



[LEADER LESSON GUIDE]

We are providing 5 student ministry lessons that reinforce the theme of YEC this year. Two are found in this guide, and 3 additional lessons will be provided at YEC registration.

In addition, you'll find student listening sheets also included.

These lessons can be used in many ways.

- Two prior to YEC, one the Friday night of YEC and two after YEC
- Two prior to YEC, make up your own short church group devotion the Friday night of YEC, and 3 lessons to follow YEC.
- All 5 after YEC

How you use the lessons is at your discretion, but we hope they are a resource you find valuable in sharing with your students.

These lessons will be printed for you as well as available electronically at WVYEC.com.

****Note, bold and italicized text in the leader's lesson packet represents text also found in the student listening sheets***



LESSON 1 - LEADER GUIDE

OVERVIEW

A BOLD DISCIPLE HAS SECURED A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

Boldness to share the hope that Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection provides is an important tool for all followers of Jesus. How may we have boldness or want boldness if we don't know the one who provides it? *The first step in the lifelong process of becoming a bold and active disciple is simply becoming a disciple and recognizing the goodness of God's plan through salvation. All growth, all knowledge, and all of life stems from this.*

ACTIVITY

If nothing else in God's creation convinces you that he existed and was active in the world, the human body would do the job. Our bodies are capable of great feats and impressive wonders. From high falls and daring jumps, to record sprints and astounding leaps, records have been broken and legends created over centuries of existence. *Here are some current records of extremes for humanity. See if you can guess them.*

- *Time without sleep?* 11 days 24 minutes (Randy Gardner, 1965)
- *Time without food?* 3-6 weeks (Various Persons)
- *Fastest mile?* 3:43.14 (Hicham El Guerrouj, 1999)
- *Fastest marathon?* 2:02:57 (Dennis Kimetto, 2014)
- *Longest time holding breath underwater?* 24:03 (Aleix Segura Vendrell, 2016)
- *Farthest arrow shot using feet?* 6.09 meters (Nancy Siefker, 2013)
- *Longest authenticated modern life?* 122 years 164 days (Jeanne Calment 1875-1997)
- *Fastest 100 meter run on all fours?* 18.58 seconds (Setagaya Undojyo, 2008)
- *Longest full-body direct contact with ice?* 1:49:22 (Wim Hof, 2009)

Some of these records are silly, some are impressive, and some are downright unbelievable. All of them, however, prove that there is a limit to the human body, whether that limit be technical or biological. People are only able to stretch so far.

One of the most concrete limits we know of for our bodies is thirst. Though individuals can vary in their ability to survive without water, any distance beyond three days without water is dangerous. Dire consequences are likely to follow with any time beyond that recommended extreme. All people are thirsty and need water, but the imagery of thirst has a spiritual picture with it as well.

The human spirit is very thirsty, and we see it all around us every day. People strive to find purpose in the lives they live through the things they do to quench this thirst.

QUESTIONS

1. What are some roles that you have as an individual? (student, athlete, son, daughter, etc.) Why are they important to you?

2. Do you feel less “thirsty” (spiritually tired) after fulfilling these roles?

You might think that the roles and activities you participate in and take on are your primary purposes. They’re all “good” things, right? They’re all noble or what ought be done, aren’t they? They may be good things; they may even be great things!

But they are not the best things - they do not define our ultimate purpose and quench our deepest thirsts.

PRAY

Pray that God would open hearts and ears to his Holy Spirit and his perfect Word as we approach him with humility and thanksgiving.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 4:1-42

Jesus shares how our thirst can be satisfied and how our lives may reflect the purposes set out for us at the beginning of time.

The Source Provides Hope

Juliane Koepcke was 17 years old on Christmas Eve 1971. She was flying from Lima, Peru to Pucallpa, Peru to see her father when the plane took a sudden nosedive, broke in two, and she was cast into the jungle canopy. Having a broken collarbone, many gashes, and poor vision because of her broken glasses, Koepcke was forced to explore the wild, desolate rain forest wounded and alone. She navigated the terrain by walking along a partially dried rivulet (small stream) nearby where she landed. Using the water to both navigate and hydrate, Koepcke found relief after nine days when a group of men with a boat found her on the bank of the stream. Koepcke survived, and she largely credits her survival to the discovery of that water source.

(Bridge to spiritual parallel in students' lives and ask the following question.)

QUESTION

How might Koepcke have felt when she realized she couldn't fix her situation without guidance or aid (such as that from the river)?

DISCUSSION

In the passage from John, the Samaritan woman is confronted with her need for spiritual water. Jesus tells her that he can provide for her a "living water," and identifies himself as the origin of this living water. Once we understand that all people are thirsty for a purpose, for a healing, for living water, we must next understand that Jesus is the source of living water.

People need the Living Water because the thirst they have cannot be quenched by their own actions. The thirst is caused by sin - the "breaking of [God's] law" (1 John 3:14) or of God's instructions. Sin is a choice against God, and all men and women since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden have sinned (Romans 3:23). Death came through sin and "spread to all men, because all sinned" (Romans 5:12). Our thirst extends beyond an

earthly consequence of purposelessness and pain and suffering. Our thirst has eternal consequences. Without the living water, death happens not once but eternally in a place of suffering and separation from God the Bible calls Hell (Matthew 25:46).

The good news is that God loved us so much that He had abundant mercy on us and sent his son Jesus to die in our place on the cross (John 3:16-17). Jesus' sacrifice and death-defeating resurrection allows us to mend our relationship with God and pursue the plan God made for our lives at the foundation of the world. All we must do to receive this gift, this living water, is believe and express faith in who Jesus is and in his sacrifice (Romans 10:9-10).

To find water and safety, one must go to the source as we saw in Juliane Koepcke's story. To find the Living Water and salvation, one must also go to the source as Jesus said in John 4. Salvation and living water are found in Jesus alone.

ACTIVITY

Everyone has a pet peeve, something that annoys them. Ticks and taps and titters can be extremely frustrating, and they can drive us crazy when we cannot do anything about them. Discuss some of your pet peeves with the group. Be kind. Be respectful. Be tactfully honest.

- Chewing gum with one's mouth open
- Shaking and slurping drinks
- Rustling popcorn in the movie theater
- Tapping pencils/pens on a desk
- Having your desk kicked from behind
- Licking fingers at the dinner table
- Public displays of affection
- Out-of-state drivers

When we see people who are doing the things that irritate us most, we tend to avoid them. In fact, we might even reprimand them for what they're doing or say things to others about those actions. The individual Jesus was talking to would have irritated most Jews. She was a Samaritan, a member of a group of Jews who had long ago intermarried with peoples of the local region. The Samaritans did not convene for worship at the temple in Jerusalem, but rather went to Mount Gerizim and worshiped in the region

that Jacob had settled, dug wells, and built altars. The Samaritans were simply different from the Jews, and each group declared interaction with the other to be unclean and undesirable. She would've irritated them beyond her heritage with the fact that she was a woman. It was widely taught and understood that much conversation with women was useless and wasteful. To all others, and even Jesus' disciples (John 4:27), Jesus talking with this individual was amazing and beyond annoying or agitating. It was disgraceful, even appalling in the eyes of the culture.

More important than her offense to the Jews was the woman's offense to God in her sin (John 4:16-20). It doesn't take much insight to recognize that the woman was a sinner, but it does take great insight to understand why Jesus spoke with her. For in spite of her offense to man, and in spite of her offense to God, Jesus still offered her Living Water. The message here is this. All people are thirsty for the Living Water, Jesus is the source of living water, and Jesus extends living water to sinners.

CONCLUSION

What do we do with this Good News? All people must respond in faith to the Living Water.

FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW JESUS:

Today is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2). Make no delay in quenching your life's thirst with the Living Water. Make no delay in being obedient and accepting the great mercy of the Savior. Be bold in newfound life, and be bold as your joy overflows into obedience. Use these weeks to nurture a desire to reach unbelievers, equip yourself for sharing, and ultimately grow God's Kingdom beyond this conference.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE DISCIPLES OF JESUS:

Salvation is instantaneous, but obedience from victory is unending. Use these weeks to reinvigorate your faith and become bold for the Gospel. Develop your understanding of the Good News. Come out of this conference with a deeper understanding of the role of a disciple, and a broader knowledge of the implications of Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.

FOR ALL:

Be bold in Jesus.

“For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love, and sound judgement.” (2 Timothy 1:7)

“Listen to what I am telling you: Open your eyes and look at the fields, for they are ready for harvest. The reaper is already receiving pay and gathering fruit for eternal life, so the sower and reaper can rejoice together.” (John 4:35-36)



LESSON 2 - LEADER GUIDE

OVERVIEW

A BOLD DISCIPLE IS STRENGTHENED BY THE POWER OF JESUS

Desire for a life of boldness is useless without power. On our own, we are not powerful enough to follow and obey God. We need the power and peace our Savior provides through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit to glorify God fully. In our weakness, there is a strength greater than our own that can carry us to victory.

DISCUSSION

In ancient times, the seal of the king, queen, or ruler was an important symbol. Usually an impression of clay or wax, the seal took the form of an inscribed picture or shape. This symbol would become the unique identifier of the ruler. Thus, seals revealed some important facts about the document being sealed.

Do governments today use seals? How important are they? What does a seal say about the document being sealed?

First, the seal verified the authenticity of the document in question. Important orders would never be given without the ruler's seal. The provision of the seal allowed for recognition of its legitimacy.

Second, the seal verified the identity of the document's author. To fraudulently pass off a sealed document as the ruler's handiwork would've been a serious offense with severe consequences. No one used the ruler's seal except for the ruler ... or else.

PRAY

Pray that God would open hearts and ears to his Holy Spirit and his perfect Word as we approach him with humility and thanksgiving.

SCRIPTURE READING

We are now going to look at a passage from God's Word where the seal of the King of Kings is discussed.

Ephesians 1:13-14

The Holy Spirit is the seal of King Jesus. The sovereign ruler of all time and creation seals each believer upon profession of faith in Jesus.

- How are we sealed, though? [RHETORICAL]
- How does this empower and embolden us? [RHETORICAL]

ACTIVITY

The Impossible Game

- Select 2 students.
- Blindfold one of the students so that they cannot see.
- Use a book or an item that will be the "goal" of the game. Hide it in a place the blindfolded individual physically will never reach.
- Instruct the partner without the blindfold to whisper instructions to their partner.
- Instruct the rest of the group to yell or speak loudly and give the wrong directions.
- Instruct the blindfolded partner to find the object.
- Ideally, they will not be able to hear their partner's whispered directions and will be extremely frustrated with the game.
- NOTE : The game should be impossible.

Upon a transformational encounter with the Living Water, like the encounter we discussed last session, we realize that there is no possible way that we can please God and

reach the goal of eternal communion with Him through our own works.

This silly game demonstrates the much larger and much more serious predicament we find ourselves in prior to salvation. Sin blocks our way, and because of our nature we cannot reach God or the goals he has for us. Thankfully, the sacrifice of Jesus changes this.

The King's seal, the Holy Spirit, first seals the individual's release from sin. Jesus' death was ultimately for the glory of his Father. It was granted before time began that we would have the chance to participate in this plan. God is greatly glorified by the voluntary praise and relationship of humanity. Thus, Jesus' death was "for the redemption of the possession (people) to the praise of his glory."

QUESTIONS

1. How does it impact your personal relationship with Jesus to know that you were pursued by God, and that the King sealed you with the Holy Spirit "for the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory?"

2. What does it mean to you that an all-powerful God capable of removing sin has called you to follow him?

DISCUSSION

"An Unbelievable Inheritance "

Inheritances are a popular way of ensuring care for one's children and grandchildren after they have died. Many individuals pass something down beyond the years of their life.

According to the recent Wealth-X and NFP Family Wealth Transfers Report, "at least \$16 trillion of global ultra high net worth wealth will be transferred to the next generation over the next 30 years." Some inheritances come from close sources such as family, and some come from strangers under odd circumstances.

One particularly wild inheritance was that of Luis Carlos de Noronha Cabral de Camara. Over a decade before his death, the wealthy Portuguese man chose 70 individuals at

random from a phone book in Lisbon. In a country such as Portugal where will-creation is not common, the inheritance bequeathed to a random grouping of people was eye opening for sure!

The Holy Spirit seals the inheritance of the believer. The inheritance spoken of here is not a common earthly inheritance. The inheritance of the believer is being in the presence of God eternally. We who are living have not yet experienced God's presence in its fullness yet, but the seal of the King, the indwelling Holy Spirit, serves as proof and promise of the coming face to face encounter with God we will have in heaven.

To be freed *from* something is to be freed *to* something. The burden of choice beyond the moment of liberation is upon the freedman. The King not only seals an individual's release from sin to an eternal inheritance, but He also seals the purpose of the believer. By coming into communion with God in an intimate relationship removed from sin and based on the promises of God, we are given the same power that raised Jesus from the grave to fulfill our purpose. We can choose life and godliness because we are transformed and have the Holy Spirit in us.

The Holy Spirit equips us with ...

1. Power for the mind: Scripture should overflow from the heart. We are given greater comprehension of the things of God as we are sanctified and grow more mature.

2. Power for the body: The Holy Spirit equips us with the endurance to fulfill God's mission and overcome physical barriers (bodily or otherwise around us).

3. Peace for the Spirit: God's Word through the imparted wisdom of the Holy Spirit is comforting and assuring, and it gives us peace in the tumultuous times we live in.

Believers are released from the bondage of sin into the freedom of servitude to Jesus, and they are charged with a divine purpose. They subsequently are equipped with power and peace sufficient for all aspects of the believer's calling. The Holy Spirit builds within us a confidence for the Gospel from this foundation, and boldness in our weakness is produced.

CONCLUSION

The Holy Spirit seals and equips believers to be reliant on the awe-inspiring power of God to endure present sufferings and enjoy eternal glories.

FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW JESUS:

Today is the day of salvation. Jesus is big enough to overcome your sin, and he has already done so. You can be forgiven at the foot of the cross, and you can be empowered by his Spirit to fulfill your purpose and glorify the Father. Choose Jesus, and choose the power that has already overcome the world you presently cling to.

FOR THOSE WHO DO KNOW JESUS:

The same power that defeated death and resurrected Jesus is living inside of you. What is there to fear? Who is there to stand in the way of the almighty God of the universe? Boldly live and proclaim the name of Jesus. Live as though you are sealed for eternity by the Holy Spirit as God's possession and are empowered and equipped by the King.

FOR ALL:

Be bold in Jesus.

“For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.” (2 Timothy 1:7)

“When you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed in him, you were also sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. He is the down payment of our inheritance, for the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.” (Ephesians 1:13-14)