



uncommon
Bible study outlines
& messages



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general editor

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introduction

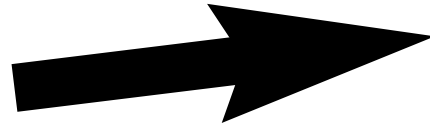
Someone once said, “The essence of creativity is the ability to copy.” This is a very freeing statement for me personally. (Of course, there is a major difference between plagiarizing someone’s work and simply copying it!) This outstanding book will give you a ton of great Bible study topics and message ideas that you can copy and adapt to use with your group. What I like most about these ideas is that they have already been tried and tested, and they work with students.

One of our primary jobs as youth workers is to plant the Word of God into our students’ lives so that it will take root and result in spiritual growth. On the pages of this book are brilliant ways to communicate the Word of God to students. This book was put together by one of my favorite youth workers on Planet Earth—Mike DeVries. He wrote most of the messages and Bible studies and compiled others from key youth ministry leaders from around the country.

You may be wondering what the differences are between message outlines and Bible study outlines. The message outlines have been written with a predominantly large audience in mind, providing a lecture format to be used in teaching a large group. At the end of each message outline, there is a list of “discussion starter” questions that can be used to review the material covered in the outline. The Bible study outlines have been written for use in a smaller group setting. There are more questions throughout the lessons, which provides for more interaction between the speaker and the audience members. I think you will treasure the resources in this book and return to it on a regular basis for refreshing new ideas on how to make the Bible come alive to the students of this generation.

There may not be a more important task in the Church than what you do in feeding the Word of God to young people. May God bless your outstanding work with young people, and may you catch just a small glimpse of the eternal difference you are making in the lives of those students in your youth ministry. God bless you.

Yours in Christ,
Jim Burns, Ph.D.
San Clemente, California



BIBLE STUDY OUTLINES

1: application of the mental faculties to the acquisition of knowledge. **2:** the activity or work of a student. **3:** a literary or artistic production intended as a preliminary outline, an experimental investigation, or an exploratory analysis.

overview

with help from little friends

topic

God will use you if you allow Him to do so.

description

The key ingredient in the miracle of Jesus' feeding of the 5,000 was not the day, the crowd, the messages, the disciples or even the food. It was the boy with the lunch bag who had the courage to come forward and offer something seemingly insignificant to the Lord. Jesus used the seemingly puny gift of a child's lunch to create one of His most dramatic miracles.

key verse

"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" (John 6:9).

biblical basis

Micah 6:8; Matthew 14:14,18; Luke 12:27-30; John 6:1-15

the big idea

We often hold ourselves back from God's plan because we see ourselves as having nothing of value to offer, but when we give what we have, He can work miracles.

aims of the study

- Examine the truth that even the gift that seems insignificant or useless can become a miracle in God's hands.
- Help students discover that God has given them gifts for use in ministry.
- Help students implement ways to offer back the gifts God has given.

preparation

For introduction option 2, gather some simple props and costumes, such as crackers or cookies (Goldfish crackers are perfect!), a few baskets to hold the "loaves and fishes," and some simple biblical costumes.

outline

with help from little friends

introduction

To introduce the Bible study, you will first have the students build a human pyramid and then discuss the questions listed in the “Take My Lunch” section below based on the story of the feeding of the 5,000 from John 6:1-15. (You can also choose to act out the story if you prefer.)

pyramid building

Ask for 15 volunteers to build a human pyramid to illustrate what you are working to accomplish together. Have the first five get in a line on their hands and knees shoulder-to-shoulder, all facing the same direction. The next four should fill in the spaces on their backs, the next three do the same, the next two should follow, then the last person should cap off the pyramid. You’ll need other people to help get the volunteers to the higher levels. The finished pyramid should look like this:

```
      X
     X  X
    X  X  X
   X  X  X  X
  X  X  X  X  X
```

If needed, you can make a pyramid with 10 volunteers for smaller groups, beginning the first row with four people instead of five.

With the pyramid still standing, point out what would happen if any person in any row (from the bottom) were suddenly pulled out, or if he or she collapsed. The whole structure would fall apart. From the strongest to the weakest, everyone is needed to create and maintain the structure.

“take my lunch!”

Before reading the passage in John 6:1-15, discuss the following questions. Focus on drawing from students the realization that all of us have lots to offer in doing God’s work.

1. What are some of the gifts that make our pastor an effective minister for Christ?
2. How about your favorite teacher or coach?
3. Who is one adult who has helped you in your Christian growth?
4. How has he or she helped you?
5. What ability do you have that Jesus might use to reach others?
6. How might a person's age limit his or her effectiveness for Christ?

Tell the students that you are going to be reading an account from God's Word about someone who might have been younger than them and how this individual presented to Jesus the raw materials needed for one of Christ's most dramatic miracles. Now read John 6:1-5.

optional skit

Have your students act out John 6:1-15. Select several people in the group to play the following roles:

- Jesus
- the boy
- the narrator
- other disciples
- Philip
- the crowd (everyone else)
- Andrew

Ask the narrator to allow the actors time to interpret the actions as the passage is being read. The more creative the better. If you wish, set up food props and let the disciples hand out cookies or crackers. You may also want to have costumes for some of the characters. Also, let the actors imagine what the crowd, the boy and the other disciples might have said. This really drives the scene home.

in the word

Reread John 6:1-15.

I. Jesus Had Compassion

- A. Read Matthew 14:14. Jesus saw the crowd and had compassion!
- B. Compassion is not just feeling sorry for someone but really hurting for and with them.
- C. Compassion is saying, "I know what is going on in your life. I know your needs, and I care!"

- D. Jesus knows each of our needs, and He cares about each one of those needs.
 - 1. He sees the needs of those around us as well.
 - 2. Don't ever think that your needs or others' needs are too big or too small for God to help you!
- E. Read Luke 12:27-30. God knows our needs.

II. Jesus Was the Answer

- A. Jesus was the answer for the needs of the crowd.
- B. In John 6:7, the disciples were focused on the need and missed the answer—Jesus.
- C. In John 6:8-9, Andrew had an idea—but how far would the loaves and fishes really go?
- D. Isn't that just like us? "But God, can You really do it? Can You really use me?"
- E. God *is* powerful enough to meet the needs of others.

III. Bring What You Have to Jesus

- A. In Matthew 14:18, Jesus says, "Bring them here to Me."
 - 1. Jesus says, "Give Me what you have and I'll do something with it."
 - 2. Bring your gifts, talents and dreams to Jesus.
 - 3. Bring what you have and lay it at the feet of Jesus. He can do the incredible!
- B. How do you bring things to Jesus? By prayer!
 - 1. God is faithful to meet your needs, no matter how big they may seem to you.
 - 2. What you bring to Jesus can meet your needs and the needs of others.
- C. God will use you to meet the needs of others. The question is whether you will bring your gifts, talents and abilities to God.
- D. Discuss the following:
 - 1. What gifts do you possess that God can use?
 - 2. What is required for God to be able to use those gifts?
 - 3. Why do we often try to hide or ignore our gifts?
 - 4. How damaging can false humility or unwillingness be to God's work?
 - 5. Who do you know that have needs in their lives?
 - 6. What gifts do you possess to help meet those needs?
 - 6. What specifically will you do to meet those needs?

help for creating a message at a moment's notice

Creating fresh, meaningful messages for teens is no easy task—especially on a regular basis! Don't let your well of inspired and stimulating ideas run dry. In *Uncommon Bible Study Outlines and Messages*, veteran youth minister Jim Burns offers more than 20 ready-to-proclaim messages and 14 complete Bible studies that will have your imagination overflowing in no time.

Your youth grow when you instill the Word of God within them. Now it's simple to enrich their lives, because each message and study outline is packed with biblical truth and thought-provoking application. Topics include faith, anger, loneliness, forgiveness, self-image, God's calling, being a servant, temptation, suffering and developing Christian character. The formats are easily adapted to youth meetings, Sunday School classes, retreats, staff meetings, parent nights, camps, lock-ins, outreach programs, and much more! No matter the situation, *Uncommon Bible Study Outlines and Messages* is ready for delivery.

- More than 20 just-add-fire messages that clearly communicate biblical truths
- Fourteen complete, thought-provoking Bible studies for groups of all sizes
- Arranged by topic for quick reference
- Reproducible small-group discussion starters to get youth talking (and thinking)
- CD-ROM with electronic versions of every message and study outline and a Scripture reference index
- Edited by Jim Burns, one of today's leading authorities on youth



Hit the ground running with a complete package of proven and effective materials for Junior High and High School ministries!



JIM BURNS, Ph.D., president of HomeWord, is the host of *HomeWord with Jim Burns*, which features daily and weekly radio programs. Since 1985, HomeWord has been assisting parents and churches worldwide through radio, resources, seminars and the Web at www.homeword.com. Jim is the author of many resources, including *Confident Parenting* book and kit, *Creating an Intimate Marriage* book and kit (also available in audio CD), *Addicted to God*, *One Life* and *Uncommon Youth Ministry*. He writes monthly columns for *Ignite Your Faith* magazine and *Simply Youth Ministry* newsletter and website. He and his wife, Cathy, and their three daughters live in Southern California.



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