Session 1 (11:49)
Teaching Video – Joseph Sojourner – Session 2 (11:19)
Teaching Video – Jamey Dickens – Session 3 (16:00)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.
Move
2 week series (10 credits)
Category: Serve Actively
Featured: Winter 2013-2014

Movements are everywhere. “To write love on her arms”, “Tom’s Shoes”, “Livestrong”, “Habitat for Humanity”, and the “End-It Movement”—all of those and hundreds more were created during our lifetime. In fact, one of the traits that this generation is known for is being the most cause-driven, the most movement focused in history. So which movements do we join? How do we start? And how do we move and serve in a way that really matters? Even if we aren’t sure what we think about Jesus, we can learn something from Him about serving the community around us. By His example we learn to MOVE on behalf of others and KEEP MOVING to have a lasting impact.

Session One: The Main Event
Bottom Line: If you want to change the world, go from moments to movements.
Scripture References: John 10:14, 15
Have you ever volunteered or been involved in a service event, felt the exhilaration of moving to help others only to feel a little let down when it was over? Have you ever felt really committed to a cause or charity only to feel like someone flipped a switch and your focus shifted back to your everyday life? When we look at the life of Jesus, we see Someone who served without a turn-off switch. And when we choose to serve as He served, when it becomes part of who we are, we experience the joy of knowing we have a lasting impact.

Session Two: Make the Switch
Bottom Line: Serving isn’t about you—it’s about who.
Scripture References: James 1:27
Causes are everywhere. On TV, on social media, at school, and definitely at church. It seems there are a million ways to help people. So why does it seem so hard to get and stay involved? James, the brother of Jesus, had a lot to say about helping others, possibly because he saw the way his Brother lived. Through his words we find that it actually may be more simple than we think. That when we choose to focus on God and others, and less on ourselves, serving becomes much less complicated.

XP
The XP for MOVE series includes four service opportunities that encourage each student make the first move toward serving the world around them as well as a follow-up event that encourages them to make the next move by finding a way to be consistently involved in that area.

Parent Cue
The Parent Cue for the MOVE series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to communicate big ideas through their actions and less through their words and “Try This,” which gives parents tips for engaging their students in serving the community.

Supplemental Video
Bumper video (1:04) - included with series download
Teaching Video – Justin Warner – Session 1 (14:16)
Teaching Video – Justin Warner – Session 2 (9:55)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.
No Limits
3 week series / 15 credits
Category: Decide Personally
Featured: Summer 2014

When you were little, what did you dream about becoming? An astronaut? A ballerina? A professional wrestler? Whatever it was, chances are it was something that you felt was important. Something big. That’s the thing about little kids— they dream big because no one has told them that they can’t do something yet. They literally have no limits. But it’s different when we get older, isn’t it? In middle school and high school we start to see the areas we lack for the first time. We’re not the most popular or influential. We aren’t the most talented. And eventually we start to wonder if we can ever do or be anything significant. The big-dreaming days of our childhood feel long gone under the weight of our all-too-limiting reality. That’s exactly what happened in the life of a guy named Moses. With a tough past and not many real skills, he had no reason to believe that his life would be used do anything extraordinary. But after a few encounters with God, Moses’ perspective changed completely. He found that, with God, there is no limit to what you can do.

Session One: Talking Trees
Bottom Line: Big influence starts with a small step.
Scripture Reference: Exodus 3:1-6
So, what would happen if God showed up and talked to you—out loud? What would you want Him to say? What would you not want Him to talk about? Now imagine this: what if God showed up and told you that your influence is unlimited? That the impact of your life can and will extend farther than you ever dreamed? Would you be scared? Would you want to run away? Would you have a ton of questions? Absolutely! And that’s what happened to Moses. He probably didn’t think of himself as a guy that anyone would pay attention to, as anyone of real influence, but God saw something in Moses that he didn’t see in himself—the potential to lead. And as we take a closer look at his story, we find that sometimes the only step we need to worry about is the very first one.

Session Two: Great Expectations
Bottom Line: With God, there’s no limit to what you can do.
Scripture Reference: Exodus 3:11-13
Do you ever feel like everyone expects too much of you? Like the pressure of it all is just too much and it makes you feel like you shouldn’t even try? Or maybe you feel like no one expects much of you. No one pushes you or believes in you. Either way, facing the expectations of others can feel paralyzing. And, in that way, we have a lot in common with Moses. God had given him a task that felt way outside the limits of his ability, way outside of anything he could do on his own. Moses felt underprepared and overwhelmed. He was ready to quit. But in his most anxious and fear-filled moment, God said something to Moses—one phrase—that changed the way he saw himself and everything around him. And it has the power to do the same for us!

Session Three: Let the Countdown Begin.
Bottom Line: If you want to make your days count, count your days.
Scripture Reference: Psalm 90:12
So much can happen in just one minute, one hour, or one day. Think about it. How many times have you watched a football game that came down to the last play in the last minute of the game? Have you ever been late to a movie and missed a crucial opening scene? Minutes can change everything! The truth is, time is valuable but we don’t always treat it that way. As students, it’s easy to feel like we have all the time in the world. And so we waste it—a lot of it. But what would you do if you knew your days were numbered? What would you change if you knew your time was limited? The truth is, our time is limited. We’ll never have more than we do right now. So, if we want to make wise decisions, to make the most of our time, we must learn to number our days.
XP
The XP for the NO LIMITS series challenges students to think beyond their limits and use their resources to create a fallout shelter in this outside water-balloon bash.

Parent Cue
The Parent Cue for the NO LIMITS series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to help their students focus on the present, and “Try This,” which challenges parents to ask their students for feedback on how much pressure they feel.

Supplemental Video
Bumper video (1:06) – included with series download
Teaching Video – Justin Warner – Session 1 (12:16)
Teaching Video – Justin Warner – Session 2 (12:08)
Teaching Video – Holly Crawshaw – Session 3 (11:01)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.
There are some moments in life that leave us all thinking, “Now what?”. Maybe it was when your teacher handed you a huge assignment and you didn’t even know how to start. Maybe it was staring at the blank screen after that assignment accidentally got deleted. Maybe your “now what?” moment came while sitting on the side of the road with a broken down car. No matter what the situation, you have probably had few experiences that left you with no idea of what to do next. In many ways, that’s how Jesus’ followers felt after He was crucified. No one expected him to die. Many of them had left their homes and jobs and families to follow this man they thought would be their new leader, a king who would fix all of their problems. Then He was killed and all of those hopes came crashing down. Some cried. Some ran away. Some were paralyzed by fear. But deep down, everyone was asking the same question, “Now what?”.

Session One: Let Down

Bottom Line: Jesus is God’s amazing answer to “now what?”

Scripture Reference: John 20:1-2, 11

Have you ever been really disappointed? Maybe your weekend plans got cancelled suddenly and now you’re sitting at home. Maybe you didn’t make the team. Or maybe it was something more serious like your parents giving you the tough news that they’re moving and you have to change schools. In moments like that, it’s easy to feel paralyzed. What do you do? What do you say? Where do you even start? In some ways, that’s how Jesus’ followers felt after He was crucified, especially one named Mary Magdalene. All of her hopes and plans for the future had hinged on Him and watching Him die meant watching those things die as well. It was painful and disappointing. And there were no instructions on what to do next. She was stuck. But there was something going on that Mary didn’t see. There was Someone she didn’t see. And as we take a closer look at her story, we may just find that our places of greatest disappointment can also become our places of greatest peace.

Session Two: On The Road Again

Bottom Line: He’s near even when you’re far.


Nothing is more disappointing than trying really hard at something and only getting worse. Whether it’s baseball, voice lessons or AP Calculus, there’s nothing fun about feeling like you’re going backward. In moments like that, our tendency, no matter the circumstances, is to give up, move on, or walk away. We tell ourselves “maybe it’s not meant to be” or “maybe I’m just not cut out for that”. Not long after Jesus’ death, many of His followers began to realize their situation was only getting worse. While some stayed in hiding, others began to walk away from Jerusalem, away from where Jesus was, away from the other believers. Two, in particular, were on the road out of town, when a stranger began to walk with them. And what they learned will forever change the way we see God, ourselves, and every situation where we’re tempted to walk away.

XP
The XP for the Now What? series challenges small groups to identify one person in their community or church who is going through a time of disappointment and find a way to encourage them.
Parent Cue
The Parent Cue for the Now What? series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which reminds parents that disappointment isn’t always a bad thing. It can help families grow closer, and “Try This,” which challenges parents to talk with their students about how they (the parents) dealt with disappointment in the past.

Supplemental Video
Bumper video (1:06) – included with series download
Teaching Video – Clay Scroggins – Session 1 (17:22)
Teaching Video – Clay Scroggins – Session 2 (14:26)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.
Obsessed
3 week series / 15 credits
Category: Decide Personally
Featured: Winter 2014 - 15

What are you obsessed with right now? Is it your favorite television show? A certain fashion trend? A band? A sport you play? We use the word obsessed a lot. Anything we really enjoy can become our obsession-of-the-moment. And dating definitely falls into that category. For some of us, we’re obsessed with a certain guy or girl we’d like to go out with. Or, we’re obsessed with the person we are currently dating—wanting to spend every minute with them. Or for a huge number of us, we don’t have a crush, but we are obsessed with the idea of dating—we wish we had someone to text with all day and night. No matter what your current relationship status, chances are you spend a lot of time thinking about, talking about, and dreaming about dating. And believe it or not, the Bible has a lot to say about it as well. In this series, we’re going to look at three key passages from Scripture that give us some clues how to enjoy the crazy world of dating without losing our minds.

Session One: Hey There Delilah
Bottom Line: Dating is great, but thinking is better.
Scripture Reference: Judges 14:1-3; 16:15-16; Ephesians 2:10
Few things are more thrilling than a new crush or a new relationship. It’s fun to get caught up in sharing the excitement of a new love interest. But we’ve all known someone who has taken the obsession with a new relationship a little too far. Maybe they stopped making good decisions. Or maybe they morphed into a person who isn’t really them, but who their current obsession would like them to be. The truth is, sometimes when people start dating, they stop thinking. Since all of our brain space is taken up by our obsession with a guy or girl, it’s easier to just put our minds on auto-pilot and let our emotions lead the way. That’s exactly what happened to a guy named Samson in the Bible. And it got him in all kinds of trouble. Through Samson’s story, we see that dating can be great, but thinking is always better. Always.

Session Two: Honey Bee
Bottom Line: Too much of a good thing is not a good thing.
Scripture Reference: Proverbs 25:16
When you were a kid, did you ever get to pig out on Halloween candy? Or go to a sleepover where there was unlimited soda and Doritos? If so, you know how awesome it was until you had just a little bit too much. Maybe your stomach took a turn for the worst and you spent the rest of the night wondering how something so good could make you feel so bad. The same thing can happen when it comes to dating. It’s fun. It’s sweet. And we can be tempted to over-indulge—to let it take over our thoughts, our friendships, and our free time. We become so obsessed with one part of our lives that we end up missing out on the others. While dating really is a fun, the wise words of Proverbs teaches that too much of a good thing may not be so good after all.

Session Three (GIRLS): More Than Enough
Bottom Line: When we know true things, false things have less power.
Scripture Reference: Isaiah 43:1
How pretty is pretty enough? Or what about skinny? Or curvy? Or secure or confident or athletic or popular enough? It’s hard to tell. No matter where we look, it can feel like there are messages that we aren’t something enough. From the magazine covers in the check-out line, to movies, to TV, to our own conversations with friends, we are constantly reminded of all the ways we don’t measure up. It’s depressing, but what can we do? It’s not like we can hide from it. We can’t live in a bubble, never seeing another airbrushed photo, never watching another movie or walking around with our fingers in our ears.
trying to tune out the messages from cultures and our peers. The good news is, a long time ago, the people of Israel found themselves in a similar predicament. In a situation where they felt powerless and vulnerable, but God gave His people something better than an escape. Better than a place to hide. He gave them a way to fight back. He gave them a truth so powerful that it trumped any lies they were believing. **The Teaching Video for this Session 3 (Girls) is included in your series download**

Session Three (GUYS): Rip Off  
**Bottom Line:** Porn is always making a deal, and it will always rip you off.  
*Scripture Reference:* Proverbs 5:1-4  
Have you ever noticed that obsessed people are willing to make crazy deals? Like the comic-book super fan who spends his life-savings on a single issue or the baseball fanatic that drops thousands of dollars on one card. It seems unthinkable to us, but someone is always willing to make that kind of deal. Believe it or not, porn works that way too. Wait, you just got a little uncomfortable didn’t you? We get it. Porn isn’t the easiest topic to talk about—especially in church. But we promise this isn’t about shaming you or guilting you into making some kind of promise you can’t keep. This is just about making a better deal. See, porn is always a transaction. And at the time, it seems perfectly rational, even beneficial. But it’s a bad deal. We’re getting ripped off. And if we aren’t careful, it can end up costing us more than we ever intended to pay. **The Teaching Video for this Session 3 (Guys) is included in your series download**

**XP**  
The XP for the Obsessed series challenges students to reflect on what they look for in potential dating partners and then to identify one thing they need to work on to become more “datable”.

**Parent Cue**  
The Parent Cue for the Obsessed series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to help their students develop a strong identity by filling their tanks with kind words, and “Try This,” which challenges parents to back up their words with affirming actions.

**Supplemental Video**  
Bumper video (1:06) – included with series download  
Teaching Video – Justin Warner– Session 1 (11:06)  
Teaching Video – Ben Crawshaw – Session 2 (14:26)  
Teaching Video – Sarah Anderson – Session 3 GIRLS (10:35) – included with series license  
Teaching Video – Ben Crawshaw – Session 3 GUYS (15:18) – included with series license

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the "Additional Resources" panel once the series has been license.
Once Upon A Time
4 week series / 20 credits
Category: Examine Biblically
Featured: Spring 2015

Everyone loves a good story. Even if you hate reading, you probably don’t mind movies, TV shows, or a great musical. There is just something about a story, a good story that we can’t resist. When we were little, all the great ones started with “Once upon a time”. They were tales of heroes and villains, evil queens, noble princes, and fairy godmothers. And while the characters in our favorite stories look different now, not much else has changed. We still love to see the good guy win, the bad guy lose, and the couple live happily ever after. Maybe it’s because, no matter how old you are, great stories have the power to pull you in and make you feel like you’re a part of them. Jesus knew that and He often told stories, called parables, that worked the same way. His stories may not have involved princesses or evil villains, but as we take a look at four of these famous parables we may just find that the characters look more familiar than we could have ever imagined.

Session 1: Lost And Found
Bottom Line: God never stops running after you.
Scripture References: Luke 15:4-7, 8-10
Have you ever lost something important and had to go searching for it? Maybe it was your phone or the remote to your TV. Maybe it was the keys to your car. Whatever it was, chances are you searched high and low because missing something important can make you crazy. In fact, the more important it is, the more time and energy you’re willing to put into searching for it. In two of Jesus’ most famous stories, he tells of a farmer who lost a sheep and a woman who lost a coin. To an outsider, neither loss seems like a big deal, but the way each of these characters responded feels shocking. And, it gives us a clue into just how much God cares when it comes to lost things.

Session 2: Head Of The Table
Bottom Line: Nothing values humanity like humility.
Scripture References: Luke 14:7-14
Do you ever have arguments with someone in your head? Of course you do. Maybe you’re annoyed at your teacher or your mom or even a friend and, in your mind, you totally let them have it. You win every time. Why? Because nearly all of our conversations or fights or mental dramas are based on one idea that sits in the back of our minds. We think, “I’m smarter than them. I’m right.” Or maybe you think maybe you’re just cooler or more talented or more popular. Maybe you’re more spiritual than them. In any case, we always win the argument in our minds because, in some way or another, we believe we’re better. And that’s not a new thing. Jesus once went to a dinner party where the guests had similar feelings. Each believed he was better than someone around him, and they acted accordingly. As He often did, Jesus addressed the very thing in the room that no one was talking about—status. And what He said has the power to forever change the way we rank ourselves and those around us.

Session 3: Tenacious
Bottom Line: When it comes to prayer, don’t quit because it’s quiet.
Scripture References: Luke 11:5-10
Have you ever wanted something really badly and didn’t get it? Or maybe the answer wasn’t “no”. It was “we’ll see” or “maybe”. Sometimes that’s even more frustrating. What are you supposed to do? Just wait? Keep asking? Give up? A lot of us feel that way when it comes to prayer. Maybe you prayed and nothing happened. Maybe you wonder if God even heard you or if you should just give up and try to figure things out on your own. That’s exactly what some of Jesus’ followers were wondering when He launched into a story about a man who needed something badly and his only option was to go to a friend in the middle of the night. He wasn’t sure what the answer would be, but he had no other options. And through his story we may just find the courage to pray and keep praying even when it's silent.
Session 4: Unpaid Debt

*Bottom Line: Before you pay back, remember you were paid for.*

*Scripture References: Matthew 18:21-35*

Revenge is sweet, isn’t it? Few things feel better than destroying the team who beat you last year or getting back at someone who treated you badly. Maybe you know you’re not supposed to enjoy it. Maybe you’ve heard you’re supposed to forgive and forget, but there is just something in all of us that loves to pay others back. Of course the sweetness of the moment doesn’t last long. We know that if we pay someone back, they will want to do the same to us. That’s the thing about revenge, it doesn’t put an end to the situation—it escalates it. But what other options do you have? If you’ve been hurt or attacked or humiliated, you can’t just stand by and do nothing. Once again, Jesus uses the art of storytelling to address this very idea. As He introduces us to two guys, both with a debt to pay, we find that forgiveness isn’t about doing nothing. It’s about using your time and energy to do the only thing that can make the situation better.

**XP**

The XP for the Once Upon A Time series challenges small groups to decide on one thing to pray about twice each day until Easter. Their prayer time will either focus on unity within the group or influence outside the group.

**Parent Cue**

The Parent Cue for the Once Upon A Time series includes three sections: “We’re teaching this,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to help their students develop a strong identity by leveraging their story, and “Try This,” which challenges parents to go watch a movie with their student and then ask them a single question.

**Supplemental Video**

- Bumper video (1:17) – included with series download
- Teaching Video – Holly Crawshaw – Session 1 (11:07)
- Teaching Video – Justin Warner – Session 2 (11:13)
- Teaching Video – Holly Crawshaw – Session 3 (11:21)
- Teaching Video – Justin Warner – Session 4 (11:07)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been licensed.
Out Of Focus
2 week series / 10 credits
Category: Examine Biblically
Featured: Summer 2015

There’s something awesome about a 3D movie. It takes the whole movie experience to a new level. But have you ever taken the glasses off in the middle of the movie just to see what it looks like? If so, you know seeing things through the wrong lens can ruin the whole movie. The action gets blurred. Nothing is clear, and pretty quickly you can end up confused and with a headache. Sometimes reading the Bible can feel like watching a 3D movie without the glasses. There’s a lot going on. Sometimes it’s confusing. Sometimes it’s hard to know what to focus on. To make matters worse, lots of people seem to have different opinions about what the Bible says and what it means. But that doesn’t mean our only option is to walk away confused. Just like a 3D movie, sometimes all it takes is a different lens, a new perspective, to bring the most important things into focus.

Session One: Are You For Real?
Bottom Line: Because you can trust the Bible, you can trust what the Bible says.
Scripture Reference: Luke 1:1-4
Have you ever known someone who told hard-to-believe stories? Maybe they’re always talking about some hard to believe news report that no one else has heard about or celebrity gossip that doesn’t sound quite right. Or maybe they always seem to have some tale or urban legend from your town—really wild stuff that leaves everyone asking, “Wait, did that really happen? Is that story for real?” For a lot of us, that’s the same feeling we get when we read the Bible. Is this for real? It’s been around a long time, but does that make it reliable? Can you trust it? And should you feel bad for even asking this kind of thing? The good news is it’s okay to ask questions. It’s okay to search. In fact, it can be a good thing. And while we may not find every answer to every question, when we take a look at some of the facts that surround the Bible, we can discover the information that we need to answer the most important question—is this for real?

Session Two: Trump Card
Bottom Line: When it comes to Scripture, the point is a Person.
Scripture Reference: Matthew 5:17, 21-22a; Hebrews 1:1-2a
Do you ever think to yourself, “Am I just crazy?” Maybe it’s when your friends are all raving about a book series and you think it’s awful. Or when everyone is loving a new movie and you felt like it was a total flop. In moments like that you find yourself thinking, “Am I the only one who sees this? Am I the only one who feels this way? Am I just crazy?” If we’re honest, reading the Bible can feel a little bit like that. Every once in a while, you read or hear a passage and it throws you off. It doesn’t line up at all with the image of God you had in mind. You think, is everyone else seeing the same thing I am? Is that really what He’s like? This doesn’t add up. It can be confusing when you encounter parts of Scripture that seem to make no sense. But that doesn’t mean it has to derail your faith. In fact, as we take a closer look at the Bible and what Jesus had to say about it, we discover that keeping our eyes on Him can bring everything else into focus.

XP
The XP for the Out Of Focus series is a Small Group XP where small groups will choose one of the people groups who were overlooked in Jesus’ culture and do something to serve that group in their own community.
Parent Cue
The Parent Cue for the Out Of Focus series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents that they don’t have to have all the answers to be a part of their student’s faith journey and “Try This” which challenges parents to share with their student what they do when they encounter a question that doesn’t have easy answers.

Supplemental Video
Presenting a series for students on the reliability of Scripture is no walk in the park. Trust us, we just wrote one! Because there is so much information packed into these two weeks, we decided to offer the Teaching Videos for FREE for this series. You can download both Session Communicators from the series matrix.
Have you ever been part of two very different groups? Maybe you go to a different school or you’re in different classes than the people in your neighborhood. So you’re a part of both groups. Or maybe you play on a different sports team than all of your friends. So after practice you hang out with the team but on the weekends, you hang out with completely different people. When that happens, we feel like we’re from one world and living in another. We’re torn. And if we’re honest, sometimes going to church or being a Christian can make us feel that way too. We go to church and what we hear makes sense. We see people living out their faith and it looks perfectly normal, maybe even fun. But what looks good on Sunday doesn’t always feel comfortable on Monday. Back in the everyday world, living as followers of Jesus can make us feel like we’re from another planet. But does it have to be that way? And what does it look like to live for God in a culture that doesn’t necessarily think the same way?

Believe it or not, these aren’t 21st century questions. Long ago, the Apostle Paul wrote a letter to the church at Philippi as they figured out how to navigate their faith and culture at the same time. As we spend the next few weeks talking about what he said, we may find that Paul’s advice to the Philippians is just as relevant for us as we learn to manage the tension and live in a way that is out of this world.

Session 1: Separate Worlds
Bottom Line: Bring who you are to where you are.
Scripture References: Philippians 1:27

Have you ever lost something important and had to go searching for it? Maybe it was your phone or the remote to your TV. Maybe it was the keys to your car. Whatever it was, chances are you searched high and low because missing something important can make you crazy. In fact, the more important it is, the more time and energy you’re willing to put into searching for it. In two of Jesus’ most famous stories, he tells of a farmer who lost a sheep and a woman who lost a coin. To an outsider, neither loss seems like a big deal, but the way each of these characters responded feels shocking. And, it gives us a clue into just how much God cares when it comes to lost things.

Session 2: Welcome To My World
Bottom Line: Put others first.
Scripture References: Philippians 2:3-11

Think back to a time when you did something that was selfish. Come on, we’ve all been there! Maybe yours was a minor offense, something that didn’t seem like that big of a deal. Or maybe it was a little more obvious, something that you knew was a total jerk move while you were doing it—but you did it anyway. The truth is that even when you don’t realize you’re doing it, you evaluate almost every decision by asking yourself the question: “How does this affect me?” But what we all seem to forget is that even when we’re making decisions based on what’s best for us, we are rarely the only person being affected. As we check back in with Paul this week, he’ll give us some guidance on how we can change our thinking to start considering others before ourselves. And when we do, we’ll find that it’s not just the lives of others that will be impacted—our lives will be changed as well.

Session 3: World Of Knowledge
Bottom Line: Where your thoughts go, you go.
Scripture References: Philippians 4:8-9

The mind can be a crazy thing. It gives us weird dreams, random thoughts, and crazy ideas seemingly out of nowhere. A lot of times, we just sort of let our minds wander because it feels like we don’t have much control over our thoughts. But maybe that’s because we just don’t spend much time really thinking about our thinking. Have you ever considered what your life might look like if you started putting a little more thought into your thoughts? The way you think on the inside plays a huge role in how you behave.
on the outside. Negative, uncomfortable, or even untrue thoughts can lead to the same kind of behaviors. And who wants to live like that? As we close out this series, we look back one more time to Paul and his thoughts on thinking in the book of Philippians. He points us to where God wants our thoughts to go. And when we start thinking in an out-of-this-world way, the whole direction of our lives will begin to move in that direction as well.

XP
The XP for the OUT OF THIS WORLD series encourages students to carry a card that reminds them to think in an Out Of This World way by focusing on **Gratitude** and **Others**.

**Parent Cue**
The Parent Cue for the OUT OF THIS WORLD series includes three sections: “We’re teaching this,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to think through some key conversations about rules and consequences in their family and “Try This,” which challenges parents to have a plan for one of the key areas of conflict for students and parents: cell phones.

**Supplemental Video**
Bumper video (1:00) – *included with series download*
Teaching Video – Rodney Anderson – Session 1 (11:00)
Teaching Video – Reed Moore – Session 2 (12:00)
Teaching Video – Holly Crawshaw – Session 3 (12:05)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for **FREE** in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been licensed.
Let’s be honest. We’ve all been guilty of painting a less-than-honest picture of ourselves—or others—through social media. But the Bible reminds us that what we say—whether on-line or in person—matters. How we talk about others, and ourselves, is important. And it all starts with what’s inside our hearts. So where do you need to rethink what you say on-line? What things are you dealing with inside that need to stop showing up on your newsfeed? What do you need to do to become the person you want to be—not just the person you want everyone to think you are?

Session One: **Followers**
**Bottom Line:** What you post MATTERS
**Scripture References:** Ephesians 4:29
Sometimes it can feel like social media is the perfect outlet for everything we want to say. The positive. The negative. The hurtful. And without the face-to-face interaction, it can feel like the words we say are less powerful and less harmful than if they were said to someone’s face. But the truth is, what we say—what we post—matters. It determines how others see us. So what are you posting that helps? And what are you posting that hurts?

Session Two: **Likes**
**Bottom Line:** You are MORE than what you post.
**Scripture References:** Luke 6:45
We all have an image we want to project. We want to be seen a certain way. It’s why we post our best pictures and make sure everyone knows the great plans we have for Friday night. But what if we’re focusing on the wrong things? What if the reality of our daily life is just as important—and even more important—than the glimpses we let people see? What if what’s going on inside is more important than what we show everyone from the outside?

**XP**
The XP for the Post It series is an individual XP which encourages students to examine their social media use and do some cleaning up of recent and past posts, pics, etc. and then make a decision about a social media practice that they will choose to avoid.

**Parent Cue**
The Parent Cue for the Post It series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which reminds parents of the benefits of delayed gratification, both for themselves as well as for their student and “Try This,” which encourages the entire family to participate in a one-night technology fast.

**Supplemental Video**
Bumper video (1:00) – included with series download
Teaching Video – Joseph Sojourner – Session 1 (11:32)
Teaching Video – Joseph Sojourner – Session 2 (11:16)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.
Power Play
2 week series (10 credits)
Category: Connect Relationally
Featured: Fall 2015

Power is a good thing. And in most cases, more power is a better thing. We want our phones to be powered up, our cars to be powerful, our laptops to be powered on, and our football teams made of power players. But those aren’t the only places that power is important to us. We all want to have power in relationships too. Maybe you’ve never thought about it that way but chances are you want people to listen to you, to pay attention to you or to care about what you think. That’s power. And whether you realize it or not, every relationship you have comes with some power or influence. Every interaction with another person is an opportunity to use your power, even if you feel like you don’t have any. During this series we’re going to talk about two people from the New Testament who looked at power differently than anyone else: Paul and Jesus. In their stories, we find that, no matter who is in control, there is always a power play we can make on behalf of others.

Session One: Depends On You
Bottom Line: Peace is your most powerful play.
Scripture References: Romans 12:17-21
Have you ever felt powerless? Maybe you had a coach that made a bad call and there was nothing you could do. Or maybe you remember a time when your mom or step-dad grounded you for no reason. Maybe you’ve had a boss at work who was completely unreasonable. No matter what the situation was, chances are you didn’t enjoy it. No one likes to feel like they have no power. But what can you do? How do you react when someone is using their power over you unfairly? This was the exact problem facing the earliest Christians. They were often beaten, killed, or tortured for the entertainment of the Roman people in the Coliseum. They couldn’t have felt more powerless, but in his letter to them, the Apostle Paul reminds them—us—that we are never truly powerless. That in every situation, no matter how unfair, we have a role to play. And, even as the underdogs, we can make a power play for peace.

Session Two: One Small Step
Bottom Line: Big power comes from small acts.
Scripture References: John 13:3-5
People say knowledge is power. They also say money is power. The truth is, relationships are power. If you are around other people at all, then in some way you have influence. Someone cares what you think. Someone looks up to you. Someone wants you to like them. And when that happens, you have power. But what do you supposed to do with it? How exactly are you supposed to use the influence you have with others? Believe it or not, Jesus faced the same question. He had more power than anyone on the planet. He could have done anything He wanted. But as His time with his closest friends came to an end, Jesus used his power to do something that shocked everyone. And through His example we learn that sometimes the smallest acts are the most important power play we make.

XP
The XP for the Power Play series is a Small Group or Large Group XP where groups will choose one day this week to focus on leveraging their social power, their influence, to benefit someone else. It will be their “Power Play” day.

Parent Cue
The Parent Cue for the Power Play series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to fight for their family instead of fighting with their family and “Try This,” which challenges parents to evaluate the areas of most conflict in their home and prioritize the most necessary battles while letting go of ones that aren’t so important.
Supplemental Video
Bumper video (1:00) – included with series download
Teaching Video – Clay Scroggins – Session 1 (17:27)
Teaching Video – Clay Scroggins – Session 2 (16:35)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.
When you were a kid, what did you look forward to most? Was it being tall enough to ride whatever you wanted at the fair? Getting to wear makeup? Or driving a car? It seems there’s something in every little kid that loves the idea of growing up. That doesn’t really go away as we get older. Middle school makes us wish for high school. High school makes us wish for college. And most of the time, we know what it takes to get from one level to the next, but what about spiritually? How do we know we’re moving forward in our faith? And what are the things that help us get there? The good news is that, like any good Father, God wants us to grow. He wants to see us move forward. So, He doesn’t make it complicated. In fact, as we look at four things God uses to propel our faith, we may find that growing up spiritually can be simpler than we ever imagined.

Session One: **Big Life**  
Bottom Line: When it comes to growing our faith, doing is better than knowing.  
Scripture Reference: Matthew 7:24-27

So what does it really take to grow up spiritually or to move forward in your faith? Some people think you can make progress by knowing a lot of Scripture. Others think you can grow simply by going to church a lot. That sounds good, but can you really grow just by walking into a place? Or is there a perfect equation of church attendance, Bible memorization, and Christian-music listening that makes us spiritually mature? Jesus followers’ had some of the same questions. So to help them understand, He told them the story of two men— each with a house and each with a storm. And what Jesus said about these men can help all of us find our way to move forward in our faith. Because when it comes to faith, and just about everything else, doing is better than knowing.

Session Two: **Big Team**  
Bottom Line: God uses people to propel our faith.  
Scripture Reference: Proverbs 13:20; 1 Corinthians 15:33

Who invited you to church? You can probably think of somebody. And even if you were in church from the time you were a little kid, chances are somebody helped you along the way. A pastor. A small group leader. A volunteer. Somebody. It’s true for all of us. Anytime you hear a story about someone’s journey toward God, you always hear about a relationship, not only with God but also with another person. God uses other people to help us propel forward in our faith. But how do you make that happen? How do you get those kinds of people in your life? The book of Proverbs gives us an idea of exactly the kind of person we need in our lives in order to move forward spiritually. And if we’re willing to do what it says, not only will we find ourselves around the kind of people who help us grow, but we may also find that we become the kind of person who helps others grow as well.

Session Three: **Big Serve**  
Bottom Line: There’s a direct connection between growing and serving.  
Scripture Reference: Matthew 14:13-29

These days it seems like there are causes everywhere. Feed the hungry. Save the animals. Help the homeless. Sometimes every other commercial points to another group that’s in need. And it’s not just big causes. Your school has a coat drive. Your church nursery needs volunteers. Your little brother needs help with his homework. There are a lot of needs out there, and that can make the idea of serving feel overwhelming. What are you supposed to do? Even if you gave all your money and all your time, would it make a dent? In the New Testament, Jesus’ disciples were found themselves with a similar dilemma. Faced with a huge crowd in need of food, and very little resources to give, making a difference seemed impossible. But what we learn from their story may just give us the courage to serve anyway. Because when we bring what we have, God has the opportunity to show up a way that can propel our faith in a way we never would have anticipated.
Session Four: **Big Moments**  
**Bottom Line:** In tough times, God works in you so that He can work through you.  
**Scripture Reference:** John 11: 1, 3-7, 15, 21-27, 35-36, 40, 43  
Nobody wants to experience tough times. We don’t hope for them and we sure don’t sign up for them, but difficult circumstances happen to everyone. Maybe for you it was the death of a family member. Or maybe it was a divorce. Maybe your toughest moments came in the form of a rejection letter or some bad results from a doctor. No matter what the cause, two things are true about our most difficult situations: They have the power to cause us great pain and they have the power to propel our faith like nothing else. Through the story of one of Jesus’ close friends, Lazarus, we find that when tough times hit, it can stretch the faith of anyone, even those who know Jesus the best. But if we’re willing to stay close to Him we may just find that we can emerge on the other side of the storm with a faith that is even stronger than before and an opportunity to help others do the same.

**XP**  
The XP for the Propel series is an Individual XP where students will receive four devotionals, one to be completed each week, from Know God: a 28 day devotional.

**Parent Cue**  
The Parent Cue for the Propel series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents with four ways to propel their parenting that mirrors the four themes in this series and “Try This” which challenges parents to evaluate their parenting and choose one area to work on.

**Supplemental Video**  
Bumper video (1:00) – included with series download  
Teaching Video – Justin Warner – Session 1 (10:42)  
Teaching Video – Justin Warner – Session 2 (11:11)  
Teaching Video – Sarah Anderson – Session 3 (10:41)  
Teaching Video – Crystal Chiang – Session 4 (13:46)  

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.
Real Talk
2 week series (10 credits)
Category: Grow Spiritually
Featured: Fall 2015

Talking to some people is easy. You can hang out with your friends for hours and never run out of anything to say. You feel like you can talk to them about anything. But you probably also know people who just seem to make you a little nervous when you have to talk to them. Maybe it’s a teacher, coach or your boss at work, but you always feel you say something wrong or they are never impressed. No matter who it is, you choose your words carefully when you talk to that person because you don’t want to mess things up. And if we’re honest, prayer can feel a lot like that. The whole idea of it makes us a little nervous. We wonder if we sound silly. We try to use just the right words but we aren’t sure we’re doing it right. And often, we are tempted to back away from prayer because it just feels awkward. But what if talking to God was never meant to be that way? What if talking to God was supposed to feel more like chatting with a good Friend than making an impressive speech? During this series, we’re going to take a look at what Jesus said prayer is and isn’t. And as we do, you may just find yourself wanting to lay down the formalities, relax and have some real talk.

Session One: Fine China
Bottom Line: Prayer is REAL talk to a REAL God who wants to be a REAL Dad to us.
Scripture References: Luke 11:1; Matthew 6:5, 7
Have you ever been to someone’s house who had fine china? Usually they keep it in a cabinet and only bring it out on special occasions. All those fancy little dishes are so special and it seems like you could break them at any minute. Maybe it makes you nervous just thinking about it. For a lot of us prayer feels the same way. It’s formal. It’s for special occasions. And it makes us so nervous that we’d rather just lock it away and not think about it. Even Jesus’ closest followers felt a little uncomfortable with prayer, so much so that they asked Him how to do it. How Jesus responds reveals that our ideas about prayer may have been wrong all along. As Jesus teaches His disciples how to pray, we learn that the best thing we can do for our relationship with God is to be less fancy, less formal, and have some more real talk.

Session Two: Smartphone
Bottom Line: Decide today that you will learn to pray.
Scripture References: Psalm 8:3-4; 1 John 1:9; Hebrews 4:16
How many apps do you have on your phone? A bunch right? Because phones are amazing things. You can use a smart phone to take pictures, turn on your security alarm, order a latte or even talk face-to-face with someone in another country! One device works a bunch of different ways and it’s awesome. But I’ll bet you also know someone, maybe your grandma or her friend, who doesn’t want to learn how to use new technology. They prefer for the phone to do only one thing—make calls. And that’s okay, but it just feels like they’re missing out. In the same way, a lot of us treat prayer like the old only-for-one-kind-of-thing telephone. We know how to ask for stuff, but we haven’t learned all of the other things we can do with prayer. And so we are missing out. That’s why, this week, we’re going to explore four other things you can do with prayer that may surprise you. And as we look at examples from Scripture of real people who really prayed this way, you may find the courage to try something new as well.

XP
The XP for the Real Talk series is an Individual XP that encourages students to type out their prayers as texts using real, everyday language (emojis and all). Then they’ll send themselves the text and ask themselves how a loving Father would respond to that kind of message.
**Parent Cue**

The Parent Cue for the Real Talk series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to experience the benefits of prayer and “Try This,” which challenges parents to take the next step in praying for their students by starting to pray for the first time, telling teenager they’re praying for them, or praying out loud with them.

**Supplemental Video**

Bumper video (1:00) – *included with series download*
Teaching Video – Reed Moore – Session 1 (11:54)
Teaching Video – Reed Moore – Session 2 (11:25)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.
Road Signs

Andy Stanley Collection
4 week series / 20 credits
Category: Decide Personally
Featured: Fall 2013

If you set your course in the wrong direction, you’ll end up in the wrong place every time. No matter where you hope to end up, the road you choose matters. The book of Proverbs gives us wisdom to help navigate the choices of life, because we know that each choice determines the direction of our lives. And it’s our direction, not our intention that ultimately determines our destination. Where are you heading? What path are you on?

Session One: One Way
Bottom Line: Your direction, not your intention, determines your destination.
Scripture References: Proverbs 7:6-26
You can’t get to the south beach by driving north, and you can’t get to the top of a mountain if you are walking down it. Why? It’s because our direction always determines our destination. While we all know this basic rule for navigating the roads we drive, we sometimes forget how the same rule is true in our lives. So what is the destination you desire for your life? Are you even on the right path to get there?

Session Two: Caution
Bottom Line: When you see a warning sign, turn around
Scripture References: Proverbs 27:12
When we’re behind the wheel, most of us stop if we see a street sign that says “danger” or “dead end.” We put ourselves on alert if we see a “caution” sign. But when it comes to our daily lives and the choices we face, sometimes we ignore the warning signs completely. The Bible warns us that when we see danger we need to take action, because when we don’t, things can get really ugly.

Session Three: Yield
Bottom Line: Divine direction begins with surrender
Scripture References: I Kings 3:5; Proverbs 3:5-7
Everyone makes stupid choices—even smart people. Why? Because we’ve all had moments when we know the right thing to do, we have the right information, and we ignore it. It’s not just about knowing the right choice, it’s about actually taking that first step. It’s the difference between knowing the right choice and trusting that the choice will lead you to a better path. It’s the difference between information and submission.

Session Four: Rest Stop
Bottom Line: When you give something your attention, you move in that direction
Scripture References: Deuteronomy 7:12; Psalm 119:35-37; Proverbs 4:25-27; Hebrews 2:1
Have you ever been walking down the street, deep in thought, but oblivious to what was going on around you—that is until you snapped out of it and realized that you passed your destination two blocks ago? Your attention was elsewhere. Your mind wasn’t focused on where you were going. The reality is this: what you give your attention to determines both your focus and direction. So if you’re not heading in the direction you want, what has got your attention?

XP
The XP for the Road Signs series is a small group XP, which encourages each small group to take a look at a particular virtue and then have each member reflect on what they can do to move towards that virtue.
Parent Cue
The Parent Cue for the Road Signs series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to slow down and reassess their family goals and “Try This,” which gives families an activity to do together to move towards their family goals.

Supplemental Video
Bumper video (1:10) – included with series download
Teaching Video – Jamey Dickens – Session 1 (14:24)
Teaching Video – Jamey Dickens – Session 2 (15:40)
Teaching Video – Ben Crawshaw – Session 3 (14:38)
Teaching Video – Clay Scroggins – Session 4 (15:23)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.
Shadowland
3 week series / 15 credits
Category: Examine Biblically
Featured: Summer 2014

Have you ever turned on the news only to wish you hadn’t? Or answered a phone call only to wish you could un-hear the news on the other end? Whether it’s a global disaster, a school shooting, our parents’ divorce, or the death of a friend, there’s nothing fun about learning of a tragedy. It can make us feel like we are walking through a shadowland—where nothing seems quite right and there are more questions than answers. What do we say? What do we do? What happens next? And, how long will it take? At some point, we will all face a shadowland, but that doesn’t mean we have to stay there. There is a way through to the other side of tragedy, to healing. But getting there means we have to trust the One who is leading us.

Session One: The First Step
Bottom Line: Before you can heal, you have to feel.
Scripture Reference: John 11:1-3, 17-21, 32-36
What now? It’s the big question that we all ask when we find ourselves in a shadowland of tragedy. There’s no textbook for it, at least not one we’ve read. We don’t know where to go. And we don’t know what to do next. How are we supposed to respond when a tragedy strikes? Some of Jesus’ closest friends faced the same questions when their brother died. When Jesus comes to them in the middle of their shadowland, we see Him respond in a way that is both surprising and incredibly helpful as we begin to move forward in tragedy.

Session Two: Leave Me Alone
Bottom Line: When it comes to tragedy, be a friend not a fixer.
Scripture Reference: Ruth 1:16, 21; 4:14-15
Have you ever broken a bone? Had surgery? Needed physical therapy? If so, you know that recovery often takes longer that we think it will. The same is true as someone close to us recovers from a tragedy. It takes a lot longer than we think. And most of the time, we aren’t sure how to respond. What should we say? How should we act? What can we do when nothing seems to help? In the story of Naomi and Ruth, we find a beautiful example of how one friend helps another make it to the other side of tragedy. And, in their story, we find that friends, not fixers, can be just what God uses to heal those walking through a shadowland.

Session Three: Drop the Anchor
Bottom Line: Nothing can pull you from the God who loves you.
Scripture Reference: Romans 8:31-32, 35, 37-39
So where is God when tragedy strikes? It’s a question you can’t help asking. Facing a tragedy, big or small, can shake anyone’s faith. Suddenly, nothing is certain. Nothing feels safe. And we wonder where God is and whether He has abandoned us in a shadowland. As the confusion of tragedy swirls around us, we all need something to hold on to. An anchor. In the words of the Apostle Paul, spoken from the middle of a shadowland, we learn a truth that can steady us in times of tragedy. And if we hold on tight, we may find that it’s just what we need to help us move forward.

Emergency Kit
The Emergency Kit for the Shadowland series contains some basic information and resources to help you prepare for and navigate through when a tragedy occurs.
XP
The XP for the Shadowland series is in three parts designed to help students walk through three tools to help them in a shadowland: Devotional, prayer cards and scripture.

Parent Cue
The Parent Cue for the Shadowland series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which offers insight for parents to be patient with their teen as they walk through tragedy and not try to “fix” it with words, and “Try This,” which encourages parents to reach out to other parents and resources who may have gone through similar situations to gain insight on how to move forward.

Supplemental Video
Bumper video (1:03) – included with series download
Teaching Video – Ben Crawshaw – Session 1 (15:50)
Teaching Video – Ben Crawshaw – Session 2 (14:59)
Teaching Video – Ben Crawshaw – Session 3 (14:36)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.
Have you ever heard someone say: Every cloud has a silver lining? It means with every storm, with every cloud, there is a something good about it. That’s a nice little saying, but sometimes silver linings are hard to find in real life, aren’t they? It’s hard to see the good qualities when it comes to people at school who aren’t so nice to you or teachers who make your day miserable. Maybe the hardest place to see a silver lining is your family. In the best situations, family members can be annoying, but for many of us it goes beyond that to real brokenness and painful memories. Very few families in history have experienced more brokenness than Joseph’s did in the Bible. After his father played favorites and his brothers sold him into slavery, it must have been hard to believe any good would come out of his situation. But through his story, we see that God can use us to change our relationship with even the most difficult family members. And if we’re willing to look for it, we may just find the silver lining in our family.

Session One: Every Family Has One
Bottom Line: Your family may not act great, but you can still respond in a great way.
Scripture References: Genesis 37:3-4; 45:4-5, 8, 11
Do you ever look at your family and wonder, “How on Earth did I end up with these people?” You’ve seen normal families on TV. Maybe you even know some families who seem normal, but that just doesn’t look like the people who live at your house. This is especially frustrating since you’re kind of stuck when it comes to family. You didn’t choose them. And while you can “unfriend” someone you can’t “unfamily” them. So what are your options when it comes to a family that often feels “less than ideal”? In the Bible, Joseph was faced with the same question. And though he had every reason to walk away from his family forever, what he did instead gives us a clue how we can find the silver lining in our family story, even when circumstances aren’t perfect.

Session Two: Now & Later
Bottom Line: Learning to deal with your family is as much about your future as it is about your now.
Scripture References: Genesis 39:4, 22
Family isn’t easy. And sometimes it’s really tempting to give up or check out because you know that in a few short years you’ll be out of the house, on your own, and surrounding yourself with people who don’t embarrass you in public. But what if your exit strategy is flawed? What if just surviving your family now doesn’t solve your problems but just brings them into the future with you? What if the things you do and say this week will actually matter years down the road and long after you stop having a curfew? Even after leaving his family’s home, Joseph found himself in a number of situations where he had to live with and listen to people who didn’t deserve his respect. In each relationship, as he practiced honoring God by honoring others, Joseph’s attitude toward authority made all the difference for him and eventually for his entire family.

Session Three: Climate Change
Bottom Line: You can change the mood in every room you walk into.
Scripture References: Genesis 50:15, 19-21
Have you ever walked into a room and been able to feel the tension? Or have you ever left a tense or awkward situation and felt yourself instantly relax? The truth is, every room and every situation has a climate—not just a temperature but also a feeling, a mood. But did you know that climate often depends on you? You know exactly how to crank up the awkwardness, the tension, the stress. But you also have the power to turn up the joy, the laughter, and make your house a better place to be. As we conclude the story of Joseph, we uncover two simple steps that forever changed the story of his family. And if we’re brave enough to follow his example, they may change the climate at our home too.
XP
THE XP for SILVER LINING encourages students write a “thank-you” postcard to one member of their family.

**Parent Cue**
The Parent Cue for the Silver Lining series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which reminds parents that their students feel stressed as much as they do and encourages them to emphasize fun over schedules and “Try This”, which challenges parents to bravely plan a family fun outing even when they suspect their student doesn’t want to hang out with them.

**Supplemental Video**
Bumper video (1:36) – included with series download
Teaching Video – Ben Crawshaw – Session 1 (16:58)
Teaching Video – Crystal Chiang – Session 2 (14:30)
Teaching Video – Ben Crawshaw – Session 3 (16:10)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special "partner" price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.
The Fighter
3 week series / 15 credits
Category: Connect Relationally
Featured: Fall 2013

All families fight. It’s inevitable. We fight to be heard. We fight to get what we want. We fight for things to be fair. And oftentimes, the fighting leaves us in worse shape than before we started. But what if fighting didn’t have to be such a bad thing? What if fighting could leave us better than when we started? Maybe, instead of fighting for everything we want, we change our focus. What if we fought for the relationship with our parents and our siblings instead of against them? If that is the case, maybe a good fight is just what we need!

Session One: Fight for Honor
Bottom Line: We aren’t responsible for what our parents do, but we are responsible for what we do.
Scripture References: Ephesians 6:1-3
No family is perfect. We all know it. And sometimes we think that if we could just escape our family, everything would be great. But we can’t change our parents, and we can’t escape them. What we can do is change the relationship we have with them. The book of Ephesians gives us some insight into just how to do this, and it may not be what you might expect. So what can you do to be the fighter in your family?

Session Two: Fight for the Relationship
Bottom Line: When you turn your heart towards your parents, it turns your relationship towards God.
Scripture References: Malachi 4:6
Most fights come down to one thing: Perspective. Often what we want for ourselves isn’t what our parents want for us and this can cause some serious tension. So what do we do when we can’t see eye-to-eye with them? The Bible reminds us that the way we handle our parents when we aren’t getting what we want has to do with more than just our relationship with them; it’s a reflection of our relationship with God. Because when we turn our hearts towards our parents, we find ourselves moving closer to God as well.

Session Three: Fight for Acceptance
Bottom Line: Acceptance is powerful
Scripture References: Matthew 5:43-45
Jesus had some powerful things to say about how we relate to our enemies. And sometimes it feels like our greatest enemies are the ones who live under our own roof. While sibling rivalry may feel like a 24/7 challenge to you now, some day the relationships with your brothers and sisters may be the most important ones in your life. So how do you get there? How do you make the move to fight for those future relationships?

XP
The XP for The Fighter series is an Individual XP which asks students to write a thank you note to each of their parents.

Parent Experience
The Fighter series includes an optional Parent XP which is a chance to invite parents to an Open House for your student ministry. This Open House is intended to help you cast vision for your ministry and to help connect your Small Group Leaders with the parents of their students.
Parent Cue
The Parent Cue for The Fighter series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which reminds parents that their students are going through a time of self-development and encourages them to be patient and “Try This,” which gives parents some ideas for how to deal with the inevitable emotional moments that come with raising a teenager.

Supplemental Video
Bumper video (1:10) - included with series download
Teaching Video – Jamey Dickens – Session 1 (14:24)
Teaching Video – Jamey Dickens – Session 2 (15:40)
Teaching Video – Ben Crawshaw – Session 3 (14:38)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been license.
The Making Of A King
4 week series / 20 credits
Category: Examine Biblically
Featured: Summer 2015

Every good story has a hero. Think about it. Superman. Luke Skywalker. Katniss Everdeen. They aren’t just random characters. They’re larger than life. Maybe they’re not perfect, but they’re exciting and they’re brave. And that’s what keeps us interested. That’s why we cheer for them. Believe it or not, the Bible is full of heroes like that. They don’t have capes and light sabers, but they are heroes who fought giants, built arks, became spies, defeated armies, and saved the day over and over. One of the most famous ones is named David—or maybe you know him as King David. Like many others, David’s life was exciting, epic even. And at first glance it can feel like we have zero common with him. Even on our most exciting days our lives don’t exactly feel heroic. But as we take a closer look at the journey of this shepherd boy turned king, we see it wasn’t always a royal fairytale. In fact, as we discover the twists and turns of his road to the throne, his life begins to look more like ours than we ever imagined.

Session One: The Underdog
Bottom Line: Your now matters now.
Scripture Reference: 1 Samuel 16:7-12, 34-37
Have you ever looked at your life and felt...bored? Maybe you’re just waiting to be able to drive, just waiting to graduate, just waiting to get a job. Of course one day you want to do something significant, something meaningful but that can leave your right now feeling like a big waste of time. If you’ve ever felt that way, you have a lot in common with David. He wasn’t always king. In the beginning, he was just a teenager stuck with the most boring job in his family. Shepherding. Most days he sat in a field just waiting for something, anything to happen. While it wasn’t glamorous, what David did in the moments when his life seemed least important may be the very thing that catapulted him into the role of hero. And, what we learn from his story has the power to change the way we see our right now from now on.

Session Two: With Honor
Bottom Line: When it comes to authority, it’s not about them. It’s about Him.
Scripture Reference: 1 Samuel 26:7, 9-11
Nothing is worse than having someone in charge who really shouldn’t be in charge. Whether it’s the referee who is obviously blind, the boss who is unfair, or the teacher who seems clueless, there’s nothing fun about following someone you feel should never have been the leader in the first place. Most of the time we feel powerless. What can we do about it? Before he was king, David found himself in a similar situation. Under the authority of a crazy man who kept trying to kill him, it seemed David had every right to fight back against the person in charge, King Saul. But what he did instead—and why he did it—can be a game changer for us when it comes to dealing with the authority in our lives.

Session Three: Dirty Little Secret
Bottom Line: Hiding in the dark hurts; being in the light heals
Scripture Reference: 2 Samuel 11:26-27; 12:1-4, 7a, 13a; Psalm 51:1-10
David was famous for a lot of things: killing a giant, winning battles, writing poetry, becoming king. He was a talented guy for sure. But he is also known for something else—total failure. Sure, maybe you’ve tripped in front of everyone. Maybe you told a lie and got caught. Maybe your fail moment even ended up on YouTube. But chances are you haven’t done anything that has kept people talking for over a thousand years. That’s what happened with David. He messed up royally. And just like the rest of us, David’s first instinct was to cover it up. To make it go away. Eventually his plan fell apart. And while it was painful, what we learn from his story can give us the courage to avoid the same heartbreak.
Session Four: Braveheart
Bottom Line: Start with His heart
Scripture Reference: Acts 13:22

Have you ever known someone who seems to have everything go his or her way? The teacher loses her test, so she just gives her an A? He shoots wildly from half court and gets nothing but net? It’s like their whole lives are one good thing after another. In a lot of ways, David was one of those people. It was like God was always on his side, helping him slay giants, win battles, and even making him king. But what was it about David? How did he seem to always have God’s attention and how do you sign up for that?

As it turns out, the thing that made David stand out wasn’t all that complicated. He didn’t have some magic combination of looks + talent + athletic ability. He didn’t even have perfect behavior. In fact, only one thing made the difference between a normal life and an extraordinary one for David. And if we’re willing to say yes, it can do the same for us.

XP
The XP for The Making Of A King series is an Individual XP where students will write a quick postcard to one authority telling them something they respect about them and send it to them.

Parent Cue
The Parent Cue for The Making Of A King series includes three sections: “We’re Teaching This,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to model a healthy respect for authority figures. and “Try This” which challenges parents to share with their student one example of when it’s difficult for them to respect authority and how they handle it.

Supplemental Video
Bumper video (1:00) – included with series download
Teaching Video – Holly Crawshaw– Session 1 (11:31)
Teaching Video – Justin Warner – Session 2 (11:09)
Teaching Video – Clay Scroggins– Session 3 (17:26)
Teaching Video – Clay Scroggins – Session 4 (14:35)

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Christmas Unexpected

3 week series / 15 credits
Category: Serve Actively
Christmas Series
Featured: Winter 2015-2016

When it comes to Christmas, there is a lot to look forward to. Candy canes, tinsel, twinkling lights, and—oh, right. The gifts. If you’re like most people, you’ve probably spent some time thinking about the gifts you’re hoping to receive this Christmas. Maybe you’ve even made a list so your friends and family know exactly what to give you. But while it’s fun to unwrap a gift you’ve been waiting and hoping for, have you ever been given a gift that took you entirely by surprise? A gift you didn’t even know you wanted until you opened it? A gift that was completely unexpected? Unexpected gifts have been at the heart of the Christmas story for more than two thousand years, beginning with the very first Christmas. And believe it or not, it was God who began the tradition. For the next few weeks, we’ll talk about three times God surprised the world with a gift that was entirely unexpected. And, as we do, we might just discover how much those gifts continue to matter today.

Session 1: Silent Treatment
Bottom Line: Even when God is silent, He’s up to something.
Scripture References: Matthew 1:16; Galatians 4:4
You’ve heard of the silent treatment, right? If you’ve ever been on the receiving end of the silent treatment then you know it’s confusing, hurtful, and just no fun at all. Have you ever felt like you were getting the silent treatment from God? You’ve prayed for something and felt like you never heard Him respond. You’ve been in a hard situation or have questions about things happening around you, and it seems like God is nowhere to be found. If you’ve ever felt that way about God, I’ve got some news for you—you’re not alone! In fact, lots of people in the Bible felt this way, too. As the Old Testament came to a close, believers in God were left with hundreds of years of what seemed like silence before His work in the New Testament began. But as we look at the end of one chapter and the beginning of another, we’ll see that even though God seemed silent, He was working on behalf of His people all along. Christmas was coming!

Session 2: By My Side
Bottom Line: In Jesus, we get Someone who gets us.
Scripture References: Matthew 1:20-23; Hebrews 4:15
Think about your best friend. It’s probably someone you think is pretty awesome, right? They like the same things you like, they really make you laugh, they text you nonstop, and of course, they ‘like’ all of your Instagram pics. You probably feel like they really get you—and that’s a great feeling. When it comes to friendship, we’d all like to be close to someone who knows every part of our story—even the worst parts—and loves us anyway. But if you really think about it, can that kind of friend exist? Nobody is perfect, but what we’re looking for is the perfect friend. And the truth is even the very best friend can’t be a perfect friend. The good news is we do have access to Someone who truly gets us, Someone who has the ability to be the perfect friend to us. Looking back at the Christmas story, we’ll see how God reminded Mary and Joseph of the kind of friend He was to them and the lengths He would go in order to truly be the friend who understands everything about them. And through their story, maybe you’ll begin to see that He feels the same way about you.
Session 3: Power Source

Bottom Line: The Holy Spirit helps you follow through.

Scripture References: Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:16-17a

Have you ever made a New Year’s resolution? There’s just something about a new year that makes us want to do something to make this year different or better than the one before it. The problem with resolutions is that we hardly ever keep them! And if we’re honest, we probably don’t think it’s that big of a deal when we don’t. Maybe that’s why we’re so hesitant to create goals that involve our faith. If we fail to meet that goal, we’ve not just let ourselves down—we feel like we’ve let God down too! Jesus’s disciples often felt a similar kind of pressure when it came to following through with what He called them to do. The things He asked of them sometimes seemed impossible for them to actually do on their own—and they were! But as we look back to the book of Matthew, we’ll see that Jesus left His disciples with an unexpected source of help to follow through with anything He called them to do. And what’s even better, He gives us access to the same so that nothing is impossible for us when we’re with Him.

XP

The XP for the UNEXPECTED series encourages students to serve someone else in an unexpected or surprising way.

Parent Cue

The Parent Cue for the UNEXPECTED series includes three sections: “We’re teaching this,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents fight for the relationship with their kids instead of fighting for traditions and “Try This,” which challenges parents to have a conversation with their son or daughter about what holiday traditions mean a lot to them and which ones the family can let go of during this phase of life.

Supplemental Video

Bumper video (1:00) – included with series download
Teaching Video – Clay Scroggins – Session 1 (tbd)
Teaching Video – Clay Scroggins – Session 2 (tbd)
Teaching Video – Crystal Chiang – Session 3 (tbd)

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Wired
3 week series / 15 credits
Category: Examine Biblically
Featured: Fall 2015

How many hours are you technologically connected on a normal day? If you were to add up your hours online, your glances at text messages, your streaming music, your perusing social media, your Netflix addiction, how many hours could you count? It’s probably a lot. Our culture is obsessed with technology—and with good reason. Technology keeps us connected to each other and to the world around us. Nearly every device we own transmits signals to something else, somewhere else. Why? Because that’s how they’re wired to function. Our phones, tablets, smart watches, gaming systems—they all are wired to connect to something outside them. And the same is true for us. We are wired for connection. It’s in our design. As we take a closer look at what Jesus called “the greatest commandment”, we discover that we were wired to have three vital relationships: with God, with ourselves, and with others. And when those connections are made, everything else begins to function as it was designed.

Session One: Wireless
Bottom Line: The image of God is everywhere we imagine.
Scripture References: Genesis 1:1, 27; Deuteronomy 6:4-5
Do you know how a cell phone works? What about a tablet? Or what about the WiFi connection at your favorite coffee shop. Sure, we like using them, but doesn’t it seem strange to you that you can type a few words and they pop up on a screen on the other side of town? Or you can snap a photo on your phone and make it appear instantly on someone else’s, even if they’re in another country? The truth is, we’re around wireless devices all the time but most of us have no idea how they work. They feel like magic. And if we’re honest, sometimes we get the same feeling when it comes to God. People talk about knowing Him or even loving Him, but how does that work when you can’t see Him? How do you have a conversation with someone who doesn’t talk back? Believe it or not, the answer may be far less complicated than you think. As we take a look back at the very beginning we discover that, not only did God design the world around us, but He wired something in us that can help us to connect with Him. And when we take notice of it, we may just find that He becomes less invisible to us all the time.

Session Two: Weird
Bottom Line: God always loves you as you already are.
Scripture References: Genesis 1:27, 31; Matthew 22:37-39; 1 John 3:1
We are constantly asking ourselves the question, “is this worth it?” It happens when we’re comparing cell phones and data plans. It happens when we’re deciding whether to go to the gym or stay at home. It happens with nearly every purchase we make. Our brains are awesome at calculating worth by comparing one thing to another. So it makes sense that when we think about ourselves, our brains do the same thing. We make comparisons, assess features, and determine a value—we figure out where we measure up next to everyone else. It can be a painful process. That’s why, when we hear that Jesus said, “love your neighbor as yourself”, we want to ask if we heard Him correctly. Because we’re pretty good at comparing ourselves and criticizing ourselves, but loving ourselves? That’s harder—maybe impossible. But what if Jesus saw something in us that we don’t? It’s possible that, in all the comparison and calculating, we’ve missed the very thing that was meant to give us the most value in the first place.
Session Three: **Wires Crossed**  
**Bottom Line:** If you want to connect with God, be in community with people.  
**Scripture References:** Genesis 2:18; Matthew 22:37-40  
Complicated. It’s the best word to describe any relationship. Even with the best of friends, a wrong word, a wrong look, a single miscommunication and things can get awkward quickly. The same is true for coaches, classmates, and especially family. No matter how good things are, it seems we’re only one misstep away from an explosion. That kind of pressure is enough to make anybody want to hide in a cave and watch Netflix. But from the very beginning, God makes it clear that we weren’t wired to be alone. In fact, Jesus goes so far as to say that we aren’t just wired to be in community but we’re wired to love our community—that loving Him and loving *them* are connected. So while some days it may sound nice to live on a deserted island, we’ll never be who He made us to be if we aren’t connecting with those around us. Yes, it will certainly be messy, complicated, and confusing, but we can be sure that loving the people around us as we love ourselves will always be worth it.

**XP**  
The XP for the Wired series is a Large Group (Individual) XP that will encourage students will write on notecards words or phrases that describe places they’ve seen God’s wiring in the world around them and attach the cards to a WIRED WALL each week.

**Parent Cue**  
In addition to summary information of the series and sessions for the unLikely series, the Parent Cue for this series provides questions that both parents and students can use to interact with one another. It also includes an article to encourage parents that even though they may feel “unlikely” at times to have an impact on their child, God says they are likely.

**Supplemental Videos**  
Bumper video (1:00) – *included with series download*  
Teaching Video – Joseph Sojourner – Session 1 (12:22)  
Teaching Video – Justin Warner – Session 2 (12:00)  
Teaching Video – Holly Crawshaw – Session 3 (11:49)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been licensed.
Walk Away
3 week series / 15 credits
Examine Biblically
Featured: Summer 2013

All of us, at one time or another, have dealt with—or will deal with—the temptation to walk away from Christianity or Jesus Himself. Thankfully, we are not alone. In fact, one of Jesus’ more famous disciples, Peter, faced the same issues we do—wrestling with guilt, doubt, and difficult dynamics with other people. But what Peter chose to do can offer us some hope in our own faith journey. Peter hung in there—he didn’t walk away, and as a result, his life was never the same.

Session One: Denied
Bottom Line: Jesus never runs out of second chances.
Maybe when you think about being a Christian, certain things come to mind of what you shouldn’t do or be. But you can’t ever seem to get it together. And even though you know what you should be, the feeling of guilt from falling short over and over again is overwhelming. Peter, one of Jesus’ disciples was familiar with the same kind of feeling, which could have caused him to walk away. But Peter didn’t walk away and you don’t have to either.

Session Two: Sunk
Bottom Line: Jesus is okay with our doubt.
The apostle Peter was known for doing some big things—good big things, and other things not so praiseworthy. But what Peter got right was the ability to step out—literally and figuratively. Accepting Jesus’ invitation to step out of the boat and walk on the water, Peter did what no other disciple did. But when he took his eyes off Jesus, he lost focus and started to sink. How did Peter react? How would we react? What happens when fear starts to take over? Do we walk away or are we able to recover?

Session Three: Real People
Bottom Line: Don’t confuse people with God.
“Peter was one of the biggest figures of the church in an exciting time, but also a challenging one. People had big questions, strong opinions and conflicting ideas about what the church should look like—and not everyone liked where Peter stood. Other people can sometimes be a bigger stumbling block than anything else when it comes to following Jesus. So what do you do when other people are what’s holding up your faith? What do you do when you want to get to Jesus but others seem to be in the way? How do you stick around and not walk away?

XP
The XP for the Walk Away series is a large group XP which includes a panel of people who have dealt with guilt, doubt and other people in their faith journey and have chosen to stick it out—and have reaped the benefits of hanging in with their faith.
Parent Cue
The Parent Cue for the Walk Away series includes three sections: “Be a Student of What They are Learning,” which provides a way for parents to know what you are talking about this series, “Think About This,” which encourages parents to model what it looks like to stick it out through tough situations and “Try This,” which gives parents tips for talking their student through a difficult season and encouraging them to stick with it.

Supplemental Videos
Bumper video (1:01) – included with series download
Teaching Video – Darren Youngstrom – Session 1 (14:08)
Teaching Video – Darren Youngstrom – Session 2 (12:40)
Teaching Video – Ben Crawshaw – Session 3 (17:02)

The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all sessions of the series and is included for FREE in the Graphic Support panel of your series download. The Teaching Videos are designed to be used in place of a live speaker and can be purchased at a special “partner” price by following the links in the “Additional Resources” panel once the series has been licensed.