

AMPLIFY

GROWING A
FAITH THAT LASTS

AMPLIFY: INTRODUCTION
LESSON 1: THE FOUNDATION OF
REAL RELATIONSHIP

What we want students to learn: That God’s Word is the foundation of our relationship with Him.

What we want students to do with what they’ve learned: To consider what it looks like to live a life shaped by God and His Word.

Scripture Focus: 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Psalm 119:101-103

Overview: The Bible is God’s plan for us knowing Him. It’s that simple. It’s the foundation for our faith. By knowing God through His Word, and by living it out, we realize what it means to be a Christ-follower. As you prepare to spend the next 52 lessons focusing on laying the foundation of a vibrant faith, you will be intently studying God’s Word and continuously asking yourself and your students what it looks like to let the Word be a guide for their lives. As a way of kicking off Amplify, this lesson will serve as a general call to living a life where God and His Word lead your students in their day-to-day lives.

TEACHER PREP VIDEO

Each **Amplify** lesson comes with a Teacher Prep Video. These are short videos designed to help you grasp the main point of the lesson as you prepare to teach.

To access your **Introduction** Teacher Prep Video, login to your Lesson Manager, navigate to lesson 1, and click on the “Background” tab. You’ll notice the Teacher Prep Video near the top of the Lesson Manager window.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

The **Bible Background** is designed to help you provide some context for the Scripture you’ll be studying. The Details gives you background info for each book, The Setting informs you what’s happening in and around the passage, and The Main Point gives you an overview of how the passage will be used in the lesson.

- **What do we mean by “context”?** In every **YM360** Bible study lesson, you’ll notice we make a point to encourage you to provide the context for the passages you study. By “context” we mean at the very least helping students know **who** wrote the book, **when** it was written, and **why** it was written.
- **What’s the big deal?** When we teach the Bible without giving context, students don’t get a “big picture” understanding of the story of the Bible. But this view is vital to grasping the story of God’s plan of redemption for humankind. As you teach, use the Bible Background to help summarize the context.

THE DETAILS

2 Timothy

- Author: Though in the last 200 years or so there have been efforts by some scholars to shed doubt on Paul’s authorship of both 1 and 2 Timothy, their arguments aren’t very compelling.
- Timeframe: Most scholars believe Paul wrote these letters to Timothy, his apprentice in ministry, between Paul’s

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first and second imprisonment in Rome, although some scholars believe that Paul penned 2 Timothy while in his final imprisonment before he was executed. By most accounts, this would place the writing of 1 and 2 Timothy sometime around 64–65 AD, though 2 Timothy could be as late as 67 AD.

- Purpose: In 2 Timothy, we see Paul passing along his final words to Timothy. 2 Timothy can be thought of as a personal note from an old man awaiting his death to a young, son-like figure. It's personal, tender at times, encouraging, and practical.

Psalms

- Author: God inspired various authors to write a majority of the Psalms in their era, including seventy-three by David, twelve by Asaph, eleven by the Korahites and two by Solomon. Heman, Ethan, and Moses each wrote one, while the authorship of fifty other Psalms remains unknown.
- Timeframe: The Psalms were written during different eras of Israel's history, spanning from 1100 BC (i.e., Psalm 29, 68) to 400 BC (i.e., Psalm 119).
- Purpose: The Psalms are inspired by God to poetically reflect humanity's journey with Him. Each psalm serves a different purpose, such as a personal or communal lament, hymn, song, reflection or declaration. Many of these were set to music and intended to be shared publicly, even when sharing a revealing confession (i.e., Psalm 51).

THE MAIN POINT

Each of these passages points to one truth: there is no living the Christian life apart from knowing God and being transformed by Him. And this doesn't happen apart from a relationship with God through His Word. As you begin your time teaching Amplify, this lesson will serve as a launching pad for a journey of digging into the Bible and asking how it changes us.

LESSON PLAN

The **Lesson Plan** contains three elements: An introductory activity called **The Lead In**; the Bible study section called **The Main Event**; an application-focused segment called **The Last Word**.

THE LEAD IN

- **Goal:** To get students to begin thinking about the concept of a foundation and why they are so important.
- **Set-Up:** You'll want to do a Google image search for a picture of the foundation of a home. The idea is to find a picture that shows how relatively small the foundation is for an average sized house. You'll also want to find an image for the foundation of a skyscraper or similar LARGE building. Your goal is to compare the two of them together, so you want there to be a big difference in the size.

FIRST, explain to students that you are starting a new year-long study called Amplify. Amplify is all about helping students grow a faith that is lasting and vibrant. Say something like:

- **We know that things like plants and people need certain elements to grow. But what elements does your faith need to grow? To grow a dynamic faith, you have to know God and His ways. You have to understand what God expects of His people. And you need to be able to see the world through the**

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lens of God and His character. Over the next 52 weeks, we're going to do each of these things. But we can't know God apart from His Word. And so today, we're going to introduce our study by looking at the importance of building our lives around the Word of God.

THEN, prepare to show the two images you have found online. You can print them or display them using your favorite presentation software. Display the image of the house foundation and ask students if they know what a foundation is. Ask them if they know what the purpose is. Then, show them a picture of the foundation of the skyscraper.

NEXT, lead students in a brief discussion about the two images. Ask them to consider the similarities. Ask them to list some of the differences. Ask what happens if there is a problem with the foundation of either one of the buildings. At that point, does it matter how big or how small the foundation is?

FINALLY, begin to transition to The Main Event by saying something like:

- **The foundation is critical to a house. If the foundation is made well, the house has a pretty good chance of hanging around for a long time. If the foundation is done poorly . . . Well, the house is not set up for success. Our relationship with God has a foundation to it, as well. And just like the foundation of a house, it needs to be stable. Let's take a few minutes and see exactly what the Bible says about the foundation of the lives we lead as Christ-followers.**

THE MAIN EVENT

- **Goal:** For students to see that God's Word is the foundation of our relationship with Him.
- **Set Up:** None

FIRST, instruct students to turn to 2 Timothy. While they are finding it in their Bibles or Bible apps, provide some context for the verse using the Bible Background. When you're done, have a student read 2 Timothy 3:14-17. When they have finished, lead them in a brief discussion. Ask something like:

- **What do you think Paul means when he says to "continue" in what Timothy had learned?**
 - Answer: It means that it's not enough to learn about God when we are becoming Christians. As we continue to mature, our faith must mature also. We never STOP learning about God.
- **What does it mean to become convinced of something?**
 - Answer: It means to come to believe it. But there is the connotation of a process, or of a journey to understanding.
- **There are plenty of people who doubt the message of the Bible. What are some of the arguments people use to discredit God's Word or to cast doubt as to its truthfulness? Why do you think people respond like this?**
 - Answers will vary.
- **Why do you think it matters who Timothy learned the Bible from? What role do other people have in teaching you about God and His Word?**
 - Answers will vary. Help students understand that we know from Scripture that Timothy's mother and grandmother were instrumental in leading him to know God and know God more. Paul talks about the faith and example of these women. When people who have a vibrant faith lead us to know God and His word, it's a more powerful example. We can know that the knowledge they are passing to us has

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first transformed them. It's more authentic.

- **In your own words, what do you think Paul means when he says that the Bible can make us “wise for salvation”?**
 - Answers will vary. Help students see that we can only be saved from our sins and enter into a relationship with God through faith in Jesus and the work He did on the cross. There is no knowing Jesus apart from the Word. Therefore, the Bible is critical in our knowledge of God.

When you've finished, say something like:

- **The Bible is the primary way God wants to make Himself known to us. It's the primary way we come to faith in Him. And it is intended to be the foundation of our relationship with Him. To know God is to know His Word. Paul makes a pretty clear statement about the power of Scripture in our lives. Let's take a closer look at what he says.**

THEN, have students reread vs. 16-17. Once they've read it, jump back into a discussion. Ask:

- **In these verses, Paul provides a list of uses for God's Word. What are the roles he lists?**
 - Answer: Teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness
- **Let's start with the concept of teaching. Who has been the primary voice in your life teaching you about God?**
 - Answers will vary.
- **Have you ever taught another person about the Bible? What is it about teaching other people that makes you nervous? Or that excites you?**
 - Answers will vary.
- **Now let's look at rebuking. Who knows what rebuking means?**
 - Answer: The Greek word here for “rebuking” primarily means the conviction of a sinner.
- **So, in what ways does God's Word convict you of the sin in your life?**
 - Answers will vary.
- **When Paul uses the word “correcting” here, he's talking about correcting someone's attitude or actions using the Bible as a guide. How does the Bible help guide your actions, day-in, day-out?**
 - Answers will vary.
- **Finally, Paul mentions this idea of “training in righteousness.” How have you seen the Bible help guide you in living a life that imitates the righteousness Jesus models for us?**
 - Answers will vary.

FINALLY, when you've finished, say something like:

- **Where would you be without God's Word? Without knowing God in the Bible? When we try to live our lives separated from God and His Word, it just doesn't work. We end up trying to be “good” people instead of trying to be Christ-like. One is different than the other. We can't grow a lasting faith apart from seeking God in His Word.**

Ask if there are any questions, then transition into The Last Word.

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THE LAST WORD

- **Goal:** To consider what it looks like to live a life shaped by God and His Word.
- **Set-Up:** Look in your lesson 1 documents for the "Psalm_119.jpg" and the "Psalm_119.PDF." If you choose, download the .jpg and display it to your students as you facilitate this activity. Additionally, download the PDF and cut out the individual cards on it to distribute to your students. (NOTE: You can also text it to your students and encourage them to use it as a screen saver for their phone or to drop it into their Instagram stories. The size works perfectly for both.)

FIRST, explain to your students that Psalm 119 is an amazing book of the Bible that shares some remarkable insights about the relationship we're supposed to have with God's Word. Encourage students that, as you think about the upcoming year of growing in their faith, you want to challenge them with some of these verses as a way of helping them focus on the truths of today's lesson.

THEN, if you want, display the Psalm_119.jpg and have a student volunteer to read the verse. When they've finished, ask something like:

- **Can you relate to the concept of paths that are evil? What kinds of paths are teenagers tempted to go down that would lead them away from God's paths?**
 - Answers will vary, but help them contextualize this concept by helping them understand how it applies to their everyday life.
- **Why do you think it is so easy for some people to "depart" from God's instructions?**
 - Answers will vary.
- **Let's brainstorm for a moment. What are some practical ways that you and your friends can stay plugged into God's Word?**
 - Answers will vary, but encourage them to pursue practical steps that are rooted in regular interactions with Scripture.
- **Here's an interesting question: As you go throughout this next week, what would it take for you to say that God's Word is "sweet to the taste"? What changes do you have to make in your attitude and actions?**

FINALLY, consider allowing this last question to hang in the air a bit. If you have cut out the individual cards from the "Psalm_119.PDF," distribute them to students. Encourage them to keep these cards somewhere prominent to help remind them to focus more on God's Word as they go throughout their days. Remind them that this is going to be a fantastic year of Bible study. Encourage them to take seriously a deepening commitment to God and His Word.

- Don't forget to distribute the devotions to your students this week. If you're posting them on Instagram, or some other means of electronic distribution, make sure you inform students of when they will be receiving them.
- Use the **Social Media** guide to stay in touch with students via text or Instagram, and to encourage them to follow through with reading their devotions.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU . . .

- Do you have questions about a lesson?
- Something that worked particularly well you want to share?



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- Something that didn't work you want to bring up?

We value your feedback! Please do not hesitate to email us with your questions, comments, or concerns, at feedback@youthministry360.com.