

JESUS AND YOUR FUTURE

Lesson 2: Fully Living

A 4-LESSON BIBLE STUDY

What we want students to learn: That Jesus came so that we may have a future that is abundantly awesome.

What we want students to do with what they've learned: To identify ways they are living a full life, and to consider how they might embrace an even fuller future.

Scripture Focus: John 10:7-10

Overview: Jesus' discourse in John 10 is probably familiar to you and your students. It's a rich passage that is full of application and meaning. One of the most meaningful verses is John 10:10. Here, Jesus articulates why He came to earth. The primary thrust behind His words here is the life Jesus purchases for His children, a life free from the burden of sin. But there is an element that speaks to the quality of life Jesus makes possible for us. It's not just about what Jesus saved us from, it's about what Jesus saved us to. Jesus made it possible for us to experience a meaningful future, in heaven but also on this earth. It's important to help your students see that Jesus wants them to live a future full of possibility. So much of that starts with how they see their future today. This lesson will help you open your students' eyes to this reality.

Teacher Prep Video

The *Jesus And Your Future* Teacher Prep Videos are short videos designed to help you grasp the main points of the lessons as you prepare to teach.

To access your "Jesus And Your Future Lesson 2 Teacher Prep Video," click on the URL below.

- <https://youthministry360.com/jesus-and-your-future-teacher-prep>

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

- **Author:** The Gospel of John was written by John, son of Zebedee, a fisherman who left his trade to follow Jesus. John also penned the book of Revelation as well as the three letters in the New Testament that bear his name.
- **Time frame:** The Gospel of John was probably written between 85 and 95 AD. John most likely wrote his gospel in Ephesus before he was exiled to Patmos.
- **Purpose:** John's stated purpose for writing this book can be found in John 20:30-31, the last two verses in his gospel: "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John's goal seems to have been to clearly communicate a full theology of Jesus as the Messiah, the promised Son of God.

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The Setting

John uses the word “life” 36 times in his gospel. That’s more than twice as much as any other book of the Bible. For John the idea of life is completely and totally wrapped up in the person of Jesus. True life doesn’t exist apart from Him.

As the book of John progresses there is increasing tension between Jesus and Jewish leaders. One of the key things that lead to this tension was Jesus’ claim that He was divine. This was clear blasphemy in the eyes of the Jews. Throughout the Old Testament God identifies himself as “I AM.” In the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament, this phrase was translated as “ego eimi.” Jesus makes seven “I am” statements in the book of John (i.e. I am the bread of life, I am the light of the world, etc.) The phrase “ego eimi” is used in these statements. Thus, it’s clear that Jesus is identifying himself with Yahweh of the Old Testament and making it know that He is God. In John 11:25 he clearly says, “I am (ego eimi) the resurrection and the life.”

The passage we’re studying today is surrounded by a few other of Jesus’ “I am” statements. He identifies Himself as the “door of the sheep” and the “good shepherd.” This is going to immediately draw His listeners’ attention back to Psalm 23 where David proclaims that Lord is His shepherd and identifies the way the Lord ministers to Him. Jesus is claiming to be the good shepherd that takes care of His flock, ministers to them, and gives them abundant life.

The Main Point

When your students think about living a full, abundant life, what do they think about? Do they think about having an awesome time in high school and college, getting the perfect job once they graduate, marrying the person of their dreams, and making lots and lots of money? Does living the life Christ has called them to live enter the picture? Is it a side note? Does it seem awesome or more like a burden and drag? This lesson is going to explain to them what Jesus was talking about when He spoke of abundant life and how the life He has for us is exceedingly more incredible than anything we could ever come up with or plan on our own.

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 your students thinking about their concept of a full, abundant life.
- **Set-Up:** You’ll need to be able to show the following YouTube video to the group, starting at the 2:23 mark:
 - o <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YdcJSsRfL8s>
- and have a dry erase board or something to write some of their responses on.

BEGIN by writing “An Awesome Life” on the dry erase board (leave some room to make a list underneath). Ask the students:

- **What does an awesome life look like? When you think about living an awesome life, what are some things that must be included? Think about your future, when you grow up, what are some things that will make your life awesome?**
 - o Answer: Answers will obviously vary. Make a list of their answers on the board.
- **Do you think someone like Tom Brady lives an awesome life?**

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NEXT, say something like:

- **Even if you don't like sports or care anything about football, there are still some things about his life that you probably think are amazing. The guy gets to play a game for a living, he makes millions of dollars every year, and he is married to a super model. So, there are a whole lot of people that would say his life is pretty awesome, right? I mean, what more could the guy really want?**

Show the students the YouTube clip starting at the 2:23 mark, or if you don't have the capacity to do so, summarize it for them rephrasing Brady's comments.:

- **What do you think about what he said there at the end? Does it impact what you think about the things it takes to live an awesome life?**
 - o Answer: Answers will vary.

FINALLY, transition to the Main Event by saying something like:

- **There's obviously nothing wrong with playing football, making a good living, or dating a good-looking girlfriend or boyfriend. But all too often we pin all of our hope on these types of things. The point of the video is to get you thinking about whether or not the things you'd put on this list will really lead to an awesome, full, an abundant life. As we start our second lesson on Jesus and Your Future, let's dig a little deeper into the subject.**

The Main Event

- **Goal:** To help your students understand that Jesus came so that we may have a future that is abundantly awesome.
- **Set Up:** None needed.

BEGIN by asking the students what they remember from last lesson. Use the following bullet points to help you:

- **They learned that a forever-future with God is found through faith in Christ.**
- **They were challenged to articulate their standing with Christ: whether they have come to saving faith with Him, and if so, how, and how this has impacted their life, both in the present and future.**

NEXT, ask your students something like the following:

- **We've talked a little bit about the things that make up an awesome life. But let's take a step back. What is life? What do we mean when we use the word "life"?**
 - o Answer: Answers will vary.

Explain that today you're going to look at a passage in the Gospel of John. John was extremely interested in the concept of life. He used the word "life" 36 times, which is over twice as much as any other book in the Bible. Explain that for John, life was more than just the time between when you're conceived and when you die. Remind them that for Him, Jesus and life go hand-in-hand. There's no such thing as true life apart from Jesus.

THEN, have a student read John 1:1-4. As your group is finding the passage, help set up the passage by providing some of the Setting from the Bible Background. When the passage has been read, ask the students:

- **What do you think John means when he says, "In him was life, and the life was the light of men."**
 - o Answer: Scripture tells us repeatedly that apart from Jesus we are "dead" in our trespasses. So, while on one hand we might all be alive, without Christ we are nothing more than dead men walking. The only way to be truly alive is through Jesus because, as John says, life, as it was intended, is found in Him.

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- **Who were the only humans in history to fully experience life in the way that God intended it to be?**
 - o Answer: The answer is Adam and Eve. Their life in the garden was the way life was intended to be experienced.
- **So, what happened? What went wrong?**
 - o Answer: Sin happened. Man decided that he wanted to be his own God and take matters into his own hands. Man decided he wanted to look to other things to satisfy and fulfill his life. It disrupted man's relationship with God and thus, disrupted man's life.

Say something like:

- **So, we have a problem on our hands. God created mankind to be in a perfect, unbroken relationship with him. He created us to find all of our satisfaction and fulfillment and joy in Him. But we've gone astray. We consistently look to find all of those things in something or someone else.**

NEXT, have a student read John 10:7-10. How you approach the next few questions will depend a little bit on what type of answers your students gave when they made a list of the things that make up an awesome life. More than likely it included some things like a good job, a good-looking spouse, a nice house, etc. Perhaps there was some spiritual answers as well, such as a relationship with Christ, living the life He has called us to live, etc. Focus their attention on the answers they gave that aren't spiritual in nature. Draw their attention to the ones that aren't necessarily bad things, but in-and-of-themselves they don't have an intrinsically spiritual component (job, house, spouse, etc.). Circle those type answers.

Ask the students:

- **Let's think back to the list we made. By themselves, do you think these things will make your life awesome and abundant? Why or why not?**
 - o Answer: Answers will vary. The reality is that a good job, a nice house, an All-American family, and some cool cars will not make your life awesome by themselves. They were never intended to give you abundant life. We try and turn them into things that they were never created to be.
- **While these things aren't bad in-and-of-themselves, there are plenty of inherently bad, sinful things that people look to in attempt to make their lives abundant and awesome. What are some of these type things?**
 - o Answer: Write these things on the board as well. Answers will include things like drugs, drunkenness, sexual promiscuity, etc.
- **The passage we just read tells us that Satan, the thief, comes only to steal and kill and destroy. How does Satan use these things, the bad and not-so-bad, to steal, kill, and destroy us?**
 - o Answer: Satan wants to ruin our lives. And he knows that the way to accomplish that is by taking our attention off Christ. So, he will use whatever it takes to distract us from Christ and who Christ has called us to be. He uses everything, from money, to status, to relationships, to drugs, and the list goes on, to draw us away from finding our fulfillment in Christ.
- **So, all of these things, the ones that aren't bad and the ones that are...why do we look to these things to make our lives fulfilling and abundant?**
 - o Answer: We are all deeply broken, flawed sinners that are looking to fill a void in our lives that was created by our sin and rebellion against God. Our sin nature leads us astray over and over again. Deep down, we all want to be our own god and we're all looking for something to satisfy us.

FINALLY, if there are no additional questions or thoughts, transition to The Last Word by saying something like:

- **So, we see the problem that we all face. We know that we look to created things to fill a void that can only be filled by our Creator. And we know that the answer to this problem is Christ. We need to look a little deeper at what it truly looks like to have an abundant life in Christ.**

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The Last Word

- **Goal:** For your students to be able to identify ways they are living a full life, and to consider how they might embrace an even fuller future.
- **Set-Up:** You'll just need to be able to revisit the original list you made on the white board during the Lead In and have some room to write more on the board.

FIRST, ask the students:

- **Has your concept of a full, awesome life changed at all after looking closer at this passage? If no, why not? If yes, how so?**
 - Answer: Answers will vary.

Say something like:

- **John 10:11 Jesus refers to Himself as “the good shepherd.” Psalm 23 is the perfect passage that describes what that looks like and how God functions as our shepherd and ministers to us through this life. It gives a wonderful picture of what it looks like when we find our satisfaction and fulfillment in God.**

THEN, have a student read Psalm 23. Say something like:

- **Let's look closely at just the first three verses of Psalm 23 and see how God provides us with an abundant life. I'm going to read a line from one of the verses and you tell me what that makes you think of? What provision from God is David describing?**
 - 1) **“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”**
 - Answer: Satisfaction and fulfillment.
 - 2) **“He makes me lie down in green pastures.”**
 - Answer: Comfort.
 - 3) **“He leads me besides still waters.”**
 - Answer: Peace.
 - 4) **“He restores my soul.”**
 - Answer: Forgiveness and renewal.
 - 5) **“He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.”**
 - Answer: Direction and purpose.

Wrap up the lesson by saying something like:

- **Think about the things we just mentioned. All of the other things we've talked about . . . money, jobs, cars, houses, drugs, alcohol, relationships, etc . . . none of them compare to finding true satisfaction, comfort, peace, forgiveness, and purpose. We waste so much time and energy trying to find all of these things and they're all freely available in a relationship with Jesus.**

Wrap up by encouraging a few of the students to pray for your group.

- **Don't forget to distribute the devotions to your students this week. If you're printing them, have them available for students as you wrap up class. If you're texting a link, posting them on Facebook, 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 Twitter, and to encourage them to follow through with reading their devotions and with being mindful of the choices they make during the week.**

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We Want To Hear From You . . .

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