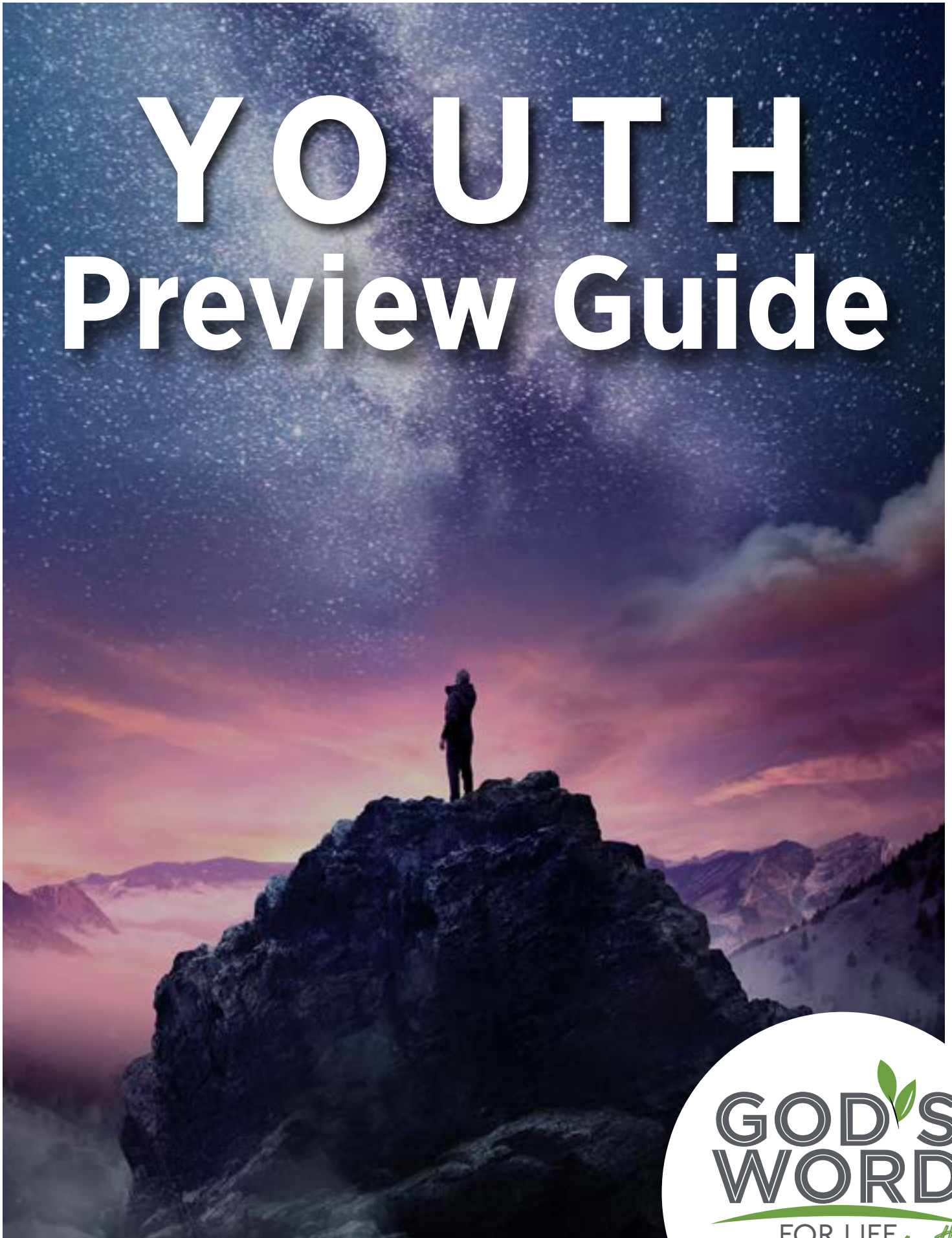


YOUTH Preview Guide



GOD'S
WORD
FOR LIFE *youth*

YOUTH PREVIEW GUIDE

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CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@God's Word for Youth



GOD'S WORD FOR LIFE OVERVIEW

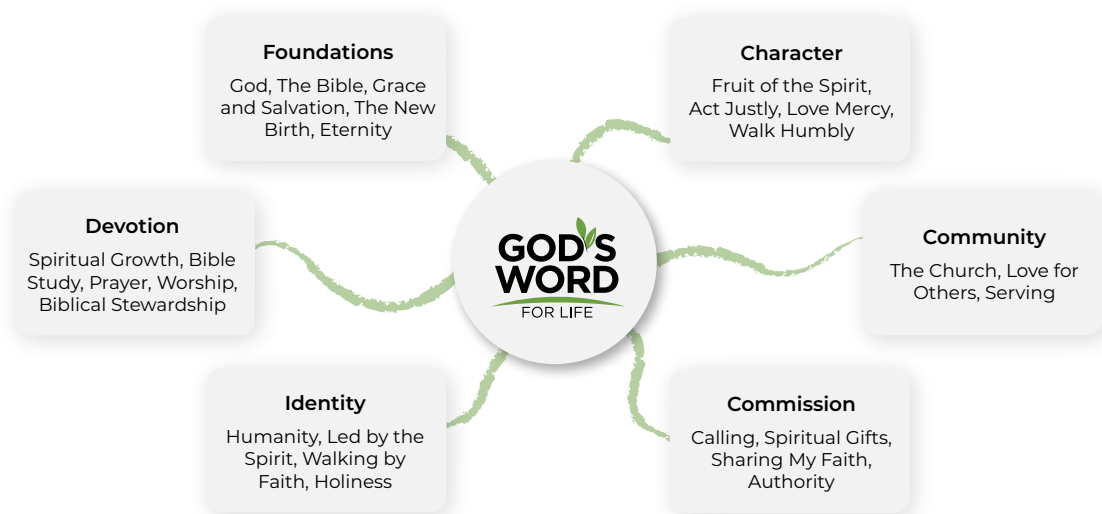
Create a Culture of Daily Discipleship

A Discipleship Program for Your Church and Home





















For decades we've sung to our children "Read Your Bible, Pray Every Day" and coached our adults and youth to make time for prayer and Bible study at home. But what have we done as a church to systematically equip believers of all ages to do that? God's Word for Life is more than just curriculum. It is a revolutionary new discipleship program that moves the Apostolic approach to prayer, worship, and Bible study beyond the walls of the church and into every home for daily spiritual growth.

Six Roots of Apostolic Discipleship

In response to the pressing need to disciple believers of every age, God's Word for Life was designed to answer the question: "How do we instill Apostolic truth in a person to form a disciple—a lifelong Apostolic?" From that discussion, the team that created Elements and the Apostolic Study Bible created an immersive home and church partnership designed to instill in every believer six roots of Apostolic discipleship.



SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

	YEAR 1 (Fall 2021 – Summer 2022)	YEAR 2 (Fall 2022 – Summer 2023)	YEAR 3 (Fall 2023 – Summer 2024)	YEAR 4 (Fall 2024 – Summer 2025)
FALL	 Genesis – Creation  Preparing the Way for the Messiah  Psalms (Christian Living)	 Moses  Jesus’ Kingship  Wisdom	 David and Solomon  Jesus Responds to Faith  Parables of Jesus	 Salvation in Acts  Jesus, Our Savior  Romans
WINTER	 Oneness of God  Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob  Jesus’ Ministry Begins	 The Spirit  Joshua  Jesus’ Kingdom: Others and Service	 Holiness  God Is Faithful  The Bread of Life	 The Mighty God in Christ  Miracles  Jesus, Our Sacrifice
SPRING	 Psalms (Spiritual Disciplines)  Joseph  New Birth	 Parables of Jesus  Metaphors for Salvation  Judges	 John  Worshiping Our Sovereign God  Elijah and Elisha	 Epistles  Grace  Paul
SUMMER	 Jesus Is Just to Outsiders  Psalms (God Is Our Refuge and Healer of Hurts)  God’s Word	 Jesus Is Love  Sermon on the Mount  The Church	 Jesus Teaches Us to Pray  John – I AM Sayings  Fruit of the Spirit and Gifts of the Spirit	 Jesus Ministers through Us  Faith Passages  Last Things



Foundations



Devotion



Identity



Character



Community

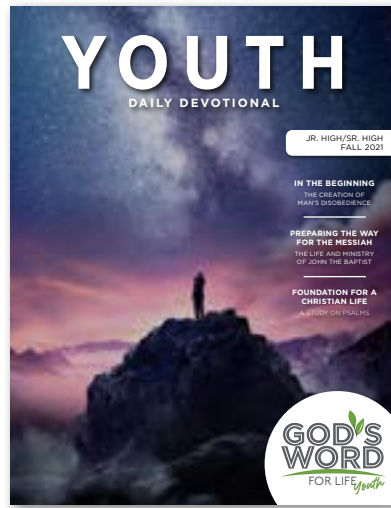
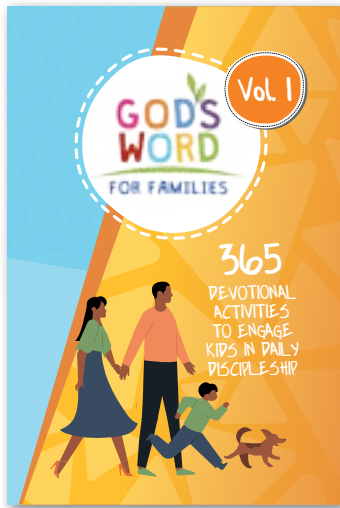


Commission

Whole-Church Alignment

All ages of a church can study the same Bible passage each week with God’s Word for Life. This structure equips families to have a unified conversation at home about Scripture, and it enables church leaders to know what’s being taught in all groups and classes for clear focus.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS



Creates a Strategic Partnership between the Home and Church

With daily devotionals for every age level, God's Word for Life is designed to move spiritual growth and Bible learning beyond a one-hour session on Sunday. Student resources are engineered for interaction with God's Word every single day at home, making Sunday class time a reinforcement of what happens all week long.

A Whole-Church Curriculum

God's Word for Life is a discipleship program intended to lead the entire church from toddlers to adults into God's presence and His Word for lifelong transformation. The adult, youth, and children's levels, as well as the God's Word for Families devotional, all start from the same biblical text, but then have different age-appropriate applications. Daily devotionals for every age level equip the church to study Scripture daily. If your entire church has not bought into the God's Word for Life program, each level of curriculum can still be used on its own.



MYGROWTH TOOLKIT

Your church's spiritual growth doesn't have to be a shot in the dark.

A digital solution to manage groups, track growth, and train teachers.

Our churches see the need for software to organize our services, finances, and membership information. Yet in our teaching ministry, many leaders are still working off crude paper records, if any records at all. My Growth Toolkit offers a full array of resources to help lead your groups effectively including:



Group Management

- Create and Save Group Member Records
- Record Notes that Follow Member from Class-to-Class
- Track and Report Group Attendance, Offering, Guests, and More



Assessments

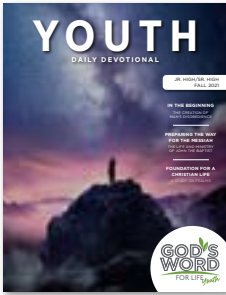
- Adult and Youth Assessments to Track Spiritual Growth
- Kid Assessments to Be Taken in Partnership with Parents
- Teacher Assessments to Evaluate Needs in the Classroom
- Reporting to Track Progress Quarter over Quarter



Training and Digital Resources for Teachers

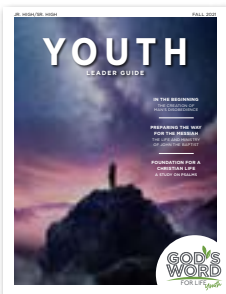
- Access to a Growing Library of Teacher Training
- Access to Digital God's Word for Life Materials

YOUTH RESOURCES



Daily Devotional Guide – Print & Digital \$4.99

- **Change the game with a new tool to lead students into Scripture each day of the week.**
- Guiding your students in becoming lifelong Apostolic disciples is an enormous task to accomplish in just an hour on Sunday or Wednesday. Now you can expand your ministry with a tool that guides students in Bible study every day of the week.
- This guide for youth (ages 12-18) provides a daily Bible passage connected to the week's lesson and a corresponding devotion. Each day ends with a final challenge to apply the message of God's Word with both junior high and senior high options.
- Make your teaching complete with this student resource by incorporating student feedback into class time. (Prompts are provided in this Leader Guide to help.) Additionally you can schedule the materials to coincide one of two ways:
 - › Instruct students to complete the devotional material during the week to reinforce the Bible passages already taught in the lesson at church.
 - › Teach one week behind the suggested schedule in the Leader Guide so students interact with the Bible passages for the lesson during the week at home before the lesson. This option will allow for additional discussion since students will have already reviewed lesson content in advance.
- In either scenario, this tool equips students to dig into God's Word every day!
 - › **Special pricing for 5 or more**



Leader Guide – Print or Digital \$9.99, Print & Digital \$12.99

- A great lesson comes to life when a teacher feels confident and equipped. Designed intentionally for easy at-a-glance navigation, this Leader Guide provides everything a teacher needs to direct a class through each lesson.
- The junior and senior high breakout design allows the leader to easily move between activities and instruction to pick the most age-appropriate material for the class along with the split-column design for opening and closing options. An easy-to-follow outline style provides a clear-cut way to teach the Bible lesson and facilitate an engaging class.

YOUTH RESOURCES



Resource Kit (RK) – \$24.99

- **Special features including social media aids and a supplement for ministering to students with additional needs**
- Take advantage of the Youth Resource Kit for a robust collection of teaching tools to make each week exciting and engaging. Contents include:
 - › A video for each lesson
 - › A poster for each of the three series
 - › A supplement for adapting each lesson to minister to
 - › students affected by disabilities
 - › Excerpts from Word Aflame Press books for additional research
 - › Social medial calendar and suggested practices
 - › Graphics package
- **VIDEO CONTENT!**
 - › Each lesson's opening story will be available as a video within the Resource Kit as a way of engaging students through a visual medium.
 - › The Resource Kit will also include contextual videos about the biblical passage as well as training videos to help you in the preparation process.

Youth Value Pack – \$54.99

- Includes 1 Lesson Guide, 5 Daily Devotional Guides, and 1 Resource Kit. Additional Lesson Guides and Daily Devotional Guides are available at a discounted rate with purchase.

YOUTH SAMPLE LESSON

AGES 12–18

JR. HIGH/SR. HIGH FALL 2021

YOUTH

LEADER GUIDE

IN THE BEGINNING
CREATION AND
GOD'S BIG PLAN

**A VOICE IN THE
WILDERNESS**
THE LIFE AND MINISTRY
OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

PRAISE YE THE LORD
A STUDY ON PSALMS

**GOD'S
WORD**
FOR LIFE *youth*

YOUTH SAMPLE LESSON

PAGE 1

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021
SERIES 1: IN THE BEGINNING

1.1



CREATION OF THE WORLD

SERIES AIM
God was intentional about His creation and the purpose it would serve, and the same can be said for the way He created you and me. God loves us, and He made us to thrive and live according to His perfect will.

BIBLICAL PASSAGE
Genesis 2:1-9, 18-25

LESSON BIG IDEA
I will develop a fulfilling relationship with God.

TRUTH ABOUT GOD ///
God desires to have a relationship with humanity.

PRETEEN TRANSITION (5 MIN)

BEACH BALL TOSS

1. Materials: A medium-sized inflatable beach ball and a permanent marker
2. Write on the beach ball random get-to-know-you questions (e.g. What is your favorite color? What is your favorite dessert? What are your hobbies? etc.). Add some fun questions, such as, "If you could have an unlimited supply of a certain food, what would it be?"
3. Have the students toss the ball to each other, and each time the ball is caught, the person holding it must answer a question on the ball.

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God's Word for Life marks a new chapter in both youth and church-wide curriculum. With this new chapter comes a fresh vision for curriculum's focus, content, and visual display.

GETTING STARTED

The first page of each lesson provides the overarching information you can use to plan your class.

PRETEEN TRANSITION

The idea behind the preteen transition is simple: there will always be an influx of preteens joining the youth class, and these options help make students in transition feel comfortable moving from one classroom dynamic to the next. The Preteen Transition offers a quick activity that often highlights more physical action or activity—something that tends to be more common in children's classrooms.

YOUTH SAMPLE LESSON

PAGE 2

LESSON 1.1

God desires to have a relationship with humanity.

WHERE DO WE BEGIN?/// (5 MIN)

Imagine you have a shoebox lying in your room from the last time you got a pair of sneakers. You kept the box because it was nice and sturdy, and you figured you could probably come up with a pretty good use for it later.

Your parent knocks on your door and tells you to put on your beach clothes; you're going to spend the day out. You quickly get dressed. As you are exiting your room, you spot the shoebox. *That would be a great box for collecting sea shells*, you think. You decide to take it with you.

Once at the beach, you walk along the sand collecting your treasures. The box becomes heavier and fuller as you do so. As you walk, the shells that are already in the box jostle around, banging into each other over and over again. You don't pay much attention to it; you're just collecting shells.

When you get home, you open the box, and to your amazement, you discover that in the place of your seashells is a squirrel! You know good and well you didn't put a squirrel in that box. How did the squirrel get there? You come to the only logical conclusion; somehow, all of those seashells banging together made a squirrel.

WE LEARN FROM THE BIBLE THAT THIS WORLD WASN'T CREATED BY RANDOMNESS.

That sounds silly, doesn't it? Yet, many people believe that is exactly how the world came into existence: rocks banging together in the cosmos somehow produced everything we see today. The Bible tells us a very different story. We learn from its pages that this world wasn't created by randomness, but by a God who wants to get to know us.

ENGAGE/// (10 MIN)

OPTION 1

1. Have a large, kid-sized puzzle (thirty pieces or fewer).
2. Call up a volunteer to take the puzzle box and shake it up. Have the volunteer open the box, and ask if the puzzle is put together perfectly.
3. Have him or her show the class the inside of the box with the puzzle pieces still randomly placed.
4. Then ask the volunteer to pour the pieces on the floor and put the puzzle together. While that is going on, discuss the following questions with the class:
 - If _____ continued to shake the box, would the pieces of the puzzle eventually join? Why not? Chaos cannot create order.
 - What is required for the pieces to come together to complete the picture on the front of the box?
 - How is this illustration like God creating the earth and everything in it?
5. Emphasize how God was intentional about putting all the pieces in just the right places in the process of creation.

OPTION 2

1. Give each student a blank piece of paper and a pen/pencil.
2. Have them list five things God created in each of these categories:
 - a. are green
 - b. can fly
 - c. grow
 - d. begin with the letter "S"
 - e. you can eat
3. Have each student read one thing from his or her list and discuss how creative and detailed God is to make such amazing things.
 - How much does He care for us to make a world with so much in it?
 - Should we take time to appreciate and enjoy God's creation?
 - What's your favorite thing to enjoy in God's creation?

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WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

Every lesson will begin with a narrative to reinforce the themes and ideas of the subject matter, grabbing students' attention in a unique way with a new narrative or scenario every week. This portion of the lesson is also a great time to play the related video in the Resource Kit.

YOUTH SAMPLE LESSON

PAGE 3

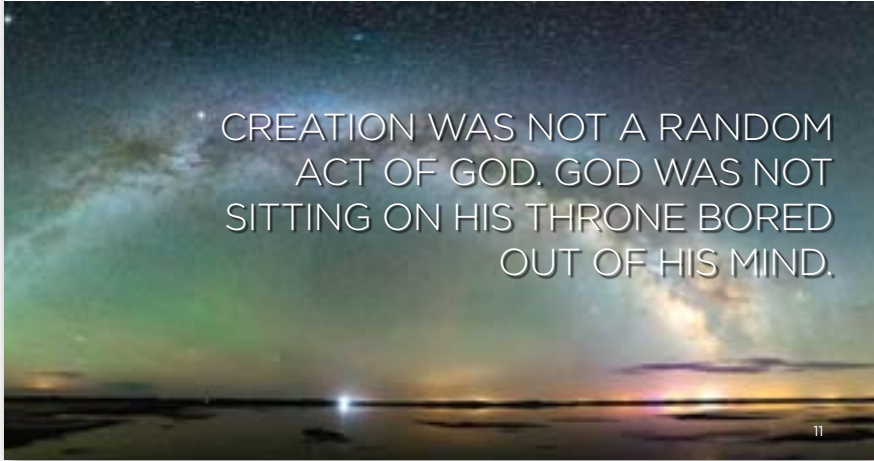
CREATION OF THE WORLD

I will develop a fulfilling relationship with God.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?/// (25 MIN)

A. God's Purpose in Creation

1. The Bible tells us in Genesis 1:1 that "In the beginning, God created." It is the very first thing we read. The very first thing we learn about God—before we learn that He is loving, merciful, righteous, holy, or even that He is good—is that He is a Creator.
2. Not only did He create everything, but He created it out of nothing. Nothing! You probably have observed many amazing creations in your life:
 - a. Amazing works of art someone drew, painted, or sculpted
 - b. Amazing buildings someone constructed
 - c. Amazing recipes someone cooked
 - d. Amazing music someone wrote
3. All these things are awesome, but they were all created from something that already existed. People took what God already put on the earth and fashioned it into something marvelous by using the power of imagination. When God created the universe, He did not need to use something that already existed; He spoke into the void and created everything.
4. Why did God create everything? And more importantly, why did He create you and me?
 - a. Did He need to prove He was God? Certainly not—no people existed yet.
 - b. Was He lonely? That can't be it because He had angels.
 - c. Was He just bored?
5. Creation was not a random act of God. God was not sitting on His throne bored out of His mind.
6. God had a specific purpose for all of creation:
 - a. He gave the sun the purpose of establishing day and the moon the purpose of lighting the night.
 - b. He gave plants and animals the purpose of reproducing to populate the earth.
 - c. He gave water the purpose of nourishing everything that lives on the earth.
7. Just as God had a purpose for the rest of creation, He had a purpose for humans too.



CREATION WAS NOT A RANDOM
ACT OF GOD. GOD WAS NOT
SITTING ON HIS THRONE BORED
OUT OF HIS MIND.

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YOUTH SAMPLE LESSON

PAGE 4

LESSON 1.1

JR. HIGH BREAKOUT!!!

1. Give each student Play-Doh.
2. Allow them one minute to make an item you call out. Everyone should be making the same item.
3. Go around the room discussing how different each item looks even though it is the same thing.
 - Even though we are all humans, did God make us all look the same?
 - How do our differences speak to how much God cares about the details?
 - Name something else God made that has different variations: plants, animals, and so on.
 - Does it make sense that all these unique and detailed parts of creation came into existence randomly?
 - How thorough is God to do such intentional, detailed work?
 - How much does He love and care about us for Him to put so much thought into our unique creation?

1. God cares about all His creation. The fact that He created everything with purpose points to the deep love He has for all He created.

Read Genesis 1:31a.
And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.

2. It wasn't just good; it was very good! He felt a deep connection with what He accomplished. Remember when you were very young and you colored your whole color sheet outside the lines with the same crayon and your parent said it was "good"?
 - a. That's not what we're talking about. We're talking about masterpiece-level good. Very good. He was in love with what He created.
 - b. Does God really love the sun, a tree, or your pet hamster? Yes, He really does!
3. There is one aspect of His creation, though, that He loved far and away more than anything else.

Read Genesis 2:7.
And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

4. What great intention and care He used in creating us!
 - a. Consider this: God spoke everything into existence, except one thing—humans. He did not speak Adam into existence. He formed Adam with His own hands, and then gave Adam breath from His own lungs.
 - b. Man didn't just become a living being; man became a living soul. Man is the only thing that has a soul. We may love our dogs, cats, and goldfish, but we all know there is something different and special about another human being.
5. A person's soul provides him a very special connection with God. We don't just connect to God with our intellect or our emotions. We don't just observe Him in action in our world. There is something deep inside of us that feels Him! Perhaps you have been in a church service where you felt the presence of God moving and working in your life. He wasn't just touching your mind or your heart; He was touching your soul.
6. Not only do we have a living soul, but we were also created in God's image.

Read Genesis 1:27.
So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

7. This passage further proves that we were created to have a very special relationship with God. We were created to be His children—created in His image and filled with His breath.

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Daily Devotional Insight !!!

The devotional focus this week is about Jesus being close, even when we don't see Him or feel Him. Ask students to share some instances when they felt God was talking to them. Jesus will lead us through His Word, through prayer, through devotionals, or He may even speak to us directly. It is important to know how Jesus talks to you because He talks to everyone differently.

JR. HIGH & SR. HIGH BREAKOUTS

God's Word for Life offers a completely new approach to curriculum through a single Youth level that features breakout content tailored for different age levels. These Jr. High and Sr. High Breakouts will be displayed in each lesson as a spread in the middle of each lesson and will offer unique activities and discussion prompts. Breakouts will also provide a tailored application of the content discussed in the first half of each lesson.

YOUTH SAMPLE LESSON

PAGE 5

CREATION OF THE WORLD

SR. HIGH BREAKOUT!!!

1. If weather permits and you have the right setting, take the class outside, preferably in a place with a nice view. Alternatively, present the class with photos or a video that shows stunning landscapes and wildlife.

2. Ask the following questions:

- What is the most incredible thing you see in these images or video?
- What is God's most beautiful creation, in your opinion?
- When is the last time you marveled at the beauty of God's creation?
- What evidence of a Creator do you see in nature?

1. God cares about all His creation. The fact that He created everything with purpose points to the deep love He has for all He created.

Read Genesis 1:31a.
And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.

2. God's action in creation was not something that He just said and then hoped for the best. You and everything around you are not estimations or guesses, but fearfully, wonderfully, and precisely made down to the smallest hair and blemish on your skin.

- a. The world would tell you that everything about you is random, that the world itself, from the beginning, was random and that every living thing and every placement of grass or rocks must be random.
- b. The world is sorely mistaken. Everything was created with purpose and intention, the likes of which we do not have the capacity to begin to understand. We are meant for so much more than to be born, work a job, retire, and then die.
- c. We are created for worship and mission that shows our love and devotion to our Creator and King. We are created to reach the world with Jesus' gospel.

3. Above all else, God has created and cherished you—His most beautiful and wonderful creation. For as beautiful as the mountains or the oceans seem, or how incredible the animals seem, you and I are His most prized creation.

4. But with this status comes some responsibility. Life isn't about making yourself feel good until you die.

- a. Life is about honoring God.
- b. Life is about loving others.
- c. Life is about preparing for eternity.

5. You are God's handiwork, created in Jesus to do good works God has ordained for you to do (Ephesians 2:10).

6. You might feel broken and insignificant. You might be struggling with depression and hurt because you either don't know who you are, or the people around you don't like what you are. Deep down God is trying to show you your identity isn't tied to the clothes you wear or the way you look, but about the relationship that you have with Him.

- a. If you're sad, He will be your happiness.
- b. If you're lost, He desperately wants to point you in the direction you should go.
- c. If you feel unloved, He will show you that you are the most loved in all of His creation.

7. God is calling you for such a time as this. Run to Him and find out what it really means to live, not just for yourself, but for God.

Daily Devotional Insight !!!

The devotional focus this week is about Jesus being close, even when we don't see Him or feel Him. Ask students to think about the last thing they felt Jesus was asking them to do. Did He communicate with them during prayer? during Bible reading? or in some other way? Talk to students about why it is so important to know the way God speaks to us individually because it is different for everyone.

DEVOTIONAL TIE-IN

Each lesson will feature three areas in which teachers will be prompted to ask about or discuss devotional content from both the previous week and the week of devotionals ahead. This will help to reinforce the need for devotional time each day and push students to engage with the at-home **Daily Devotional Guide**.

YOUTH SAMPLE LESSON

PAGE 6

LESSON 1.1

God desires to have a relationship with humanity.

B. God Created the World with Humanity in Mind

1. If you think about it, Creation is really a beautiful example of just how much we matter to God.

Read Genesis 1:28.

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Read Genesis 2:8.

And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

2. What are these two verses telling us? They are telling us that God created everything, knowing that man and woman would live on the earth. He designed this earth with you in mind! All the beauty and splendor of this amazing planet was fashioned as a place for you to exist.
3. He created all you see, knowing that you would need it to sustain you.

GOD WANTS A RELATIONSHIP
SO DEEP AND MEANINGFUL
THAT WE TALK WITH HIM JUST
BECAUSE WE LOVE HIM.

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YOUTH SAMPLE LESSON

PAGE 7

CREATION OF THE WORLD

I will develop a fulfilling relationship with God.

4. How many of you enjoy math? Maybe you do, maybe you don't, but you probably understand that math is a progression of different concepts that build on each other. In other words:
 - a. We first learn to add and then to subtract.
 - b. Once we understand adding and subtracting, we learn multiplying and dividing.
 - c. Once we have those basics down, we learn about remainders.
 - d. Once we understand remainders, we learn about fractions.
 - e. Everything you learn in math is dependent on what you learned in the past.
5. Similarly, sometimes the Bible shows us a progression where concepts build on each other. The Creation story is one of those examples.
6. Everything created on a specific day needed everything created on the previous days:
 - a. God created the heavens on Day 2, but the heavens needed the light from Day 1.
 - b. God divided the waters under the heavens on Day 3 to create dry land, but He couldn't have done that if He had not first created the heavens on Day 2.
 - c. This progression continues throughout the rest of the Creation story.
7. We need food, shelter, and clothing. We need sunlight, oxygen, and water to survive. Before God formed us on Day 6, He first made sure:
 - a. We had plants to create shelter and oxygen.
 - b. We had animals, which we would later use for food, clothing, and to help with our work.
 - c. We had water to drink and sunlight to help provide us energy.
8. God has made everything in creation available to us, and He has given us authority over all of it.
9. Because God created everything I need, I can develop a fulfilling relationship with Him. That is what God wants—connection with us!
 - a. In church, we often talk about the importance of walking with God. By this, we mean we must have a daily relationship with Him. And through that relationship we find we desire to live in a manner that pleases God, to avoid sin, and to pursue Jesus' righteousness.
 - b. Genesis shows us that not only are we to walk with God, but God also wants to walk with us! The reason He calls us to righteousness is because He wants to be close to us.
10. What did God and Adam talk about? The Bible doesn't really tell us, but the two of them likely just shared life together. Just like you sometimes call or text your best friend or stay up late at night hanging out and talking about nothing, some days God and Adam probably just talked about nothing. That is the level of relationship God wants with us; He wants a relationship so deep and meaningful that we talk with Him just because we love Him and want to spend time with Him.

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YOUTH SAMPLE LESSON

PAGE 8

LESSON 1.1

God desires to have a relationship with humanity.

RELEASE!!! (10 MIN)

OPTION 1

Throughout the story of Creation and into the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve, we see that God desires a close relationship with His creation. He put so much detail and care into not only creating humanity, but also in creating the world that we would live in and enjoy. He showed through nature that He cares about the smallest of details and cares a great deal about order and structure. He is an intentional God.

Knowing this, our perspective on our relationship with God can be enhanced. Instead of just thinking of Him as a distant, uncaring God, Creation proves that He is close and concerned about everything we do and everything that happens to us. The Bible says that if He cares that birds are fed, how much more important are we to God than birds that He would care about us? (Matthew 6:25-26). He wants us to know that we do not have to worry because He is close and He cares.

- What are some ways that we can “walk” with God?
- What things make it hard to talk to God?
- How can you make talking to God easier?
- How does it make you feel to know that God wants to be close to you?



OPTION 2

1. Preparation: Set up a small obstacle course ahead of time.
2. Choose a volunteer and blindfold them.
3. Put them at the start of the course, and verbally lead them through the obstacles, emphasizing that they must listen to you in order to make it through safely.
4. Point out that you are playing the part of God and that this is how walking with Him looks. He's God and sees all. We are human, and our vision is limited.
5. Walking with God each day allows us guidance in our daily lives that will keep us safe. We cannot always see what lies ahead in our path, but if we walk with God, He watches out for us. He speaks to us and will lead us through even the most difficult obstacles and roadblocks if we will listen.

Read Psalm 23:

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.”

PRAYER!!!

Jesus, I am so thankful that you created such a diverse and beautiful world for me to enjoy. I'm thankful that you put everything in this world that I need to be physically sustained. Just like I enjoy this world, I want to enjoy relationship with You. Help me draw closer to you each day.

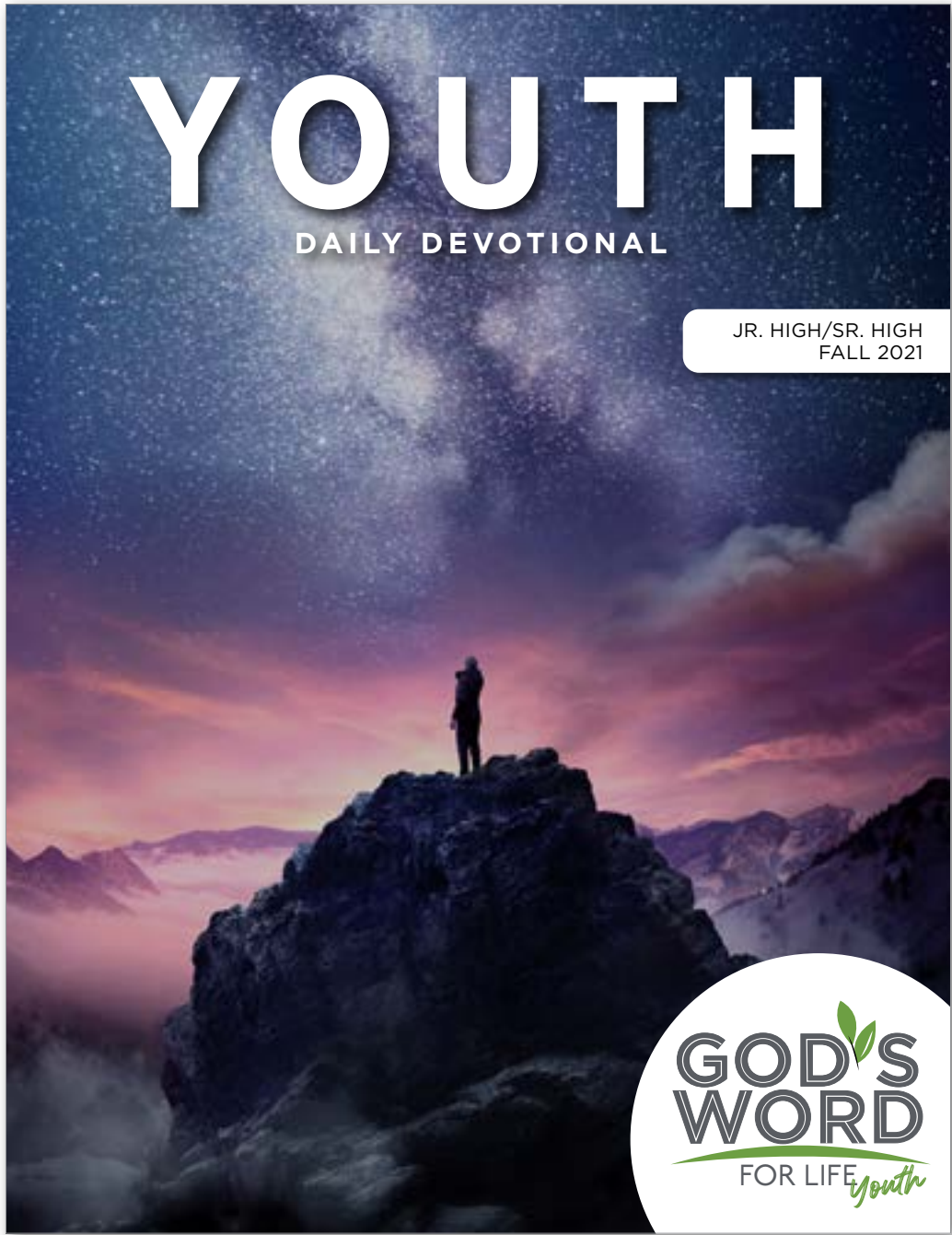
16

ENGAGE AND RELEASE ACTIVITIES

God's Word for Life offers two options at the beginning and end of each lesson to ensure teachers have a variety of ways to engage students. These options feature physical activities, object lessons, discussion, learning scenarios, and short stories to add variety as well as reinforce the themes and ideas of the material.

YOUTH DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

SAMPLE DEVOTIONAL



YOUTH DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

PAGE 1

1.1

SERIES 1: IN THE BEGINNING
CREATION OF THE WORLD

TRUTH ABOUT GOD ///
God desires to have a relationship with humanity.

SERIES AIM
God was intentional about His creation and the purpose it would serve, and the same can be said for the way He created you and me. God loves us and made us to thrive and live according to His perfect will.

BIBLICAL PASSAGE
Genesis 2:1-9, 18-25

LESSON BIG IDEA
I will develop a fulfilling relationship with God.

WHERE DO WE BEGIN? ///
Throughout the work of Creation and into the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve, we see that God desires a close relationship with His creation. He put so much detail and care into not only creating humanity, but also in creating the world that we would live in and enjoy. He showed through nature that He cares about the smallest of details, resulting in order and structure. He is an intentional God.

Knowing this truth can enhance our perspective on our relationship with God. Instead of just thinking of Him as a distant, uncaring God, Creation proves that He is close and concerned about everything we do and everything that happens to us. The Bible says that if He cares that birds are fed, how much more important are we to God than birds that He would care about us? (Matthew 6:25-26). He wants us to know that we do not have to worry because He is close and He cares.



2 GOD'S WORD FOR LIFE

EQUIP YOUR STUDENTS FOR DAILY STUDY

The first page of each week provides an overview of the week's Bible passage being studied. It ties in to the lesson from the youth class at church.

YOUTH DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

PAGE 2

CREATION OF THE WORLD

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? ///

The following questions, devotions, and action points can be used any way that you feel comfortable. We suggest that you use a journal, your notes app on your phone, or even the spaces provided in this daily devotional book to take notes, write answers, and make lists. The purpose of this resource is simply to give you a space to interact with the Word of God and reflect on what you learn from that experience.

/// Have you felt Jesus this week? When?

/// What is it like to hear the voice of God?

/// What kind of things might be preventing you from hearing God speak to you?

/// What is God's will for your life this week, and who is He asking you to reach?

GOD'S WORD FOR LIFE 3

REFLECTION AND APPLICATION

Youth are prompted to dig deeper into the week's Bible topic with questions that prompt personal reflection and application.

YOUTH DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

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LESSON 11

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE ///

CREATED FOR A PURPOSE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Read Psalm 23.
The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Psalm 23 is a constant reminder of God's unchanging feelings toward us. He is our shepherd, protector, and healer. God created us, not so that we would have hard and painful lives, but for the purpose of cultivating a beautiful life with Him here on Earth. Sometimes it feels like life is more challenging than it is enjoyable, but the psalmist is telling us that, in those moments, if we seek God, He will show us how we can find peace and joy in the pain around us. A life in relationship with God is a blessed life; we just need to take time to meet with Him.

Jr. High /// Make a list of some words and phrases that describe God.

Sr. High /// Make a list of some difficult things you have been going through that you need God's help with.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Read Genesis 2:8.
And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

At a glance, this verse seems to be just a statement of fact. God put a man in a garden that He planted. But if we think about it critically, we gain deeper understanding of God's intention for His creation. Adam was not created and then dropped into a desert; he wasn't created and placed in a stark, empty space. Adam was made by God and placed in a position where God knew Adam would grow and thrive. When you think of where you are in life and what you have, just remember that He has given you everything you need to thrive, so long as you stay connected to Him and His plan.

Jr. High /// Think about why God has placed you in your specific town, church, or school.

Sr. High /// Write down what you're doing to follow God's plan and help the Kingdom.

4 GOD'S WORD FOR LIFE

DAILY GUIDES

Each day's devotional begins by directing students to a passage of Scripture. It provides a devotional thought and then junior high and senior high break-out applications.

YOUTH DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

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CREATION OF THE WORLD

CREATED FOR A PURPOSE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Read Genesis 1:28.

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

What a wonderful verse! God's intentions for you and me are on full display. God was telling Adam and Eve that He wanted them to live fulfilling lives. So many times we are convinced that in following God's will for our lives, we won't enjoy ourselves and that we won't get to do the things we want to do. But God is clear in this verse that His will for our lives will be exciting and fulfilling; He will give us the joys of love, family, and purpose. We are children of God, and it is in that identity that God has given us great power and the ability to make the most of this life.

Jr. High /// What are some things you enjoy doing that either give God praise or allow you to see God's creation?

Sr. High /// Why is it important to know who you are before you choose your job, spouse, and so on?

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Read Genesis 3:6-21.

Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

We find Adam and Eve in a very bad place in this passage: defeated and covered in the shame of the very first sin. They had no defense for what they had done, and they were punished for their disobedience. But in all of this, we find a ray of hope in the way that God dealt with them. God could have killed them, perhaps should have killed them, but instead He spared their lives and even gave them clothing so that they would not be unclothed, cold, and ashamed. Even in our mistakes, God has mercy on us and provides us the very things we need to survive the situation that we caused. Even when we fail Him, God still loves us.

Jr. High /// Write on a note card or piece of paper about all the things that God has given you or your family.

Sr. High /// Think of a time God gave you exactly what you needed exactly when you needed it. What is it like to know that God is looking out for you?

GOD'S WORD FOR LIFE 5

YOUTH DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

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LESSON 11

CREATED FOR A PURPOSE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Read Genesis 2:18.

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

God saw Adam's needs even before Adam knew them. This should be a comforting reminder for us, especially when life doesn't work out exactly how we think it should. Maybe we didn't get to go on that cool summer trip, maybe our crush didn't text us back, or maybe we just feel like life isn't giving us any breaks lately. The truth is, maybe we didn't get that job because it would have been a bad environment, and maybe our crush just wasn't a good fit. Life is full of maybes, but only God knows for certain exactly what we need. The great news is, that He wants to give us everything we need for a better life.

Jr. High /// Think about a time that you found or were given something without you having to ask for it.

Sr. High /// Have you ever dealt with a breakup, not getting a job, or missing out on something you thought you needed and deserved? Write down some questions you had in that disappointment.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Read Genesis 3:22-24.

And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

This passage marks a really important moment—the moment God made it clear that humanity had gained understanding of what is good and what is evil. Suddenly, Adam and Eve—and us now by extension—didn't have the excuse anymore that they didn't know what they were doing was wrong. But just as important is God's concern that Adam and Eve would eat of the tree of life and live forever in their sinful and separated state. Just as Jesus made a plan for Adam and Eve, now Jesus provides us with everlasting life. We no longer have to live in a sinful state, separated from Him because we can respond to Jesus' gracious plan of salvation. The beautiful thing with God is even when we fail Him and suffer the consequences, He often provides us with the solution to our consequences before we can even ask for help. If we will follow Jesus and obey His commands, we can—find happiness in eternal life with Him.

Jr. High /// Write what you think eternal life will be like. Ask a parent, guardian, or teacher if you need help.

Sr. High /// Write down who you are most looking forward to meeting in eternity. Also, list some questions or topics that you would ask about if you were to meet that person.

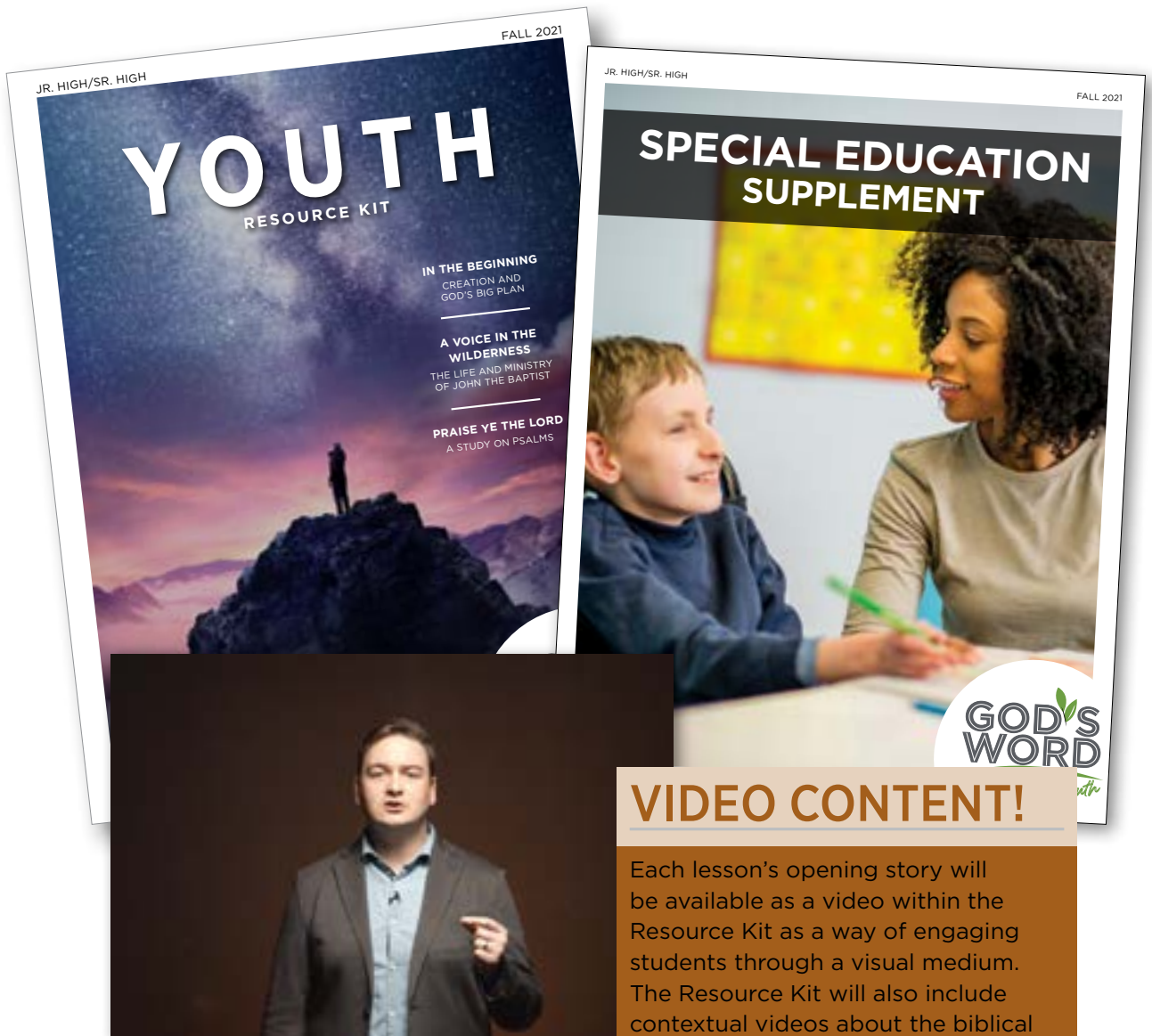
6 GOD'S WORD FOR LIFE

YOUTH RESOURCE KIT

Take advantage of the Youth Resource Kit for a robust collection of teaching tools to make each week exciting and engaging.

Contents include:

1. A video for each lesson
2. A poster for each of the three series
3. A supplement for adapting each lesson to minister to students affected by disabilities
4. Excerpts from Word Aflame Press books for additional research
5. Social medial calendar and suggested practices
6. Graphics package



VIDEO CONTENT!

Each lesson's opening story will be available as a video within the Resource Kit as a way of engaging students through a visual medium. The Resource Kit will also include contextual videos about the biblical passage as well as training videos to help you in the preparation process.

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MATERIALS**