



DATE(S)

January 1-2, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

Reset

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

God gives us unlimited second chances!

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Book of Jonah
Matthew 26:69-75
John 21:15-17

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements



OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

"Up Or Down"

Everyone participates! Simply determine if the percentage on the screen (as the answer to a question) needs to go up or down to be correct. You can play by having kids give the THUMBS UP or THUMBS DOWN, you can do a "this side or that side" ...doesn't matter. Get everyone involved! Process-of-elimination and the final student(s) win a prize!

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 AND your Christmas?

Are you going to make a New Year's resolution this year? If so, what is it going to be?

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

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

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING

LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

Reset

January 1-2, 2022

What's up everyone?! I hope you all had a great Christmas and you're ready to have a Happy New Year! Who has already come up with a New Year's resolution? Anyone? I'll go ahead and tell you mine just to break the ice!

(Teacher's Note: Share a New Year's resolution you have made. If it's serious, tell another one that you've made that is more light-hearted)

Now, I know some of you are big into video games. If you are, you probably know that a video game player's best friend, particularly when the game isn't going so well is.....

THE RESET BUTTON!

That thing can become your best friend! If you aren't doing very well, just hit the reset button. If you feel like the game is cheating, just hit the reset button!

(Teacher's Note: If you just so HAPPEN to be a video game player...ha ha...share a funny story where this example may have applied.)

Now I know this might seem like a silly question, but have you ever wished that there was a reset button that you could hit at any point during your life? Are there times where you wish you could just start over? Life is not going well, a particular day is not going well, an hour is not going well – and there is the RESET button you can hit at any time.

Maybe you've said something hurtful to someone and you just wish you could take it back...or maybe you did terrible on a homework assignment or a test and you wish you could get a redo...maybe it's making a bad decision and wishing that you had made a different one. Whatever it is, all of us have been in situations where we've experienced regret.

One of the distinct teachings of Christianity is that our God is a God of forgiveness. It never runs out, either! He always forgives sin. That's the focus of our **THP (Take Home Point):**

God gives us unlimited second chances!

THE MESSAGE

Let's look at some people and events from Scripture and see what it has to say about forgiveness. In the Old Testament, God tells a man named Jonah to go to a city called Nineveh and preach against the wickedness of the people in the city. Nineveh was a part of the Assyrian Empire – the most feared military power in the world at that time. Some Bible experts have compared it to being like a terrorist organization. God instructs Jonah to go to those people and preach a message of repenting and turning away from sin and evil. Well, Jonah wanted NO PART OF THAT! Ha!

Instead, he sneaks on to a ship and thinks he can run away from God and God's assignment for him. Unfortunately for Jonah, there's a huge storm and the people on the boat think Jonah and his God are responsible for the storm. They agree to throw Jonah off the ship in hopes that God would make the sea calm.

Then, God sends a giant fish to swallow Jonah. At this point, Jonah prays to God and basically says this, "I'm sorry ::fake sobbing:: I'm so sorry, God! I promise I will go to Nineveh now!" Well, if a person or an animal eats something, and if that something wants to be seen again, there are two choices.....GROSS!

Jonah eventually goes to Nineveh and preaches to the Ninevites, and God spares them. However, due to that...you know...giant fish and vomiting incident, Jonah learned the hard way, didn't he?! Sometimes, it takes a major consequence to make us realize we have done something wrong. **However, no matter how bad the situation is, God is a God of second chances.**

The second example from Scripture that I want to look is in the New Testament and the life of Peter: one of the disciples of Jesus. When I think of God giving second chances to people in the Bible, I immediately think of this story. It comes from Matthew 26:69-75:

"Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!" After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away." Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately the rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly."

THE MESSAGE

Peter betrayed his best friend and the person he believed to be the Son of God. Not only that, he did it during a time where Jesus may have needed him the most. I don't know about you, but it would be very hard to forgive someone who betrayed me; especially one of my best friends. Trust would be broken. I wouldn't feel truly loved by that person.

However, watch what Jesus does the very next time that He sees Peter (after He has died and been resurrected). This is from later in the New Testament in John 21:15-17:

"When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

After Peter makes the biggest mistake of his life, Jesus decides to give Peter a second chance. It's a BIG second chance. In fact, he tells Peter to "feed my sheep" which is a way of saying, "Take care of my people. Take care of my Church." In other words, after Peter's greatest mistake, Jesus gives him his greatest responsibility. That's how awesome/forgiving our God is!

How would you have reacted? Would you doubt yourself? Would you feel undeserving of that second chance if you really made a big mistake? God says you and I are still worth it!

No matter how many mistakes you have made...no matter how disappointed you think God is with you...God still deeply cares about you. He loves you. As our **THP says: God gives us unlimited second chances!**

With this new year of 2022 approaching, do you sense that you might need a second chance? Is there an area of your life where you might need a RESET? Maybe you need to apologize to someone...maybe you need to reorder some priorities...maybe you need to make some better decisions...maybe you need to do a better job of watching the words you say...maybe you need to have a more Christ-like attitude. For some of us, it might be taking the first steps to owning our faith and doing everything we can to build our relationship with God. Whatever it is, remember that God always extends us a second chance. Let's pray!

CLOSING SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

What was the THP today and why was it important during the message?

Today, we talked a lot about getting a second chance at something. I bet there are many times at school where you wish you could have had a "reset" button! Have any of you ever had to do a homework assignment over again or re-take a test? What happened?

What was one thing that stood out to you about the stories of Jonah or Peter?

Let's read this verse from the New Testament together: 1 John 1:9. (Have one person read this verse for the rest of the group:)

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Why do you think it is important to 'confess our sins' or admit when we are wrong to others and to God?

If you had to hit the "reset button" in any area of your life, what would it be and why?

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Try to think of a specific example.

How can this group pray for you this week?

FINAL THOUGHTS

Spring Semester 2022 is going to be awesome at Northview Students! Encourage your students to stay engaged with this life group and to keep growing in their faith and relationships with each other!

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

Encourage those students in your group who made first-time decisions or who made re-commitments to follow Jesus today! Tell them that this group is a support system for them and they don't have to do this life alone. If there is a student who makes a first-time commitment to Christ, have them text NVSNEXT to 85379 or fill out a response card so you can capture their information and our staff can follow up with them. Once your group discussion is over, close your group in prayer!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

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

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Stupid Video of the Week
- Message script
- Message slides

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

- Pro Presenter or Playlister