

MIDDLE SCHOOL GUIDE 6

JESUS IS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW

YEAR: TRANSFORM / FOCUS: I AM GROWING
SERIES: GOD IS THE TREASURE - I AM BANKRUPT

BIG TRUTH: JESUS IS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW

1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Leviticus 16:15-22; Ezekiel 36:22-28; Philippians 3:9; Luke 24:44

BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 5:17

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

BIG IDEAS

- All of Scripture points to Jesus.
- All of Scripture is relevant and authoritative for all of life.
- All of Scripture points to our need for a righteousness found outside of ourselves.

BIBLE PASSAGE: MATTHEW 5:17-20

TRANSFORM - I AM GROWING

The Transform Year is an exploration of what it means to become a "new creation" in Jesus. (2 Corinthians 5:17) In order for this to happen, we must first find our identity in Him. Many of us live in a consistent state of identity crises. We wrestle with questions like who am I, where do I belong, why do I exist? The answer to these questions is found in Jesus. Our prayer for this semester is that like the Apostle Paul we would be able to say, "I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." (Galatians 2:20).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- Life, joy, wisdom, and purpose are only found in our treasure, Jesus
- Apart from Jesus we are personally, relationally, and spiritually bankrupt
- The Christian life is about growth not arrival.



Every student should feel...

- Encouraged that Jesus is the treasure our hearts desire
- The depth of their personal and spiritual bankruptcy
- Emboldened to live for God's kingdom alone



Every student should strive to...

- Read the Sermon on the Mount
- Memorize the Bible Verse each week
- Begin practicing some of the basic spiritual disciplines



Every student should want to...

- See the Beatitudes become their attitudes
- Put sin to death and live for God's kingdom
- Pursue Jesus by embracing and practicing spiritual disciplines

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.



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BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 5:17

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

Jesus did not come to abolish the law.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets..."

- God gave the Law as a way to guide His people and to allow them access to Him. As His people obeyed His law, they obeyed Him, and grew in their knowledge of Him. The Law served a purpose to show mankind its inability to redeem itself. No man can keep the Law perfectly. We all break God's law at some point in our lives making us unable to save ourselves.
- Jesus didn't come to the earth to do away with the Law because God's Law is good, right, and true. Jesus came to fulfill the Law, to live it out perfectly according to God the Father's plan.
- Jesus came to the earth and lived in perfect obedience to God, making a way for all of mankind to be redeemed.

Jesus' coming to the earth fulfilled prophecy.

"I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

- When Jesus came to the earth, He fulfilled the prophecies foretelling His birth and ministry on earth. Jesus did not come to abolish the prophecies or to replace them, but to complete them.
- The fulfillment of the prophecies reveals God's great faithfulness. He is steadfast and true. He is everlasting and does exactly what He says He's going to do.

Jesus came to follow the Law perfectly on our behalf.

"I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

- Jesus came to the earth as the Redeemer of the world. He chose to take on flesh, becoming like us in our humanness so that He might be the perfect sacrifice for man's sin. In order to be the perfect sacrifice, He had to live the perfect life.
- Jesus did live perfectly on earth. He never sinned or disobeyed God's Law. He fulfilled it and lived the perfect life that we could not live. His fulfillment of the Law and death on the cross made a way for us to be set free from our sin natures.

JESUS IS THE FULFILLMENT
OF THE LAW**BIG IDEA #1: ALL OF SCRIPTURE POINTS TO JESUS.¹****[THIS]**

The whole of Scripture points to God's plan of redemption. Man's creation and subsequent sin in the Garden of Eden reveals the world's need for redemption. Throughout the Old Testament, the history of Israel and the Prophets all point to God's future plan of redeeming the world through His Son, the Messiah. In every story, every experience, God's Word points to the promise of the coming Messiah. The Law given to God's people reveals man's inability to save himself. The Prophets spoke of man's wickedness and God's grace in one day sending a Savior. Jesus is present in the Old Testament as life unfolds on earth and God's plan of salvation is established. We see Jesus in the sacrificial system established through the Law. We see God as the Rescuer of His people during the life of Israel. We see Jesus as the fulfillment of the Law when He lives the perfect life on earth and dies in our place on the cross.

[THEREFORE]**How does Scripture reveal that Jesus fulfilled the Law?**

1 Peter 1:18-19 speaks to the sinless life that Jesus lived while on earth. Jesus' sinless life reveals that He fulfilled the Law by obeying it perfectly. 1 Peter 2:22 teaches us that Jesus committed no sin. His life was perfect. Hebrew 4:15 goes even further to show us that Jesus was tempted in every way to sin, yet He did not. His fulfillment of the Law is perfect and complete.

How does the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning the Messiah strengthen your own trust of God and His Word?

Matthew 1:22-23, 8:17, and Luke 24:44 remind us of the prophecies that Jesus' life and death fulfilled. Deuteronomy 7:9 and 2 Thessalonians 3:3 teach us that God is faithful. When we remember the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled, we are reminded of God's faithfulness to keep His promises. God's Word is trustworthy because God is trustworthy. He has given us proof of His faithfulness through His Son.

[THIS]

In Matthew 5:17, Jesus says that He came to fulfill the Law and the prophecies. The New Testament is full of the many ways that Jesus did both of these things. He kept the Law perfectly and fulfilled the prophecies told about Him. Jesus fulfilled the Law and prophecies for the sake of the world. He lived the perfect life and died in our place that we might be reconciled to God. The whole of Scripture points to Jesus as our Savior. In the New Testament we read of Jesus' life on earth, His death, and His resurrection. In all of these areas, He fulfilled the Law and prophecies.

[THEREFORE]**Think about your own personal study of the Bible. What are some passages you've read that point to Jesus being the Savior?**

Every part of Scripture points to Jesus as Savior. In Psalms 33:4 and 86:15, the psalmist praises God for His faithfulness. God is faithful because He fulfills His promises. His great faithfulness was seen most in His sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

1. Matthew 5:17: Jesus came to fulfill the Law and prophets. The whole of Scripture points to this truth about Jesus. He is the Redeemer.

JESUS IS THE FULFILLMENT
OF THE LAW**BIG IDEA #2: ALL OF SCRIPTURE IS RELEVANT AND AUTHORITATIVE FOR ALL OF LIFE.²****[THIS]**

Many things in life gain relevance and then lose it just as quickly, but God's Word remains relevant to every situation or circumstance we may face. In Matthew 5:19, Jesus teaches the importance of God's Word when He warns of negative consequences for not obeying it. While there are many things not specifically mentioned in God's Word, such as how to use social media, etc, there is nothing we ever face in life that God's Word does not offer guidance, wisdom, and truth. Scripture is breathed out by God, it is able to address any issue or situation we may ever face. God's Word is the source of all authority and truth for any area of our lives at any point in time.

[THEREFORE]**In what way have you seen the relevance of God's Word in a present situation?**

Psalm 119:66 speaks of the good judgment and knowledge that comes from God's Word where His commands are found. When we trust God's Word as our source of wisdom, we will see that it is relevant for every part of our lives. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 reminds us that God's Word is just that—His Word. It's not just a guidebook, but the actual Word of God. 1 Peter 1:25 teaches us that God's Word lasts forever. It does not change because God does not change and it is always relevant to any situation.

[THIS]

God's Word is the authority on all things for the believer. Jesus' words in Matthew 5:19 teach this truth. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 also teaches the authority that Scripture has in all of life. There is no part of Scripture that should not be obeyed. There is no part of God's Word that isn't profitable to life on this earth. Any situation in our lives can be addressed through the lens of Scripture. Spiritual, political, and social issues should be viewed through the lens of God's Word. Our beliefs about any given situation or issue should be based upon God's Word. God's Word is our only source of true wisdom for navigating this life in an obedient way to God.

[THEREFORE]**Who are you tempted to go and trust for advice and direction instead of God's Word?**

Colossians 2:8 reminds us of the folly of relying upon human thought, tradition, and wisdom. Ephesians 4:14-15 teaches us about the danger of seeking worldly wisdom which leads to being tossed to and fro in our beliefs. James 3:17 serves as a reminder of the everlasting power of God's wisdom, which is found in His Word.

In what areas do you struggle to obey God's Word?

2 Peter 1:5-8 teaches us that when we seek God and seek to obey His commands, we will grow spiritually. We fail to grow spiritually when we disobey His Word. James 1:14-15 speaks to the struggle that each person has with his or her flesh nature. The struggle to resist our desire is a struggle against God's Word. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 also reminds us that our very bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit and should be treated as such. Often we think of our bodies as our own and we are tempted to do what makes us happy as opposed to obeying God's Word.

2. Matthew 5:19: No part of Scripture should be changed or removed because it is God's Word and holds all authority.

JESUS IS THE FULFILLMENT
OF THE LAW**BIG IDEA #3: ALL SCRIPTURE POINTS TO OUR NEED FOR A RIGHTEOUSNESS FOUND OUTSIDE OF OURSELVES.³****[THIS]**

In Matthew 5:20, Jesus warns His listeners that their righteousness needed to be different than that of the Scribes and Pharisees. The Scribes and Pharisees focused on outward appearances and not their hearts. The whole of Scripture teaches us that our own righteousness is not sufficient to save us. We cannot be good enough to save ourselves or anyone else because of our sin nature. All of our seemingly good deeds are tainted by our sinful hearts and the selfishness that is inside them. The whole of Scripture shows us the futility of man's attempt at his own righteousness. No one is good and no one can save themselves. All are in need of the salvation offered through the blood of Jesus.

[THEREFORE]**How has Scripture shown you your own lack of righteousness?**

When Colossians 3:5 speaks about putting off the earthly things inside of us, it reveals that we all are unrighteous before knowing Christ. Ephesians 4:22-24 also serves as a reminder that every person is unrighteous without Christ. Romans 5:8 shows us that we can have righteousness through Christ because Christ died for us while we were still sinners. There is nothing we can do to save ourselves.

[THIS]

Every person is in need of Christ's righteousness. The whole of Scripture teaches that we are only saved through faith in Jesus. It is His righteousness that is applied to our lives that saves us. Scripture points to Jesus' saving power and shows us how to receive this righteousness. Throughout Scripture, God points to our need of salvation and His provision of it. From the sacrificial laws given to Israel to Paul's letters to the New Testament churches, God's Word points to our salvation coming from Christ alone.

[THEREFORE]**Jesus said that unless our right living before God exceeds that of the Pharisees we will not enter the kingdom of heaven. If this is true, how can we be made righteous?**

In John 8:34, Jesus teaches that when we sin, we are slaves to that sin because of our sin nature. 1 Corinthians 2:14 shows us that we are not born open to the things of God. Ephesians 2:5-9 and 2 Corinthians 5:21 show us that we need the righteousness of Jesus in order to be made righteous.

How can you use Scripture to help others see their helplessness without the righteousness of God?

Romans 3:23 shows us that all are unrighteous and in need of salvation. John 3:16 gives us the remedy for our helplessness and John 14:6 and Acts 4:12 point us to our need of salvation through Jesus because salvation only comes through Him.

3. Matthew 5:20: Jesus taught His followers that their righteousness had to be more than their outward appearances. It had to be a heart change.