

FIELD-TESTED SERMON RESOURCES

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# SERMON SERIES

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Thank you for downloading this sample PDF from our Sermon Series line of resources.

When you stand up in front of students proclaim the Word of God, you need trusted, creative, Biblically solid content. YM360's Sermon Series is exactly what you're looking for.

Field-tested, from-the-trenches of youth ministry, YM360 Sermon Series are complete sermon outlines and graphic packages designed to help you lead students closer to God through proclaiming His Word.

## DIFFERENCE MAKER: IMPACTING THE WORLD FOR CHRIST

Students today are longing to make a difference in the world around them, but few of them know how to go about doing that for Christ. As believers, we are called to be difference makers, and this series is designed to walk your students through what it means to be a difference-maker and how to go about doing that as they learn from four biblical leaders that made a tremendous difference during their days.

### “DIFFERENCE MAKER” COVERS THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES AND PASSAGES:

- **SESSION 1 - (1 SAMUEL 16:6-13) “CALLED”:** To be a Difference Maker, you first need to understand that you are called to be a Difference Maker. Session one will look to God's selection of young David to be king and his confrontation with Goliath that soon followed his calling to establish that even though our students may be young, they are Called to be Difference Makers for God.
- **SESSION 2 - (EXODUS 4:1-17) “DEPENDENT”:** As Difference Makers for God, we are completely dependent upon God. In Session two, we will look to Moses' interaction with God following his calling to lead the Israelites out of Egypt to highlight our reliance upon Him in our calling to be Difference Makers.
- **SESSION 3 - (COLOSSIANS 2:13-3:4) “QUALIFIED”:** We are qualified to be Difference Makers through what Christ has done for us. Session three will focus on Paul's expression to the Colossians that despite what other teachings may say, we are saved by Christ alone and therefore qualified to be Difference Makers through Christ alone.
- **SESSION 4 - (2 TIMOTHY 4:1-8) “CHARGED”:** In the same way that Paul charged Timothy to preach the Gospel and to live boldly for Christ, Difference Makers are charged to impact the world around them as they live out their faith. Session four will work through Paul's challenge to Timothy and each of us to live out our faith in manner that is worthy of the Gospel as we seek to live as Difference Makers who have been qualified by Christ.

Difference Maker is designed to help students understand that they are capable of impacting the world around them for Christ as they learn about and from biblical leaders throughout the Bible. As they learn about David, Moses, Jesus, and Timothy, they will be challenged to evaluate how they are living out their own faith and the changes they need to make to live as Difference Makers who see their surroundings as mission fields.

## “DIFFERENCE MAKER” IS PART OF YM360’S SERMON SERIES LINE OF RESOURCES AND IS IDEAL FOR:

- Any large group setting
- Mid-week youth service
- “Master teacher” format

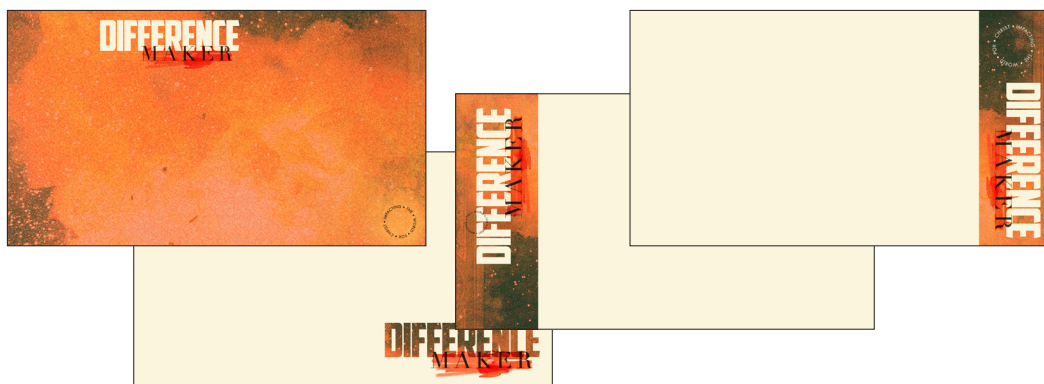
## EVERY SERMON SERIES FROM YM360 COMES WITH:

- **SERMON MANUSCRIPTS** - Every Sermon Series comes with sermon manuscripts. Teach them “as is” or adapt them to suit your specific context.
- **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** - These are designed for follow-up small group interaction after your sermon.
- **PROMOTIONAL ART (INCLUDING INSTAGRAM IMAGES)** - Perfect for websites and Instagram, or print them off for posters or bulletin inserts.
- **TITLE AND BACKGROUND SLIDES** - These are designed to be dropped into your favorite presentation software to help you build a creative environment around your sermon. Use them as a backdrop for song lyrics, Scripture passages, and any illustrations you choose to display.
- **LOGO TREATMENT (WITH NATIVE FILES INCLUDED)** - We include a logo file and the native design files to allow you to use the logo in ways you see fit.
- **100% DOWNLOADABLE**

# BACKGROUND SLIDES, PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK, AND MORE . . .

Each YM360 Sermon Series comes with title and background slides, promotional art (including Instagram images), and logo treatments. Here is what to expect.

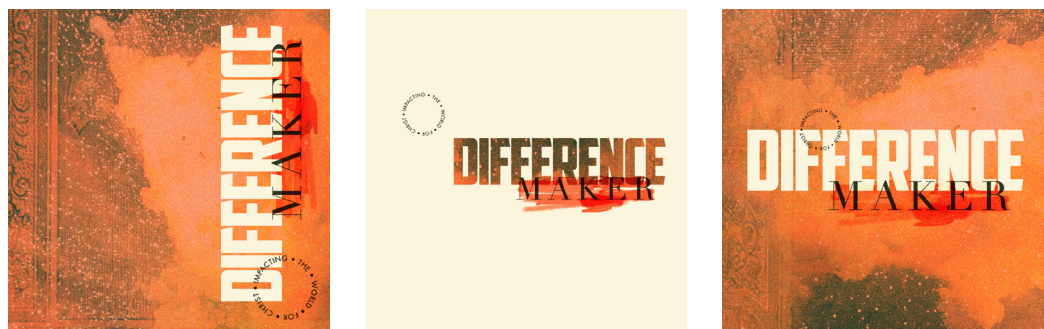
## BACKGROUND AND TITLE SLIDES



## PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK



## INSTAGRAM IMAGES



## LOGO TREATMENT



NOTE: Each YM360 Sermon Series also comes with the native files of the logo in case you want to replicate the design for other uses.

## *Difference Maker* Sermon Series Overview

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*The Sermon Series Overview is a one-page glimpse of the stuff you need to know to begin preparing to preach.*

- **Session 1 Purpose:** To be a difference maker, you first need to understand that you are called to be a difference maker.
- **Scripture Passage(s):** 1 Samuel 16:6-13, 1 Samuel 17:1-11, 1 Samuel 17:31-37, 1 Samuel 17:45
- **Session Snapshot:** Session One will look to God's selection of young David to be king and his confrontation with Goliath that soon followed his calling. You'll focus on how we are called to lead, called to face adversity, and called to be obedient to God as difference makers. We want students to learn that even though they may be young and standing out for their faith may not be a popular thing to do, they are called to be difference makers in the world around them.
- **What You May Need:** Optional illustration: A time when you were looked down upon or doubted for being young (Person Story); A large empty box.

### Details on *Difference Maker* Sermon Series Outlines

Students today are longing to make a difference in the world around them, but few of them know how to go about doing that for Christ. As believers, we are called to be difference makers, and this series is designed to walk your students through what it means to be a difference-maker and how to go about doing that as they learn from four biblical leaders that made a tremendous difference during their days.

- **Session 1:** To be a difference maker, you first need to understand that you are called to be a difference maker. Session One will look to God's selection of young David to be king and his confrontation with Goliath that soon followed his calling.
- **Session 2:** As difference makers for God, we are completely dependent upon God. In Session Two, we will look to Moses' interaction with God following his calling to lead the Israelites out of Egypt to highlight our reliance upon Him.
- **Session 3:** We are qualified to be difference makers through what Christ has done for us. Session Three will focus on Paul's expression to the Colossians that we are saved by Christ alone and therefore qualified to be difference makers through Christ alone.
- **Session 4:** In the same way that Paul charged Timothy to preach the Gospel and to live boldly for Christ, difference makers are charged to impact the world around them as they live out their faith.

*Difference Maker* is designed to help students understand that they are capable of impacting the world around them for Christ. As they learn about David, Moses, Jesus, and Timothy, they will be challenged to evaluate how they are living out their own faith and the changes they need to make to live as difference makers who see their surroundings as mission fields.

### How To Use the *Difference Maker* Sermon Series

This sermon series outline is designed for use by a communicator in a large group setting. It provides various elements such as suggestions on illustrations or images, Scripture passages, background information, and application points that you will need to prepare your lesson. It also includes discussion questions that could be used in a small group following the message and artwork for promotion or message support.

These sermons are designed to be useful for all types of groups and churches, and you should feel free to make adjustments that benefit your particular circumstance.

### I. Introduction

If you have a Bible, open it up to 1 Samuel 16:6.

- a. We are starting a new four-week sermon series called *Difference Maker* that is going to help us understand that we are not only called to be difference makers as believers, but it will also challenge you to evaluate how you are living out your faith for Christ daily. We'll do this by looking at biblical leaders throughout the Bible and learning important lessons from them that will help us as we embrace being difference makers for Christ.
- b. We're going to start this off by looking at David tonight. Before he was king, David was a shepherd boy who was the youngest in his family and would have been the least likely person to become a king.
- c. As young people, particularly as students, some would look at you all and seek to say that we are not capable of making a big difference in the world because of your age, grade, maturity, and other things of that nature.
  - i. *(You may choose an optional illustration of a time when you were looked down upon or doubted for being young.)*
  - ii. However, I believe what this world needs more than anything else is a generation that is absolutely on fire for Christ to make a big difference for Him. But what we tend to do is allow things like our age, our doubts about how much we know, our fear of not being able to say the right things, and all of these other factors to keep us from living out our faith in bold ways.
- d. I want you to first understand that despite your age or grade or any of those kinds of factors, you are called to be difference makers. God doesn't look at our age as a limitation, rather He sees it as an opportunity, and our text in 1 Samuel tonight is going to help show us that.
- e. Bible Context: As we dive into 1 Samuel, let me give you some context on what is going on here because we're a few chapters into the book at this point.
  - i. After Israel was saved from slavery in Egypt, they developed a covenant with God, but they constantly failed. It was a time of insane chaos where the Israelites repeatedly turned their backs on God in exchange for idols, and it all ultimately displayed this massive need for wise and godly leaders to lead God's people. The first of those was a man named Saul.
  - ii. Saul was an extremely powerful man and looked the part of a king. He was tall in stature, large in physique, and was the type of guy who was noticeable in a crowd. He represented everything the Israelites desired in a king, but there was a problem. While Saul looked the part, he did not obey God. Where we pick up in 1 Samuel is when Saul is really on a downward slope. His many character flaws, such as being super prideful and extremely dishonest, are becoming more and more noticeable, and he even comes to the point of directly disobeying God's commands.
  - iii. This causes Samuel, a prophet who is sent by God, to proclaim that God is going to raise up a new king to replace Saul because Israel needs a humble and faithful king. So Samuel goes searching for this new king, and that is where we will pick up in 1 Samuel 16:6.

## II. Called to Lead (16:6-13)

- a. Read 1 Samuel 16:6-13.
- b. Check out v.7 once again here. God's instructions to Samuel are to not look upon the outward appearance; rather, God is focused on the heart of the next king.
  - i. God is not worried about David's outward appearance or his physical features or how old he is. He instead instructs Samuel to look for someone whose heart is set upon the Lord.
  - ii. God is not concerned about how old you are or what grade you are in or how many followers you have or whether or not you're popular. In fact, this verse would suggest He is not concerned with any of that. Rather, He is concerned about the status of your heart.
  - iii. If your heart is set upon Him, then you are available to be used by Him.
- c. So Jesse begins lining up his sons and has each one of them pass in front of Samuel (v.8-10). However, as each one passes, God declares each one of them as unfit to lead.
- d. Then Samuel asks if all of his boys are truly here, and Jesse admits his youngest, or smallest, son is out tending to the sheep.
  - i. The way this interaction goes, it's almost as if Jesse is like, "sure I have one more, but he's super young, super small, and super insignificant." Jesse has practically written him off as not being fit to lead.
  - ii. However, (v.11) Samuel has Jesse send for David immediately, and then God declares that this is the one!
- e. David is an insignificant shepherd boy who is the youngest in his entire family. He is the least likely candidate to be king, but God does not base David's status upon his physicality, but upon his heart. It's David's faith and trust in the Lord that enables him to lead.
  - i. Our circumstances, such as how old we are, or how much we know, do not limit our ability to be used by God. There is not an age requirement for sharing the Gospel with your lost friends or a grade level you must be in to boldly pray for others. Rather, we are individually called by God to lead based upon our hearts' status and our faith in Him.
- f. Optional illustration: [Use the large empty box as an illustration for your group to understand that we can quickly become guilty of placing God in a box, or limiting God's ability to work through us when we believe we have to be a certain age in order to lead.]
  - i. When we limit ourselves based upon our age or grade, what we're essentially trying to do is place God, the one who is sovereign over everything in the universe, in a box.
  - ii. It is not that we do not believe in God or how powerful He is. It is just that we don't necessarily believe that He could use us for something that is greater than the capacities of our age, grade, status, or knowledge.
  - iii. We're fine believing that God would send His Son to die for our sins and that Jesus was resurrected from the grave three days later, but using me to reach someone who is lost? Don't be ridiculous!
  - iv. The point is that when we allow things like our age to limit our faith, what we are ultimately doing is saying to God, "I believe in you and I believe you are powerful, but maybe not that powerful." We limit what we think He is capable of doing through us based upon factors that He sees beyond.

- v. We have to be willing to place our full trust in God's ability to work through us because, again, God cares about the status of our heart more than He cares about our grade level.
- g. We are called to lead as young David was called to lead. However, in this calling, we are going to face opposition.

### III. Called to Face Adversity (17:1-11)

- a. Read 1 Samuel 17:1-11
- b. This is where Goliath takes the scene, and adversity enters the picture.
  - i. Though David was just anointed as the new upcoming king a few verses ago, we see how quickly opposition rises up against leadership as well.
- c. While we are called to lead as difference makers, we do not receive a hall pass that excludes us from facing difficult trials or situations in our lives.
  - i. In the same sense, just because I am a Student Minister does not mean that I do not still struggle with sin or struggle to do things I should be doing daily such as getting in the Word as much as I'd like to or praying for others as often as I'd like to.  
*[Tip: This is an excellent spot to be real and transparent with your group as you share your own walk and your own need for God's daily grace. Doing so will not only help them connect with you on a deeper level, but it will also display to them that we are going to continue to face opposition even as leaders. Remember that it is better to be authentic than it is to be unrealistic.]*
- d. We see this with David as Goliath steps into the scene.
  - i. Just a few verses after David has been chosen by God, a difficult situation develops with Goliath, who is this huge, brutal fighter, and he's mocking all of the Israelites and even God.
  - ii. We see what he shouts at the Israelites from the battlefield in verses 8-10.
- e. As he does this, we see in v.11 that the Israelites are stunned in fear. They do not know what to do, but a few verses later, David is going to do something pretty bold.
  - i. There will be Goliaths that appear throughout our lives as we seek to answer God's call to lead, but just as we are called to lead, we are called to face adversity.
  - ii. The term "difference maker" means that you are going to be someone who is intentionally going against the flow of things.
  - iii. You don't make a difference by blending in with what is going on around you. You make a difference by stepping up and willfully choosing to do something that goes against the norm.
  - iv. We're called to be obedient to God even in the face of difficult circumstances because our circumstances do not define our God. Rather, He defines our circumstances for us, and we should, therefore, not allow our circumstances to define our obedience to Him.
- f. Even in the face of the frightening Goliath, David proves faithful to God's call to lead, God's call to face adversity, and God's call to be obedient.

### IV. Called to Obedience (17:31-37)

- a. Read 1 Samuel 17:31-37.
- b. In verses 32-33, David is courageously offering himself to go out and battle against Goliath. Still, Saul doubts him and essentially tells him no since he is too young, and Goliath is an experienced war veteran.
  - i. Saul says, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth."
  - ii. Once again, we see David being dismissed by others because of his age and lack of experience.
  - iii. However, David is persistent.
- c. In verses 34-36, David describes some of his duties as a shepherd as he explains how he has faced and dealt with adversity in the past.
  - i. David often had to protect the sheep that he was responsible for leading and watching over.
  - ii. When adversity would come in the form of other animals, such as the lions and bears that he mentions, seeking to make a meal out of the sheep he was protecting, he would fend off the attacking animal even to the point of having to kill the attacking animal to pry his sheep away from death.
  - iii. His experiences, even as a youthful shepherd, are important factors here, but they are not the primary reason he gives for being able to face Goliath. Check out verse 37.
- d. David says that it is the Lord who will watch over Him in this fight, it is the Lord who will deliver him from the hand of the Philistine, and it is the Lord who is going to bring about this victory.
  - i. It is not that David was simply braver than the Israelite army or had more courage. Rather, he is more confident in the God that Goliath is mocking and His ability to do something mighty through David than he is afraid of the opposition that he is facing in Goliath.
  - ii. When they come face to face in battle in 1 Samuel 17:45, David says to Goliath, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied."
- e. When we are faced with an opportunity to do something bold, we tend to do shy away rather than volunteer as David does here.
  - i. Great example: when someone asks who wants to pray, we tend to look around, hoping someone else will rather than jumping out in our faith and excitedly volunteering to.
  - ii. How often does God call us to do something that is outside of our comfort zone and, when He does, how quick are we to be obedient to that calling or opportunity vs. immediately becoming frightened like the Israelites were when they heard Goliath mocking their God?
  - iii. We are constantly surrounded by opportunities to live out our faith, but we seldomly do. It takes courage, but more importantly, it requires confidence that God is greater than any fear or opposition that we are facing. Sure asking a friend what they think about Jesus or how you can be praying for them can be intimidating, but if it helps lead them to an eternal relationship with God, isn't it worth it?
- f. If you know the rest of the story of David and Goliath, then you know that David ends up winning the battle against the great Philistine in outrageous circumstances as he kills Goliath by slinging a stone at him.



- i. However, David was not victorious because of the stone he chose or a sharp edge on the stone or anything like that.
  - ii. David was victorious because of his great faith in God and his obedience to God's calling.
- g. In the same way that we are called to lead and face adversity, we are called to be obedient to God in all that we do.
  - i. Each of us has been charged by Jesus to go and make disciples. Are you living that out? Can you confidently say that you are remaining obedient to God no matter what the circumstances are?

## V. Conclusion

- a. As we look at and learn from David, I want to stress the importance of the status of your heart in all of these callings.
  - i. As we talk about being difference makers, you first have to decide to accept the difference that Jesus has made for you.
  - ii. As we saw tonight, God was not concerned about David's age or physical appearance; rather, He was concerned about the status of David's heart.
  - iii. Therefore, if you have never accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, I want to allow you to do that tonight because as wild as it was for David to step up to faithfully take on Goliath, it is even crazier that our sovereign God would send His Son to willfully pay for our Son through His death on the cross.
  - iv. You can take the first step in being a difference-maker tonight by praying and accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior.
- b. If you are saved, and you do have a relationship with God, then I want you to understand that you are called to be a difference-maker.
  - i. Despite your age, grade, knowledge, or status, you are called to lead.
  - ii. As you lead as a difference-maker, you are naturally going to face adversity, but understand that you are called to face that adversity as you make a difference for God.
  - iii. No matter what the circumstances you face are, you are called to be obedient to God. If He is calling you to something, then follow Him and seek to make much of Him in every single opportunity that you are given.
- c. I want to challenge each of you this week to start a Gospel-centered conversation with a friend.
  - i. Ask them what they think about Jesus or if they believe He rose from the dead or how they feel about the whole religion.
  - ii. Simply begin the conversation and pray that God would open the door to their heart and use you to point them to Christ.
- d. You are called to be a difference-maker and, if you have surrendered your life to Christ, you are capable of being a difference-maker. Let's pray.

### **Small-Group Discussion Questions**

You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your sermon, or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to help students think critically about the sermon and what it means to them.

1. What are some examples you can share from your life when you were maybe looked down upon or doubted because of how old you were or what grade you were in? How did that make you feel?
2. In our first lesson of *Difference Maker*, we saw that God looks beyond what we see as limitations and focuses on the status of our heart. Read or have a Student read 1 Samuel 16:7. What does this tell you about how God sees us? How does that make you feel in comparison to how you felt when you were looked down upon or doubted because of your age?
3. We learned from David tonight that despite our age, we are called to lead. Let's do some brainstorming together here. What are some ways that we can lead as Students?
4. We also learned that as we lead, there are going to be those, in the passage tonight it was Goliath, who are against what we are doing. Is knowing that we will face adversity something that frightens you or does it motivate you?
5. There are also going to be those, like each one of us and other believers, who are excited about what you're each doing and ready to celebrate the victories that come from it. How can we encourage one another as we each answer God's calling to lead as difference makers?
6. Last but not least, we are called to be obedient to God no matter what the circumstances are. For David, it was displaying his faith in God when facing Goliath. For us, it could be praying in front of others or sharing the Gospel with a lost friend. When it comes to living out your faith, what are some things that we are called to do that you find intimidating? This can range anywhere from reading the Bible to praying to discipling others to sharing the Gospel.