

FIELD-TESTED SERMON RESOURCES

SERMON SERIES

TRUSTED | BIBLICAL | FIELD-TESTED

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.

SERIES OVERVIEW FOR FILTERED

We're addicted to technology. It's normal now. Students spend hours and hours every day scrolling through Instagram, snapchatting their friends, texting, watching YouTube, and that's barely breaking the ice. However, we were never created to be sucked into devices. Filtered doesn't demonize technology (in fact, it shows how we can use it effectively!), but it does seek to give students handles to put technology in its rightful place. It's time we get serious about loving the Lord our God by governing how we interact with the digital world. We'll take the Pauline approach of setting the theological groundwork in the first two sessions so that we can dig deep into practical application for the last two sessions.

“FILTERED” COVERS THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES AND PASSAGES:

- **SESSION 1 - (GENESIS 1:26-27, GENESIS 3:1-8) “OUR CREATED PURPOSE”:** We'll take a snapshot of how and why we were created, what our response to our Creator is, and where that leaves us.
- **SESSION 2 - (LUKE 10:25-37) “OUR REDEEMED PURPOSE”:** After seeing the challenges presented by sin from last week, we'll see how Jesus allows us to overcome those hurdles and fulfill our purpose.
- **SESSION 3 - (PROVERBS 1:7) “LIVING WISELY”:** This week, we focus on how we are to view others and what that means for our use of technology.
- **SESSION 4 - (2 CORINTHIANS 2:14-17) “LIVING MISSIONALLY”:** We wrap up by seeing how we can redemptively use technology to glorify God!

“FILTERED” 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

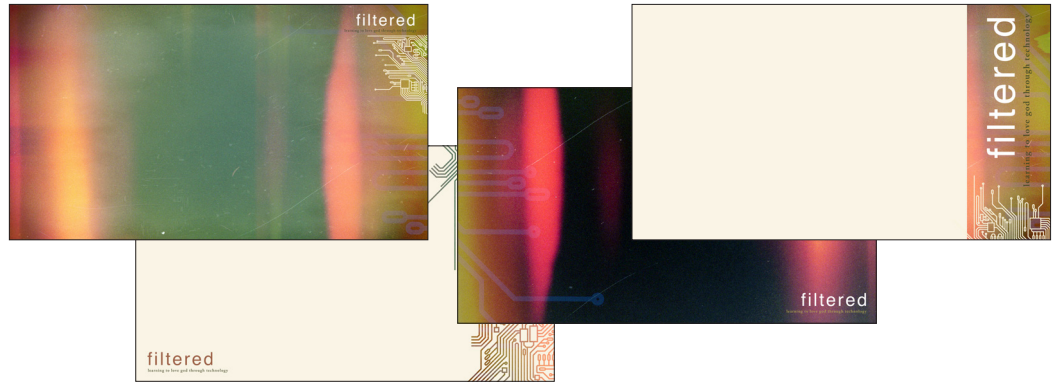
EVERY SERMON SERIES FROM YM360 COMES WITH:

- **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**

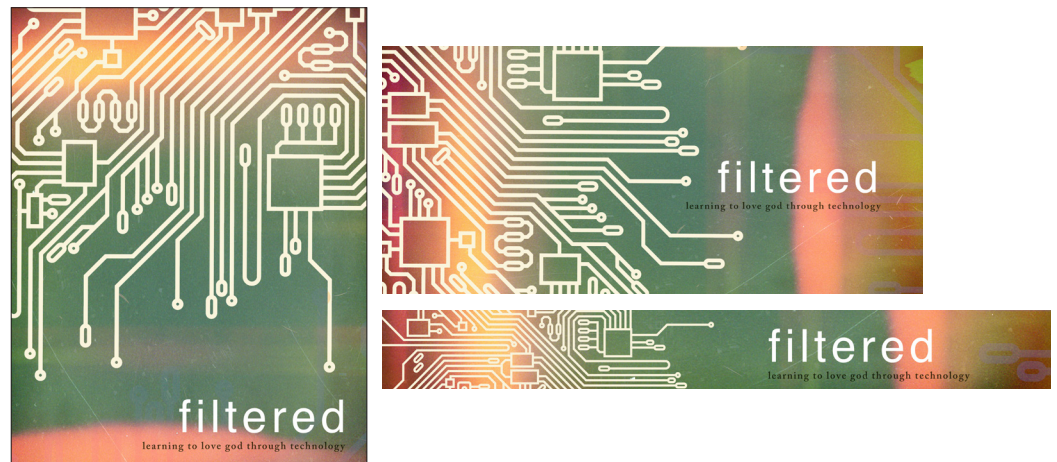
BACKGROUND SLIDES, PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK, AND MORE . . .

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

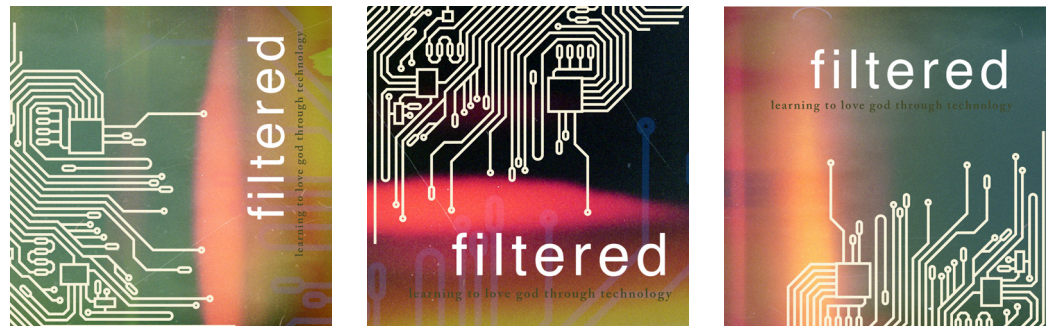
BACKGROUND AND TITLE SLIDES



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.

Filtered Sermon Series Overview

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

- **Session 1 Purpose:** The purpose of Session 1 is to challenge students to stop contriving their identity from culture and embrace their God-given *imago dei* (“image of God”).
- **Scripture Passage(s):** Genesis 1:26-27. Genesis 3:1-8
- **Session Snapshot:** Where does identity come from? Does the mirror validate it? Or potentially the likes on social media or the accolades accumulated from sports? Session 1 will uncover that our identity is rooted in God's image, but we struggle to rest in that because of the Fall.
- **What You May Need:**
 - Possible Video Link for Optional Illustration: Lion King

Details on *Filtered* Sermon Series Outlines

We're addicted to technology. It's normal now. Students spend hours and hours every day scrolling through Instagram, snapchatting their friends, texting, watching YouTube, and that's barely breaking the ice. However, we were never created to be sucked into devices. *Filtered* doesn't demonize technology (in fact, it shows how we can use it effectively), but it does seek to give students handles to put technology in its rightful place. It's time we get serious about loving the Lord our God by governing how we interact with the digital world. We'll take the Pauline approach of setting the theological groundwork in the first two sessions so that we can dig deep into practical application for the last two sessions.

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- **Session 3 (Proverbs 1:7):** This week, we focus on how we are to view others and what that means for our use of technology.
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How To Use the *Filtered* 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. Optional Introduction 1:

Have you ever been in a situation where the best was saved for last? Here's what I mean by that: It could be Thanksgiving, and your whole family is over. The turkey is on the table, along with all of the sides. What kind of sides do you have at your Thanksgiving? (*Allow a little time for response.*) You're excited about what you see, but you know the real prize awaits after the main course. It's grandma's homemade pecan pie.

You've had other pecan pies before, but nothing holds a candle to grandma's! You finish your meal eagerly so that you can get straight down to business. Soon enough, the desserts start to roll to the table. There's key lime pie, peach cobbler, and chocolate cake. You're content because you know those are good options, but you know there's one better that reigns far above the rest. Finally, after some suspense, grandma pulls the hot pie with its light golden crust out of the oven. The anticipation finally culminates in pure delight and joy!

We'll take a look today to see that God saved the best for last in creation when He made us. However, due to Adam and Eve's rebellion, sin entered the world and messed up our relationship with God. Throughout the course of this series, our aim is to filter how God sees us, how we should see ourselves and others, and end in how we filter our use of technology in a crazy digital media world.

Optional Introduction 2:

Have you ever had something good and lost it? Most movies follow this pattern of setting the beginning up as an ideal scenario. The main character encounters tragedy and the rest of the movie is the pursuit of the main character to find redemption and recover what was lost.

Take the movie *Spiderman* for example. Peter Parker is kind of a nerd that lives with his Aunt May and Uncle Ben. Then, something thrilling happens! He is bitten by a spider and is given supernatural abilities. Peter gets buff, athletic, and starts climbing walls, and swinging between buildings. Things are exciting. However, in the middle of this, his Uncle Ben is shot in a carjacking. It's tragic, and now Peter goes to exact revenge, but thankfully, he chooses to use his powers to benefit the city.

Do you want to know why all stories have ups and downs? It is not just because we find it interesting, although that is partially the reason. It's because we find bliss and tragedy within our own story. As we'll see today, God made everything good, but the prize of His creation was humankind. However, we chose sin over Him, which has caused us to have a distorted view of everything. One of those things it messed up is the way we interact with technology. Throughout this series, *Filtered*, we'll seek to understand how God sees, how we should see ourselves and others, and how we should interact with technology.

II. Background

As you know, Genesis is the first book of the Bible. It is significant in several ways. It tells us of the beginning of humanity, why our world is broken and tells us of a God who relentlessly pursues His

people. Genesis 1 and 3, where we'll be today, are two of the most important chapters in Scripture. The first deals with the creation, and the latter deals with the Fall. Without chapter 1, we don't know whose we are. Without chapter 3, we can't explain the suffering and evil we experience in the world. Yet, even through our disobedience, God promised to make a way.

III. Explanation

Before you read Genesis 1:26-27, take a moment to recount what has just happened. We are introduced to God in chapter 1, verse 1. He was all there was in the beginning. However, God decides to create! He starts by establishing the heavens and earth. The earth did not have any detail to it, so He puts water and dry land into it. He calls for vegetation to sprout over the earth. He establishes mountains and valleys, and He's doing all of this by the word of His mouth! He separates light and darkness and hangs the stars in place. It must have been a magnificent scene.

Then God started creating animals—birds, mammals, fish, reptiles (yes, even snakes), although I have no idea why! All of these creations could take your breath away, but God was about to put the icing on the cake. He saved the very best for Day 6. Let's take a look.

Read Genesis 1:26-27.

God the Father, God the Holy Spirit, and God the Son agree that they want to make humankind. But this creation of theirs would be different: people would have His image! It would be easy to blow by this and not think twice about it, but it is a BIG deal. You see, people are the only creatures endowed with the image of God. This does not mean that God created us to physically look like Him. As hard as it is to imagine, He doesn't have a physical body. That's why God told the Israelites not to make any carved images of Him—it's impossible. So back to the image discussion... What does that mean? It means a couple of different things:

1. It means that we were created for relationship. Just like God has a relationship with Himself in the Trinity, He gives us the ability to have a relationship with Him and with other humans! Wouldn't life be extremely difficult and lonely if you were the only person on the planet? God made us need each other!
2. It means that we have the ability to think and reason. God created us as intelligent beings. While I love dogs, they don't communicate with us (besides a couple of woof woofs). They don't know how to multiply or write an essay.
3. It means that we have the ability to rule. In verse 27, God commanded us to have dominion over every living thing that creeps along the earth. Could you imagine if the opposite was true? We can catch a glimpse of what that would be like by watching the movie *The Planet of the Apes*. The storyline is that apes battle humans to be the dominant species on earth. It's an intriguing story, but we know that would never happen because God has given humans the ability to rule and no other creatures.

IV. Transition

Bearing the image of God is an immense blessing and one that should not be taken for granted. However, because of sin, that image has been fractured. Have you ever fractured a bone? (*Allow some*

time to interact.) Was it painful? Fracturing a bone normally requires a cast and sometimes surgery before it can be healed. It's a painful experience! The same thing happened when the image of God was fractured in us. Let's take a look to see exactly how that happened in the Bible.

V. Optional Illustration: Lion King

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6KIL8AWa_DM (If you don't have the time to show the video, you can reference the story.)

Here we have a young, impressionable Simba talking to his conniving uncle Scar. All Scar wants is to rule the kingdom and get Mufasa and Simba out of the picture. He overlooks all of the land with Simba and shows him an area that has an elephant graveyard. Of course, this is a lie, but he appeals to Simba's sense of adventure. Mufasa has told Simba to stay away from the area, but Scar plants doubt in young Simba's mind. He begins to question whether his dad knew about this cool little place. And that is how it all came crashing down. Now, let's see all the similarities in Genesis 3.

VI. Explanation

Read Genesis 3:1-8.

The serpent, which we come later to know as Satan, is introduced to the story. He's crafty and cunning. He wants to be God, but can't be. The next best thing is to mess up what God created. He confronts Adam and Eve in the garden. He poses as this wise creature that has the inside knowledge on how to be like God. He questions what God said to the couple. He downright denies the fact that God said they would die if they took the fruit of the tree. He entices them, and they agree. They both take of the tree and immediately realize they were naked. Now, were they naked before? Yes! But they were oblivious to it and unashamed. When they ate the fruit, all of the shame that comes with sin fell upon them. They were clothed with God's righteousness before. Now all they have is the pain of their disobedience to God. So what do we learn about sin from this passage?

1. Sin causes us to hide from God.

- a. When we sin, the devil loves to pile shame on us. Have you ever really blown it with a friend? You may have gossiped about them or yelled at them. Afterward, you knew you were wrong, but you didn't know how to approach them to apologize, so you just avoided them. You thought if you all didn't see each other, then the problem never existed in the first place. That can be our propensity with God too! Adam and Eve couldn't bear to face their Creator after their blatant disobedience, so they hid. Are you hiding from God right now too? I want to remind you that He sees you as you are and still loves you deeply. One of our greatest encouragements is that God loves us just as much on our worse day as He does on our best day. Spiritual maturity happens when we realize that God is the One we run to when we mess up, not away from!

2. Sin causes us to try and clean ourselves up in front of others.

- a. When Adam and Eve realized their fault, they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths. They were well aware that they had just broken the only commandment they were given and therefore were enlightened to their nakedness. They attempted to cover themselves up, but they were woefully unsuccessful. If you keep on reading to verse 21, God replaces their attempt to cover themselves with the skins of an actual animal. A

translation of this story would be that five middle school boys (have some fun with this and call out certain boys in your group!) went camping for a week and did not shower. They lived a rustic lifestyle. Now at the end of the week, they had a dance. However, instead of coming back home to shower before they met their dates, they just laid axe body spray on thick. What do you think happened to those boys? All five of them got dumped quickly when their dates smelled them! We can attempt to clean ourselves up after we sin, but the truth is that it doesn't work. We need to cast our sins at the cross and rely on Jesus' blood for forgiveness and redemption.

VII. Application

We all have a sin problem, and it manifests itself in hundreds of different ways. One of the ways we're going to focus on throughout the rest of this series is through technology. Technology has brought us so much good, but it has also caused us so much damage in our lives. If we're honest, most of us are addicted to social media in the room. We have to put that exact right filter on our Instagram picture or catch the perfect lighting for our Snapchat. If it's not catchy or clever, we're not posting it. In doing so, we consume ourselves with the opinions of others. It's the place we go to hide from our true selves and create an image of how we want ourselves to be perceived. We've found an escape from the real world through the digital world. Some of us have allowed technology to lead us to a place where we're addicted to things that will destroy our souls. The rest of our time in the series will explore how technology doesn't have to be a burden to us because we can use it redemptively. This is just a fair warning that this series will cause you some discomfort because it will challenge you to change the way you interact with tech.

VII. Conclusion

Today, we've seen what we were created for and what went wrong. As a result of sin, we seek to fulfill our lives in countless different areas, one of those being technology, but we're putting Jesus back at the center! Next week we'll see how Jesus overcomes sin and allows us to live a life with purpose. As we close out the night, I want everyone to raise their right hand and repeat after me (you can rewrite the pledge to make it funny or more filled out):

I promise I will love others by putting technology in its proper place. I will leave my phone away from the dinner table, and I will respect my parents' boundaries. I will not play mindless hours on the Xbox and I will not be consumed by others' thoughts of my social media. Lastly, I will use it to build others up and give glory to Jesus. Amen!

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. Why do you think God created multiple people instead of just leaving it at Adam?
2. Why is it important for us to be able to make choices?
3. How does that relate to our connection with God? Why are choices important regarding our relationship with God?
4. How does doubt play into our confidence in God's word? What does it look like for doubt to creep into our lives?
5. Why do you think the devil tries to use shame on Christians? What does shame cause us to do as believers?
6. What is the primary way you use technology today? Do you think you use it mostly for good or bad? Or both?