

AMPLIFY

GROWING A
FAITH THAT LASTS

AMPLIFY: GOD'S WORD
LESSON 1: THE WORD AT WORK

What we want students to learn: The point of the lesson is that your students would gain a fuller understanding of what we mean by God's Word.

What we want students to do with what they've learned: To evaluate their own attitude toward the Bible and the role it plays in their lives.

Scripture Focus: Genesis 1:1-3, 12:1-4, Psalm 33:6, Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 1:16-20, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Isaiah 55:10-11

Overview: God's Word has always been at work, a powerful force through which God accomplishes great things. We see God's Word demonstrated in a few different ways in Scripture. We see the power of the spoken word of God. We see the intimacy of His commands to individuals. But as Christ-followers seeking to know God and His ways, the most practical way of thinking about God's Word is to consider the Scriptures. The Bible is the enduring, unchanging, and inspired Word of God. It is God's primary way of making Himself and His ways known to us. In the Bible, we experience the power of God's Word to speak through the centuries to draw us closer to God. In this lesson, your students will see examples of each of these aspects of God's Word, and will ultimately be challenged to consider their attitude toward the Bible and its role in their lives.

TEACHER PREP VIDEO

Each **Amplify** lesson comes with a Teacher Prep Video. These are short videos designed to help you grasp the main point of the lesson as you prepare to teach.

To access your **God's Word** lesson 1 Teacher Prep Video, login to your Lesson Manager, navigate to lesson 1, and click on the "Background" tab. You'll notice the Teacher Prep Video near the top of the Lesson Manager window.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

The **Bible Background** is designed to help you provide some context for the Scripture you'll be studying. The Details gives you background info for each book, The Setting informs you what's happening in and around the passage, and The Main Point gives you an overview of how the passage will be used in the lesson.

- **What do we mean by "context"?** In every **YM360** Bible study lesson, you'll notice we make a point to encourage you to provide the context for the passages you study. By "context" we mean at the very least helping students know **who** wrote the book, **when** it was written, and **why** it was written.
- **What's the big deal?** When we teach the Bible without giving context, students don't get a "big picture" understanding of the story of the Bible. But this view is vital to grasping the story of God's plan of redemption for humankind. As you teach, use the **Bible Background** to help summarize the context.

THE DETAILS

Genesis

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- **Author:** While there's no specific author named within the text, Moses is the accepted author of Genesis.
- **Timeframe:** It's difficult to establish with any certainty a date for the writing of Genesis. The uncertainty depends on the date of the Exodus (which is also not known for sure), placing the date for the writing of Genesis sometime in the 1400s or the 1200s BC.
- **Purpose:** Genesis is a part of the Pentateuch, the group of five books (including Exodus, Numbers, and Leviticus) that are viewed as a unit. Genesis details the earliest history of our world, including creation and Adam and Eve's fall. It also focuses on the emergence of Israel, not only as God's people, but as the group, God would work through to bring redemption to the world.

Psalms

- **Author:** David is, of course, the most frequent author appearing in the Book of Psalms. But he is not the only author. Other authors include the Sons of Korah, Asaph, Solomon, and Moses. There are quite a few psalms, such as this one, where the author is not identified at all.
- **Timeframe:** Scholars think the psalms were produced over a period of time starting as early as the 15th or 13th century BC, to as late as post-exilic times.
- **Purpose:** This psalm calls people to praise God for His role as Creator of all things. It acknowledges that God has chosen a people, and praises God's sustaining presence in both the universe and for Israel.

Isaiah

- **Author:** Isaiah, son of Amoz wrote the book of Isaiah.
- **Timeframe:** The events of Isaiah occurred between 740 and 681 B.C., though some parts of the book would have been constructed at a later date.
- **Purpose:** The purpose of this book was to call the nation of Judah back to God, to warn of coming judgment, and to tell of God's ultimate salvation through the Messiah.

Matthew

- **Author:** Matthew, a former tax collector, was a disciple of Jesus and a firsthand witness to the stories he relates in his Gospel.
- **Timeframe:** Most people hold to Matthew's Gospel being written in the late 50's or 60's AD, though there are some who think it was written after the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD.
- **Purpose:** Matthew was writing to a primarily Jewish audience to convince them that Jesus was indeed the long-awaited Messiah. But he was probably aware of a Gentile audience, as his Gospel makes the case that the saving truth of Christ is for all nations.

Mark

- **Author:** The Gospel of Mark was written by its namesake. Mark, also known as John Mark, is believed to have received most of his information for his Gospel from Peter's firsthand accounts.
- **Timeframe:** Mark is thought to have written his Gospel in the mid 50's AD.
- **Purpose:** Mark was writing primarily for a non-Jewish audience. His Gospel explains Jewish customs to non-Jews in an effort to get them to see the big picture of Jesus' identity.

2 Timothy

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- **Author:** : Though in the last 200 years or so there have been efforts by some scholars to shed doubt on Paul's authorship of both 1 and 2 Timothy, their arguments aren't very compelling.
- **Timeframe:** Most scholars believe Paul wrote these letters to Timothy, his apprentice in ministry, between Paul's first and second imprisonment in Rome. By most accounts, this would place the writing of 2 Timothy sometime around 64–65 AD, though it could be as late as 67 AD.
- **Purpose:** In 2 Timothy, we see Paul passing along his final words to Timothy. It's pretty much a personal note from an old man awaiting his death to a young, son-like figure. It's personal. It's tender at times. It's encouraging. And it's practical.

THE MAIN POINT

You'll make three points in this lesson all related to how we understand God's Word. The first point is that we see God's Word come alive in the form of commands. These commands are active and demonstrate God's power. You'll look at Genesis 1 where God spoke Creation into being; Psalm 33 where we see the making of the heavens attributed to God's spoken word; and not to be left out, you'll see Jesus dramatically calming the storm with a verbal command in Matthew 8.

The comforting counter to Jesus' commands are the powerful, personal messages to His people. Scripture is ripe with these moments of God speaking to His people. We chose to highlight Genesis 12 and God breaking into the covenant relationship with Abram through a spoken message; also, we'll look at the power of Jesus' vocation busting message to the fisherman who would become His disciples: the "Follow me" of Mark 1.

But for our purposes, the most immediate understanding of God's Word is the inspired words of Scripture. This lesson will look at the 2 Timothy and the Isaiah 55 passages as a way of seeing that the Bible, God's Word, is God's best means of helping us know Him and His ways. You'll challenge your students to begin to address their attitude and approach toward Scripture, leading them to see the joy and intimacy that comes with meeting God in His Word.

LESSON PLAN

The **Lesson Plan** contains three elements: An introductory activity called **The Lead In**; the Bible study section called **The Main Event**; an application-focused segment called **The Last Word**.

THE LEAD IN

- **Goal:** The idea is to get students thinking about "words" in general and how different mediums of words function, setting up the idea of looking at the different ways God's Word is seen working.
- **Set-Up:** Do a Google image search of the following objects: A highway billboard with an interesting/compelling bit of advertising on it, a warning sign or some other sign passing along rules or warnings, and a love note or otherwise personal note of some sort. Arrange to show these images to your group in some fashion.

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FIRST, explain to students that this is the first of three lessons on God's Word. Explain that you're going to be looking at a few different ways of looking at God's Word in this lesson. Say:

- **To get you thinking about the idea of communicating through words, we're going to engage in a little discussion. Quickly and without thinking too much about it, name some of the different ways you encounter words every day. Where do you see words?**
 - Answers will vary greatly. Allow students to just go with this for 30 seconds or so.

THEN, shift the focus. Say:

- **Words aren't just words, right? Words communicate emotions, information, humor, and so on. (Display the image of the roadside billboard.) What is the purpose of these words?**
 - Answer: To make you act. To make you purchase, or attend, or go to a certain website. They are about swaying you to do something.

NEXT, show the image of the warning sign or the rule sign. Ask:

- **What is the purpose of these words?**
 - Answer: To inform. To warn. It's purely information communication.

Explain that words can be used to convince, to convict, to hurt, to build up . . . words are powerful! Words topple governments and build empires, right? But then remind students that words are also the most personal way of communicating.

THEN, show the picture of the personal note. Ask:

- **Think about the words that accompany this type of personal letter. What are some of the purposes of those words?**
 - Answer: To communicate emotions, feelings, questions, etc. Words used on a personal level like this are what relationships are built on.

FINALLY, say something like:

- **Without are how we get to know the people we love the most. Words are how you have come to know your best friend, or girlfriend, or boyfriend, or mom or dad. Words are a lot of things, as we have looked at, but they are nothing if not the foundation of relationship. Today, we're going to look at a few different ways God's Word is put to work. And in the process hopefully, we'll wind up growing closer to God through His Word.**

Transition into the *Main Event* portion of your lesson.

THE MAIN EVENT

- **Goal:** The idea is that students would gain a fuller understanding of what we mean by God's Word.
- **Set Up:** You may choose to use a dry-erase board, but it's not essential.

FIRST, ask students what's the first thing that comes to mind when they hear the phrase "God's Word." To a person, they will say "The Bible." Encourage them that this is exactly what they should think of. And that you'll end the lesson there. But before you do, you want to look at a couple more pictures of how we might view God's Word.

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THEN, if you have a dry-erase board, you may want to write this first teaching point on the board. Explain that the first picture of God's Word you're going to look at is the picture of God's Word in the form of His commands. Say:

- **All throughout Scripture, we see God's Word being brought forth in the form of spoken commands. These commands are active and demonstrate God's power. Let's look at a few examples of these commands.**

Choose three volunteers to help you read aloud. Instruct the first volunteer to prepare to read Genesis 1:1-3, the second to read Psalm 33:6, and the third to read Matthew 8:23-27. Allow them a few moments to find their spots. Then, provide some brief context for Genesis using the Bible Background. When you've finished, have the first volunteer read his or her verse aloud. Then, ask:

- **What is the command we see here?**
 - o Answer: (v. 3) And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.
- **What does this say about the power of God's Word?**
 - o Answer: Um . . . it says quite a LOT!!! It says that by speaking, God brings into being a creation of the highest magnitude possible. Now that's power!

NEXT, provide some context for Psalms using the Bible Background. When you've finished, have the next volunteer read his or her verse aloud. Then, ask:

- **Where do we see God's commands addressed here?**
 - o Answer: The entire verse speaks to the power of His command.
- **What kind of imagery does this verse evoke in your mind? How does it make you feel?**
 - o Answer: It's amazing. It's almost like something you'd see in a Lord of the Rings Movie, or something. God's voice makes the heavens. His very breath created the stars. That's amazing.

THEN, provide the context for Matthew using the Bible Background. When you've finished, have the last volunteer read his or her verse aloud. Then, ask:

- **Where do we see Jesus' commands at work?**
 - o Answer: Jesus shut down a storm with His voice.
- **What would you have given to be in that boat watching that happen?**
 - o Answer: A lot.

Explain that you're going to move on to look at two more pictures of God's Word. But before you do, ask students to think of any more instances where God gave a command, or spoke aloud, and action followed. (Some examples might include Jesus casting out demons with His voice; when Jesus spoke to the Roman guard in Gethsemane, Scripture says His voice was so powerful in that moment that the guards were knocked to the ground; when Jesus spoke to Lazarus to come out of the tomb; etc.) Say:

- **God's Word is remarkably, amazingly powerful. His commands bring life and death. They create and destroy. But they aren't the primary way we're going to view God's Word in our study today.**

NEXT, explain that there is yet another way to view God's Word, almost the flip side to the action-oriented, powerful commands of God. Say:

- **This second picture we'll see of God's Word is where it takes the form of a personal message to His children.**




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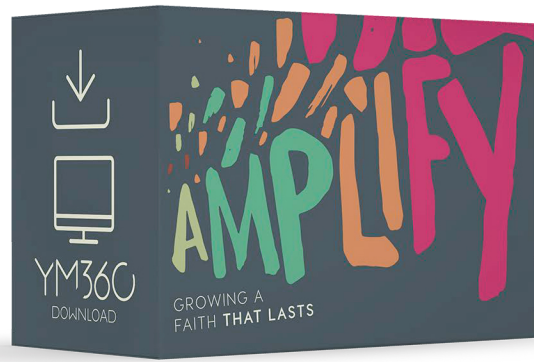
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We hope you have enjoyed this sample of this **Amplify: Growing a Faith That Lasts** study. Each **Amplify** lesson has a Leader Guide in PDF and DOC format that you can adjust to fit the needs of your group.

Do you have questions about this study? We're here to help! Contact our world-class Customer Care team at (888) 969-6360, email us at customercare@ym360.com, or Live Chat us through our website.



THE HOLY SPIRIT
WORSHIP
GOD'S WORD
OBEDIENCE
GOD'S MERCY
EVANGELISM
GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY
SUFFERING
GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS
HOLINESS
SPIRITUAL GIFTS
SERVICE
HUMILITY
KNOWING GOD
PRAYER
STEWARDSHIP
THE UNCHANGING GOD



This study is one of the 3-lesson studies in the Amplify curriculum.

Amplify is a 52-lesson youth ministry Bible study curriculum that will help your students lay the foundation of a lasting relationship with God through a study of the core concepts of their faith.

Included in each Amplify 3-lesson study:

- 3 Bible study lessons
- Bible background and Teacher Prep Videos
- Weekly student devotions
- Weekly parent pages
- Weekly social media content
- Presentation graphics
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