H2O CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

411
Series Overview

Not too long ago, there was a survey of the students in several junior high ministries. They were asked the question: "What is one question about Christianity, the Bible, God, etc. that you have?" After sorting through all the questions (throwing out the ones about whether or not Elmo will go to Heaven) and compiled the results. This 411 series is an attempt to give students information about their four most common questions.

Week 1: THE 411 ON RELIGIONS
The most commonly asked question was along the lines of: "How can I be sure Christianity is the truth . . . aren't all religions the same?" This lesson gives students three basic questions they can use as a "filter" when judging a religion. The main point of this lesson: **Do I trust the Bible?**

Week 2: THE 411 ON BAD TIMES
Why does God let bad stuff happen? Why would He allow people who love Him to go through tough times? Junior high students aren't the only ones asking this question. Chances are almost everyone has asked this question at some point in their lives. The main point of this lesson: **Remember, God is on my side!**

Week 3: THE 411 ON HELL
Interestingly, their were tons of questions about hell. Is it real? What's it like? Why did God create it? Students have been warned about hell all their lives, but probably haven't had it clearly explained to them. The main point of this lesson: **What hood is my home?** (Both Satan and God want you to live in their neighborhoods for eternity . . . which will you choose?)

Week 4: THE 411 ON CREATION
What exactly does the Bible teach about creation? How do we know whether to trust the theory of creation or the theory of evolution? This lesson attempts to give students Biblical evidence for the theory of creation. You may wonder why we called creation a theory rather than a fact. We wanted to recognize that science hasn't yet proven creation to be true (there's tons of scientific evidence, but most scientists ignore it), so technically it is one of two popular theories. The main point of this lesson: **Which theory do I trust?** We'll talk about how we trust God's Word for everything else, so we need to trust it in this area as well . . . even if it isn't always popular.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

Series Overview

This three-week series is dedicated to helping students recognize that although life is a battle, we can win! This series takes a look at the spiritual armor described in Ephesians 6:13-17. Each week looks at two pieces of spiritual armor and how each piece can help us win life's battles.

Week 1: INTRO PLUS BELT OF TRUTH AND BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

The main point of this lesson: **You can't win a war without weapons!**

Week 2: SHOES OF THE GOSPEL AND SHIELD OF FAITH
The main point of this lesson: **You win a war one battle at a time!**

Week 3: HELMET OF SALVATION AND SWORD OF THE SPIRIT
The main point of this lesson: **Are you armed for battle?**

I'll discuss the spiritual meaning of each weapon and how we can use it in our daily lives

BUILT TO LAST

Series Overview

This six-week series is designed to give junior high students an understanding of five basic truths of Christianity. These five truths are the foundation of the Christian faith. Week one will serve as an overview for the entire series while the following five weeks will each focus on a separate subject. For the first week, we'll talk about the importance of a firm foundation when building homes, building, etc. The first week sets the stage for the fact that we, as young Christians, also need to be sure our foundation is strong. We will all face storms in our lives, but if we are "built to last" with a firm foundation in Christ, we can weather all of life's challenges.

Week 1: INTRO
This lesson serves as an overview for the entire series. It all starts with a strong foundation. The main point of this lesson: **How firm is my foundation?**

Week 2: WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT GRACE
The first ingredient in building a shake-proof faith is to understand God's incredible gift of grace. What sets Christianity apart from man-made religions? GRACE! The understanding that God's gift of heaven is neither earned nor deserved is a crucial part of our foundation. The main point of this lesson: **Have I received God's gift of grace?**

Week 3: WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT MAN
What does the Bible teach about the nature of man? In order to build a shake-proof faith, we must have a truthful understanding of how God made us. The main point of this lesson: **Am I trying to save myself?**

Week 4: WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT GOD
What's God like? How could He send good people to Hell? This lesson will help students get a better understanding of the nature of God. Again, having a truthful understanding of God will help secure our faith. The main point of this lesson: **Our heavenly Father is perfectly fair.**

Week 5: WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT JESUS

Just who was Jesus, and what sets him apart from other religious leaders? This may be the most important lesson of the series! A truthful understanding of who Jesus is and what He did is crucial to our faith! The main point of this lesson: **What does Jesus mean to me?**

Week 6: WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT FAITH
Faith is like the cement in a foundation . . . it holds it all together! This lesson points back to the fact that our faith must be in Jesus Christ. The main point of this lesson: **Who am I trusting with my tomorrows?**

FANTASTIC FOUR

Series Overview

The world is of "heroes" . . . both real and fictional—Michael Phelps, Donald Trump, or Hannah Montana just to name a few. Everyone has a hero! Unfortunately, if we were to ask most junior high students to list some heroes, very few would mention a Bible character.

This series is dedicated to helping junior highers realize that the Bible is full of incredible stories of amazing individuals who define the word "HERO." We all have heroes that we look up to for one reason or another. There are 4 Bible heroes that we'll focus on: Peter, Elijah, Mary Magdalene, and Esther.

Week 1: PETER
This lesson focuses on the fact that Peter went from hopeless to hero! His past was marked by one failure after another, yet he turned himself around and became an incredible leader in the early church. The main point of this lesson: **Don't let your past ruin your potential!**

Week 2: ELIJAH
This lesson focuses on the way God used Elijah in a radical way to point people back to the truth. God relied on Elijah's boldness to get his message across. The main point of this lesson: **God's plans need people?**

Week 3: MARY MAGDALENE
An unlikely hero, Mary Magdalene models how the little things we do can have a big impact. Her sacrifices to be a follower of Christ make her an example to all of us. The main point of this lesson: **Serving Christ requires sacrifice!**

Week 4: ESTHER
An incredible story of God at work! This is good reading! Esther's life is a great example of how faithfulness to God will off in the long run. The main point of this lesson: **God has a plan for your life!**

HOW TO BE A PLAYER
Series Overview

This six-week series takes a look at the type of person God wants on His team. The truth is He wants everyone on His team, but there are certain qualities that make someone a "player" instead of someone sitting the bench. My hope is that this series will help challenge the students to begin developing some of the qualities they need to be a home run hitter for Christ.

Week 1: INTRO
This lesson sets the series up by challenging students to get on the right team and make a decision to be involved in the game! The main point of this lesson: **Am I in the game or on the bench?**

Week 2: FAITH
The first ingredient in becoming a player is faith. This lesson focuses on the story of King Saul's son, Jonathan. In 1 Samuel 14, Jonathan steps out in faith against Israel's enemy. The main point of this lesson: **Life's too short to play it safe!**
Week 3: SACRIFICE
Being a player means being willing to give something up to help someone else. In this lesson, students will discover some of the differences between selfishness and sacrifice. The main point of this lesson: **What's my part in the plan?**

Week 4: GRATITUDE
The ability to have a thankful attitude is crucial if we want to be a player. This lesson gives students four easy steps to developing an attitude of gratitude. The main point of this lesson: **Am I thankful or thankless?**

Week 5: SERVICE
God has gifted us and He expects us to use our gifts to serve our world. This lesson lists several qualities of a servant's heart. The main point of this lesson: **Does the thought of serving make me smile or squirm?**

Week 6: COMMITMENT
This lesson sums it all up. The bottom line is this: Being a player requires commitment. Commitment to the previous topics are important, but commitment to pleasing Christ is our ultimate goal. The main point of this lesson: **Is my relationship with Christ a commitment or a convenience?**

OPEN HOUSE
Series Overview

This series is dedicated to helping students understand that, as believers, we have invited Christ to an "open house" of our lives. The question this series poses is "Does Christ feel at home in your life?"

Week 1: INTRODUCTION
This lesson serves as an introduction to the series. In this lesson, we'll look at three main areas in our lives where Christ wants to feel at home. The main point of this lesson: **Have I opened the door to my "house"?** In other words, before we can work on making Christ feel at home, we need to open our lives to Him.

Week 2: MY FAMILY LIFE
This lesson challenges students to take an honest look at how they view and treat their family. The main point of this lesson: **Am I family-friendly?**

Week 3: MY SOCIAL LIFE
Does Christ feel comfortable with the friends you choose and the things you do? These two questions are crucial if He is to feel comfortable in your social life! The main point of this lesson: **Does Christ feel comfortable in my circle?**

Week 4: MY PRIVATE LIFE
Making Christ feel comfortable in our private lives comes down to one crucial word: Integrity. This lesson will help students understand the value of integrity and the role it plays in our relationship with Christ. The main point of this lesson: **Am I the same in private as I am in public?**

SAY WHAT?
Series Overview

When it comes to today's students, we can't afford to assume they are familiar with God's Word. This lesson will take a look at four very famous sayings of Jesus and give students an understanding of how they apply to their lives.

Week 1: BREAD OF LIFE
What was Jesus talking about when He called Himself the bread of life? This lesson helps students understand one of Jesus' most famous claims. The main point of this lesson: **Am I going to settle for white, whole wheat, or Jesus?** In other words, why settle for the "bread" the world says we need when we can have Christ instead.
Week 2: GOOD SHEPHERD
Another strong claim that Jesus made about Himself and His relationship to us. The main point of this lesson: **Am I part of His flock?**

Week 3: SALT OF THE EARTH
In this famous saying Jesus isn't describing Himself—He's describing us. This lesson takes an in-depth look at how believers can be "salty." The first half of the lesson deals with the characteristics of salt, the second half takes those same characteristics and gives them human qualities. The main point of this lesson: **How salty are you?**

Week 4: VINE AND BRANCHES

The final saying of this series is also the most important! Simply put, we are useless without Christ. This lesson is simple, but crucial! It will force students to take an honest look at where they are in their relationship with Christ. The main point of this lesson: **Am I attached, detached, or re-attached?**