

Name of Teacher:	
Grade:	Scripture Used:
Title of Lesson:	
OBJECTIVES	
<i>Historical Context: 3 Parts – 1. Historical Situation 2. Historical choice made 3. Historical result</i>	
<i>Timeless Truth: 3 Parts that parallel the Historical, but remove time bound principles and ideas</i>	
Culturally relevant application & Questions: <i>The timeless truth with today's cultural context added</i>	
Historical Lead-Up: <i>Review history already taught or relevant history important to this lesson's story.</i>	
Read the whole passage of Scripture: <i>This can be broken up and read in pieces by students, the teacher may read, or you can use a digital source like Bible Gateway's dramatic bible reading feature.</i>	

Introduction: *A personal example, illustration, set of questions to grab student's attention and lead them into the first point of the lesson or become a hinge point throughout the lesson.*

Transition: *A seamless plan for moving from your introduction into your lesson without creating a distinguishable change so that students do not turn off once the interesting story or illustration is over and the Bible story begins.*

Lesson Outline: Writing out all the key main and supporting points of the historical context. This is the narrative. This is what you use to help you story-tell the lesson. The better the teacher knows the story, the less they will feel tied down to the paper.

Add-On's: A connection to real life, another example or illustration, Questions to get students to stop and think, taking time to look over a map, etc...

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Conclusion: This is *not* to be the moment where the teacher flips the switch and reteaches about how this lesson applies to us today. Most of that should have been woven into the lesson at key points of tension and choice. There may be trace amounts of that here, but the main purpose for a conclusion is to provide closure, questions that leave the students thinking further, or a practical challenge.



Unit 1: What did Jesus say to do? (Acts 1-3) 30 AD

Lesson 1: Preparing to make little Christs

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

1. Preparing to make Little Christs

John 16:1-24 (1 Corinthians 3:16 / John 14:26 / Titus 3:5 / John 3:5-8)

Lesson 1: S - Prior to Jesus' resurrection He was beginning to prepare them for what life will be like for them when He is gone. **C** - Jesus tells the disciples that He must go so that another can come (referring the Holy Spirit) to continue the work He started and that this change is for the better. **R**. The disciples react confused and could not understand why Jesus would have to leave, and how that could be for the best.

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result (missing history)

1. Preparing to make Little Christs

John 16:1-24 (1 Corinthians 3:16 / John 14:26 / Titus 3:5 / John 3:5-8)

Lesson 1: S - Jesus has already sent the Holy Spirit to indwell those that give their lives to Him. **C** - This power inside God's children makes us alive in Christ, helps us to fight sin, and has to power to spread the love of Jesus on to others. **R**. We can either live like the Holy Spirit is not relevant or important as the overwhelming power of Jesus inside us or allow the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us in amazing ways.

PART 1C: CULTURAL TIME CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

1. Preparing to make Little Christs

John 16:1-24 / 1 Corinthians 3:16 / John 14:26 / Titus 3:5 / John 3:5-8

Lesson 1: S - Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit to indwell those that are Christians like God indwelt the temple in the Old Testament. **C** - This power inside God's children makes us alive in Christ, helps us to fight sin, and has to power to spread the love of Jesus on to others. **R**. We are called to be the new temple of the Holy Spirit and let those around us experience Jesus through our lives, choices, and words.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect

- 1. Who is the Holy Spirit? What is the connection of Jesus to the Holy Spirit?*
- 2. What are the main roles of the Holy Spirit as it pertains to salvation?*
- 3. What did Jesus mean when He said he must go so that another can come?*
- 4. What does it mean to be the new temple? What is the connection to the Old Testament temple?*

Unit 1: What did Jesus say to do? (Acts 1-3) 30 AD

Lesson 2: Filled from within - The filling of the Holy Spirit

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

2. Filled from within

Acts 1-2 (Romans 15:13 / John 16:8 / Galatians 5:16-26)

Lesson 2: S - A few days after the disciples obeyed Jesus and waited in Jerusalem the Holy Spirit came down like a wind and filled each one of them internally. **C**. Once filled with the Holy Spirit the disciples went out into the streets of Jerusalem and spoke the Gospel message to all the Jews of different nations and languages who were there for Passover and Pentecost. **R**. As they spoke the message of Jesus sacrifice and resurrection, thousands of Jews became believers and were also changed into followers of Jesus Christ.

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result (missing history)

2. Filled from within

Acts 1-2 (Romans 15:13 / John 16:8 / Galatians 5:16-26)

Lesson 2: S - When a person gives their life to Jesus He fills them with the Holy Spirit. **C**. Once filled with the Holy Spirit, His power and love overflows out of us onto others we come in contact with, giving them an opportunity to be transformed. **R**. It is the power of the Holy Spirit alone speaking and working in and through us that provides the saving power for others to become Christians.

PART 1C: CULTURALLY CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

2. Filled from within

Acts 1-2 (Romans 15:13 / John 16:8 / Galatians 5:16-26)

Lesson 2: S - When a person gives their life to Jesus He fills them with the Holy Spirit. **C**. Once filled with the Holy Spirit, His power and love overflows out of us onto others we come in contact with, giving them an opportunity to be transformed. **R**. As Christians we have been called to be so filled with the power of the Holy Spirit that His power, glory, and love can be used by Him to transform others.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect

1. *Why are the events at Pentecost so important?*
2. *What does it mean to be transformed or in-dwelt by the Holy Spirit?*
3. *Why does it matter that we know that the disciples shared the Gospel in different languages to traveling Jews?*

Unit 1: What did Jesus say to do? (Acts 1-3) 30 AD

Lesson 3: Overflowing onto others: The New Testament Church

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

3. Overflowing onto others

Acts 1-2 (Acts 2:47/ Acts 9:31)

Lesson 3: S - Once thousands of Jews from all over the world became Christians they left Jerusalem and went home. **C**. Once at home these newly transformed Jews began to share their new faith and power with family and friends. **R**. As more Jews heard the gospel message and were transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit small group of Christ followers in each different part of the world began to meet together and live out their faith in small communities, which later became known as the New Testament church.

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

3. Overflowing onto others

Acts 1-2 (Acts 2:47/ Acts 9:31/ Ephesians 4:11-16 / James 5:16)

Lesson 3: S - Once a person becomes a Christian they now belong to the family of believers across the globe called the church. **C**. The churches job is to be filled with the Holy Spirit so that they can be Jesus' witnesses in their homes, cities, and beyond. **R**. To encourage, exhort, and build each other up we need other Christians to be part of our lives to be God's hands and feet spiritually, physically, and socially.

PART 1C: CULTURALLY CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect

1. How did the events at Pentecost kick-start the church?
2. What is the difference between serving God in your own strength versus in the power of the Holy Spirit?
3. What were the main purposes of the original New Testament Church?
4. What does overflowing with the Holy Spirit mean?

Unit 2: The beginning of the church (Acts 2-5) 30 AD

Lesson 4: Peter Preaching the Gospel Message

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

4. What is the Gospel?: What Peter taught the crowds at Pentecost

Acts 2:14-41 (Romans 4:13 / Galatians 3:26-29)

Lesson 4: S - Once filled with the Holy Spirit, the disciples were given by the Holy Spirit a very specific message to share. **C** - They told the Jews in Jerusalem that they needed to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of their sins. **R** - Once they have repented and received the gift of the Holy Spirit the promise given to Abraham is for them and their children.

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result (missing history)

4. What is the Gospel?: What Peter taught the crowds at Pentecost

Acts 2:14-41 (Romans 4:13 / Galatians 3:26-29 / Matthew 24:14)

Lesson 4: S - Once filled with the Holy Spirit, Christians are called to share the gospel (good news) message with others. **C** - The gospel message makes it clear that we are sinners who need forgiveness and that change can only happen if we surrender to the power of Jesus Christ sacrifice and resurrection. **R** - Once people admit and see their sin and real need for Jesus, they can repent and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and become children of God who are heirs to promise made to Abraham.

PART 1C: CULTURALLY CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect.

1. What are one of the main purposes of the church?
2. What is the Gospel message the disciples shared with the people in Jerusalem?
3. What will happen to a person who has been filled with the power of the Holy Spirit?
4. What can the indwelling of the Holy Spirit enable a person to do?

Unit 2: The beginning of the church (Acts 2-5) 30 AD

Lesson 5: Where does the power come from? Peter heals

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

5. Where does the real power come from? : Peter heals and teaches

Acts 3:1-26 (Deut. 18:15-19 / Genesis 22:18; 26:4)

Lesson 5: S - Peter and John were going to the temple at the time of prayer and were approached by a lame beggar for money. **C** - Instead of giving the man money (addressing his felt need) Peter healed him with the power of the Holy Spirit and then used the opportunity to share about their past ignorance in crucifying their Messiah. **R** - They now have an opportunity to turn back to Jesus and turn away from their wickedness, or be cut off from being heirs to the promise made to Abraham.

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result (missing history)

5. Where does the real power come from? : Peter heals and teaches

Acts 3:1-26 (Deut. 18:15-19 / Genesis 22:18; 26:4)

Lesson 5: S - Opportunities will come for believers to show the power and love of Jesus to the world who watches. **C** - Any good action or gift God has given for us to display can and should be used as an opportunity to point people toward Jesus as the source of all good things and the true Messiah and Savior. **R** - After we have clearly pointed all good and powerful things toward Jesus, those who watch will have to choose for themselves what truth or ideas they will believe and submit themselves to.

PART 1C: CULTURALLY CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect.

- 1. What kind of opportunities may come if we are willing to boldly live out our faith in public? How can we create opportunities?**
- 2. What gifts and skills has God give each person that we can use to point others toward the real source of all that is good and powerful, Jesus Christ?**
- 3. Are we responsible for how people react to the gospel message? Are there times when it's not the message of the gospel that offends, but it's our abrasive personalities?**

Unit 2: The beginning of the church (Acts 2-5) 30 AD

Lesson 6: Bold faith and bold persecution: Peter & John arrested

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

6. Bold faith and bold persecution: Peter & John arrested for sharing the truth

Acts 4:1-21 (John 14:6 / John 12:36-43)

Lesson 6: S - The priests and leaders of the Jewish Sanhedrin were very angry that Peter and John were teaching people that Jesus was the Messiah and that He rose from the dead. **C** - They tried to silence and threaten them eventually putting them in jail, while many believers prayed for their deliverance. **R** - As a result of their imprisonment many thousands who heard believed and became Christians and the Jewish leaders became frustrated but unable to refute the power of Jesus, while setting them free.

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result (missing history)

6. Bold faith and bold persecution: Peter & John arrested for sharing the truth

Acts 4:1-21 (John 14:6 / John 12:36-43)

Lesson 6: S - In our fallen world there will always be those with worldly power who either don't understand or believe in the truths of the Bible and the person of Jesus Christ. **C** - They may try to silence Christians and use all forms of persuasion to keep us from living out or sharing our faith in public. **R** - God uses the faithful witness of those who are persecuted for Him to further expand who comes to Jesus Christ, and bless them as the church grows.

PART 1C: CULTURALLY CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect.

- 1. What kind of people or situations might we encounter where others might try some form of persecution to keep Christians quiet or out of the public arena?*
- 2. What is it about Jesus Christ that seems to offend so many people today? (Exclusivity, Truth, Absolutes, Moral choices)*
- 3. Is authentic persecution (meaning: not because we are personally offensive, but the truth is) a waste? Why not? How does God tend to use our persecution to save others?*

Unit 3: The Church grows and so does persecution (Acts 6-8)

Lesson 7: The attitude and growth of the early church

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

7. The attitude and growth of the early church

Acts 2:42-27 (Mark 12:30-31 / Romans 13:8 / 1 John 2:3-11)

Lesson 7: S - Many thousands of people were converted to Christianity and filled with the Holy Spirit through the teaching of the apostles. **C** - They devoted themselves to more teaching together, Christian fellowship together, eating together, and prayer together. **R** - All the believers had Christ in common and began to share their resources and make sacrifices for one another as they praised God and enjoyed one another.

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result (missing history)

7. The attitude and growth of the early church

Acts 2:42-27 (Mark 12:30-31 / Romans 13:8 / 1 John 2:3-11)

Lesson 7: S - There may be many Christian believers at our church, neighborhood, and workplace that have inside of them the power of the Holy Spirit and have in common with us a relationship with Jesus. **C** - We are Christian brothers and sisters with them and have the greatest thing in common yet we tend to isolate ourselves thinking we don't need the fellowship of other believers. **R** - We need to see the necessity to love our brothers and sisters in Christ through multiple acts of giving, sacrifice, and community so that we can enjoy a fuller joy as the body of Christ and to build one another up.

PART 1C: CULTURALLY CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

7. The attitude and growth of the early church

Acts 2:42-27 (Mark 12:30-31 / Romans 13:8 / 1 John 2:3-11)

Lesson 7: S - There may be many Christian believers at our church, school, and neighborhood that have inside of them the power of the Holy Spirit and have Jesus Christ in common. **C** - We have the greatest thing in common yet we tend to isolate ourselves thinking we don't need the fellowship of other believers. **R** - We desperately need to see the necessity of loving our brothers and sisters in Christ by choosing to be together, acts of giving, sacrifice, and community so that we can enjoy a fuller joy as the body of Christ and build one another up.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect.

- 1. What is an evidence of those who are part of the body of Christ in how they treat one another?**
- 2. Why do we need to be together with other Christians instead of just being a loner Christian?**
- 3. What is it about Christian community that helps our faith and growth as a Christian?**
- 4. What do we miss out on when we choose to isolate ourselves from being with other Christians?**
- 5. What are some things I can do this week that will increase my love for other Christians I know?**

Unit 3: The Church grows and so does persecution (Acts 6-8)

Lesson 8: The stoning of Stephen and persecution of the church

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

8. The stoning of Stephen and the persecution of the church

Acts 6, 7, 8 (James 1)

Lesson 8: S - Stephen, a new convert and deacon who preached fearlessly the resurrection of Jesus, was brought before the Sanhedrin under the false assumption that he had spoken blasphemy against Moses and God. **C** - Stephen ignored the charges and used this opportunity to speak the truth about Jesus through a historical connection to Abraham and the Jewish patriarchs. **R** - The furious Jewish leaders hated Stephen's passionate discourse connecting the Old Testament leaders to Jesus and in a rage chose to stone Stephen to death. Stephen saw Jesus and went to be with Him.

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result (missing history)

8. The stoning of Stephen and the persecution of the church

Acts 6, 7, 8 (James 1)

Lesson 8: S - Those who fearless teach and preach about Jesus being the savior of the world and the only way to real life risk much for the sake of Christ. **C** - Those that do not want to hear the truth about Jesus will want to silence that teaching (many times through social and physical means) because it is in direct opposition to what they want to believe and how they want to live. **R** - God's word tells us to expect (and not be surprised) persecution when we live differently for Jesus or mention His name and to consider it joy and a blessing to be counted as one who carried our cross for the sake of Jesus.

PART 1C: CULTURALLY CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

8. The stoning of Stephen and the persecution of the church

Acts 6, 7, 8 (James 1)

Lesson 8: S - Those students who fearlessly live a life that puts Jesus and God's word first, risk hurtful and difficult reactions. **C** - Those that do not want to hear or see the truth about Jesus will want to silence those that bring it to light, many times using sinful and painful means. **R** - God's word tells us to expect (and not be surprised by) persecution when we live differently for Jesus or mention His name and to consider it real joy and a blessing to be counted as one who carried our cross for the sake of Jesus.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect.

- 1. Why should Christian who live out their faith in Jesus expect persecution?*
- 2. What is it that makes people react to Jesus message in such hateful and hurtful ways?*
- 3. What does God's word tell us about persecution?*
- 4. Are there times when it's not really the message of Jesus that people don't like, but it's our abrasive personalities and unloving methods?*

Unit 3: The Church grows and so does persecution (Acts 6-8)

Lesson 9: Philip evangelizes the Ethiopian

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

9. Philip evangelizes the Ethiopian

Acts 8: 26-40 (Matthew 28: 18,19/ Mark 16:15 / Luke 14:23 / Rom. 10:17 / Isaiah 55:3)

Lesson 9: S - Philip, an apostle filled with the Holy Spirit, is told by the angel of the Lord to down from Jerusalem where he met an Ethiopian official who was on his way home from Jerusalem where he went to worship God. **C** - Philip, who listened to the Holy Spirit, went up to the Ethiopians chariot and God gave him an opportunity to explain what the Ethiopian was reading in Isaiah about Jesus. **R** - The Ethiopian understood about the prophecy of Jesus coming as the Messiah and was baptized as a Christian.

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result (missing history)

9. Philip evangelizes the Ethiopian

Acts 8: 26-40 (Matthew 28: 18,19/ Mark 16:15 / Luke 14:23 / Rom. 10:17 / Isaiah 55:3)

Lesson 9: S - Christians filled with the Holy Spirit should be looking for unique opportunities and listening for the Holy Spirit to share the message of Jesus with others. **C** - Those sensitive to the quiet voice of the Holy Spirit and growing in their understanding of scripture will have more opportunities to be used by God to share about Jesus. **R** - The result will be the blessing of God allowing us to be part of His salvation plan in many other people's lives.

PART 1C: CULTURALLY CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

9. Philip evangelizes the Ethiopian

Acts 8: 26-40 (Matthew 28: 18,19/ Mark 16:15 / Luke 14:23 / Rom. 10:17 / Isaiah 55:3)

Lesson 9: S - Christians filled with the Holy Spirit should be looking for unique opportunities and listening for the Holy Spirit to share the message of Jesus with others. **C** - Those sensitive to the quiet voice of the Holy Spirit and growing in their understanding of scripture will have more opportunities to be used by God to share about Jesus. **R** - The result will be the blessing of God allowing us to be part of His salvation plan in many other people's lives.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect.

1. *What does it mean to look for opportunities to share the gospel? How do I do this?*
2. *What does it mean to listen to the small voice of the Holy Spirit? Why is it small and not huge or loud?*
3. *Why do those who look and listen for the leading of the Holy Spirit have more opportunities to witness and be used by God in the lives of others?*
4. *How is being used by God in this way a blessing? What does that mean?*

Unit 4: Jesus: for Jew, Gentile, and Persecutors 37-48 AD

Lesson 10: Jesus pursues a Persecutor - Saul to Paul (Acts 9-12)

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

10. Jesus pursues a Persecutor - Saul to Paul

Acts 9:1-31 (Philippians 3:1-9 / Ezekiel 34:11 / Matthew 18:12 / 1 Cor. 15:10)

Lesson 10: S - Saul, a very committed Pharisee, was working hard to imprison and kill Jews who were preaching that Jesus was the Messiah and rose from the dead. **C** - On the way to persecuting more Christians, Jesus appeared to Saul, and told him the truth about being the true Messiah. **R** - Saul, blinded from seeing Jesus, meets Ananias who heals Saul's blindness and begins training him as a disciple of Jesus who would become one of the most passionate followers of Jesus Christ.

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result (missing history)

10. Jesus pursues a Persecutor - Saul to Paul

Acts 9:1-31 (Philippians 3:1-9 / Ezekiel 34:11 / Matthew 18:12 / 1 Cor. 15:10)

Lesson 10: S - There are many people who passionately follow "God-centered" religious causes thinking they are right, which will cause persecution for true Christians. **C** - Jesus, the pursuer of sinners, does not seek and save those who are worthy, but in choosing to save them, makes them worthy. **R** - Those whom Jesus pursues and calls to himself can become some of his most passionate followers, spreading the truth of Jesus in some of the hardest places with the Gospel.

PART 1C: CULTURALLY CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

10. Jesus pursues a Persecutor - Saul to Paul

Acts 9:1-31 (Philippians 3:1-9 / Ezekiel 34:11 / Matthew 18:12 / 1 Cor. 15:10)

Lesson 10: S - There are many religious people in the world who passionately live based on what they think is right, which will cause persecution for true Christians. **C** - We are to see all people, not just those that seem good and kind, as in bondage to false ideas and beliefs and that Jesus can save and change what we might consider the worst sinners. **R** - Those persecutors of Christianity, whom Jesus pursues and calls to himself, often become some of his most passionate followers, spreading the truth of Jesus in some of the hardest places with the Gospel.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect.

1. *Are all people religious? Why?*
2. *What kind of religious beliefs tend to persecute Christianity?*
3. *What should our response be to those who persecute us? Are they any worse than any sinner?*
4. *What does it mean when we say Jesus pursues the lost, versus the lost made a choice to receive Jesus?*
5. *What are some examples that have gone through this kind of change in history besides Paul?*

Unit 4: Jesus: for Jew, Gentile, and Persecutors 37-48AD

Lesson 11: Witnessing to an enemy - Peter & Cornelius (Acts 10,11)

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

11. Witnessing to a enemy - Peter & Cornelius the Centurion

Acts 10,11 (Luke 6:32,35 / Romans 1:16 / Romans 11:28,29)

Lesson 11: S - A Roman centurion (who was currently a God fearing man) and Gentile named Cornelius, is called by an angel of God to seek Peter. **C** - Peter through a vision about eating unclean animals, realizes he has been called to share the message of Jesus with a Gentile (also unclean), which at the time would have been wrong to do. **R** - Peter responds in obedience leading Cornelius and his family to salvation, realizing that God does not show favoritism towards any nationality but is for the Jew and the Gentile alike.

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result (missing history)

11. Witnessing to a enemy - Peter & Cornelius the Centurion

Acts 10,11 (Luke 6:32,35 / Romans 1:16 / Romans 11:28, 29)

Lesson 11: S - God is moving in the hearts of many we may consider to be personal enemies or enemies of our beliefs and traditions. **C** - Christians, through the power of the Holy Spirit, must ask God for an open heart and mind to share the Gospel to the most unlikely and unpopular people, even our enemies. **R** - If we are willing to obey Jesus even when it seems unbelievable and difficult to do so, we may be blessed as we witness God do miracles and save our enemies and outsiders of the faith.

PART 1C: CULTURALLY CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

11. Witnessing to a enemy - Peter & Cornelius the Centurion

Acts 10,11 (Luke 6:32,35 / Romans 1:16 / Romans 11:28, 29)

Lesson 11: S - God is moving in the hearts of many we may consider to be personal enemies or enemies of our beliefs, traditions, or friends and families. **C** - Christians, through the power of the Holy Spirit, must ask God for an open heart and mind to share the Gospel to the most unlikely and unpopular people, even our enemies. **R** - If we are willing to obey Jesus even when it seems unbelievable and difficult to do so, we may be blessed as we witness God do miracles and save people who may have always believed are unsavable and completely lost.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect.

- 1. What kind of people might you consider an enemy? What about your families? Other religions, nationalities, political views, etc..*
- 2. Is there anyone beyond the saving power of Jesus Christ, regardless how bad or wicked we consider them?*
- 3. How might our friends react if we reach out to and are kind to those who they do not like or would never associate with?*
- 4. Can you think of any examples in your life or in history where God has save someone that many might never think could be saved?*

Unit 4: Jesus: for Jew, Gentile, and Persecutors 37-48 AD

Lesson 12: Paul and Barnabas reach out the unclean (Acts 13) - 42 AD

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

12. Witnessing to a enemy - Peter & Cornelius the Centurion

Acts 10,11 (Luke 6:32,35 / Romans 1:16 / Romans 11:28, 29 / Acts 1:6-8)

Lesson 12: S - Paul and Barnabas went to Pisidian Antioch to preach the Gospel where they were asked to teach in the synagogue. **C** - They purposefully taught to both the Jews & Gentiles, connecting the promise to Abraham to all people, and explaining how the Jews who had the first chance to respond to Jesus rejected Him but should have been a light to the Gentiles. **R** - The Gentiles who heard the message responded with gladness and joy, while the Jews desired exclusivity and abused and conspired against Paul and Barnabas.

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result (missing history)

12. Witnessing to a enemy - Peter & Cornelius the Centurion

Acts 10,11 (Luke 6:32,35 / Romans 1:16 / Romans 11:28, 29 / Acts 1:6-8)

Lesson 12: S - Believers in Jesus are called to preach and teach to all types of people in all types of places (churches and outside the church). **C** - Christians teaching the Gospel story should show that the promise made to Abraham about a great nation was always intended for all people, not just the Jews or any specific ethnicity or race. **R** - Many religious people (call themselves Christian) react to sharing the message of Jesus with everyone, because they believe that Christianity is primarily for a certain kind of person, culture, color, or denomination. It is up to real believers to act differently.

PART 1C: CULTURALLY CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

12. Witnessing to a enemy - Peter & Cornelius the Centurion

Acts 10,11 (Luke 6:32,35 / Romans 1:16 / Romans 11:28, 29 / Acts 1:6-8)

Lesson 12: S - Believers in Jesus, young and old are called to preach and teach to all types of people in all types of places without boundaries. **C** - We have an amazing story to tell that shows that God always wanted to reach out to all people, not just one. **R** - Even though many religious people in the church think differently, true believers have a responsibility to reach out to all nationalities, races, and cultures showing that the love of Christ is for everyone who believes.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect.

- 1. What are some limitations some religious people put on sharing the gospel with others?*
- 2. Why do they put those limitations on sharing the gospel? Fear, Race, Culture, Big Differences, Look*
- 3. What is so powerful about the promise to Abraham that impacts us all today?*
- 4. What did the Jews think that Paul and Barnabas should be doing and why?*
- 5. When is being religious not a good thing?*
- 6. How can missionaries be most or least effective when going to another culture to teach about Jesus?*

Unit 5: Showing your love for Jesus is really real - 45 AD

Lesson 13: The Joys, Trials, and Temptations of the Victorious Christian Life (James 1:1-18 / Acts 13,14)

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

13. The Joys, Trials, and Temptations of the Victorious Christian Life

James 1:1-18 (Acts 13,14)

Lesson 13: S - During the time of the early church Christians (like Paul & Barnabas) experience many new joys, trials, and temptations that could potentially make them ineffective witnesses. **C** - The early Christians had to make choices through the power of the Holy Spirit toward that of greater goals, that surpassed their social and physical comforts causing them to persevere under enormous trials and temptations. **R** - The early church begin to live for a greater joy and future hope that was much greater and more valuable to them than any worldly trial, persecution, or temptation. These actions choices grew their faith and allowed them to be even greater witnesses for Jesus.

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result (missing history)

13. The Joys, Trials, and Temptations of the Victorious Christian Life

James 1:1-18 (Acts 13,14)

Lesson 13: S - God's word says that Christians will face trials and temptations all through life and to be prepared to fight them. **C** - Christians must fight with power that comes from the Holy Spirit and have a motivation and hope greater than anything this world can offer. **R** - The result will be greater joy and a growing faith that will endure over time and allow our lives to be an even brighter light for showing and sharing the gospel with those who are watching.

PART 1C: CULTURALLY CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

13. The Joys, Trials, and Temptations of the Victorious Christian Life

James 1:1-18 (Acts 13,14)

Lesson 13: S - God's word says that Christians, young and old, will face trials and temptations all through life and to be prepared to fight them. **C** - Christians must fight with power and a dependence that comes from the Holy Spirit and be motivated by a future hope and joy greater than anything this world can offer. **R** - The result will be even greater joy and a growing (persevering) faith that will endure over time and allow our lives to be an even brighter light for showing and sharing the gospel with those who are watching.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect.

1. *Should Christians be surprised by trials, temptations, and persecution that comes? Why or why not?*
2. *Why would a Christian choose a more difficult life than an easier one? What do they have that's better?*
3. *Is joy the same thing as happiness? Can one have joy even during hard times? How?*
4. *What hope and future do believers have that others do not? How does it change how we think and live?*

Unit 5: Showing your love for Jesus is really real - 45 AD

Lesson 14: Living what you believe when it is the most difficult (James 1:19-27 / Acts 16:16-40)

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

14. Living what you believe when it is the most difficult

James 1:19-27 (Acts 16:16-40)

Lesson 14: S - Paul and Silas were living out their faith (Biblical Worldview) as they cast a demon out of a little girl and as a result were beaten and put in prison for harming a man's business. **C** - Paul and Silas showed how they truly believed all they preached as they praised God while in prison. **R** - As they sang, God caused the jail to break open. Paul and Silas stayed in the prison and used this as an opportunity to witness to the head guard who was going to take his own life. The guard and his family gave their lives to Jesus.

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result (missing history)

14. Living what you believe when it is the most difficult

James 1:19-27 (Acts 16:16-40)

Lesson 14: S - Christians who have a real faith in Jesus and strive to live out a real Biblical Christian Worldview will make choices that cause them difficulties and persecution with those in the world who want to live differently. **C** - When under those difficulties, the world watches to see if our beliefs still hold true and if our core faith will surface. **R** - God will be glorified as we show not just by our words, but by our actions that he is really real in our lives regardless of our circumstances. He also tends to use those moments in our lives to be an amazing witness to the world watching.

PART 1C: CULTURALLY CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

14. Living what you believe when it is the most difficult

James 1:19-27 (Acts 16:16-40)

Lesson 14: S - Christian young people who have a real faith in Jesus and strive to understand and live out a real Biblical Christian Worldview will make choices that cause them problems with others that don't like or disagree with what choices they make. **C** - When facing those problems, others in our culture or school will watch to see if our beliefs still hold true and we continue to make choices that honor Jesus showing our faith is real. **R** - God will be glorified as we show not just by our words, but by our actions that he is really real in our lives regardless of our circumstances. He also tends to use those moments in our lives to be an amazing witness to those watching.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect.

1. Why do a Christian's daily choices (big or small) matter when it comes to showing that their faith is real?
2. What kind of problems might Christian young people face as they live out their faith in public and make choices to show they love Jesus? (Try to be specific)
3. When someone claims to love Jesus but their daily choices don't reflect that, what might that show?
4. How is the passage in James supporting what happened in Acts 16?
5. We know that doing religious/Godly things or "works" don't save you. So why are they important?

Unit 5: Showing your love for Jesus is really real - 45 AD

Lesson 15: The power of words - Taming the tongue (James 2,3 / Acts 17:16-33)

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

15. The power of words - Taming the tongue

James 2,3 (Acts 17:16-33 / Genesis 41:39 / Ephesians 5:15)

Lesson 15: S - Paul traveled to Athens where he spent time learning about the gods of the Greeks and hearing their philosophical ideas. **C** - Paul used wise, strategic, and well thought through words and ideas to share the truth about the one true God. **R** - The greek thinkers and philosophers talked and reasoned with Paul, creating an opportunity for Paul to creatively share the gospel message about God and Jesus Christ where some ended up converting to Christianity.

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result (missing history)

15. The power of words - Taming the tongue

James 2,3 (Acts 17:16-33/ Genesis 41:39 / Ephesians 5:15)

Lesson 15: S - In a world where people believe many different things (about God or the absence of), Christ followers should be excellent listeners and learners about the cultural ideas. **C** - We are called to think critically, and creatively, and with love so that our words (which can be very powerful and influential) wisely communicate the truth of the Gospel. We are *not* called to use our words to put others down or disrespect others ideas or cultures. **R** - As Christians take time to listen, and understand the culture around them, they can carefully and creatively craft their words so that the truth about Jesus is clearly and wisely communicated, and not letting their words or responses be a stumbling block to those that watch or listen.

PART 1C: CULTURALLY CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

15. The power of words - Taming the tongue

James 2,3 (Acts 17:16-33/ Genesis 41:39 / Ephesians 5:15)

Lesson 15: S - We live a world where friends, family members, and neighbors believe many different things about God and the meaning of life. **C** - Christians should be the first to carefully listen and observe so that their response can be creative, helpful and discerning, while making clear the real Gospel of Jesus Christ. **R** - Instead of being uniformed negative reactors to societies differences and using harsh words, we can carefully and wisely communicate truths about Jesus that can have effective outcomes.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect.

- 1. Why are words so powerful and influential? What are some positive and negative examples of how words were used on you.*
- 2. Why should Christians be the most careful with our words? What can negative and uniformed words do to our witness to people who believe differently?*
- 3. What do our words and reaction often reveal about our heart and love for others?*
- 4. What was so wise and creative about how Paul talked about Jesus with the people of Athens?*
- 5. Why is it important to better understand the different beliefs and cultures that are not Biblically Christian?*

Unit 6: Paul's missionary journeys & letters to Corinth, Ephesus, Galatia

Lesson 16: Disagreements amongst Christians (Acts 18:1-4 / 1 Corinthians 1:10-31)

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

16. Disagreements amongst Christians (Discipline)

Acts 18:1-4 / 1 Corinthians 1:10-31 / 15: 58 (Matthew 18:15-17 / James 4:1-3,11)

**All of 1 Corinthians, starting at 1 Corinthians 1:10 is a Pauline discourse on how to deal with specific problems and disagreements amongst Christians so that they can stop fighting and work together for the Gospel.*

Lesson 16: S - Paul left Athens and went to Corinth where he worked as a tentmaker in order to support preaching and witnessing. While in Corinth he experienced many Christians arguing about whose teachings they follow (different apostles of Jesus), and what lifestyle choices Christians should make. This was creating divisions and problems amongst the Christians. **C** - Paul reminds them that they are all united in Christ and have Him in common, and that it is never about men but about Jesus and the word of God alone. **R** - Paul tells them that the result of starting with their love for Jesus and humbly loving others first will end in a unified body of Christ, who love, labor, and message are effective in sharing the love of Jesus.

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result (missing history)

16. Disagreements amongst Christians

Acts 18:1-4 / 1 Corinthians 1:10-31 / 15: 58 (Matthew 18:15-17 / James 4:1-3,11)

Lesson 16: S - There are many Christians in the church who constantly find problems and issues with others in the church, making the church ineffective for the gospel because all their time is wasted on inside arguments and disagreements over secondary issues. **C** - God's word makes it very clear that all the time we spend against one another is wrong and wasted because we have forgotten our first and most important love, Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection. **R** - We are called to stop and remember the foundations of what we have in common in the family of Jesus Christ. Starting with our love for Him first and then humbly approaching others next will keep our hearts, minds, and witness effective and firm.

PART 1C: CULTURALLY CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

16. Disagreements amongst Christians

Acts 18:1-4 / 1 Corinthians 1:10-31 / 15: 58 (Matthew 18:15-17 / James 4:1-3,11)

Lesson 16: S - There are many Christians in our church and youth groups who constantly find problems and issues with others, making the whole ministry ineffective for the gospel because all their time is wasted on inside arguments, gossip, and device issues. **C** - God's word makes it very clear these family problems are ultimately unimportant compared to what we have in common in Jesus. **R** - We need to stop and remember our first love in Jesus and what brings us together, and then approach each other humbly because we can't boast in anything we have in Christ. It was all a gift given by Him.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect.

1. *Why do Christians in the church argue so much about things that really don't matter? What are some examples of those things? What would be something worth arguing about?*
2. *Why are the things we argue about so unimportant when compared to what we have been given in Jesus Christ?*
3. *What were some of the issues the Christians in Corinth were arguing about? (Look in all of 1 Corinthians)*
4. *How can we change (at least in ourselves) the attitude of wanting to argue about less important "Christian issues"? Why is it important that we are unified in the body of Christ?*

Unit 6: Paul's missionary journeys & letters to Corinth, Ephesus, Galatia

Lesson 17: Thankful for the growing faith of the body of Christ which came through grace (Acts 18)

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

17. Thankful for the growing faith in the body of Christ which came through Grace

Acts 18:18-21 / Ephesians 1:15-22 & Ch. 2:1-10 (Psalm 106:1 / 1 Thessalonians 5:18 / Psalm 95:2)

Lesson 17: S - Paul left Corinth and spent a shorter time with the Christians in Ephesus (who wanted him to stay longer). He hoped and desired to return again if it is God's will. **C** - The Ephesian church was growing strong in their faith in Jesus and their love for another in which Paul was extremely thankful and knew that this was the result of what God had designed for His glory. **R** - Paul did not stop praying because they were growing but prayed even harder that they would know and experience more of God and His power as a result of realizing that they were saved and are growing because of the grace of Jesus Christ and not through their actions.

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result (missing history)

17. Thankful for the growing faith in the body of Christ which came through Grace

Acts 18:18-21 / Ephesians 1:15-22 & Ch. 2:1-10 (Psalm 106:1 / 1 Thessalonians 5:18 / Psalm 95:2)

Lesson 17: S - It is good to be excited and thankful for the growth and faith of Christians and the body of Christ. **C** - Any amount of growing faith and love for Jesus and one another is the result of the predestined love plan of God and completely a gift of grace. **R** - Through this realization, God receives the glory and praise for what those whom He made alive in Christ, and we get to experience the joy and gratitude that comes from being part of His plan and seeing Him work in us.

PART 1C: CULTURALLY CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

17. Thankful for the growing faith in the body of Christ which came through Grace

Acts 18:18-21 / Ephesians 1:15-22 & Ch. 2:1-10 (Psalm 106:1 / 1 Thessalonians 5:18 / Psalm 95:2)

Lesson 17: S - Christians always have so much to be thankful for because of their faith in Jesus and the faith God brings about in others. **C** - We should be constantly thankful and grateful because He made us alive in Christ, and causes us to grow and be transformed as a result of the grace that He chose to give us through the death and resurrection of Jesus. **R** - Through these understandings we can give God all the glory and praise because of what He has done in our salvation and sanctification, and enjoy being part of His story.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect.

1. *Do Christians save themselves? Why or why not? Should Christians ever take credit for becoming Christians, or helping others to become Christians? Why or why not?*
2. *What does it mean in Ephesians 1:3-10 that "He predestined us for adoption to sonship?"*
3. *Why does the realization that our faith comes as result of His grace make us even more thankful?*
4. *How is our joy and happiness the result of praising and God and being thankful to Him?*
5. *What does sanctification mean? Define it?*
6. *If it is God who made us alive (become Christians), is our growth as a Christian any different?*

Unit 6: Paul's missionary journeys and letters to Corinth, Ephesus, Galatia

Lesson 18: Salvation by grace alone and not by any works

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

18. Salvation by grace alone and not by any works

Acts 18:23 / Galatians 1 & 3 / 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (1 Corinthians 15:10 / 2 Timothy 1:9)

**Good opportunity to talk specifically about Mormonism, Jehovah's Witness, and similar pseudo Christian teachings.*

Lesson 18: S - Paul left Ephesus and went to the church in Galatia, where the Christians are being taught a gospel different than the one preached to them. **C** - Some of the teachers in Galatia were teaching that even though they believe in Jesus as the Messiah, the only way they could be really saved and grow as faithful Christians is by following the laws and customs of Judaism. Paul rebukes this as a false gospel and rebukes any teaching that says you are justified or sanctified by religious works or tradition. **R** - Paul reminds them that the promise of their salvation given to Abraham is dependent on God's grace and timing not following the law faithfully.

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result (missing history)

18. Salvation by grace alone and not by any works

Acts 18:23 / Galatians 1 & 3 / 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (1 Corinthians 15:10 / 2 Timothy 1:9)

Lesson 18: S - There are many who claim to be Jesus followers but also say that Jesus death and resurrection is not enough for salvation. **C** - The main distortion of the Gospel happens when people teach that you need Jesus plus religious works or laws (that they follow or have created) in order to be saved and be accepted and justified by God. **R** - God has made it clear throughout scripture that it is by grace alone that we are saved and not works so that we cannot boast (Ephesians 2:8,9). Works and the law give us guidance and reveal sin but cannot save.

PART 1C: CULTURALLY CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

18. Salvation by grace alone and not by any works

Acts 18:23 / Galatians 1 & 3 / 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (1 Corinthians 15:10 / 2 Timothy 1:9)

Lesson 18: S - Christians will encounter those who will tell them that Jesus is important for salvation but not enough, and that you need to do more of what they will tell you to do to truly be a faithful follower of Jesus and go to Heaven. **C** - False Christian teachers and churches will tell you that you must do specific religious acts in order to be accepted as a child of God. Many other Christians live as if being a religious person who is good and follows all the rules is more acceptable to Jesus than others. **R** - All of this is false and is not found in the Bible. God has made it clear throughout scripture that it is by grace alone that we are saved and not works so that we cannot boast (Ephesians 2:8,9). Works and the law give us guidance and reveal sin but cannot save.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect.

1. What are some common "Christian" beliefs that add more to the Bible about how you are saved?
2. In your opinion, why do people feel the need to add religious acts, in order to be saved by Jesus?
3. Why was Paul so upset about what was happening in Galatia?
4. Why did Paul bring up the promise to Abraham as an evidence that the law doesn't save us?

Unit 7: Paul's missionary journeys and letters to Philippi, Thessalonica, Rome

Lesson 19: Advancing the Gospel through pain, persecution, & prison

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

19. Advancing the Gospel through pain, persecution, & prison

Acts 21:27 - 26 / Philippians 1:12-26 / James 1

Lesson 19: S - Paul is writing a letter to the Philippian and Roman church who are concerned and worried about his imprisonment. **C** - Paul helps to change their perspective by telling them that the Gospel is still advancing in prison and outside of prison and he continues on without fear because Christ is being preached regardless of his location. **R** - Because the gospel is being preached he rejoices and knows that to continue to live and preach it is for Jesus Christ, and to die is to be with Him forever, so either way he has courage.

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result (missing history)

19. Advancing the Gospel through pain, persecution, & prison

Acts 21:27 - 26 / Philippians 1:12-26 / James 1

Lesson 19: S - It can be easy for Christians to lose heart, worry, and become consumed with the hardships, and persecutions that come with living out your faith and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **C** - It is at these moments that we need a perspective change and realize that the most important thing is sharing about Jesus, and to understand that if we are being persecuted for that, we can consider it joy because Jesus is being glorified through that suffering and others are watching. **R** - We can also live and preach courageously knowing that living for Jesus produces joy and more disciples and that we are not citizens of this world but look forward to a much better life with Jesus in the future.

PART 1C: CULTURALLY CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

19. Advancing the Gospel through pain, persecution, & prison

Acts 21:27 - 26 / Philippians 1:12-26 / James 1

Lesson 19: S - It can be easy in the moment for Christians to worry, and become consumed with persecution that can come with living out our faith and sharing the truth about Jesus with others. **C** - It is at these moments that we need to stop and look towards heaven realizing that the most important things in life are about Jesus, and to understand that if we are being persecuted for that, we can consider it joy because Jesus is being glorified through that suffering and others are watching.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect.

1. Why should Christians expect persecution? Persecution for us in America can look very different than persecution in other parts of the world. How do Christian students experience persecution for Jesus? (In and out of school)
2. How can experiencing persecution produce joy and praise? Why was Paul so positive and not depressed or in despair?
3. How can we change our mindset about persecution to one that produces joy and peace?
4. Why is it so easy to worry, fear, and have doubts when we face difficulties and persecution for Jesus?

Unit 7: Paul's missionary journeys and letters to Philippi, Thessalonica, Rome

Lesson 20: Living like a child of God, versus a child of this world (1 Thessalonians 4:1-12)

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

20. Living like a child of God, versus a child of this world

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 / Colossians 3:17 & 23 / Philippians 2:14-15 / Romans 13:14

Lesson 20: S - Paul though sending Timothy imparted clear instructions with the Thessalonians church on how to live in this world to please Jesus and to be the most effective witness possible. **C** - If they are being sanctified they should strive to control (self-control) their bodies, minds, and passions differently than those who don't know Jesus. Christians have the power of the Holy Spirit to fight the sinful desires of the flesh and use their bodies in helpful and productive ways (hard-work), when the world just does what feels good or what works for them in the moment. **R** - The result will be a community of people who live pure, quiet, and hardworking lives for the purpose of loving Jesus and gaining the respect of outsiders.

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result (missing history)

20. Living like a child of God, versus a child of this world

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 / Colossians 3:17 & 23 / Philippians 2:14-15 / Romans 13:14

Lesson 20: S - God has made it clear through His word that his children (Christians) are expected to choose a pure and hard-working life. **C** - Through the power of a changed heart and mind (Holy Spirit), God's children can and should fight for a pure heart, mind, and life by putting their bodies under the headship of Jesus. **R** - This process of sanctification can lead to a life not as controlled by bodily passions but directed towards a life of quiet hard work that will in turn bring attention and glory to Jesus and bring respect and opportunity for witnessing to us.

PART 1C: CULTURALLY CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

20. Living like a child of God, versus a child of this world

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 / Colossians 3:17 & 23 / Philippians 2:14-15 / Romans 13:14

Lesson 20: S - God has taught us in His word that Christians are expected to choose a pure, quiet and hard-working life. **C** - We have the power of a changed life through the Holy Spirit, to be able to fight for a pure heart, mind, and life by putting our bodies under the headship of Jesus and dependency on the power of the Holy Spirit. **R** - This sanctification can lead us to a life not as controlled by our immediate desires, but a life of quiet (not prone to gossip or idle chatter) hard work that will in turn bring attention and glory to Jesus and bring respect and opportunity for witnessing to us.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect.

1. *Why is a life of purity, not driven by our immediate desires and passions a good thing?*
2. *What is the difference in the abilities of a Christian to be pure versus someone who does not know Jesus?*
3. *Why was Paul and Timothy telling this to the church in Thessalonica? Had they been sinning?*
4. *Why should Christians be the hardest workers in any field? (Doctors, Teachers, Lawyer, Musicians, Waitresses)*
5. *Why does a quiet life of hard work lead to the respect of those who watch (Christian or not)?*

Unit 7: Paul's missionary journeys and letters to Philippi, Thessalonica, Rome

Lesson 21: The battle of the flesh and the spirit for Christians (Romans 7 & 8)

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

21. The battle of the flesh and spirit for Christians

Romans 7:21-25 & 8:5-11 (Romans 1-6 / Galatians 5:24 / Romans 12:1,2 / 1 John 2:16)

Lesson 21: S - Paul is writing to the Christians in Rome who are struggling with the differences between a Christ filled life (*slave to Jesus*) and a pagan life (*slave to sin and flesh*). The difference between an inside *changed* heart and the outside *religious* law. The difference between being an outside Jew and an outside Gentile. **C** - Paul makes it very clear that the real issue is whether the inside (Spirit) of a person is made alive in Christ and that in this life they will struggle with the flesh and religious works (law) wanting to be master. **R** - But now they have a choice (being saved internally), and must through the power of Jesus choose to fight the desires of the flesh and grow (build up, encourage) the power of the Holy Spirit inside which will produce life and peace.

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result (missing history)

21. The battle of the flesh and spirit for Christians

Romans 7:21-25 & 8:5-11 (Romans 1-6 / Galatians 5:24 / Romans 12:1,2 / 1 John 2:16)

Lesson 21: S - Once a person becomes an adopted child of God, they are no longer have to be a slave to sin and the desires of the flesh, or a slave to the belief that following the law being a good person. **C** - The issue Christians will wrestle with is whether to allow the flesh to be master or the changed and transformed spirit within them. **R** - The result of following the flesh and trying to be good (religious) is future sin and death, leading to despair and fear. The result of listening to Spirit of God within and dependence on Him to be master is life and peace.

PART 1C: CULTURALLY CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

21. The battle of the flesh and spirit for Christians

Romans 7:21-25 & 8:5-11 (Romans 1-6 / Galatians 5:24 / Romans 12:1,2 / 1 John 2:16)

Lesson 21: S - Once you become a Christian you have the power to resist your sinful flesh through the power of the Holy Spirit. **C** - From salvation forward Christians must intentionally choose to submit to the power of the Holy Spirit (not possible before) and choose to make Him their master, or the sinful flesh and its desires will try to take over. **R** - If we intentionally choose and look to God's word and the power of His Spirit to live a transformed life, we will experience a life of joy and peace. The alternative is sin, death, and hopeless in trying to be good and follow the law.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect.

1. *What is the major difference between a saved child of God, and a good person that is not a Christian?*
2. *Why is choosing a Godly, pure life so difficult even for Christians?*
3. *Where do Christians get the power and ability to fight sin and their fleshly desires? Can they just try really hard and follow all the rules?*
4. *What does it mean to make someone else your master? Thinking about slavery what might that look like?*
5. *What does Paul realize and admit about the struggle between the inner spirit and His flesh?*

Unit 8: Living out real faith *with* Jesus until you see Jesus
Lesson 22: What it takes to be young Christian leader (1 Timothy 4:1-16)

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

22. What it takes to be a young Christian leader

1 Timothy 1:18-20 & 4:1-16 (1 Timothy 5:1-25 / Titus 2:1-15 / Ephesians 6:1-3)

Lesson 22: S - Paul is sending instructions to Timothy on how to effectively hold firm in his faith in Jesus Christ and be a good, younger leader with a clear conscience based on solid training in Godliness and right doctrine. **C** - He instructs Timothy to focus on teaching prayer and intercession, how men and woman should act in the church, how character in leadership should look, how to handle false teachings, lies and useless talk, and how to be a young leader who models what he teaches. **R** - For if he perseveres in these ways, others will see his growth and progress and therefore also be saved and transformed in these ways.

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result (missing history)

22. What it takes to be a young Christian leader

1 Timothy 1:18-20 & 4:1-16 (1 Timothy 5:1-25 / Titus 2:1-15 / Ephesians 6:1-3)

Lesson 22: S - God's word gives us clear instructions for how to hold firm in our faith and how to be Godly leaders who study and teach right doctrine and truth. **C** - God teaches us to start with prayer and intercession first, and then to instruct others on how to live out their faith in practical ways and how to handle false teaching and useless talking (gossip, rumors, spreading lies) by setting an example through our lives. **R** - By diligently persevering in these ways, those we teach, and those who watch will be lead toward a life of real Christian growth and transformation.

PART 1C: CULTURALLY CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

22. What it takes to be a young Christian leader

1 Timothy 1:18-20 & 4:1-16 (1 Timothy 5:1-25 / Titus 2:1-15 / Ephesians 6:1-3)

Lesson 22: S - God's word gives young Christians instructions for how to hold firm in their faith and how to be a Godly leader. **C** - God teaches young Christians to start by being dependent on prayer first, and then to be an example of how to live out their faith through diligent study so that they can identify things like false teaching, modesty, purity and useless talking (gossip, rumors, spreading lies). **R** - By consistently persevering in Godliness and sound Biblical study habits, you can be an example of Christian growth for those you have influence with and leadership over and you will lead others toward growth and change.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect.

- 1. What specific instruction does the Bible give to younger Christians? Why might some training and instruction for younger believers be different than older believers?***
- 2. Why do you think Paul put so much emphasis on Timothy being an example to other believers versus just teaching or preaching?***
- 3. What are other specific things Paul mentions to Timothy about being a young Christian leader? Why do you think Paul pointed out those very specific things?***
- 4. How can you and I take what Paul has instructed and intentionally make them part of our lives?***

Unit 8: Living out real faith *with* Jesus until you see Jesus
Lesson 23: Refining Fire: How trials and difficulties strengthen your faith

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

23. Refining Fire: How trials and difficulties strengthen your faith

1 Peter 1:3-9 & 4:12-19 (James 1)

Lesson 23: S - Peter is writing a letter to the Christian church in general, focusing greatly on standing firm in their faith under unjust persecution and suffering. **C** - Peter challenges them to greatly rejoice in their present sufferings and trials (which Jesus suffered) and to give up pagan idolatry in this life as a result of the new living hope they have through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. **R** - The result is that their faith is proven genuine and real (as fire refines gold into pure gold), and that they will be filled with inexpressible and glorious joy as Jesus receives glory and honor through their lives.

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result (missing history)

23. Refining Fire: How trials and difficulties strengthen your faith

1 Peter 1:3-9 & 4:12-19 (James 1)

Lesson 23: S - The Christian church should be prepared, for unjust acts of persecution and suffering and not be surprised. **C** - We are challenged and exhorted to approach suffering (for Jesus - *not deserving acts like that of a criminal*) that will come as an opportunity to refine our faith (like gold or silver heated to remove impurities) and make it more genuine as we also give up false idols and practices, finding our hope in real risen Savior - Jesus Christ. **R** - The result will be a genuine and real faith that can persevere in the most difficult and unjust moments with joy as our lives reflect the glory and honor due Jesus Christ.

PART 1C: CULTURALLY CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

23. Refining Fire: How trials and difficulties strengthen your faith

1 Peter 1:3-9 & 4:12-19 (James 1)

Lesson 23: S - Christian young people who actually live out their faith in public and make choices contrary to a sinful world should expect unjust suffering and trials (different forms in different locations). **C** - These Christians should expect this to happen because it happened to Jesus, and because God uses these events to refine and strengthen our faith and will result in real joy because we are participating in Jesus sufferings and bringing great praise and honor to Him as the only real source of hope because He is real and rose from the dead. **R** - The result will be a genuine and real faith that can persevere in the most difficult and unjust moments with joy as our lives reflect the glory and honor due Jesus Christ.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect.

- 1. How does the process of refining gold, silver, or any precious metal work? How and why is it refined?**
- 2. How is this process very similar to how God uses righteous suffering for Him in the life of a Christian?**
- 3. Many Christians tend to believe that Jesus died and experienced pain and suffering in his trial and death so that we wouldn't have to. Is this accurate? Why or why not?**
- 4. Why is Jesus resurrection from the dead so important to our faith and hope?**
- 5. What are some examples of suffering that is not righteous or the result of living out our faith in Jesus?**
- 6. What are some examples of suffering students and families might experience that would be the kind of trial or suffering Peter is talking about?**
- 7. How can suffering produce joy? How does it give glory and honor to Jesus?**

Unit 8: Living out real faith *with* Jesus until you see Jesus

Lesson 24: What is real faith versus false or unbiblical faith?

PART 1A: HISTORICAL TIME-BOUND TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

24. What is real faith versus false or unbiblical faith?

Hebrews 11 (2 Timothy 3:14-15 / Hebrews 1-10 / Revelation 21,22)

Lesson 24: S - In the book of Hebrews the author points our attention on the person of Jesus and how faith in Jesus as our savior, high priest, and covenant (promise) keeper is essential to real faith, salvation, and pleasing God. **C** - We are to have a faith that is confident and sure about what we do not yet see, and a real faith in the existence of God, which was demonstrated through many of the old testament people of God (Noah, Moses, Abraham). **R** - The result of this kind of faith is revealed by the kind of belief that steps out on these beliefs with their time, energy, relationships, money, and all that they have because they know that they are not citizens of this world and therefore live and act as those who belong to another world (heaven with Jesus).

PART 1B: TIMELESS TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result (missing history)

24. What is real faith versus false or unbiblical faith?

Hebrews 11 (2 Timothy 3:14-15 / Hebrews 10:19-39 / Revelation 21,22)

Lesson 24: S - God wants his children to understand that a real, dependent belief (faith) and relationship with the real person of Jesus (risen from the dead) must be at the center of our relationship with God. **C** - We are to have a faith that is confident and sure about what we do not yet see, and a real faith in the existence and work of God which is the result of an ongoing relationship, study, and teaching. We are not called to have blind faith or empty faith in Jesus that has no real reason, roots or foundation. **R** - The result of this kind of faith shows itself as a child of God steps out on these beliefs with their time, energy, relationships, money, and all that they have because they know that their hope is based on something real and that they are not citizens of this world and therefore live and act as those who belong to another world (joy and heaven with Jesus).

PART 1C: CULTURALLY CONNECTED TRUTHS: Situation, Choice / Reaction, Result

24. What is real faith versus false or unbiblical faith?

Hebrews 11 (2 Timothy 3:14-15 / Hebrews 10:19-39 / Revelation 21,22)

Lesson 24: S - Students need to understand that a confident, real, dependent relationship with the real person of Jesus is essential to pleasing God and living the real victorious Christian life. **C** - Real Christians will show a faith that is confident and sure about what they do not see with their eyes but know is real though many other forms of truth based study, evidence, experience, and past stepping out in faith. We are not called to have a blind faith or empty faith in Jesus or God that has no real reason or roots, and stands on a sandy foundation that will fall apart at the slightest wave of doubt or trial. **R** - The result of this kind of faith shows it is real as it steps out (puts real weight on) on these beliefs with their time, energy, relationships, money, and all that they have because they know that their hope is based on something real and that they are not citizens of this world and therefore live and act as those who belong to another world (joy and heaven with Jesus).

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: Questions that clarify, challenge, and connect.

1. *What are some ways people use the word faith that might not be Biblical?*
2. *Why might many people call Hebrews 11 the "Hall of Faith" chapter?*
3. *What is the difference between real faith and blind faith? How might it show up?*
4. *How can someone have assurance of something they can't see with their eyes? Like how we can't see God but know He is real? What are some well studied reasons for believing in the God of the Bible?*
5. *How is a weak or blind faith like standing on a foundation of sand next to the ocean?*
6. *Why is it so important that Jesus is at the center of our faith in God?*