

Lesson: “Jesus Had a Larger Perspective”

Theme:

To assist teens to understand that Jesus, our Wayshower demonstrated four strengths that helped him live triumphantly, Poise, Perspective, Passion and Power. This lesson is on “Perspective”.
(by Jo Horn)

Intention:

Begin to have a larger perspective and see things the way Jesus did and thus our world will change.

Pre-session Activity:

Have music playing, and encourage teens to talk especially if there are any new teens in the group.

Welcome:

Opening Circle-Have everyone say their name and an experience they have had this week.

Prayer:

Read the Daily Word for the day. (Could also read Unity Statement of Being)

Unity Statement of Being

God is All, both visible and invisible

One presence, one mind, one power is All

This One that is All,

Is perfect Life, perfect Love and perfect Substance

I am an individualized expression of God,

I am ever one with this perfect Life, Perfect Love and Perfect Substance.

Bible Verse:

“If your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light.—Matthew 6:22

Affirmation:

“I stretch my base of knowledge and information and seek the big picture so that I may make a difference”.

Introduce Topic

In the dictionary “Perspective” is defined as one’s mental view of facts, ideas, viewing a situation in a certain way. We all have our own perspective. The same situation may be seen in totally different ways by two people. Once we begin to see things the way Jesus did, our worldviews will change. We begin to perceive situations not through our eyes only but also through his with compassion and empathy. Fearlessness and faith our natural response to challenges. As we begin to see the world through God’s eyes, we gain a new perspective.

The theory in physics is that the building blocks of the universe are not blocks but rather loops that spiral out in 10 dimensions. What goes around comes around, what we give out comes back. When we give value we receive value in return.

When the Scribes and Pharisees brought the woman taken in adultery to Jesus for judgement, he knelt down and began to draw in the sand making circles and said, “Whoever is without sin among you may cast the first stone”. What do you suppose his message was as he drew spiral circles?

The ancient Indians knew this truth when they drew sacred circles in the sand, around, around and around. The earth spirals in a circle.

Jesus thought outside the box. He had a larger perspective. Therefore we need to stretch our base of knowledge and information.

USA Today reported that the city of Boston had no juvenile homicide over a ten-month period, compared to sixteen homicides the year before. Apparently the drop in the death rate was due to the larger perspective the new police commissioner and the citizens took. Rather than say more police were needed, tougher judges and more jail space what was seen was the need for more jobs and alternative activities for the kids. Funds were raised to provide programming and memberships to Boys and Girls Clubs and the YMCA. Job training and skills programs were created. And as a result, not one youth died during that ten-month period. They lived because people finally looked at the problem from a larger perspective.

Jesus was looking far beyond the shores of Galilee when he prayed. He was praying into the future—into the needs of the ghettos and the gangs as well as the prostitutes and tax collectors and fishermen. He spent time seeking the big picture. “I am not praying for these alone, but also for those in the future”—John 17:20
Jesus had a larger perspective.

Discussion Questions (do a whip and ask following questions):

- Do you shrug or ignore viewpoints that are different than yours?
- Do you ever get defensive with your viewpoint and try to convince the other person you are right?
- What do you think is behind someone’s unwillingness to see from a broader perspective?
- Are you willing to look past your problems to a solution?

Partner-Up

Have everyone find a partner and discuss a problem or challenge that they may have experienced or are currently having.

- What do you think your role or responsibility has been in this situation?
- Have you tried to look at the situation from the point of view of the other person?
- What do you need in this situation?
- What do you think the other person needs in this situation?
- What are the possible solutions?

When everyone has finished, come together and share.

The Starfish Story

Once upon a time there was a wise man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work. One day he was walking along the shore. As he looked down the beach, he saw a human figure moving like a dancer.

He smiled to himself to think of someone who would dance to the day.

So he began to walk faster to catch up.

As he got closer, he saw that it was a young man and the young man wasn’t dancing,

But instead he was reaching down to the shore picking up something and very gently throwing it into the ocean.

As he got closer he called out, “Good Morning! What are you doing?”

The young man paused, looked up and replied “Throwing starfish in the ocean.”

“Why are you throwing starfish in the ocean?”

“The sun is up and the tide is going out and if I don’t throw them in they will die.”

“But, young man, don’t you realize that there are miles and miles of beach and starfish all along it.

You can’t possibly make a difference!”

The young man listened politely. Then bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea, Past the breaking waves and said—"It made a difference for that one".

There is something very special in each and every one of us. We have all been gifted with the ability to make a difference and if we can become aware of that gift we gain through the strength of our visions and the Power to shape the future. Broaden your perspective!!!!

Puzzle Activity

Before your session, you can create your own puzzle. Get a large poster sheet, something that is heavier than regular paper. Create a picture or saying or affirmations such as "God has a plan and knows the big picture". Cut it out and have teens put it together in your session. You could have one large one or a smaller one for each teen depending on your class size.

Love Offering:

"Divine Love through me Blesses and multiplies all that I have, all that I give and all that I receive."

Closing Meditation/Prayer (have pauses where you think they should be)

Invite everyone to get comfortable in their chair, close their eyes, taking in a deep breath and releasing and as we release we become more relaxed. As you become more relaxed and feel the chair support you and as you look up you see the ceiling disappear and your chair starts to lift upward, higher and higher. You are being pulled up into the sky, higher and higher. You can feel yourself floating and as you get higher you look down and you can see everything getting smaller as if you up in an airplane. As you get higher and higher you can see the earth beneath you and there are millions of stars. You can see the magnificence of the universe the beauty God has created. You can see a much larger picture. What you realize is the vastness, such a larger picture. Dear God help me to stretch my imagination and my boundaries and go to the edges of my immediate problem and ponder what lies beyond. Help me to keep a larger perspective and to think of other's needs. Thank you Creator, giver of life itself for the gift of awareness the gift of a larger perspective you have given me. Thank you for everything I have received this day, especially for the freedom to be who I really am. I know that I am divine spirit, I know that I am the force that is life, the manifestation of your power that becomes the life of humans. Help me to recover my divine consciousness and accept my own divinity. I know that I am an expression of your divine love. Today God I will use my life to express your will and to share my joy wherever I go. Thank you for the opportunity to imagine what could be if I shift my awareness and accept my own divinity...(take time in silence).....

Now feel your breath, breathing in and out, feel yourself being supported by your chair as you bring your attention back to this room, back to this time.....