



DATE(S)

May 21-22, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

The Real Me – Week 2

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

REAL sin is covered by a
REAL God!

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Romans 3:23; Romans 8:1
Romans 5:8; Acts 2:21

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements

OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

12 in 12

Put your short-term memory to the test! The game is actually pretty simple, and you can play head-to-head or split up into teams. Silently look at 12 items for 12 seconds. After the 12 seconds, say (if playing it as an Individual Game) or write out (if playing it as a Group Game) as many as you can remember in 30 seconds. You get one point for every item remembered. Play 5 rounds and the highest total score wins a sweet prize! *****Make sure to test the technology before playing the game!!**

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

ACTIVITIES

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

What was the highlight of your week?

Let's imagine you have done something really dumb...like REALLY dumb. You're in a sticky situation and need help. Who is the first person you would call for help and why?

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

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

"The Real Me" – Week 2 (Real Sin)
May 21-22, 2022

We are continuing our series called "The Real Me" and we have been looking at this question each week: Who is the real me? We've talked about how God has uniquely created you to be YOU and to be thankful to Him for everything. We've talked about not putting up a front for other people just so they can accept us. It's tough to be comfortable in our own skin, but as we have looked at, God says we are a masterpiece and He has given us unique gifts/talents that we should use to worship Him and serve others!

But...you and I are human; we make mistakes. There are times where we don't obey God, we don't serve others, and we have real problems in our life. Let's take it a step further – the Bible says we have all fallen short of God's standard. The Bible calls this sin. Romans 3:23 says, *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* All of us. No one is perfect and no one matches up to God's standard. Even in our own lives, there are standards that we have to live up to (parents, teachers, coaches, etc.) and sometimes we can follow through with what they want and sometimes we can't (or don't).

(Teacher's Note: Share a personal story where you disobeyed someone or God and talk about the consequences of that decision. Try to also discuss any emotion(s) you experienced during that situation. Be as open/transparent as you feel comfortable)

You might be sitting here and thinking, "Man, this is a bummer! Is there any hope or any good news for us?" There definitely is. In spite of the fact that we don't live up to God's standard for our life, we never experience God's punishment...someone else already took that punishment for us. His name was Jesus Christ. Because he took our punishment, God offers us grace, mercy, forgiveness, and a second chance. He doesn't give up on us, yell at us, make us feel super guilty, or become annoyed with us like another person might do.

As Christians, we are given a great promise by Paul, one of the authors in the New Testament, in Romans 8:1 which says, *"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."* That means whenever we sin, we are not condemned (meaning "strong disapproval"). God still loves us despite our sin! That's what our **THP (Take Home Point)** is about today!

REAL sin is covered by a REAL God!

THE MESSAGE

Let me show you an illustration to help this make more sense... **(Teacher's Note: Have two basketballs...one new one and one that is pretty worn/flat)** How many of you have been shooting a basketball outside since it's been nice/warm again? The trouble with playing basketball outside is that it's really difficult for a ball to stay in really nice shape. In fact, that's why some basketballs are only meant to be used inside on a court.

So let's say I buy a really nice indoor basketball **(Teacher's Note: Hold up nice basketball)** if the ball is really nice and bounces really well...and the only goal I have is outside...it's not a big deal to go play with it out there, right? Well, it might be fine for a while, but eventually, it begins to look like this **(Teacher's Note: Grab the old/worn basketball)**. It looks dirty, it doesn't bounce well, and it doesn't have that same grip on it.

Here's the point – this is the effect that sin can have on us. Sometimes we make decisions and do things our own way and we disregard what the standard for our life actually is or what the directions say. We can ignore what God wants for us and how the Bible calls us to live: to put God first and love/worship him, love and serve others, etc. We just decided to do it our own way. It might be fine for a little while, but eventually it wears us down and we're not as effective anymore: just like this basketball.

We lie to someone. We cheat on a test or homework assignment. We're prideful; thinking we can do things on our own and don't need anyone's help. We say something unkind to someone else. We're disrespectful to our parents or a teacher.

The first step is to acknowledge those mistakes and own up to them. Even if we don't see negative consequences for those choices, they're still wrong. There are some of you here who have done that, but then you have another obstacle to overcome – guilt, shame, and self-criticism. That is completely understandable. Maybe we feel guilty for our mistakes, and we ask God for forgiveness, but deep down, we think to ourselves, "There's no way He will forgive me. He would never want someone like me. He wants something beautiful and I'm just a mess."

Except...here's the good news...sin can be overcome by a gracious God. Just like our **Take Home Point** says, **REAL sin is covered by a REAL God.**

He loves the worn down. God can still use us when we're worn down. We may feel far away from God because of our sin, but He still loves us and wants to use us. That's all because of Jesus and His sacrifice for us. We've been forgiven and God can still use us because HE sees us like a brand-new basketball every time. **(Teacher's Note: Grab the new basketball)**. With God's help, we can be made new. God washes away our sins and we can start again. If we make the right decisions and follow what He wants for our life, He will get the best out of us.

THE MESSAGE

The best news is that no matter where you find yourself in life, God will take the worn-down basketball or the new basketball...it doesn't matter. He still wants both because the worn-down person AND the person who has it all together BOTH need Him. **Let's be honest – all of us are worn down in some way. Yet, God still wants us.** The New Testament author, Paul, says this in Romans 5:8, *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* Not before we sinned, not after we stop sinning; while we were STILL sinners, He died for us.

Some of you are here and you're a Christian, but you feel worn down. You might feel far away from God. You don't feel as if you've been following Him and you just want to make it right. You can do that today! Just be honest with God – REAL with God – and tell Him what you've been feeling. We serve a God of second chances!

For others of you today...if you were honest, you would say, "I'm not following God right now. I'm living a life of sin...I'm living a life for myself." Did you know that you are just right for God? You don't have start doing all these things for God to accept you. You don't need to turn into a nice, new basketball for God to love you. God wants you as you are. It doesn't matter what condition you are in; He just wants YOU. You can make that change today and become a Christian. The Bible says in the New Testament in Acts 2:21: *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* If you're here today and you want to call upon God for the first time and start that relationship with Him, all you have to do is pray and ask. So here's what we're going to do...

(Teacher's Note: Move into Gospel presentation and lead them in prayer before you move into the next section.)

If you just said that prayer for the first time, this is your first step as a new follower of Christ. That is awesome! It is the best decision that you will ever make! We want to help you take your next steps! I want you to do three things for me if you made that decision...

- Tell someone (family, friends, leaders)
- Get a Bible (if you need one, let your leader know and we can get you one!)
- Get baptized during the next baptism service!

If you ever need someone to talk to, all of the leaders are available to listen to you and help you in any way that we can. Love you guys! Let's go to our group discussions!



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?

How did the illustration with the basketballs help you today?

Have you ever experienced a large amount of guilt or shame before? If so, why was that challenging?

Why do you think the hardest person to forgive can sometimes be ourselves?

Let's re-read a passage of Scripture we heard in the message today from the New Testament: **Romans 5:8**. Can someone read it for us?

"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Do you struggle with being REAL and opening up to others about the sins/problems/challenges in your life? If so, what is the biggest reason for this? If it's not hard for you, what has made it easier for you to do this?

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Be specific.

How can this group pray for you this week?

ACTIVITIES

Encourage those students in your group who made first-time decisions to follow Jesus! Tell them that this group is a support system for them, and they don't have to do this alone.

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

