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This Student Book is the road map for your students' event experience. Here are just a few features:

- 45 full color pages
- Note taking areas for Large Group Sessions
- Interacts with the Small Group Lessons your teachers access Online
- Features four bonus devotions for use throughout your event
- Biblically solid, culturally relevant, highly interactive



If you have any questions about this Student Book, or any other YM360 Event Resource, don't hesitate to call. We're here to help!

1-888-969-6360



UP
ENDED
HOW GOD UPENDS OUR EXPECTATIONS

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO: _____

DATE STARTED: _____

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EVENT
RESOURCES

Upended: How God Upends Our Expectations
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UPENDED INTRO

You have your own rules for navigating your life. You may not even know it, but it's true. You constantly reinvent yourself to maintain your image. You have an idea of what success and failure look like. You have an understanding with yourself about how you see others and how they see you. You have certain expectations for how the world works. But what if you're wrong?

You're about to see how God upends everything you think you know about the world around you and how to get by. All through the Bible, we see God turn the wisdom of the world on its head. We learn that God has a different idea about strength and freedom. About what it means to really live!

God's plan for you to thrive is an upended version of the world's plan. And you're about to hear all about it.

Have You Prepared For The Journey?

Ask yourself: Is my heart prepared to be challenged? Am I willing to be changed? If you can't answer "yes" to these questions, this journey might not be nearly as spectacular as it could be. Take a moment and silently talk to God in prayer if you need to. Ask God to radically move in your life.

You're Holding Your Map

This book you're holding is the roadmap for your journey. It will help guide your experiences. Write your name and the date in the front. Hold on to it. You may want to look back and remember this time in your life.

Learn. And Teach.

Keep your eyes and ears open for those valuable moments where God wants to teach you something. But don't miss the chance to teach your friends, and to be taught by them. Your friends are with you in this experience. Be open to what God is doing in and through them and how He might be using them to speak to you. And vice versa.

**“[8] FOR MY THOUGHTS ARE
NOT YOUR THOUGHTS, NEITHER
ARE YOUR WAYS MY WAYS,
DECLARES THE LORD. [9] FOR
AS THE HEAVENS ARE HIGHER
THAN THE EARTH, SO ARE
MY WAYS HIGHER THAN YOUR
WAYS AND MY THOUGHTS
THAN YOUR THOUGHTS.”**

- ISAIAH 55:8-9



LARGE GROUP NOTES

SESSION 1

These two pages are designed for you to take notes on during Large Group Sessions. The stuff you're learning will build on itself over the next few sessions. So even if you're not much of a note-taker, you might want to at least jot down what you think is important.

Try writing down:

- Any specific teaching points
- Verse references for Scripture passages
- Quotes that make you think
- Anything you have a question about



SMALL GROUP SESSION 1 INTRO

Who is the strongest person you know?

That's an interesting question. Why? Because your answer might have been different than the person sitting next to you, and not in the way you think.

Some of you read the word strong, and you thought "swole" (LOL). You thought beast mode. You thought of the guy with the biggest "guns" in the gym or the girl who can deadlift all day long.

Others of you immediately thought of someone with great mental or emotional strength, a loved one who has powered through a cancer battle, or some other great trial.

It's probably a safe bet that none of you thought about someone with great spiritual strength, though you certainly could have.

See? Interesting question.

We all think about strength differently. The world around us does. But God has something to say about REAL strength, and don't be surprised if it upends your ideas of what it means to be strong. Let's take a look.



DIGGING IN

SESSION 1

PART 1: READ 2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-8

[7] So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. [8] Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.

Paul mentions the same word two times in these two verses. What is the word?

How would you define the word?

Think for a second about three things you're good at. List them in the box below.

Why is it tempting for us as human beings to become conceited about the things we're good at?

PART 2: READ 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

[9] But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

In your own words, what did God mean by what He said to Paul?

In light of what God had just allowed Paul to experience, why is this a pretty major statement?

Paul says something pretty huge about what he chooses to boast in. What is so important about this?

PART 3: READ 2 CORINTHIANS 12:10

10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

What does it mean to be content with something?

Why is it interesting that Paul is content with the things he listed out?

Paul reveals a powerful truth about what it means to live as a child of God. What is the key to strength?

How do you make sense of this? How would you explain this concept to someone else?

HAVE
YOU NOT
KNOWN?

HAVE
YOU NOT
HEARD?

THE LORD IS
THE EVERLASTING
GOD.

THE CREATOR
OF THE ENDS
OF THE EARTH

**HE DOES NOT FAINT OR GROW WEARY;
HIS UNDERSTANDING IS UNSEARCHABLE.**

**HE GIVES POWER TO THE FAINT,
AND TO HIM WHO HAS NO MIGHT HE INCREASES
STRENGTH. EVEN YOUTHS SHALL FAINT AND BE
WEARY, AND YOUNG MEN SHALL FALL EXHAUSTED;**

**BUT THEY WHO WAIT FOR THE LORD SHALL
RENEW THEIR STRENGTH;**

**THEY SHALL MOUNT UP WITH WINGS LIKE
EAGLES**

**THEY SHALL RUN AND NOT BE WEARY;
THEY SHALL WALK AND NOT FAINT.**

ISAIAH 40:26-31

WRAPPING UP

Work with your group to practically discuss what it looks like to apply Paul's teachings.

MUSCLING THROUGH

HOLDING ON

SPIRITUALLY FLEXING

FOR THE SAKE OF

CHRIST

I AM CONTENT WITH

WEAKNESS,

INSULTS,

HARDSHIPS,

PERSECUTIONS,

& CALAMITIES.

FOR WHEN I AM

WEAK, THEN I AM

STRONG

2 CORINTHIANS 12:10