

Winterfest 2014 “WEAVE”

THEME: The Winterfest 2014 theme is “WEAVE.” It is the second year of a four year series concerning THE WAY. Last year centered on “Withdrawal,” getting away from the world and all its trappings. This year we want our teens to grow in their love for the church, appreciate the church, respect the church, be committed to their church, and make church a priority in their lives.

In this “pre-event lesson” as well as at the event, we will take a deeper look at the church, the Bride of Christ. As we get to know God’s love and plan and purpose for his church, you can know that we are praying for you and your ministry. May God bless you as you work with your teens to “Weave Church into Life and Life Into the Church.”

Schedule of Winterfest 2014 Sessions:

Time	Teacher	Topic
Friday Night	Chris Seidman	People not a Place. Identity that guides our life and mission. This would include a short overview of how the church is part of the grand narrative of scripture.
Saturday Morning (A)	Taylor Walling	Purpose in Life. Encourage. Love. Serve. Represent and reflect Jesus. (This is a lot like the...um...L2 part of Matt. 22; also, we can't sit around we must act)
Saturday Morning (B)	Jeff Walling	Provides Roots and Real Relationships, Community and Accountability. The church, God's holy people, partner and bring joy.
Saturday Night	David Skidmore	Place in the Body. Passion to fulfill my role. God's holy people are faithful and passionate because of the hope stored up in them for heaven. The anticipation of being together as a body, not only now but future adds to our daily passion.
Sunday Morning	Patrick Mead	Praise. The church gathers to worship/ Remember Jesus.



Winterfest 2014 Pre-Event Lesson -1 “WEAVE”

Before the lesson:

1. Say a prayer for your students and for your time together. Ask God to speak through you so that your students may hear His Word.
2. Go over these notes and make them your own. Use what works for you. You may not want to use all of this material. Adapt this plan (edit, delete, add, subtract) to make it fit you and your situation.
3. This plan includes two chapters (Chapters 5&6) from Tim Woodroof’s book, “A Church That Flies.” (We recommend that you buy and read the book!) Tim has graciously given Winterfest permission to use these chapters for this lesson. Read the entirety of both chapters. This Pre-event lesson will be largely guided by what Tim wrote in chapters 5&6.
4. Several video links are included in this lesson plan. Look at the videos ahead of time to determine if you want to incorporate them into your lesson plan:

Keep in Mind: The aim of this lesson is to prepare students for the messages they will hear during the sessions at Winterfest 2014. These thoughts will “prime the pump” in your teens’ hearts and minds as they get ready for Winterfest.

Introduction

Just as Tim Woodroof asked his students, begin by having your class consider the “marks” of the true church. “What ARE the marks of the true church?”

Divide your class into teams and challenge them with this contest: See which team can best describe the essential *business* of God’s Kingdom; the fundamental work He has called us to accomplish. (What is the church *for*? What is our function? Why are we here? What is God trying to *do* through us? When you boil the church down to its essentials, what big themes emerge? Who is the church and what is it for?)

Have a prize ready for the team that does the best job.

Tim names seven functions of the church.

Worship. Holiness. Community. Maturation. Service. Witness. Influence.

These seven words summarize the work God has entrusted to His church. They represent areas of responsibility that transcend time and culture and circumstance. These are the ideals that define the church of Jesus Christ.

Address each function carefully. Go through each of the seven functions with your students. This may take more than one class session. Feel free to make this last for as many class sessions as you wish; whatever best suits your situation.

Before class time, it might be a good idea to visually enhance the lesson by preparing an attractive colorful poster for each of the seven functions. (Maybe you can solicit the help of your creative, artistic students ahead of time with this.) Set the poster up as you begin discussing that particular function.

Begin preparing for your pre-Winterfest class by reading the two chapters (Chapters 5&6) from Tim Woodroof's book, "A Church That Flies." This Pre-event lesson will be largely directed by Tim's thoughts in chapters 5&6.

Below you'll find some *additional* thoughts, discussion questions and resources you may use to support the focus on each of the seven functions.

1. Worship

~ Good Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think that worship is such an important function for the church collectively AND for each individual Christian?
2. What happens in the heart of the person who truly worships?
3. What is meant by the phrase, "Worship was not just an event for early Christians-it was an experience."
4. Have you ever worshipped in such a way that you could describe it as an "experience?" If so, explain why.
5. For the Christian, when does worship start and when does it stop?

~ On Youtube, go to this link to see a good video entitled "A Life of Worship."

Do you have a life of worship beyond Sunday morning? This video challenges the church to live a life of worship, not just on Sundays but every day and everywhere.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJ2jb7kuFMA> After the video, ask:

- What common myths or misperceptions does this video address?
- Discuss the differences in worshipping as a group and worshipping as an individual. Is one more important than the other? Is one more challenging than the other? If so, which one?

~ IDEA: Take your students to a stage area that has spotlights. Have your students sit in the center of the stage area with the spotlight turned on.

Center stage, being in the spotlight; both refer to the idea of being the prime attraction, something that most of us want because of our pride and selfishness.

The Christian idea, of course, is just the opposite. We are to avoid putting ourselves at the center of attention and instead give God the glory. Worship is all about turning the spotlight OFF ourselves and turning it ON to Jesus: making sure that we give center stage to Him.

Jesus said, “If I turned the *spotlight* on myself, it wouldn’t amount to anything. But my Father, the same One you say is your Father, put me here at this time and place of splendor. You haven’t recognized him in this. But I have. John 8:54 (The Message)

Ask: Do you put the spotlight on Jesus? Do you recognize and acknowledge Him as the One? How can you do that better?

Jesus also said, “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” John 12:32 (NIV)

- Is Jesus lifted up in your life? Is He lifted up in the life of your worshipping community?
- What can you do to more effectively lift Him up?

2. Holiness

~ Good Discussion Questions:

1. How would you define holiness?*
2. How does holiness flow out of effective worship?
3. Why is holiness more than simply avoiding sin?
4. How is holiness different from being religious? How is it the same?
5. Why don’t we pursue holiness more passionately?

~ * Holiness involves the notion of separating ourselves for— dedicating ourselves to— godly living. It implies an active pursuit motivated by a passion for God and a revulsion for the sinful and the profane

~ “Be holy because I am holy.” Leviticus 11:45 The Bible reveals that God is perfect, holy and sinless. Because of His nature, it is impossible for him to allow mankind, with the guilt of sin on him, to live in His Presence. If sin’s guilt is not removed, this separation will continue into eternity. Because of God’s love for us, He wants to forgive us and receive us back into his fellowship. However, his holiness and justice demand a payment for sin – a penalty far greater than we are able to pay. Man’s efforts to save himself are never good enough. It is impossible for us to earn forgiveness. Is there no hope for us? Praise God there IS a solution to our sin problem! (Romans 5:6-10)

~ On Youtube, go to this link to see a good video called God’s Holiness

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S8d-yNW0ZuA>

Use the video as a basis to discuss these questions:

1. When Isaiah saw the holiness of Jesus, he cried out, “Woe is Me.” Why did Isaiah say “Woe is me?”
2. What feelings do you think Isaiah experienced when he saw the holiness of Jesus?
3. How did the fact that Isaiah saw the holiness of Jesus affect the way Isaiah saw himself? How so?
4. What are the dangers of seeing Jesus solely as our “buddy” or as a safety net?
5. Reverence, awe and woe—what roles do these fill in our spiritual lives? Why should we feel them?

~ IDEA: Have students recite the Lord's Prayer. Note that it begins, "**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name...**" Hallowed means holy. The word hallowed means, to pronounce as holy. God's name is essentially holy; and the meaning of this request is, "Let your name be celebrated and esteemed and lifted up as holy everywhere, and may it receive of all men proper honor and glory." It is the desire on the part of the Christian, that the name of God, even God himself, should be held in proper respect.

Challenge them to pray just this first sentence of the prayer every day for a week and see how it will make a difference in their lives!

~ Some might consider it an "old-school" idea, but consider challenging your students with this thought: When you read Scripture, show reverence, respect and awe for God and His Word by taking off your hats. Then experiment by having students stand for the reading of the inspired, holy, infallible word of God (just like they did when Ezra read the Law in Nehemiah 8).

3. Community

~ Good Discussion Questions:

1. How does the fact that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit illustrate the importance of community and relationship for us?
2. Discuss the idea of traditional, rugged, American individualism and self-reliance. Are these good or bad? Explain why.

~ Read this passage from Romans 12:5 "so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

: What does Paul mean when he says that we belong to each other?

: Do we have any responsibilities to each other? If so, what are those responsibilities?

~ Read this passage to discover what responsibility we have for each other:

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25

~ Watch the tongue-in-cheek Igniter video by Johnny and Chachi entitled: "Community." [The link below is to a "Preview Only" clip. You can purchase the clip from Igniter Media for showing to your group.]

<http://www.ignitermedia.com/products/1379-killer-community-tips>

After watching the video, discuss the "points" that Johnny and Chachi made. What were they *really* saying when they said:

1. The bigger the group the better
2. Give "popular sayings" and the Bible equal weight
3. Don't accept criticism. Get out
4. Careful with going too deep.

5. Allow an individual or couple to dominate the group
6. Plan for inconsistent attendance

4. Maturation

~ Intentional, deliberate methodical process growing people into spiritual maturity. Training and equipping people for life in the kingdom.

~ Good Discussion Questions:

1. What ways has your church helped you to grow spiritually?
2. What do you think is the most important thing a church can do to help its people become more mature in the faith?
3. What is the hardest part about growing and becoming more mature?

~ Read the passage below using the traditional “**Lectio Divina**” ([Latin](#) for *divine reading*) practice of scripture reading, meditation and prayer. Traditionally, Lectio Divina has 4 separate steps: *read, meditate, pray* and *contemplate*. First a passage of Scripture is read, then its meaning is reflected upon. This is followed by prayer and contemplation on the Word of God. Maybe you can read the passage aloud twice, prompting the class to listen carefully for the words and phrases that really jump out to them. Have students share those words and phrases with the rest of the group. Discuss them together.

Ephesians 4:11-16

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

5. Service

~ When we engage in selfless ministry, we partake in the nature and ministry of our Lord.

~ Recite the following statements, then have your students complete the statement in their own words, then discuss.

- When I serve other people, _____ .
- Serving others makes me feel _____ .
- When the church doesn't serve _____ .
- The greatest is _____ .

~ Show the Youtube video featuring the Olivet Eagles, a middle-school football team from Olivet, Michigan, who with the help of a learning disabled teammate, executed a beautiful act of selfless service. Youtube link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPCFZ0nvRUs>

After watching the video, ask these Good Discussion Questions:

1. How did these boys serve? What effect do you think their act of service had on their disabled teammate and his family? On their classmates? On their town? On themselves?
2. What would be the effect if the church always served with this same type of sacrifice and thoughtfulness?

6. Witness

~ Evangelistic witness has always been characteristic of those in relationship with God.

~ Have the class react and respond to the following statement: “The church is always just one generation away from potential extinction.”

~ Read Matthew 28:19-20 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

~ Good Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think is the most effective way to share the Good News of Jesus?
2. What are some reasons why Christian teens today do not witness to others?
3. What are some of the reasons the “Evangelism Linebaker”* says we don’t?

~ Watch the Evangelism Linebacker Youtube video here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvYFvxlDcY>

~ You might also want to purchase, watch and discuss these videos produced by The Skit Guys on the subject of evangelism.

The first one is called, “The Skinny on Evangelism.”

It can be viewed online at: <http://skitguys.com/videos/item/the-skinny-on-evangelism>

And the second one is called: “Awkward Invites-The Translation:

It can be viewed online at: <http://skitguys.com/videos/item/awkward-invites-the-translation>

A third one is called: “Sick.”

It can be viewed online at: <http://skitguys.com/videos/item/sick>

7. Influence

~ God’s people are called to influence our world for good.

Read Matthew 5:13-16

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to

everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

William Wilberforce is an excellent example of a man who used his influence for good.

Watch this Youtube video entitled “William Wilberforce & the End of the African Slave Trade. It is 3:31 in length

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLU182rj0pA>

~ To highlight this truth have your students play the MATCH GAME below.

MATCH GAME

Match the Christian person below with the description of their tremendous influence for good in this world. Write the number of the description beside the name.

Boethius (480-525)

Justinian (483-565)

Michelangelo (1475-1564)

Rembrandt (1606-1669)

George Mueller (1805-98)

Eric Liddell (1902-1945)

Martin Luther King (1929-1968)

William Wilberforce (1759-1833)

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John Milton (1608-1674)

Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896)

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (1918-2008)

J.R.R. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis (1900’s)

1. Byzantine emperor who had his jurists prepare the Justinian Code, which clearly condemned abortion and infanticide as illegal.
2. Born in Prussia. He was an evangelist who established orphanages in England after a cholera epidemic. For the next 60 years, he cared for more than 10,000 orphaned and abandoned children.
3. Scottish athlete and Christian popularized by the movie “Chariots of Fire.” Born in China to missionary parents, he returned to China after winning an Olympic gold medal in 1924. He taught in an Anglo-Chinese school and died in a Japanese internment camp during World War II.
4. Minister who spoke in support of fair and equal treatment for African Americans in the United States during the 1960’s. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.
5. Christian abolitionist who also served as a member of England’s House of Commons. He campaigned tirelessly for the abolition of slavery beginning in 1789. Forty four years later,

just before his death, he learned that Parliament passed the Abolition Act, by which 700,000 slaves were set free. His efforts were chronicled in the film, “Amazing Grace.”

6. Quaker and founder of Pennsylvania, He “treated the Indians with Christian charity and justice”. He called Pennsylvania “the Holy Experiment” living at peace with the Native Americans in the area.

7. A Roman nobleman, he was one of the best educated men of his time. His mathematics were used in early universities and his life goal was to translate all of the Greek philosophy and classic literature into Latin. He wrote thousands of documents, including his *Consolations of Philosophy*, which would become the most read book of the Middle Ages.

8. Remembered as the founder of the Sunday School movement in England, he sought to provide Christian education for poor children and children who would otherwise not receive a biblical education.

9. Polish astronomer who proposed the heliocentric model (planets revolving around the sun).

10. German astronomer and accomplished scientist who coined the phrase, “Thinking God’s thoughts after him.” Kepler’s *Astronomia Nova* presents two key laws of astronomy – the elliptical orbit of planets and the law that planets do not move at a uniform speed.

11. English physicist and mathematician whose many accomplishments include the discovery of the law of gravity and the invention of calculus.

12. An African-American chemist (his parents were slaves) was awarded the Roosevelt Medal in 1939 for his research on peanuts and sweet potatoes. The medal read, in part, “To a scientist humbly seeking the guidance of God...”

13. A dedicated Christian who contributed much to the world of music. He was a prolific composer, wrote sacred music, dedicating his efforts to the glory of God. His mastery of musical counterpoint remains admired and imitated today.

14. Italian Renaissance artist is remembered for his many biblically inspired works of art, including the sculpture of David, his painting of the Sistine Chapel in Rome and “The Last Judgment”. He “believed that spiritual value could be found in all natural beauty.”

15. German born composer, wrote the admired oratorio “Messiah” in a matter of weeks. He offered genuine innovations to musical form with his unique uses of the chorus (the “Hallelujah” chorus from Messiah is perhaps his best known work).

16. Dutch painter who was one of the world’s greatest painters and is known for his many biblical words including “Return of the Prodigal Son”.

17. Puritan who penned “Paradise Lost” which recounts the Fall of Man and is considered a masterpiece of epic English literature.

18. Vivid portrayal of slavery in her classic book “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” later caused Abraham Lincoln to remark, “So this is the little lady who caused the great war.”

19. Russian author and historian as well as recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in literature, wrote about the Soviet labor camps (the Gulag) and was later exiled from Russia.

20-21. Two 20th century English writers who penned some of the most popular works of fantasy in print; “The Lord of the Rings” and “The Chronicles of Narnia.”

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20. J.R.R. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis

These are the 7 Functions of the Church.

Worship. Holiness. Community. Maturation. Service. Witness. Influence.

These seven words summarize the work God has entrusted to His church. They represent areas of responsibility that transcend time and culture and circumstance. These are the ideals that define the church of Jesus Christ.

Conclude with a prayer for the church. Pray for the local church. Pray for the church all over the world. Pray that the church will honor God with our best effort in each of the seven functions. Pray for open hearts and the message they will hear at Winterfest.

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