



DATE(S)

January 7-8, 2023

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

Get Smart - Week 1 (Be Righteous)

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

God wants us to be RIGHTEOUS!

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Proverbs 1:7; 10:15-16

Romans 5:6-8

2 Corinthians 5:21

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements



# OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

## LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

### "New Year's Trivia"

A large group game that is video based. It will have a countdown on the bottom of the screen and the video will roll through New Year's trivia questions. You can choose to do this how you want to – either as a table group or 4 corners style.

## 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?

What is one New Years resolution that you have kept in the past? Did you make one for this year? If so, what is it?

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

**Get Smart—Week 1 (Be Righteous)**  
January 7-8, 2023

Hey everyone! We're starting a brand new series today called "Get Smart" which will focus on the book of Proverbs. It is often referred to as a book of wisdom or wise sayings. It was written by a guy named Solomon, who was considered to be the wisest man of his time. In one particular instance, two women who each had a child came to Solomon for his wisdom.

**(Leaders Note: Quickly summarize the story of Solomon and the two mothers from 1 Kings 3:16-28. Try to keep this under a minute make it fun but biblical).**

Solomon did the right thing! He was righteous in that situation and we're going to talk about what it means to be righteous today. Solomon wrote the book of Proverbs (31 chapters) in the Old Testament and in the first chapter of Proverbs, he writes this verse, Proverbs 1:7: *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."*

That word "fear" in the Hebrew language translates as "reverence" or "awesome." When we think of fear, we think of being scared, but this is different. Do you revere or respect God?

For the next 4 weeks, we're going to look at the book of Proverbs and consider the question, "Do we actually live our life with a deep respect/awe/reverence of God?" I believe that if we are, we will be wiser, and more willing to please God (not ourselves or other people) with the way we live our life. So, here we go...here's our first THP of the series!

**God wants us to be RIGHTEOUS!**

In school, one of the common things that students sometimes do is to share the answers to their homework with other people. If you have a study guide due, one person does it and then the answers get passed around and written down before you turn it in. Maybe you've thought to yourself, "It's just one homework assignment. What's the big deal? I mean...EVERYONE does this...like EVERYONE!"

Maybe it's when a group of people are talking bad about a particular person and you decide to chime in. Maybe it's saying something about someone behind his or her back in a face-to-face or through a text message to another friend. Maybe you've lied to your parents...just straight up, to their face, about something you did or didn't do. In fact, it was actually kind of easy and maybe you didn't even feel bad about it.

Guys...our culture baits us to "live in the now." Do what feels good. We are in a world where apps are made to delete things that we send after just a few seconds. In other words, if you wanted to, you could do something bad or inappropriate...AND NO ONE WILL FIND OUT.

# THE MESSAGE

I share all these scenarios to not make anyone feel guilty (because we have all messed up) or feel bad...I do it to ask you to think about this question: Who is the REAL you? Are you living a RIGHTEOUS life?

The truest version of yourself is oftentimes the person you are when nobody else is watching. A righteous person who lives their life with godly integrity allows God to help them to do the right thing. Proverbs 3:5-6 says this: *"Trust in the LORD and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."*

You see, guys...we are inherently selfish people who want to do things our own way.

However, this verse tells us that we need to NOT lean on our own understanding. We are to SUBMIT to God in everything that we do!

Let me ask you a question: how often do we consider whether a decision that we make will honor God or not before we make it? I'll just go ahead and answer...not often enough. Most of the time, if we're honest, we probably think, "What will people think of me when I do this?" or "Will this make ME happy?"

Here's another verse from Proverbs 10:15-16: *"The wages of the righteous is life, but the earnings of the wicked are sin and death. Whoever heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray."*

Now, please don't misunderstand me...a righteous person is NOT a perfect person. A righteous person recognizes they are flawed and the only chance of being righteous is with God's help. Since our tendency is to be unrighteous (because we're imperfect), living a righteous life is difficult! I think this next statement tells us why...

## THE RIGHT THING AND THE HARD THING ARE USUALLY THE SAME.

Doing the right thing requires sacrifice and it usually will not be based on how we're feeling or what others will think about us. Jesus was the greatest example of righteousness, sacrifice and love. In the New Testament, Romans 5:6-8 says: *"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

In the New Testament, 2 Corinthians 5:21 says this: *"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* That means that God knew we couldn't be righteous on our own, so He sent Jesus to be righteous for us! Since he did that, we can have a relationship with God and He can help us to live a righteous life!

I share these verses with you to encourage you that God knows that we need His help. It points us right back to our THP: God wants us to be righteous! When we rely on him for all the decisions that we make, we have the ability to be a righteous person.

# THE MESSAGE

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(Leaders Note: Share a personal example from your own life or someone else's where it was incredibly difficult to do the right thing.)

Throughout this Get Smart series, I want us to be smarter in the decisions we make, the attitudes we have, and the way we treat people. Let's pray!

# CLOSING SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

## CLOSING SMALL GROUP

### QUESTIONS

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

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

What are some real-life examples of living a righteous life?

Do you think it's possible to live a righteous life apart from God? Why or why not?

There was a quote in today's message that said, "The right thing and the hard thing are usually the same." Do you agree or disagree? Why?

According to Scripture, the only way we can be truly righteous is if we rely on God. We are imperfect people and even though we may WANT to do the right thing, we don't always do it. Listen to this verse from the New Testament that we just heard during the message: 2

Corinthians 5:21

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

(Leaders Note: Summarize the idea and the significance of Jesus becoming our sin on the cross so that we may become righteous in and through Him and His help)

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

How can this group pray for you this week

### FINAL THOUGHTS

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

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## SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

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

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## LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Stupid Video of the Week
- Game videos and/or slides
- Message script
- Message slides

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## AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

- Pro Presenter or Playlister