

# AMPLIFY

GROWING A  
FAITH THAT LASTS

AMPLIFY: THE UNCHANGING GOD  
LESSON 1: GOD ETERNAL

**What we want students to learn:** That God is unchanging.

**What we want students to do with what they've learned:** To realize that God's unchanging nature leads to their being able to express great confidence in who He is.

**Scripture Focus:** Psalm 102:25-27, Malachi 3:6-7, James 1:16-18

**Overview:** There is a characteristic of God we know as His immutability. That's a fancy way of saying that God is unchanging. As people seeking to know and serve God, it is important that we know He is unchanging. He is predictable, in a good way. We don't have to worry that He will be one way one day and different the next. We can trust and rely on God because He has always been and will always be.

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## 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 **Unchanging God** 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.

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## 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

### Psalms

- **Author:** God inspired various authors to write a majority of the Psalms in their era, including seventy-three by David, twelve by Asaph, eleven by the Korahites and two by Solomon. Heman, Ethan, and Moses each wrote one, while the authorship of fifty other Psalms remains unknown.
- **Timeframe:** The Psalms were written during different eras of Israel's history, spanning from 1100 BC (i.e., Psalm 29, 68) to 400 BC (i.e., Psalm 119).

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- **Purpose:** The Psalms are inspired by God to poetically reflect humanity's journey with Him. Each psalm serves a different purpose, such as a personal or communal lament, hymn, song, reflection or declaration. Many of these were set to music and intended to be shared publicly, even when sharing a revealing confession (i.e., Psalm 51).

## Malachi

- **Author:** The Prophet Malachi is the author.
- **Timeframe:** While it's hard to know exactly when Malachi was written, it's believed that he was writing alongside other prophets Ezra and Nehemiah which would put the book being written sometime in the mid 5th century BC.
- **Purpose:** Malachi wrote his book in one of the starkest periods of Israel's history. Having repopulated Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity, the Temple and the city itself were a shell of their former glory. Malachi spoke of the coming glory of God in Christ, pointing toward a more hopeful future for God's children.

## James

- **Author:** James, who was Jesus' brother and the leader of the Jerusalem Church.
- **Timeframe:** Most people believe the date was sometime in the mid-40s A.D.
- **Purpose:** James was seemingly writing to a Jewish audience. His message was pretty straightforward throughout the book: don't let your faith be one of words only, and live your faith powerfully. It's a message that James hammered home in direct, easy-to-grasp language. It's what makes James such a practical book for all believers.

## THE MAIN POINT

The main point of this lesson is simple and straightforward: God does not change. He is the same today as He was 100 years ago, 1,000 years ago. He's the same today as He was when He created the universe and even BEFORE THAT. He hasn't changed a bit. That is an incredibly reassuring truth for all of us. We don't have to worry if He's going to change on us. We don't have to worry about whether His word is still applicable and true. We don't have to worry about our future. All because we serve a great God who is steady and true and does not change.

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## 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:** To get the students thinking about the concept of change and how amazing it is to know that God does not change.
- **Set-Up:** If possible, bring a picture (a physical one or have one on your phone) of yourself from back in your younger years. Preferably find one that you poke fun at yourself about (whether it's your fashion sense, hairstyle, etc.). This is intended to help illustrate how much we all change over the years.

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FIRST, have the students start thinking about how much they've changed over the years. Keep it light-hearted by asking them about their most embarrassing haircut or the worst outfit their parents made them wear for a family picture. Give them a few moments to respond and share a funny moment or story. Ask something like:

- **How embarrassed would you be if you had to walk in here today or go to school tomorrow with that same haircut or wearing that same outfit? How would you feel? Are you glad things have changed over the years?**
  - Answers will vary.

THEN, show them the picture you brought of yourself. Share with them a little bit of the context of the photo and point out what you think is funny or noticeable about it and what has changed over the years. Next, ask something like:

- **It can be pretty funny to look back at old pictures and see what's changed over the years. What are some other, maybe more important things, which change over time?**
  - Answers will vary. Some potential answers could include hobbies, life perspective, relationships, technology, and nature.
- **Is there anything constant in life? Is there anything or anyone that doesn't change?**
  - Answer: God doesn't change.

FINALLY, say something like:

- **God not changing is a huge deal. It's something that should give us a great deal of confidence as we all change and experience change all around us. Today's lesson is going to dive a lot deeper into this subject and what practical impact it has on all of our lives.**

## THE MAIN EVENT

- **Goal:** To help students understand that God is unchanging. He has always been and will always be.
- **Set Up:** None.

FIRST, instruct students to find Psalms, Malachi, and James in their Bibles. Provide some brief context for the books using the Bible Background information at the beginning of this lesson. Ask:

- **Are you the kind of person that likes change? Or is change something that makes you a little nervous? Explain what you like or dislike about change.**
  - Answers will vary.

THEN, say something like:

- **When I asked about some things in life that don't change, several of you said that God doesn't change. That's exactly right, but instead of just saying it, let's look into God's Word and see what it says about Him never changing and why that's so important for us to understand.**

NEXT, read or have a student read Psalm 102:25-27. Ask:

- **What are some things that stand out to you in this passage?**
  - Answers will vary.
- **Look specifically at verse 25. In the midst of all the change we see and experience in life and the**

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**world around us, why is the truth of this passage so important?**

o Answer: By telling us that God laid the foundations of the world, this passage lets us know that God existed before creation. That means He's not bound or limited by creation.

• **Think about our bodies for a second. What happens to them over time? What's one thing that every person throughout history has experienced (or will eventually experience)?**

o Answer: Eventually, our bodies wear out and decay. So far, every person that's gone before us has this in common – they've died. And outside of the folks that will be around for Christ's return, every person going forward will eventually die.

• **So, take a look at verses 26-27. What does this tell us about God? What's one way He's different than us in this regard?**

o Answer: Verse 25 tells us that God existed before creation and verse 26 lets us know that He will not perish. He's not subject to the decay of physical creation like we are. He will exist forever. This gives us confidence that He is an all-powerful God that stands over His creation.

• **Why is all of this important? What would the problem be if God were limited like the rest of creation?**

o Answer: It would be a little silly to worship and serve a God that could perish at any moment. These passages talk to us about God is an all-powerful God that won't be tossed back and forth by things outside of His control.

THEN, say something like:

• **God's eternal, unchanging power and might are critical attributes that we must understand as we seek to know Him more. But, by themselves, they don't speak to His character. Someone can be powerful, but terrible and awful at the same time. Let's look at some passages that let us know about God's unchanging character.**

NEXT, read or have a student read Malachi 3:6-7. Ask:

• **According to this passage, what have God's children done over and over again? Is the same true for us today?**

o Answer: They've turned from Him and not kept His commands. Yes, we also turn from God on a consistent basis.

• **What is God's desire for His children? What does this tell us about His character?**

o Answer: He desires for His children return to Him. It shows us that He is a gracious and forgiving God.

• **Why is it good for us that God's character is unchanging?**

o Answer: We know that He will always desire for us to return to Him. He's not going to be gracious one day and change His mind the next.

THEN, say something like:

• **It's pretty common for people to claim that the God of the Old Testament and God of the New Testament are different. We've looked at two Old Testament passages so far that have both talked about God's unchanging nature. Let's look at a New Testament passage and see what it says about this subject.**

NEXT, read or have a student read James 1:16-18. Ask:

• **What does this passage affirm God's nature and character?**

o Answer: That He's unchanging and gracious in giving good gifts to His children.




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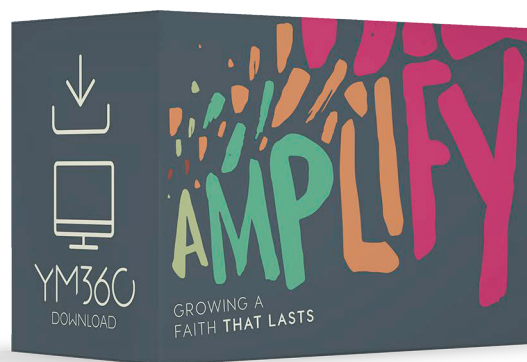
GROWING A  
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We hope you have enjoyed this sample of this **Amplify: Growing a Faith That Lasts** study. Each **Amplify** lesson has a Leader Guide in PDF and DOC format that you can adjust to fit the needs of your group.

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](mailto:customercare@ym360.com), or Live Chat us through our website.



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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
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