



DATE(S)

July 16-17, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

All In – Week 7

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

Use the unique gifts God has given you!

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

**Mark 1:1-8
Romans 12:6-8**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements

OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Summer Insane

Summer Insane is a collection of wild questions to get students talking and laughing. A scenario slide is shown giving students the option to imagine doing insane summer activities. Have students choose their preferred scenario and share their response with their peers. Make sure you give time for them to imagine, joke, and laugh! This can be done as a whole group with students having to find a new person each time, numbering students off and then putting all those numbers together, etc. No winners – just a fun ice-breaker!

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

Do you know what an “infomercial” is? If so, what’s the best/funniest/most creative one you’ve seen?

When you’re finished (and there’s time), pray for our time of worship/singing.

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

ACTIVITIES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

"All In" – Week 7 (John The Baptist)
July 16-17, 2022

We are coming to the end of our summer series "All In" and it's pretty crazy to think this is Week 7. However, I also know that means it's almost the end of summer vacation. Sorry to be the bearer of bad news! Make sure to enjoy the time you have left!

Just by a show of hands, how many of you have ever been watching TV early in the morning when you wake up or late at night before you go to bed and you see one of those really cheesy infomercials? You know what I'm talking about? Those products that seem too-good-to-be-true. Like, "Buy this sit-up machine, do it for 15 seconds a day, and in 30 days, you'll lose 100 pounds!" Those kinds of things.

(Teacher's Note: Share a silly example you've seen of one of those infomercial products.)

I know it's a silly example, but those infomercial people do a really good job of convincing people to buy their product. Sometimes they look kind of funny, talk loudly, and can even come across as a little bit annoying. However, they all have one thing in common: they're all good speakers and communicators in front of a camera. Not everyone can do that! They are using what they're good at naturally for their jobs.

Hundreds of years before the New Testament of the Bible was written, there were two prophets, Isaiah and Malachi, who talked about a "messenger" ...someone who would be born and whose sole purpose was to tell others about Jesus and his message. Here's what they said about him in the New Testament in Mark 1:1-3 – *"The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way—a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"*

We soon find out his name was John...more specifically, John The Baptist. Before John was even born, God gave him the gift of communication so that he could use those gifts to help others love and worship God.

THE MESSAGE

Did you know that you have been created with special gifts just like John The Baptist? Maybe you are a great student; you do well academically in school. Maybe you're really passionate about music or art or science or sports. Maybe you are a very encouraging person and it's really easy for you and important to you to encourage other people. Others of you are great listeners; you're really easy to talk to and you give great advice.

No matter what your gifts are, God wants to use them! That's what our **THP (Take Home Point)** is all about today.

Use the unique gifts God has given you!

As I mentioned earlier, John The Baptist had a very important role so let's read about him a little bit more in the New Testament in Mark 1:4-8:

"And so John The Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

First of all, did you catch the part about John wearing camel hair and eating locusts and wild honey?! That probably sounds pretty strange to most, if not all of you! However, here's the reason Mark includes that detail – John's clothing and diet indicate that John was a poor man. He didn't have many nice possessions. However, that didn't stop him from using his gift of communication. He never stopped preaching the good news about Jesus. He continued to baptize more and more people, and just like he said about Jesus baptizing people in the Holy Spirit, he was telling them that Jesus would give anyone who believed in Him the "Helper" (or the Holy Spirit) to guide them in making decisions that obeyed God!

THE MESSAGE

In fact, John was so committed to using his gifts that he was eventually thrown into prison and put to death because he wouldn't stop telling others about Jesus. He was so willing to use the unique gifts God gave Him – even if it costed him his life (and it did)! Listen, it's because of the hundreds and thousands of people like John The Baptist that you and I even know about Jesus and what he did. It was because John and so many others were trying their best to use the gifts and talents God had given him.

I want to go back to something I said earlier – did you know that ALL of you have God-given gifts and talents? Some of you might be here and you have a good idea of what those gifts may be. Others of you might struggle to figure out what you're good at. You might be sitting here today thinking, "I don't have any gifts" or "I don't know if God can use the gifts I have." That's not true! The Bible says that each of us are uniquely gifted and using those gifts is an act of worship to him! God wouldn't give you a gift or a talent that He couldn't use!

(Teacher's Note: Give an example of how you are using one of your gifts to serve God, serve His people, and serve Northview. Share how it has helped you grow!)

One of the New Testament writers, Paul, talks about this in Romans 12:6-8. It says this: *"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

Ask yourself this question: would you like God to use you and your gifts to make a difference in people's lives? Your family and friends' lives? The world? I think we would all say yes! However, the real question is this – are we willing to live like that? Are we willing to make decisions that honor that? Are we willing to say "no" to our own way of doing things, and instead use our gifts for God instead of ourselves?

I believe God doesn't want us to keep our gifts to ourselves; we need to USE them. When we use our gifts, that's an act of worship! In our group discussion today, I want each of you to think about what gifts and talents God has given you and to think about how you can use them to serve Him and serve others.

Let's pray that He would help us live out our **THP (Take Home Point) – Use the unique gifts God has given you.** Would you pray with me?



CLOSING GROUP TIME

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

***Leader's Note: Make sure to have some Bibles for the students to use.

What was the THP (Take Home Point) today and why was that important during the message?

Who can give us a short recap of John The Baptist and his significance in the New Testament?

Let's do a SOAP study! Remember, **SOAP** stands for **Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer**. Let's use this to look at the verse at the end of the message from Romans 12:6-8 where Paul talks about different spiritual gifts.

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."

What unique gifts has God given you? How can use that to serve Him? **(Leader's Note: Some students will have trouble answering this question, but this can be an opportunity to affirm and encourage those in your group!)**

How will the THP (Take Home Point) help you to live differently this week? Be specific.

How can this group pray for you this week?

ACTIVITIES

***Reminder – Next weekend, July 23-24, is baptism weekend and it's also our last weekend of the school year! This will be the final time for our 6th grade students to be with us, so let's make that weekend special for them in some way.

After your group is finished with your discussion, close in prayer together!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

Stupid Video of the Week
Message script
Message slides

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

Pro Presenter or Playlister

