

TOPICAL LESSON CHANGE

To the Teacher: So often in life we put a limit on ourselves based on the environment we were born into or live in today; or on our thoughts and behaviors from the past; or from what we perceive our capabilities are. How we live today is actually dictated by what we believe about these things. God wants to give us His filter, so that we can begin to process things through His eyes; believe what He says; and act in His power. Today's lesson is designed to help our students discover this truth. For more background you may want to listen to Levels of Change by Bob Hamp at gatewaypeople.com.

Concept: Levels of Change

Objectives/Goal:

- The students will realize what currently has power in their life.
- The students will come to the realization that it is God's power in us that enables change.
- The students will expand their vision of what God can do in and through them.

Plan Ahead:

- Print handouts for break out session
- Make sure students bring Bibles or have some available
- Make several copies of the skit dialogue
- Read and consider the power of each Bible illustration for the breakout session

Launch Out:

Introduction: Change

Select two students to read the following skit which will illustrate a major point in today's lesson.

Justin: So Keegan – what ya gonna do this summer? Are you gonna try to get a job somewhere?

Keegan: Na, I'll probably just hang out.

Justin: I'm gonna apply at Tony's Tacos. I hear he likes to hire students for extra summer help.

Keegan: He'd never hire me.

Justin: Why do you say that?

Keegan: Cuz my dad's in jail and I live, what do they say -, on the wrong side of the track. Besides, my dad could never keep a job so I figure it will be the same for me.

Justin: So like you won't even try, Keegan?

Keegan: Why bother? I always mess things up. Besides Im no good in math and I'd probably mess up somebody's order and then I'd get fired anyway. Na – it's just better if I don't even try.

Looking Forward:

Teacher introduces whole group discussion and elicits student responses:

Wow! I imagine there are some of us here that can relate to parts of this skit in one way or another. We think that we have to live life like our parents or we feel for some reason that our circumstances limit or dictate what we can do in our life. Maybe we quit before we ever start or do things that set us up for failure because we believe that we will mess up anyway.

- What do you think about the conversation in this skit?
- Do you think Keegan had a valid reason for not applying for a job?
- What might you have said to Keegan?

It might help us to take a look at some Bible characters to see how they responded to their circumstance, past behaviors, or capabilities. As we break up into small groups I want you to focus on how they responded and what they did. Also think about what made the difference for them. Think about what caused change in their lives.

Break Out:

Using your Bibles and the scriptures assigned from your handout, discuss these questions:

- What circumstance, behavior, or capability limits did the Bible character encounter?
- How did he let that impact him (her)?
- How did he (she) choose to move forward and bring change?

Teacher brings students back to whole group and elicits response:

- How did what Joseph believed about himself and about God influence the outcome of his life and his people?
- How did Moses respond when God told him that he was to rescue the Israelites from Egypt? ... How did God help him overcome his lack of confidence and unbelief?
- Did Saul limit his future by his past behavior?... How did he walk boldly in his new identity?
- Why did the man at the pool believe he couldn't be healed?... What did he discover about his circumstance?... What brought change?

- What did you notice about Joshua and Calib’s report of the Promised Land?... Did they allow the opinions of others, their capabilities, or the size of the enemy to discourage them or did they look to the power and size of their God?
- What did you discover about capabilities and beliefs from the story of David and Goliath?... How did this change the fate of the nation?
- What were some of the thoughts Mary had to “take captive” before she agreed to become the mother of Jesus?... How did she quiet her fears and bring change to the world?
- What stood out to you in the account of Noah?... Was he influenced by the attitudes of his people or by his God?... How so, and what impact did he have on the world?

Teacher Introduces main scripture: Our scripture for today is from Philippians 4:13

“I can do all things through Christ which gives me strength.”

Now that we have looked at the lives of so many Bible characters, how does this scripture have meaning for your life?

Take Away: Through all of these illustrations we have discovered that it is not our circumstances; or our past thoughts and behaviors; or our capabilities that determine our future but rather our belief in who we are and in who God is. As we take hold of this truth, we receive the power to change and walk in the destiny God has for us. We must begin to focus not on our present condition, but on the promises of God. The choice, however, is ours as to what or who we want to design our future.

Going Forward: After you go home, pull out your Bible and read Hebrews chapter 11 and discover what it has to say about the power of our belief system.

Teacher’s Summary:

So if we want to change things in our life, rather than focusing on the power of our circumstances or past behavior or what we are or are not capable of, we must begin to focus on the power of the One who created us and what He can do in and through us.

Because we are His, He wants the very best for us, and if we, like Paul, will believe that, we too can become world changers!

Prayer: Lord, I confess to you that I have so limited what you can do through me because I have believed a lie. I saw myself and measured my abilities by the world’s standards. Now I realize that You came to overcome the world and that I am to be a part of Your plan – operating in Your power. Lord, help me to believe this and live it out. In Jesus’ name I pray, amen.

CHANGE

HANDOUT

Using your Bibles and the scriptures assigned from your handout, discuss these questions:

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JOSEPH – Genesis 39:20-23, Genesis 40:1-11

MOSES – Exodus 3:7-11, Exodus 4:1-17

SAUL/PAUL – Acts 9:1-9, Acts 9:17-22

MAN at Pool of Bethesda – John 5:1-9

JOSHUA & CALEB – Numbers 13:27- , Numbers 14:1-9

DAVID – I Samuel 17:17-50

MARY – Luke 1:26-38, 46

NOAH – Genesis 6:6-22, Genesis 7:17-24

SKIT
CHANGE

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