

TRUE FRIENDS MAKE KNOWN THE LOVE OF JESUS

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: I AM AN AMBASSADOR
SERIES: GOD IS THE MESSAGE - I AM THE MESSENGER

BIG TRUTH: TRUE FRIENDS MAKE KNOWN THE LOVE OF JESUS

John 15:15; Proverbs 27:17; Acts 4:23-24; Job 32:3

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 15:15

“No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing, but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.”

BIG IDEAS

- Making Jesus known begins when we personally encounter Jesus.
- True friendship means caring more about the soul than acceptance.
- True friendship means inviting others to join you as you follow Jesus.

BIBLE PASSAGE: JOHN 1:35-51

KNEEL - I AM AN AMBASSADOR

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28). Worship is not something that is limited to a service once a week, but instead occurs every day, in all of life. We are unceasing worshipers. Worship never stops, it only changes directions. In order to worship God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, we must embrace our identity as image bearers. It is out of that identity that we can begin to live for God’s glory in all of life (Colossians 3:17).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- The gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ that brings salvation to sinners.
- Salvation comes by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.
- Jesus followers have been trusted with the gospel in order to share it with others.



Every student should strive to...

- Share the gospel each month with at least one person who does not know Jesus.
- Practice sharing the gospel using multiple different tools or methods.



Every student should feel...

- Humbled that as believers we have been entrusted with the glorious gospel of our Savior.
- Satisfied in Jesus as the only true Savior



Every student should want...

- To grow in awareness of the false saviors they are tempted to put their hope in.
- To have a softened heart and love for people who are lost
- To take advantage of opportunities to share the gospel with people in their lives who need Christ

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week’s Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.

TRUE FRIENDS MAKE KNOWN THE LOVE OF JESUS

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 15:15

“No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing, but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.”

A believer must know Jesus to share Jesus.

“No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing...”

- Because no one seeks God in their natural state, we cannot really tell others about Jesus until we personally encounter Him ourselves. We can only share about what we really know about and until we really know Jesus as our Savior, we can't successfully tell others about Him.
- Making Jesus known in the world requires us to have a relationship with Him first. We must have repented of our sins and believed that He is the Savior in order to share this good news with other people. We must know Him and grow in our knowledge of Him to really tell others how to follow Him.

Knowing Jesus leads us to share Him with others.

“...but I have called you friends...”

- When we become believers, Jesus calls us friends. This means that we have a right relationship with Him and we walk this life joining Him in His mission.
- Being His friends means we are on mission with Him and we will tell others about Him.
- As we grow in our knowledge of Him, we will leverage our lives to tell others about Him. We will begin to love people with a Godly love that leads us to share with them the greatest news every told.

Knowing Jesus means knowing and sharing the Father with others.

“for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.”

- When we love others with a Godly love, we will tell them about Jesus. We will seek them out and find a way to tell them the good news of the Gospel. Jesus modeled this love for us as He ministered on the earth telling people about Himself and the Father.
- All that Jesus knows about the Father He shares with His people.
- When we know Jesus, we know the Father and knowing the Father means telling others about Him. It is part of our purpose as followers of Christ to love others enough to tell them about the Gospel and ask them to follow Jesus with us.

TRUE FRIENDS MAKE KNOWN THE LOVE OF JESUS

BIG IDEA #1: MAKING JESUS KNOWN BEGINS WHEN WE PERSONALLY ENCOUNTER JESUS.¹

[THIS]

In order to tell others about Jesus, we must encounter Him ourselves. In John 1:40-42, Andrew models this truth. When Andrew encountered Jesus, his response was to find his brother, Simon Peter and take him to Jesus. Andrew first met Jesus personally and then carried his brother to meet Jesus personally. If we want to share Jesus with others, we must first know Him as our own personal Savior. It's easy to see Jesus as the Savior without really applying the need for salvation to ourselves. We can't really tell others about Jesus, until we have repented and believed in him for our own salvation. When we've experienced Him ourselves, we understand the Gospel and can tell others how to be saved from their sin.

[THEREFORE]

When was the first time you had a genuine encounter with Jesus? What can your encounter with Jesus teach you about sharing the gospel with others?

Romans 10:9-10 shows us that those who have confessed with their mouths and believed in their hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead are saved. When a person does this, it means that they believe the Gospel--that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, was buried, and raised to life on the third day. Believing this is the first step in being able to tell others about Jesus. Your own encounter with Jesus can help you share Him with others. As you reflect on your personal interaction with Jesus, you can share this with others who not yet know Him.

[THIS]

Because John personally knew Jesus, he told others about Him. Others came to know Jesus because John knew him first and then made Him known to others. Knowing Jesus will produce a love in us for others. It will cause us to want others to know Him because of His greatness and the hope that one can have by believing in Him. He is our hope and joy. He alone can give true happiness and satisfy our souls forever. When we have experienced this, we will tell others how to know Him, too. John the Baptist modeled this when he told people who Jesus was and followed after Jesus himself.

[THEREFORE]

Read Philippians 3:4-11. How is Paul's story about coming to faith similar to yours and how is it different? What can Paul and Andrew's examples teach us about sharing the gospel with others?

Paul used his own encounter with Jesus to tell others how to know Him. Paul was a religious person, but he had not personally encountered Jesus until the Road to Damascus. When he did personally encounter him, Paul changed and his message to others changed. Andrew encountered Jesus and began telling others about Him. An encounter with Jesus will lead us to share Him with others.

When Andrew saw Jesus and heard he was the Messiah he went to his brother. Who is a member of your family that doesn't know Jesus that you can pray for and share the gospel with?

Matthew 28:16-20 is known as the Great Commission. It is for every person who personally encounters Jesus. Once we know Jesus, we are to go into the world telling others about Him and it begins in our current town, home, school, and realm of influence. This is how we fulfill our purpose, which is to glorify God. We all can name at least one person in our lives who doesn't know Jesus and make it our goal to place ourselves in a position to tell them the good news of the Gospel.

1. John 17:3: The Gospel is knowing Jesus because our sin has been forgiven and this reconciles us to Him.

TRUE FRIENDS MAKE KNOWN THE LOVE OF JESUS

BIG IDEA #2: TRUE FRIENDSHIP MEANS CARING MORE ABOUT THE SOUL THAN ACCEPTANCE.²

[THIS]

Andrew was a true friend to his brother and others. He didn't wait to share the good thing that had happened to him with others. He didn't consider how his brother or others would respond to him. Instead, he chose to share the good news with the people he cared about. When we love Jesus and truly desire to bring Him glory, we will more concerned with a person's soul than with our own comfort. When we see people and spend time with them, we will value them because their souls will matter more to us than anything else. Andrew was not concerned with people's views of him. He was concerned with their souls and making sure they knew that the Savior had come. We must concern ourselves with people's souls and not how we might be perceived. We must push those thoughts and worries from our minds and focus, instead, on the person's soul.

[THEREFORE]

Do you struggle with desiring acceptance more than you should? What can we do to begin putting this desire to death?

Proverbs 29:25 tells us that fearing man can set a trap for us, but trusting God leads to peace and security. It's easy to fall prey to fearing what others think, but we must trust God's Word completely and not give into the fear. Matthew 10:28 and Galatians 1:10 also help us understand that we should not and do not need to fear people if we are following God. This doesn't mean we won't face adversity, but it does mean we will be given the help and peace we need always.

We struggle to see people from an eternal perspective. How do we begin to see others as people with a soul in need of Jesus?

Colossians 1:9-10 and 2:6-7 teach us that growing in our knowledge and understanding of Christ leads to our living lives pleasing to Him. If our lives please Him, it means we are obedient to Him and that means we are sharing the truth with others. We are valuing other people's souls. As we grow in knowing Christ and reminding ourselves of all that He has done for us, our value of people will increase.

[THIS]

Sharing about Jesus and making Him known involves dying to ourselves. When we die to ourselves, we will be able to set aside our own feelings and love people enough to tell them about Jesus no matter their response. We will also be able to love people who are not like us or who offend us, or even reject us. We will care more about their soul and where they will spend eternity than we will our rights and acceptance. Caring more about a person's soul will lead us to live boldly for God in order to make Jesus known. Caring more for souls than acceptance will set us free from the fear of man and will enable us to make an impact in this world for God's kingdom.

[THEREFORE]

Who in your life do you need to see as an eternal soul? What steps can you take to do this this week?

Matthew 5:43-44 reminds us that we are to love our enemies and pray for them. When we have people whom we find difficult to love or to value their souls above anything else, praying for them is the first step in changing the way we see them. As we pray for the lost, our value of their souls will grow.

2. John 1:46: When Nathaniel first heard that the Messiah was from Nazareth, he judged the news based upon his prejudice toward the town of Nazareth. If we are to be good friends to others, we must forge ahead and not worry if we face opposition or doubt. We must not worry about acceptance.

TRUE FRIENDS MAKE KNOWN THE LOVE OF JESUS

BIG IDEA #3: TRUE FRIENDSHIP MEANS INVITING OTHERS TO JOIN YOU AS YOU FOLLOW JESUS.³

[THIS]

In John 1:40-41, Andrew follows Jesus because of the influence of John the Baptist. He hears Jesus, encounters Him, and believes He is the Messiah. Andrew was a follower of Jesus. His life was transformed by his encounter with Jesus. His transformation led him to make Jesus known to his friends. Before we can make Jesus known to others, we must be transformed by Him. This transformation will make us desire the things God desires. Our hearts will long for the things that bring Him glory. Our lives will no longer be lived for ourselves, but instead, we will live for Christ. Our motive for all we do will be the glory of God. We will leverage our lives to reach those who are far from God and we will put ourselves out there in order to tell others about Jesus.

[THEREFORE]

Do you desire the things that bring God glory? Why or why not?

Our natural human desires must be put to death in order for us to bring God glory. When we die to ourselves daily, we deny ourselves the desires of our flesh nature. James 4:2-3 speaks to the way we pray and how we ask God for things. When we ask according to our own desire, we are not seeking God's glory. We often are sidetracked or distracted by the things of the world that we can see. These distractions keep us from desiring the things that God does.

How can you grow your desire to live for God's glory instead of your own story?

Galatians 5:23 tells us that we must crucify our flesh and its desires. When we make it our habit to daily crucify our fleshly desires, we will grow in desiring God's glory. We will want the things that He wants and not the things that we want.

[THIS]

As we follow Jesus, we should invite others to follow him with us. Our journey should include our making Him known and inviting others to believe and follow Him. We see Andrew do this when he goes to his brother, Simon Peter. Later, we see Philip go to Nathaniel and invite him to come with him to follow Jesus. Following Jesus involves loving Him so much, we love people more than we love ourselves and we desire for them to join us on our journey of following Christ. Being a true friend to others means telling them about the salvation Jesus offers and how they can become followers of Jesus. It means living holy lives that show what it looks like to follow after Jesus and walking in obedience to Him. It means loving Jesus and others enough to tell them the truth.

[THEREFORE]

Are you a true friend to the lost people in your life? How can you be a better friend to them by sharing difficult or hard truth with them?

John 3:16 teaches us what real love looks like. It is sacrificial and it willingly offers up the most loved possession for the sake of others. When we seek to become true friends to those in our lives, we will love them with Godly love. 1 John 4:10-11 teaches us that Godly love reveals that we have encountered Jesus and it leads us to love others in the same way He loves us. This means we will tell them the truth about the Gospel and we will tell them hard truths because we love them.

3. John 1:49: Being a true friend means declaring that Jesus is the Savior and telling others about the good news of the Gospel.