

Make It Matter: Living a Life of Impact

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” - Ephesians 2:10

Everyone wants to change the world. But how do you define real impact?

Do you define impact by the total number of followers or likes? Do you define impact by being invited to the right places with the right people? Or maybe you define impact by achievements, where your contribution to the world is measured in trophies or scores. If so, here’s a hard truth: trophies and likes can make an impact, but not truly matter.

Real impact happens when God works through us. And when we grasp this truth, the way we see our lives and the world around us changes. *Make It Matter* shows how much difference a life empowered by the Word can make; how Jesus is the power source for a life that matters; how God designed us to impact the world together; and how trusting in God’s plan is the key to real impact.

Small Group Outlines

Session 1: The Word of God

- **What We Want Students to Learn:** That a life of real impact flows out of the Word working in and through our lives.
- **Scripture:**
 - Narrative Snapshot: Peter and John before the Council (Acts 4:1–13)
 - Supporting Passages: Psalm 1:1–2 and 2 Timothy 3:16–17
- **Session Snapshot:** In this session, you’ll look at a narrative from Acts where Peter and John make a bold stand for their faith. The religious leaders’ reaction to them reminds us of a key truth: when we spend time in relationship with God, we are never the same. We don’t have the same luxury as Peter and John. We can’t hang out personally with Jesus. But we can be transformed by seeking God through His Word. In order to live a life that matters, God’s Word has to work in us and through us. This lesson challenges your students to embrace this truth.

Session 2: The Work of God

- **What We Want Students to Learn:** That a life of real impact is only possible because of the work Jesus did.
- **Scripture:**
 - Narrative Snapshot: Paul recounting his transformation story (1 Corinthians 15:3–11)
 - Supporting Passages: Romans 10:9–13 and Ephesians 2:8–10
- **Session Snapshot:** Paul made an impact before Jesus. A big one. But it was the wrong kind of impact. It wasn’t REAL impact. But when he was saved by faith in Christ, his impact was set on the right course. His life mattered, all because of the work Jesus did in and through Paul’s life. We will look at Paul’s writings as a guy who was radically transformed by the work of salvation in his life. Then we’ll focus on Romans 10:9-13 as we discover the means of salvation, and Ephesians 2:8-10 as proof that Jesus’ work empowers REAL impact.

Session 3: The Way of God

- **What We Want Students to Learn:** That a life of real impact is empowered by a Gospel-centered friendship.
- **Scripture:**
 - Narrative Snapshot: Paul mentioning his “friends in ministry” (Romans 16)
 - Supporting Passages: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 and John 15:12-14
- **Session Snapshot:** Romans 16 may at first seem like an unlikely passage to do a Bible study on. But it’s actually a super cool case study in what it looks like to live a life of meaning alongside others. Paul reminds us of a truth that is easy to miss: God created us to be in community with each other. Friendships are an invaluable blessing given by God to help us on our way. This session will help your students see this and challenge them to commit to seeing friendships as part of their life of impact.

Session 4: The Will of God

- **What We Want Students to Learn:** That a life of real impact is found through living out God’s will for us.
- **Scripture:**
 - Narrative Snapshot: Abraham and God’s call in Gen. 12
 - Supporting Passages: Romans 12:1–2 and Proverbs 3:5-6
- **Session Snapshot:** When we understand that God is working around and in us, we gain insight into what God's will for our lives is. We will look at Abraham and God's unique calling to go. Abraham isn't given a where, but he simply goes. Abraham’s trust allowed him to be a part of something so amazing. Our trust empowers God’s plan for our life. There is a world we are called to move towards beyond this experience, and we will use our lives to make it matter!

Large Group Outlines

Session 1

- **Scripture Passages:** Joshua 1:1-9
- **Session Snapshot:** Joshua was charged to lead following in the footsteps of one of the greatest leaders to walk the earth. It can often be intimidating to accept the call given to all of us, which is to live a life that matters. In session one, we’ll open up God’s word to understand the source of our bravery and strength comes from God’s word.

Session 2

- **Scripture Passages:** Luke 16:19-31
- **Session Snapshot:** There are a few ways the world defines success. When we picture the Kingdom of God we can often picture people rejecting worldly possessions and things. We’re going to look at a story of a man who chased the world’s impact, while forgetting about God. This is not meant to scare students, but rather show the importance of what truly matters in life. Where do we place our goals and ambitions?

Session 3

- **Scripture Passages:** Philippians 2:1-11
- **Session Snapshot:** What does a Christian relationship look like? This doesn’t just pertain to romantic relationships, but how does Christ affect our connection with others? This session will discuss the impact of the Gospel pulling us away from selfish tendencies which destroy Christian community.

Session 4

- **Scripture Passages:** Acts 7:48-Acts 8:8
- **Session Snapshot:** Jesus gave a command to go therefore and make disciples of all nations, but this task is easier said than done. This final session will give students the challenge and call to go forth and do the work of reaching others with the Gospel. We'll discuss the empowerment that comes from God when He chooses to use us for this kingdom work. God doesn't have to use us, but He chooses to which is a powerful banner to carry forward.