

JESUS AND YOUR FUTURE

Lesson 4: Worth The Cost

A 4-LESSON BIBLE STUDY

What we want students to learn: That committing our future to God enables us to experience God's blessing, both now and in eternity.

What we want students to do with what they've learned: To rest assured that the future God has in store for them is worth any sacrifice they may have to make.

Scripture Focus: Mark 10:28-31

Supporting Scripture: Mark 10:17-27

Overview: In Lesson 3, you introduced the idea of sacrifice to your students, and how God expects them to give Him their futures to be used as He sees fit. In this lesson, you'll help them see the flip side of that coin, namely, that no sacrifice we're called to make goes unnoticed by God. In this lesson, students will see that Jesus not only notes the sacrifice made by His disciples, but promised that these sacrifices are being rewarded in their lives and in their future lives. This lesson will serve to give confidence to your students that God sees their lives and has a wonderful future in store for them, a future where they will reside with Him in eternity.

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 4 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 Mark was written by its namesake. Mark, also known as John Mark, is believed to have received most of his information for his Gospel from Peter's firsthand accounts.
- **Time frame:** Mark is thought to have written his Gospel in the mid 50's AD.
- **Purpose:** Mark was writing primarily for a non-Jewish audience. His Gospel explains Jewish customs to non-Jews in an effort to get them to see the big picture of Jesus' identity.

JESUS AND YOUR FUTURE

A 4-LESSON BIBLE STUDY

The Setting

The passage in Mark is part of Jesus' discourse on wealth and rewards that goes from Mark 10:17 all the way to verse 31. Jesus begins by telling the parable of the rich man who wanted to know how to inherit eternal life. Jesus goes on to talk about the difficulties of being a disciple and being wealthy before closing with a teaching about earthly and eternal rewards.

The Main Point

The main point of this lesson is to help students understand that committing their futures to God enables us to experience God's blessing, both now and in eternity. Following Jesus is costly. And the disciples were beginning to grasp this fact. Jesus is assuring them of a few things: 1) that giving their lives to Jesus, they ensure that God will provide them their needs on this earth; 2) that persecution will inevitably come; and 3) that their eternity with God is assured. It's a promise that is relevant for teenagers today just as it was for the young disciples 2,000 years ago.

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 help students understand that predicting the future is usually just luck but putting the future in God's hands is a sure thing.
- **Set-Up:** You will need to make a copy of the Lesson 4 Lead In Activity Sheet for students and provide them with a pen or pencil. Also you will need nine 3x5 index cards which you will prepare ahead of time.
- Take nine index cards and write one of the following on each card:
 - o YES; MAYBE; NO; IT IS POSSIBLE; NOT PROMISING; YOU WILL KNOW LATER; YES BUT PROCEED WITH CAUTION; NO BUT THINGS COULD CHANGE; THE ANSWER IS NOT CLEAR RIGHT NOW.

FIRST, place the cards face down and do not let the students see the cards ahead of time.

NEXT, ask students if they have ever thought about questions they would like to have answered concerning their future. Pass out a copy of the Lesson 4 Lead In Activity Sheet along with a pen or pencil to each student. Ask them to write down some questions they would like to have answered about their future.

THEN, after a few minutes have them look over the questions, then have them circle any questions on the activity sheet that can be answered "yes" or "no." Then say:

- **I have put together a way to give you some answers to your questions. I am going to allow some of you to come up here and ask one of your questions, and then draw your answer from this random stack of cards. (If you have a small group you may can answer one question for each student but try to keep it to 5-7 questions so as not to overdo and ruin the ending.) In this way, you will find the answer to your question about your future.**

THEN, call on volunteers to come to the front of the room and read one of their "yes/no" questions they would like answered. Then, have him or her go draw one of the nine cards and read the answer aloud from the card, such as "No," "It Is Possible", etc. Repeat the process 5 to 7 times before saying that the time for questions about the future has come to an end.

JESUS AND YOUR FUTURE

A 4-LESSON BIBLE STUDY

NEXT, ask the group how confident they are in the answers you gave to their questions. Ask them why this was an imperfect way of answering their questions. Ask if these answers affect their thoughts about the future in any way.

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

- **It would be great if we had some way to know for sure what was going to happen in the future. There are a lot of con people out there who try to make people believe they can see the future. Their knowledge is about as accurate as these nine cards. But when it comes to your future, there is one completely reliable source to look to and that is God and His Word. Today you are going to look at our last lesson on what Jesus had to say about your future. Let's jump in and see what today's passage holds for us.**

The Main Event

- **Goal:** To help your students understand that committing our future to God enables us to experience God's blessing, both now and in eternity.
- **Set Up:** None needed.

BEGIN the Bible study portion of the lesson by doing a quick review of the previous lessons. Ask what your students remember studying. See if they can recall any specific points that were particularly meaningful to them. Use the following bullet points to help:

- **Lesson 1: They learned that a forever-future with God is found through faith in Christ.**
- **Lesson 2: They learned that Jesus came so that we may have a future that is abundantly awesome.**
- **Lesson 3: They learned that we have to see our future as belonging to God to use as He sees fit.**

THEN, have students turn to Mark 10. Explain that you're going to read some of the background to the passage you'll be studying today because it serves to set the table for the specific truth you'll be focusing on. Then, read or have a student read Mark 10:17-27. When you're finished, ask your students:

- **We know you can't obtain eternal life and salvation by working hard. So why did Jesus give the rich young man a task to perform (giving away all his wealth), in order to be saved?**
 - o Answer: Jesus knew that the man sought to live a godly life, but that he loved his possessions more than he loved God. His riches were more important than a relationship with God. Jesus exposed this sin when He asked the young man to give away all he had. Jesus wasn't asking the man to perform a task in order to obtain eternal life; He was asking Him to repent of the sin that was keeping him from surrendering his life to Jesus.
- **What was the response of the disciples when Jesus declared it was difficult for rich people to get into the Kingdom of God?**
 - o Answer: The Bible says they were amazed.
- **Why do you think the disciples may have been amazed?**
 - o Answer: In Jesus' day, wealth was often looked at as a sign of God's favor on someone. Add this to the fact that the man was seen as someone who kept the 10 commandments, and this would have left the disciples questioning how anyone could get into heaven.
- **What do you make of Jesus' statement in verse 27?**
 - o Answer: Remind the students that Jesus said it was difficult, not impossible for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God. Jesus' point here is that wealth can be a hindrance to repentance and acceptance of the Gospel. But wealth is one of countless numbers of things in people's lives that they allow to come between them and God.

JESUS AND YOUR FUTURE

A 4-LESSON BIBLE STUDY

THEN, continue by reading or having a student read Mark 10:28. Explain to students that since the rich man left Jesus because he could not part with his wealth, Peter was very quick to tell Jesus that he and the other disciples had left everything to follow Him. You may want to point out that it's kind of humorous that Peter reminds Jesus of what they sacrificed for Him, as if Jesus was not aware of that. Then, ask your students:

- **Why do you think Peter told Jesus what all they had given up to follow Him?**
 - o Answer: If giving up everything was a requirement for being part of God's kingdom then Peter wanted it known that he and the rest of the disciples had done that. The disciples left all they had to follow Jesus. They might have been tempted to ask what was in it for them. You may want to help your students see that this sounds selfish but remind them that the disciples were regular people just like we are today and not perfect by any means.

NEXT read or have a student read Mark 10:29-30. Explain that Jesus is directly answering Peter's question by repeating exactly what Peter said he and the other disciples gave up to follow Him. Remind students that God never chastises people who honestly ask questions from a searching heart. Read verse 30 one more time and ask:

- **What does Jesus mean when He detailed the rewards that would be offered to those who gave up things to follow Him?**
 - o Answers will vary. But help your students see that Jesus said they would get back 100 times what they had given up to follow Him. Instead of taking this literally, Jesus meant that the disciples would be compensated with the value of a relationship with God; giving up family to follow Christ would be rewarded with friendships that would be like a family. Jesus also reminded His disciples there is a cost involved when they follow Him and here the cost spoken of was persecution. There are rewards to the Christian life but there are costs as well. Then Jesus reminds them of the ultimate reward for the Christian and that is Heaven and eternity with the Father and the Son.

THEN, take some time to talk about the rewards of following Christ with your students. There is no doubt that there are benefits to being a Christ-follower such as experiencing joy and peace as we serve God. Certainly God does bless us in this life. You may want to emphasize here that while we live on earth there are rewards for living the Christian life, but to live that life will also bring persecution and troubles. Say something like:

- **The exact nature of how God rewards us in this life may be up to Him, but one thing that is for sure is our eternity with God. We need to realize that while this may be a long time coming for most of us, Heaven is the ultimate reward for those who give up their lives to follow Jesus.**

THEN read or have a student read Mark 10:31. Explain that this is a phrase Jesus used often during His ministry and placing it at this point is very interesting. Remind your students that the religious structure in Jesus' day was based on a very specific hierarchy of rich, learned, and important people at the top and common people at the bottom. Explain that Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God was NOT about climbing up the ladder to be first but rather learning that "If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all and servant of all." Say something like:

- **Maybe these words are placed after the discussion of rewards to remind the followers that the cost of discipleship would be to live at the bottom of social circles and places the world sees as important. But in the world to come, Heaven, they would be in a place where the ultimate status is being united with God forever.**

FINALLY, transition into the Last Word by saying something similar to the following:

- **Today you have learned that the Kingdom of God was not what the early disciples envisioned. Jesus was ushering in a kingdom that would be available to every person regardless of race or social status. Jesus said that the life of His disciples would be tough but there would be benefits**

JESUS AND YOUR FUTURE

A 4-LESSON BIBLE STUDY

such as joy in life and peace of mind knowing that God was at work and their lives. The greatest reward would be the opportunity to spend forever in the presence of the Holy and Living God. With our forever future secure, we can live our lives for God each day and with confidence, knowing that the Heavenly Father will always provide the things we need just when we need them.

Make sure no one has any questions then move to wrap up the lesson with the Last Word.

The Last Word

- **Goal:** To help students be confident that if they have come to a saving relationship with God, He's blessed them today and will bless them in the future.
- **Set-Up:** You'll need the Lesson 4 Last Word Activity Sheet found in the Lesson 4 Folder. Print a copy for each student.

FIRST, tell the students that today's lesson was about the rewards of a life with Christ. While they spent the entire lesson looking at Mark 10:17-31. Tell them there are others verses in the Bible that talk about the rewards of the Christian life. Hand out the Last Word Activity Sheet. Instruct students to take turns reading the verses aloud.

NEXT take a few minutes to talk about the truth in each verse using the following as a guide:

- **Philippians 1:6** - When God begins a work in us it always comes with a promise that He will finish what He starts.
- **Proverbs 19:21** - When we plan things they can shift and change at will but God is always constant and true in what He does.
- **Ephesians 2:10** - One of the rewards of the Christian life is knowing God created us and that we have a task in life which is to do good things.
- **Galatians 6:9** - What we do for Christ is like a seed that will grow at some point and sometimes we actually get to see the harvest of what we have done in the name of Christ.
- **1 Corinthians 2:9** - This is a direct reference to the reward of eternal life with God.
- **Proverbs 11:18** - The key here is the contrast. The wicked (those who reject God) will get evil things in return for what they do but the righteous (those saved by Christ) will receive a sure thing, which is eternity with God.

After you've done this, ask students to choose one verse that really speaks to them and focus on it this week. Challenge them to find a way to display the verse in a way that is meaningful to them this week.

FINALLY, close with a time of prayer. Ask your students to thank God for the good things He sends each day like family, clean water, food to eat, and Christian friends. Remind them to also thank God for the promise of Heaven and that they would be aware of people around them who are not Christians and do not have the hope of eternity with God. Help them see what a blessing it would be to be able to see the results of sharing their faith with their friends and others at school, in the community, or on a mission trip.

- **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**

JESUS AND YOUR FUTURE

A 4-LESSON BIBLE STUDY

make during the week.

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**.