

PART 8: REPENTANCE

INSTEAD
INSTEAD

JEREMIAH 34:15-16

Instead, Part 8: Repentance

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Tonight we conclude our series about learning to live the INSTEAD kind of life with what I believe is the ultimate way we can live upside-down and inside-out from how the world tells us to live. And, it all comes back to repentance:

Jeremiah 34:15-16 = "Recently you repented and did what is right in my sight... But now you have turned around and profaned my name; each of you has taken back the male and female slaves you had set free to go where they wished. (NLT)

I. Understanding Halfhearted Repentance

a. Like A Windup Toy

- Hold up **Elijah's annoying monkey** = this thing keeps showing up in our house, annoying, threw it out the door, came back, kids love it (because it's annoying)
- Windup toy = running into objects and changing direction... just like Israel (God's people) were, idolatry, feeble attempt to "repent", repeat!
- Ever feel like that? Fail, God redeems, ask forgiveness, fail, God redeems, repeat...
 - The cycle of halfhearted repentance!

b. Fickleness Vs. Faithfulness

- Frustrating to think of Israel like this, but sounds all too familiar to me and you! So fickle!
- If you have ever struggled with this type of "repentance" that is short-lived, you're in good company... we all do (even God's very people).
 - Is that really repenting?

- "repent" and find ourselves caught up again
- Let's go back to the beginning with this idea:

Video = "The Birdcage" (Skit Guys, 3:51)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxK-DulgHwQ>



- Do we really realize how much Jesus loved on the day He died on that Cross to offer forgiveness?
 - "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16, NLT)
- ...Then, why do we keep accepting His forgiveness from sin and heading right back into that sin?
 - "So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again... For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. (Galatians 1:1 & 13, NLT)
- We're free from this cage, don't fly back in it!
 - Stop locking yourself up, INSTEAD, be free!!
 - How do we experience the full freedom of this forgiveness, of His love? REPENT!

II. Struggling With Wholehearted Repentance

a. Is He Really My "Lord"?

- My devo last Sunday morning, which I shared as my blog last week...
- Is He Really My "Lord"? (2/19/17) = "So why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say?" (Luke 6:46 NLT)

"Here's a verse that honestly hurts my feelings! Of course I am doing what He says because He is my "Lord". Well, most of the time! OK, maybe not as often as I should. In reality, "Lord" doesn't always mean what it should in my life. And, when it doesn't, God has a way of testing His lordship in my life. How do I keep getting lured away by the illusion that I have the right to govern myself? I don't. Nor should I even want to. (Too much burden for me to handle as a finite being.) If I want the privilege of being God's own possession, I must assume the responsibility of being in His family as well! So, what's Jesus have to say about His lordship in my life? How have I limited His authority? Am I ready for Him to stretch me? I can't just call Him "Lord", I must make sure I am doing what He says!"

b. Do I Hate Myself For This?

- My struggle, yours too, I believe. Also Paul's...

- ii. Romans 7:15 = "I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate." (NLT)
 - 1. Don't hate yourself, hate your sin!
- iii. Just like Paul, we keep doing the very evil we hate... windup toys (hold up monkey again) with no control over what we run into, Paul rebukes such a notion and calls us higher!
- iv. "Just because we have the capacity for halfhearted repentance doesn't mean we aren't capable of wholehearted repentance!" (DB Devo, August 15th)
 - 1. Challenging question = Have I given up on my sins because I've repeated them so many times, or am I all the more determined to let God help me end the maddening cycle?
 - 2. If you're ready ... live INSTEAD!

III. Living This INSTEAD Kind Of Life

a. Instead Review

- i. Are you going to live INSTEAD? It's a decision!
 - 1. Battles (Victory instead of defeat)
 - 2. Sin (Living renewed instead of in sin)
 - 3. Following (Follower instead of just a fan)
 - 4. Divided (Wholehearted instead of divided)
 - 5. Struggles (Strength instead of struggle)
 - 6. Pain (Purpose instead of pain)
 - 7. Brokenness (Better instead of broken)
 - 8. Repentance (Faithfulness v.s. fickleness!)
- ii. You see... no matter what, it is the flip-side of how the world says. Jesus is so opposite. Live opposite!

b. Instead Commitment

- i. It's all throughout the Bible
 - 1. 267+ uses of "instead" in the NLT
 - 2. "Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand" (Matthew 5:15)
 - 3. "now God's wonderful grace rules instead" (Romans 5:21)
- ii. Is it all throughout your life?
 - 1. What area of your life are you living in defeat instead of victory? Struggle instead of strength? Pain instead of His purpose in your pain? Give it to Him! (U-turn sign)
 - 2. Acts 2:38 = "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God..." (NLT)

Stop turning back to your sin... turn to Him instead. Live INSTEAD!

FBSM Small Group Leader Guide



Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Review: Jeremiah 34:15-16 = "Recently you repented and did what is right in my sight... But now you have turned around and profaned my name; each of you has taken back the male and female slaves you had set free to go where they wished. (NLT)

React: Have you given up on your sins because you've repeated them so many times, or are you all the more determined to let God help you end the maddening cycle?

Relate: Share personal prayer requests with one another (as a whole group or break off into small groups of 2 or 3). Close prayer and accountability time as a whole group.

Leader's Notes:



Instead, Part 8: Repentance

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Jeremiah 34:15-16 = "Recently you repented and did what is right in my sight... But now you have turned around and profaned my name; each of you has taken back the male and female slaves you had set free to go where they wished. (NLT)"

I. Understanding _____ Repentance

a. Like A _____

- The cycle of halfhearted repentance

b. _____ Vs. Faithfulness

- "Repent" and find ourselves caught up again...

Video = "The Birdcage" (Skit Guys, 3:51)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxK-DulgHwQ>

- John 3:16 / Galatians 1:1 & 13

II. Struggling With _____ Repentance

a. Is He Really My " _____ " ?

- "So why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say?" (Luke 6:46 NLT)

b. Do I _____ Myself For This?

- Romans 7:15
- Don't hate yourself, hate your sin!
- "Just because we have the capacity for halfhearted repentance doesn't mean we aren't capable of wholehearted repentance!" (DB Devo, August 15th)

III. Living This _____ Kind Of Life

a. Instead _____

- Battles (Victory instead of defeat)
- Sin (Living renewed instead of in sin)
- Following (Follower instead of just a fan)
- Divided (Wholehearted instead of divided)
- Struggles (Strength instead of struggle)
- Pain (Purpose instead of pain)
- Brokenness (Better instead of broken)
- Repentance (Faithfulness v.s. fickleness!)

b. Instead _____

- Acts 2:38 = Turn to Him INSTEAD!

PART 7: BROKENNESS

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PSALM 147:3

Instead, Part 7: Brokenness

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Opening Video = "The Labels We Carry" (BeecherFeature Productions, 2:30)

(Put on Broken label) We all carry labels around in our hearts... whether people mean to label us or not, we are all "labeled". If you have ever worn the label (or are currently wearing the label) "BROKEN", I want to define that tonight...

Psalm 147:3 = "He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds." (NLT)

I. Brokenness Isn't What You Think

a. Show Me Your Scars

- i. Growing up... one of those kids who had to try something dangerous to make sure it wasn't good for me. Testing the sharpness of a pocket knife, touching a fire to see if it was actually hot, holding a little girl I used to babysit while riding roller skates (fell, busted her chin), sliding down a dumpster lid (until my bro fell and hit the ground). My poor mom!
- ii. Did these things... they left scars and every scar has a story behind it.
- iii. Back of my Bible, back-up sermon always ready called "Show Me Your Scars"... story:



(Sword pic on screen) "I have a sword in my home from the Spanish American War. The sword is in excellent shape. I can even read the name of the man it was made for. There is only one problem, it has no scars, no dents, and no

blemishes. Swords are designed for the battlefield, for hand-to-hand combat and yet it is obvious, after brief inspection, it has never been used in battle. No scars, blemishes, or wounds are good if you plan to put it on a display shelf. How about you, do you have scars and wounds from doing what God designed you for or are you for the display shelf only?" (Directions, June 7, Hal Meyer)

b. Scars Were Once Wounds

- i. You have scars, but there was a time when those were wounds. They hurt. You covered them up. They were painful and just touching them made you cringe!
- ii. Do you have spiritual wounds you didn't realize you had? Places that make you cringe when people get too close or things you try to hide? Ouch.

II. Brokenness Can Be Beautiful

a. The Beautiful Thing About Wounds

- i. Somebody once said it like this: "But the beautiful thing about Jesus is He turns wounds into scars. And think about how different a scar is from a wound. A wound hurts, a scar tells a story. A wound can get infected, a scar is healed. A wound you hide, a scar you show."
- ii. You face struggles (two weeks ago), you feel pain (last week)... but your brokenness is never wasted!

b. What God Says About Brokenness

- i. Listen to God's Word to the broken tonight:
 1. Psalm 51:17 = "You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God."
 2. Psalm 34:18 = "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed."
 3. Psalm 51:8 = "Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me — now let me rejoice."
 4. Proverbs 25:28 = "A person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls."
 5. Ecclesiastes 4:12 = "A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken."
 6. Isaiah 61:1 = "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and

to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed."

- 7. 1 Corinthians 15:43 = "Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength."
- 8. John 19:36 = "These things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures that say, "Not one of his bones will be broken" (NLT)

III. Bring On The Brokenness

a. Healing From His Wounds

- i. Let's not forget that our ultimate healing is life-everlasting in Heaven with Jesus, and none of that would be available or possible if it wasn't for Jesus being broken and poured out on the Cross!
- ii. 1 Peter 2:24 = "He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed." (NLT)
 - 1. He is our healing! His wounds = healing!
 - 2. His pain, your gain!

b. Healing From Your Wounds

- i. Yet, many of us tonight have emotional wounds still wide open and hurting. Hiding it?
- ii. What wound do you have that you need to find healing for in Jesus?
 - 1. God sees your hurt and wants to heal.
 - 2. Remember = Psalm 147:3 = "He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds."

iii. Closing illustration: Broken pot

- 1. Life (pot) is painful sometimes... drop pot
- 2. Instead of complaining or giving up, get back up and trust God has a plan... pick up pieces
- 3. Let him bring people into your life to help you and hear His Word bring healing and restoration to you... glue back together
- 4. You will look different, you will have scars, but God will make you whole again
- 5. And, He will use those "scars" to remind you of how He "heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds".
- 6. He is our Healer... hold up new pot



Let's live better INSTEAD of broken. He has a reason for our brokenness.

FBSM Small Group Leader Guide



Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Review: Psalm 147:3 = "He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds." (NLT)

React: Have a volunteer show the group a physical scar they have and briefly share the story of how they got it. Now, share about an emotional scar you may have and God healed you from that situation.

Relate: Share personal prayer requests with one another (as a whole group or break off into small groups of 2 or 3). Close prayer and accountability time as a whole group.

Leader's Notes:



Instead, Part 7: Brokenness

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Opening Video = "The Labels We Carry" (BeecherFeature Productions, 2:30)

Psalm 147:3 = "He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds." (NLT)

I. Brokenness _____ What You Think

a. Show Me Your _____

- Every scar has a story
- Are you for the "display shelf" only?

b. Scars Were Once _____

- They hurt. You covered them up. Painful.
- Spiritual wounds you're trying to hide?

II. Brokenness Can Be _____

a. The Beautiful Thing About _____

- "But the beautiful thing about Jesus is He turns wounds into scars. And think about how different a scar is from a wound. A wound hurts, a scar tells a story. A wound can get infected, a scar is healed. A wound you hide, a scar you show."
- Struggles... pain... brokenness

b. What _____ Says A bout Brokenness

- Psalm 51:17, Psalm 34:18, Psalm 51:8, Proverbs 25:28, Ecclesiastes 4:12, Isaiah 61:1, 1 Corinthians 15:43, & John 19:36

III. _____ The Brokenness

a. Healing From _____ Wounds

- 1 Peter 2:24

b. Healing From _____ Wounds

- God sees your hurt and wants to heal.
- Better INSTEAD of broken!





Instead, Part 6: Pain

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Ever asked yourself this question like me = Why do bad things happen to good people? I have known some pretty godly folks who have gone through some very difficult things (myself included). Not trying to cause doubt in your mind, doesn't this contradict this proverb?

Proverbs 12:21 = "No harm comes to the godly, but the wicked have their fill of trouble." (NLT)

We need to approach this proverb with clear definitions, we need to define "harm" and define "godly" (or "righteous"):

I. Godliness & Pain

a. Who Are The "Godly"?

- i. How would you define the righteous / godly?
- ii. Righteous = "blameless, upright" (right with God)
- iii. Godly = Those who know who God is and hang on to that knowledge regardless of the situation
- iv. Godliness is more about who you trust than what you do to "earn" your righteousness:
 1. Romans 3:10 = "There is no one righteous, not even one" (NIV)
 2. Never make it on our own... trust in Him!

b. What Is "Harm"?

- i. Trials come in many shapes and sizes... broken relationships & death or disease, feeling overwhelmed or stressed about school or an upcoming test or your future... you name it!

- ii. Pain is defined as "Pain is a distressing feeling often caused by intense or damaging stimuli, such as stubbing a toe, burning a finger, putting alcohol on a cut, or bumping the 'funny bone.'" (Wikipedia.org)
 1. Pain is just a "feeling"... what would happen if you lived by your feelings?
 2. Like a roller coaster of emotion (up and downs of energy and happiness and sadness and depression and... etc)

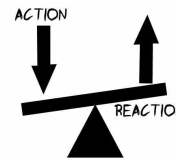
Video = "Little Girls Flip Out On Sling Shot Ride" (1:38)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDzhkmmkvkw>

3. Can you imagine living your life like this?... whatever comes your way (you know people like this already... "crazy reactors")
- iii. Trials and pain are not ultimately harmful unless they diminish our relationship with God.
- iv. Righteous /godly will not let trials or pain do that, they let their trials draw them closer to God, see His grace more clearly in the aftermath... serve Him more sacrificially when it costs something.

II. Actions & Reactions

a. It's Not Really About Your Trials

- i. This proverb is less about our trials and more about our reaction to them = it's all good if faith is maintained
- ii. "These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world." (1 Peter 1:7, NLT)
- iii. Trials come to all (most of the time we can't change that)...



b. It's About Your Reaction To Your Trials

- i. But, our reaction defines us (we can control that)!
- ii. Like with my 2-year-old (Elijah pic on screen)... I can't always control what he does (like writing on the walls or cabinets with a permanent marker), but I can control if I yell in anger at him or take a deep breath first. I can control my reaction...
- iii. Newton's Third Law = "For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction."
 1. Action = trials / pain
 2. Reaction = suffering / trusting God more

III. You & Church

a. Your Pain Assessment Test

- i. (Handout) Where's your most pain coming from right now? (Family, friends, school, self-esteem, other)
- ii. What's your reaction to this pain? (No worries, Super stressed, angry, blame God, just shut down, other)
- iii. How could God be using this trial or painful situation to work in your life? Draw you closer to Him?

b. Your Understanding Of Church

- i. I'm not sure what your view of church (or Jesus) is, but I want you to think about your life and the trials and pain you face in relation to this/any church...

(pic on Ringling Brothers circus on screen) Many of you may not know that after almost 50 years, the Ringling Brothers Barium & Bailey Circus is coming to an end (May 2017 will be their last performance).

(pic of the Flying Wallendas 1962) The climactic event at Detroit's Cobo Hall exhibition of Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus was the high-wire act of the Wallenda family, or the Flying Wallendas, as they were known. They were among the greatest tightwire walkers in all of circus history.

One of their acts was walking the tightrope in the formation of a four-level pyramid. Four or five men formed the first level, two or three men made up the second level, two more were on the third, and finally a little girl topped the pyramid. Maintaining this four-level pyramid, they would make their way across the tightrope from one side of the arena to the other. It was incredible & unprecedented. Did it night after night, month after month around the world.

One particular evening, as the show came to its conclusion, the four-level pyramid was about to start. The audience tensed in anticipation, sitting in total silence in the dark arena. The spotlights picked the Wallendas out of the air as they started moving across the wire. About two-thirds of the way across, however, one of the men on the first level, young Dede Wallenda, began to tremble in his knees. He cried out in German, "I cannot hold on any longer!" With that, he crumbled, and the entire pyramid collapsed. Several of the Wallendas fell to the floor many feet below. Some were crippled for life and one died.

Have you ever felt like Dede Wallenda? The pressures of school, homework, parents, family, or friends weigh down on you until you feel like yelling, "Help! I cannot hold on any longer!" While facing those times, we need to surround ourselves with loving friends and hold on to Christ. That's what the church is all about. The church doesn't exist to put additional pressure on us, but to support us and provide us with the help we need to survive in the world.

When you feel like your knees are about to buckle, come to Christ. Come to his people, the church. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). (Hot Illustrations 1.0, The Flying Wallendas)

Would you see His purpose INSTEAD of your pain tonight?

FBSM Small Group Leader Guide



Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Review: Proverbs 12:21 = "No harm comes to the godly, but the wicked have their fill of trouble." (NLT)

React: Share about a trial or hurt that has come your way recently that God might be using to define you. He has a purpose for your pain.

Relate: Share personal prayer requests with one another (as a whole group or break off into small groups of 2 or 3). Close prayer and accountability time as a whole group.

Leader's Notes:



Instead, Part 6: Pain

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Proverbs 12:21 = "No harm comes to the godly, but the wicked have their fill of trouble." (NLT)

I. Godliness And _____

a. Who Are The "_____?"

- Romans 3:10

b. What Is "_____?"

- Like a roller coaster of emotion?

Video = "Little Girls Flip Out On Sling Shot Ride" (1:38)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDozhkmvokw>

- Trials and pain are not ultimately harmful unless they diminish our relationship with God.

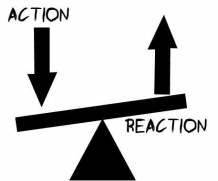
II. Actions And _____

a. It's Not Really About Your _____

- 1 Peter 1:7
- Trials come to all...

b. It's About Your _____ To Your Trials

- ...Your reaction defines you!



III. You And _____

a. Your _____ Assessment Test

- Where's your most pain coming from right now?
 - Circle one: **Family Friends School Self-esteem Other:** _____
- What's your reaction to this pain?
 - Circle one: **No worries Stress Anger Blame God Just shut down Other:** _____
- How could God be using this trial or painful situation to work in your life? Draw you closer to Him?

b. Your Understanding Of _____

- Would you see His purpose INSTEAD of your pain?



Instead, Part 5: Struggles

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, February 8, 2017

I want to begin tonight with a story about a man. He is dead and gone now, but if he was alive today he would have been that kid in school who thinks he knows it all and would make fun of you for just calling yourself a "Christian" or for going to church. He grew up to hate Christians so much that he went as far as to kill them. Until one day, God got a hold of this man and he ended up going on to influence the majority of the New Testament of this Bible. His name was Saul of Tarsus...

Intro Video = "The Apostle Paul" (Dan Stevers, 1:08)

Of all the people in the Bible, this was the one man who became the most devoted follower of Jesus. But, that doesn't mean he didn't have struggles.

I. The Problems Of Paul

a. You Think You Have Struggles

- i. If anyone had a reason to be depressed over his present circumstances, it was this guy! He'd been imprisoned, beaten, threatened with death, stoned, shipwrecked, bitten by a viper, falsely accused and deprived of food, water, and sleep. He has more enemies than he could count, all wanting to bring him and his ministry down...

2 Corinthians 11:23 = "Are they servants of Christ? I know I sound like a madman, but I have served him far more! I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again." (NLT)

b. Finding Strength From Struggles

- i. Paul's life looked like a train wreck. Every day something seemed to go wrong for him. Yet, he was never depressed and never wanted to quit!
- ii. On the contrary, his struggles only strengthened his resolve to press on and accomplish what God had called him to do. Why?
 1. **2 Corinthians 12:9** = "Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me." (NLT)

II. The Uselessness Of You

a. Feeling Useless Tonight?

- i. If you are, let me remind you why...
- ii. The Devil tries to bring us down emotionally & spiritually... bringing up our past, and by getting us to focus on the trials and pains of the present (in hopes of taking our eyes off the good God is bringing into our lives!

b. The Struggle With Self

- i. One of my biggest struggles is one that I know many of you face... self-image (how you see yourself!)
 1. Girls = wanna be skinny, Guys = don't care and eat unhealthy, All = see ourselves as unworthy and not enough! You are enough!

c. The Struggle With Sin

- i. We all struggle with sin, let's just be honest!
- ii. So, what's the key in finding strength INSTEAD of struggle?
- iii. Victory will never be in and of ourselves, it is only in God & His faithfulness!



1. **"The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth,"** (Psalm 145:18, ESV)

- iv. **Gotquestions.org** = Paul's struggle with sin was real; so much so that he cried out, **"What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?"** (Romans 7:24). Yet in the next breath, he answers his own question, as well as ours: **"Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!"** (Romans 7:25a).

d. The Struggle That Is Shared

- i. Why do we struggle through life? So we can help others struggle through life... I learned this in 2016!

FBSM Small Group Leader Guide



“All praise to the God and Father of our Master, Jesus the Messiah! Father of all mercy! God of all healing counsel! He comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us. We have plenty of hard times that come from following the Messiah, but no more so than the good times of his healing comfort—we get a full measure of that, too.” (2 Corinthians 1:3-5 MSG)

e. Never Useless In Christ

- i. Gotquestions.org = As true believers in Christ, even when we “face trials far beyond our ability to endure” (2 Corinthians 1:8), we can echo the reassuring words of Paul, who declares, “God has delivered us and will continue to deliver us” (2 Corinthians 1:10).

III. The Solutions Of The Savior

a. He Never Wastes A Hurt

- i. You will face struggles, but God faces them with you
- ii. When it hurts, God is at work! Weak = strong!

b. The Solution Is You

- i. If you have ever looked at your life or looked around at the world and thought to yourself... “What a mess! I give up!”... this is for you:



(Stained glass pic on screen) There was once a college student who was struggling in many areas of his life. He spent a great deal of his time feeling angry and frustrated. When he could stand it no longer, he went to the dim and seldom-used chapel on campus. He paced up and down the aisles, slapping the back of the empty pews. He yelled, he cried, and he raged at God.

“God you created the world..what could you possibly have been thinking? Look at the problems people face. Look at the pain, suffering, and hunger. Look at the neglect, the waste, the abuse. Every where I look, I see messed-up people, hurting people, lonely people!” The young man ranted and raved on and on.

Finally, exhausted, he sat in the front pew and looked hopelessly at the cross. Its tarnished surface reflected the dusty sunlight filtering in through the stained glass windows. “It’s all such a mess! This world you created is nothing but a terrible mess! Why even I could make a world better than this one!”

And then the young man heard a voice in the silence of that dusty chapel that made his eyes open wide and his jaw drop.

“And that is exactly what I want you to do.”

It’s easy to identify problems that exist all around us. And sometimes we wonder why God doesn’t solve them all for us. But that’s why God created the church. That’s why God put you here—at this particular time and place. He has gifted you and given you the power to make a difference in the world. **(Who, Me?, Hot Illustration 1.0)**

See strength INSTEAD of struggle... He is always at work in you!

Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2017

Review: 2 Corinthians 11:23 = “Are they servants of Christ? I know I sound like a madman, but I have served him far more! I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again.” (NLT)

React: What are you struggling with right now? How might God be using those struggles to strengthen you right now?

Relate: Share personal prayer requests with one another (as a whole group or break off into small groups of 2 or 3). Close prayer and accountability time as a whole group.

Leader’s Notes:



Instead, Part 5: Struggles

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, February 8, 2017

Intro Video = "The Apostle Paul" (Dan Stevers, 1:08)

I. The _____ Of Paul

a. You Think You Have _____

2 Corinthians 11:23 = "Are they servants of Christ? I know I sound like a madman, but I have served him far more! I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again." (NLT)

b. Finding _____ From Struggles

- 2 Corinthians 12:9

II. The Uselessness Of _____

a. Feeling _____ Tonight?

b. The Struggle With _____

- You are enough!

c. The Struggle With _____

- Strength INSTEAD of struggle...
- Psalm 145:18
- Romans 7:24-25



d. The Struggle That Is _____

- "All praise to the God and Father of our Master, Jesus the Messiah! Father of all mercy! God of all healing counsel! He comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us. We have plenty of hard times that come from following the Messiah, but no more so than the good times of his healing comfort—we get a full measure of that, too." (2 Corinthians 1:3-5 MSG)

e. _____ Useless In Christ

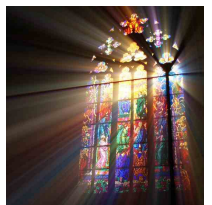
- 2 Corinthians 1:8 & 10

III. The Solutions Of The _____

a. He Never _____ A Hurt

- When it hurts, God is at work!

b. The Solution Is _____





Instead, Part 4: Divided

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, February 1, 2017

Several years ago in Timisoara, Romania, Laszlo Tokes became pastor of Timisoara's small Hungarian Reformed Church. Tokes preached the Gospel boldly, and within two years membership had swelled to five thousand.

But success can be dangerous in a Communist country. Authorities stationed police officers in front of the church on Sundays, cradling machine guns. They hired thugs to attack Pastor Tokes. They confiscated his ration book so he couldn't buy food or fuel. Finally, in December 1989, they decided to send him into exile.

But when police arrived to hustle Pastor Tokes away, they were stopped cold. Around the entrance of the church stood a wall of humanity. Members of other churches—Baptist, Adventist, Pentecostal, Orthodox, Catholic—had joined together to protest.

Though police tried to disperse the crowd, the people held their post all day and into the night. Then, just after midnight, a 19-year-old Baptist student named Daniel Gavra pulled out a packet of candles. He lit one and passed it to his neighbor.

When Tokes peered out the window, he was struck by the warm glow reflecting off hundreds of faces. That moment, he said later, was the "turning point in my life." His religious prejudices evaporated. Here were members of the body of Christ, completely disregarding denominational divisions, joining hands in his defense.

It was a moving testimony to Christian unity. The crowd stayed all through the night—and the next night. Finally police broke through. They bashed in the church door, bloodied Pastor Tokes' face, and then paraded him and his wife through the crowd and out into the night.



But that was not the end. No, the religious protest led—as it always does—to political protest. The people streamed to the city square and began a full-scale demonstration against the Communist government. Again Daniel passed out his candles.

First they had burned for Christian unity; now they burned for freedom.

This was more than the government could tolerate. They brought in troops and ordered them to open fire on the crowd. Hundreds were shot. Young Daniel felt a searing pain as his leg was blown off. But the people of Timisoara stood bravely against the barrage of bullets.

And by their example they inspired the entire population of Romania. Within days the nation had risen up and the bloody dictator Ceausescu was gone. For the first time in half a century, Romanians celebrated Christmas in freedom.

Daniel celebrated in the hospital, where he was learning to walk with crutches. His pastor came to offer sympathy, but Daniel wasn't looking for sympathy.

"Pastor, I don't mind so much the loss of a leg," he said. "After all, it was I who lit the first candle."

The candle that lit up an entire country. With a candle, a nineteen-year-old boy sparked a revolution that is still being felt today. Romania is a free country thanks to the efforts of people like Daniel Gavra who were willing to put their lives on the line for the sake of the Gospel and for basic human rights.

You can make a difference wherever you are if you are willing to take a stand. Don't wait for everyone else to do it. Be the first to light your candle. **(Hot Illustrations 1.0, A Candle In The Darkness)**

[\(Hold up candle\)](#) How far would you go to stand for your faith? All in?

I. A Divided Heart

Psalm 103:1 = "Let all that I am praise the Lord; with my whole heart, I will praise His holy name." (NLT)

a. We Are So ADD With Jesus

- i. Do you have spiritual ADD (Attention-deficit disorder)? You always say you are willing to follow God with all your heart and then... "butterfly" (we get distracted).
- ii. Devos, prayer time, regular attendance at worship, telling my friends about Jesus...

b. We All Suffer From Spiritual Amnesia

- i. No matter what God does for us or how close we get to Him (like at Summer Camp or Winter Retreat)
- ii. We are so forgetful. Commitment?
- iii. We need a deeper understanding of this passage:
 1. "Let all that I am..." = All!
 2. "With my whole heart..." = Not just part!

II. A Wholehearted Life

a. The Benefits Of Wholeheartedness

- i. An entire experience (complete)
 1. Think about it... Who does God reveal Himself to? = those who want a deeper intimacy, with a whole heart
 - a. Bring every crack and corner of their soul into the relationship
 2. We give ourselves more fully to those who have given themselves more fully to us = God has!
 3. Bless Him because He is the source of all blessings = "Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name!" (Psalm 103:1, NKJV)
 4. A whole heart receives a whole experience of God... don't miss out on all of God!
- ii. A real relationship
 1. Complete investment of our soul
 2. Throwing everything into the relationship
 3. So much more than some guy or girl or group or sport or whatever...
- iii. A rewarding resolve
 1. Resolve to invest everything (every impulse of your heart) into seeking Him
 2. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37 NIV)



Make this our prayer = "Lord, my heart is easily divided and scattered among other interests. And You even support our interests, but not when they overshadow You. Help me seek You above all else – and enjoy You above all else." (Prayer from His Presence devo, July 27th)

b. The Meaning Of Going "All In"

- i. Always His will before my own
- ii. Loving like He would / does
- iii. Lifestyle change, not just behavior modification
- iv. Intentionally praising God (Psalm 103:1)
- v. Never looking back... the past is done!

Closing Video = "All In" (Connect The Dot/Yancy Ministries, 1:08)

So, are you all in? Ready to start living wholehearted INSTEAD of divided?

FBSM Small Group Leader Guide



Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2017

Review: Psalm 103:1 = "Let all that I am praise the Lord; with my whole heart, I will praise His holy name." (NLT)

React: Are you "all in"? If not, what is keeping you from giving God your undivided heart and attention tonight? Share openly.

Relate: Share personal prayer requests with one another (as a whole group or break off into small groups of 2 or 3). Close prayer and accountability time as a whole group.

Leader's Notes:



Instead, Part 4: Divided

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, February 1, 2017

I. A _____ Heart

Psalms 103:1 = "Let all that I am praise the Lord; with my whole heart, I will praise His holy name." (NLT)

a. We Are So _____ With Jesus

- Ever get distracted like that?

b. We All Suffer From Spiritual _____

- Are you forgetful? How's your commitment?
- "Let all that I am..."
- "With my whole heart..."



II. A _____ Life

a. The _____ Of Wholeheartedness

- An entire _____
 - "Bless the Lord, O my soul..." (NKJV)
- A real _____
- A rewarding _____
 - Matthew 22:37



- "Lord, my heart is easily divided and scattered among other interests. And You even support our interests, but not when they overshadow You. Help me seek You above all else – and enjoy You above all else." (Prayer from Into His Presence dev o, July 27th)

b. The Meaning Of " _____ "

- A _____ His will before my own
- L _____ like He would / does
- L _____ change, not just behavior modification
- I _____ praising God
- N _____ looking back

Closing Video = "All In" (Connect The Dot/Yancy Ministries, 1:08)

Are you ready to start living wholehearted INSTEAD of divided?



Instead, Part 3: Following

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, January 25, 2017

During our last part we talked about the difficult truth of the sin in our lives and how we allow it to take our eyes off our victory. I want to take it a step farther and encourage us to really follow Jesus tonight!

Video = "Fan or Follower" (4:19)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tiB6tCiVfu4>

I. The Most Important Question

a. Are You A Follower Of Jesus?

- i. Simple, easy question, right? Really??

"I know. You've been asked this question before. Because it's so familiar there is a tendency to dismiss it. Not because it makes you uncomfortable. Not because it's especially convicting. The question is dismissed mostly because it feels redundant and unnecessary. You recognize that this is an important question for many to consider, but for you? Well, it's like walking into a Boston pub and asking, "Who cheers for the Red Sox?" It's an important question, but you're so sure of your answer, your mind quickly dismisses it. But before you move on too quickly, let me clarify what I am not asking. I am not asking if you go to church or if your parents and grandparents are Christians. I am not asking if you raised your hand at the end of a sermon or repeated a prayer after a preacher. I am not asking if you spent your summers at VBS and/or church camp, have ever worn "witness wear," or understand phrases like "traveling mercies" and "sword drill."

Many of us are quick to say, "Yes, I'm a follower of Jesus," but I'm not sure we really understand what we are saying. One of the most sobering

passages in the Bible tells of a day when many who consider themselves to be followers of Jesus will be stunned to find out that he doesn't even recognize them. Jesus describes a day when everyone who has ever lived will stand before God. On that day many who call themselves Christians and identify themselves as followers will stand confidently in front of Jesus only to hear him say, "I never knew you. Away from me." To be clear, that's not my opinion or my interpretation; that is what Jesus has said will happen." (Taken from Not a Fan Daily Devotional by Kyle Idleman)

Matthew 7:21-23 = "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. 22 On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' 23 But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'" (NLT)

b. Not A Fan

- i. It's a book, a devo, a study, a movie, a teen edition study, and a movement... (pic on screen)
- ii. A fan = "an enthusiastic admirer"
- iii. Meet the author, Kyle Idleman...

Video = "Not A Fan by Kyle Idleman" (3:56)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVXs0vKQNVc>

- iv. So, is this you? Honestly! Are we going to settle for just being a youth group full of Jesus-fans or are we going to take serious this Bible and become Jesus-followers?

II. The Most Common "Christian"

a. Being A Fan

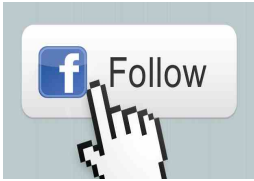
- i. I grew up learning to be a fan of Jesus... go to church, make friends with "those people", learn the songs and how to act at church, but then leave and do whatever you want
- ii. Let me be real... I remember Wednesday nights in high school going to church (raising my hands in worship and looking like I was "on fire" for Jesus), but then heading home (while stopping on the way and making out with my girlfriend in the backseat of her car)
- iii. Putting on the face... playing the game
- iv. Hearing God's Word preached at me, but never listening to God's Word as it transformed me
- v. How to be a fan:
 1. Show up (face on)



2. Modify behavior (no transformation?)
3. Leave it there (no homework, no change)

b. Not Being A Follower

- i. It is so much easier to not be a follower of Jesus. How? Just be a follower of someone/something else!
- ii. Who or what are you following? (Follow button for your life? = [follow pic on screen](#))
 1. Social media trends?
 2. That "awesome" friend/teammate/star
 3. Yourself... what you think is best for you
 4. Society = be the person "they" want you to be (who are "they" anyway?)
 5. Religion = the do's and don'ts from God (nothing personal about it)



"Jesus never asked us to sit on the sidelines and cheer for His cause." (Groeschel)

III. The Most Radical Lifestyle

a. A Life Of Following...

- i. If you are ready to go deep and get real... to follow, here's how Jesus says we do that:

Matthew 16:24-25 = "Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. 25 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it." (NLT)

- ii. Let's break it down in simplified steps:
 1. **Give Up** = "you must give up your own way" (no more fitting God into my agenda, it is actually finding out what He wants for my life and going for it...)
 2. **Take Up** = "take up your cross (daily)" (did not mean taking up your burdens = "that's just my cross to bear", no, the cross meant torture and death, willing to "die to self" in order to follow Him, absolute surrender!)
 3. **Let Up** = "If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it" (let go and let God, trust your life in His hands, let Him have control, let up control of your life, control freak!)

b. ...No Matter What

- i. Truly following Jesus is not easy, but it is so worth it... because I follow Him now, my life has more meaning and purpose than ever before!
- ii. Be a follower of Jesus INSTEAD of just a fan!

FBSM Small Group Leader Guide



Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2017

Review: **Matthew 7:23** = "But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'" (NLT)

React: By show of hands (be honest), are you more of a fan of Jesus or a follower of Jesus? Why or why not? Explain & discuss.

Relate: Share prayer requests with one another (as a whole group or break off into small groups of 2 or 3). Close prayer and accountability time as a whole group.

Leader's Notes:



Instead, Part 3: Following

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, January 25, 2017

Video = "Fan or Follower" (4:19)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tiB6tCiVfu4>

I. The Most _____ Question

a. Are You A _____ Of Jesus?

Matthew 7:21-23 = "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. 22 On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' 23 But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'" (NLT)

b. Not A _____

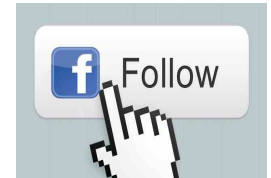
Video = "Not A Fan by Kyle Idleman" (3:56)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVXs0vkQNvc>



II. The Most Common "_____"

a. Being A _____

- How to be a fan:
 - Show up
 - Modify behavior
 - Leave it there



b. _____ Being A Follower

- Who or what are you following?
- "Jesus never asked us to sit on the sidelines and cheer for His cause." (Craig Groeschel)

III. The Most _____ Lifestyle

a. A Life Of _____...

Matthew 16:24-25 = "Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. 25 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it." (NLT)

- _____ up
- _____ up
- _____ up

b. ...No Matter _____



Instead, Part 2: Sin

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, January 11, 2017

Confession time = please raise your hand if you are a sinner.

I. Our Fatal Fact

a. The Worst News Of All!

- i. The worst news of all... sin = death!
- ii. No way around it... with sin in your life, you are bound for death. Everyone dies. We have all lost loved ones, experienced death personally ...
- iii. Fact = we are all sinners and destined for Hell (without Christ).
- iv. "Sin" defined = "immorality, evil, wrong-doing"
 1. Romans 3:23 & 6:23
 2. But... that's all before Jesus came for you...

Video = "You'll Be Okay: You Will Walk Away" (2:01)
<https://youtu.be/xl0sSuv1TFI>

3. "Because I live, you also will live." (John 14:19 NIV)

4. He is the resurrection/life... fear not!

- v. Imagine life as a "Christian" without Jesus coming to earth as He did... Old Testament / sacrificial system?

b. Where Do You Fit In?

- i. "Fitting in" / "Getting fit" = Men's Health magazine
- ii. Exercises, trying to get fit... we are all trying to fit in (at home, with friends, at school, in sports/activities)

- iii. Fit in at church / with God? The hard truth/reality = we are contrary to God's character and out of line with Him!
 1. Not too late to become unfit for a sinful world and fit for the Kingdom of God...
 2. How, you ask?

Proverbs 8:17 = "I love all who love me. Those who search will surely find me." (NLT)

II. Our Former Futility

a. On The Cross

- i. The Cross = where all our former futility (every bit of us being a sinner) was redeemed
- ii. Sacrificial Lamb cleansed us
- iii. Put us on the path of discipleship

b. In The Middle

- i. Lacking perspective = read the first two chapters and last two chapters of the Bible...
- ii. Genesis 1-2 & Revelation 21-22 = pictures of perfection, from paradise to paradise, from the Garden of Eden to the city of God, from the dust of the earth to the bride of Christ
- iii. Genesis 3 – Revelation 20 = the holiness of God and our sin problem!
 1. Our origin and our destiny are of God... sin is just in the way

c. Way Down Deep

- i. It is a temporal sin-problem... You can still grow deep with your Creator and Redeemer.
- ii. Hold up plant = in order to survive this needs food (water), energy (the sun), and protection! Like us!
- iii. "As a plant stretches toward the sunlight, let your life grow toward His wisdom. Open up before Him, and let yourself love His ways." (Worship the King dev o, May 6th)
 1. How deep are you going in your relationship with God? Just below the surface? Maybe because your sin is in the way.
 2. Like last week, you are still walking in your defeat, instead of His victory!
- iv. Pop quiz = How's your tolerance for the sin in your life? Below average / average / above average? (by show of hands, students share)



III. Our Future Freedom

a. A Wake Up Call

- i. The "Instead" life = living life beyond these stupid sins that you have become too accustomed to, pursue His wisdom in every little thing you do
- ii. You are dead to your sin, alive in Christ! Wake up!
- iii. There's always a way out, if you'll only seek Him fully!

b. No More Excuses

If you think drivers come up with some unbelievable excuses when they're trying to talk a cop out of giving them a ticket, you should see the stories that turn up on insurance companies' accident forms. Some time ago The Toronto Sun newspaper printed a few samples from actual reports:

"A pedestrian hit me and went under my car." "In my attempt to kill a fly, I drove into a telephone pole." "I had been driving my car for forty years when I fell asleep at the wheel and had an accident." "I had been shopping all day for plants and was on my way home. As I reached an intersection, a hedge sprang up, obscuring my vision. I did not see the other car." "The pedestrian had no idea which direction to go, so I ran over him." "The telephone pole was approaching fast. I was attempting to swerve out of its path when it struck my front end." "Coming home, I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have." "The guy was all over the road. I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him." "My car was legally parked as it backed into the other vehicle." "An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my vehicle, and vanished." "The indirect cause of this accident was a little guy in a small car with a big mouth."

Most of us mess up in life and we also have some pretty lame excuses. But the Bible tells us in 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from unrighteousness..." That's an incredible promise. = Are you asking God: "Please excuse me" or "please forgive me"? (**Hot Illustrations 1.0, "Excuse Me" or "Forgive Me"?**)

c. Instead, Seek God

- i. How to seek God? Really?
 1. Pray (more than just asking for favors)
 2. Read the Bible (more than just looking for answers... desire His Word)
 3. Share (if He's really set you free from your sin, why not help set others free too?)
- ii. He just wants to take you where you are and bring you to where He knows you belong... using your story (your mess) to help you live INSTEAD.

Video = "Our Stories" (James Grocho, 1:55)

Our sin, our shame finds renewal in one Name... Jesus! Live renewed, instead!

FBSM Small Group Leader Guide



Date: Wednesday, January 11, 2017

Review: Proverbs 8:17 = "I love all who love me. Those who search will surely find me." (NLT)

React: Welcome back to our regular small groups! How can you live your life beyond the stupid sins you have struggled with and become so accustomed to? Give examples of how to overcome your sin.

Relate: Share personal prayer requests with one another (as a whole group or break off into small groups of 2 or 3). Close prayer and accountability time as a whole group.

Leader's Notes:



Instead, Part 2: Sin

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, January 11, 2017

I. Our _____ Fact

a. The _____ Of All!

- Sin always leads to death!
- Sin defined = "immorality, evil, wrong-doing"

Video = "You'll Be Okay: You Will Walk Away" (2:01)
<https://youtu.be/xI0sSuw1TFI>

- John 14:19

b. Where Do You _____ In?

Proverbs 8:17 = "I love all who love me.
 Those who search will surely find me." (NLT)

- Unfit for a sinful world / fit for the Kingdom of God

II. Our Former _____

a. On The _____

b. In The _____

- Genesis 1-2 & Revelation 21-22

c. Way Down _____

- "As a plant stretches toward the sunlight, let your life grow toward His wisdom. Open up before Him, and let yourself love His ways." (Worship the King dev o)
- How's your tolerance for the sin in your life?



III. Our _____ Freedom

a. A _____ Call

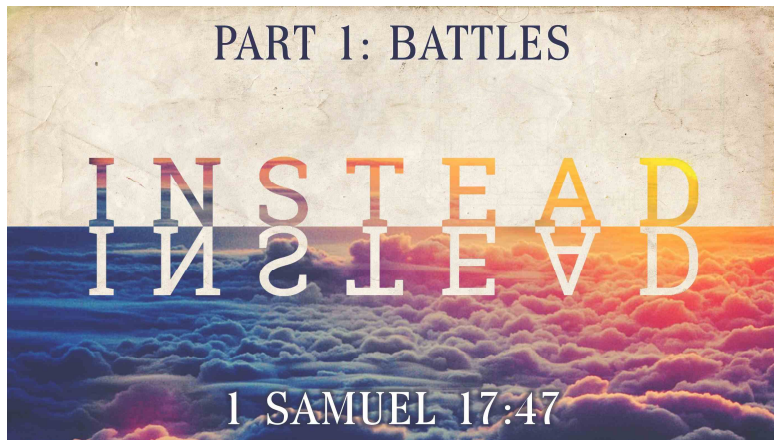
- Dead to sin, alive in Christ!

b. No More _____

c. Instead, _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Video = "Our Stories" (James Grocho, 1:55)



Instead, Part 1: Battles

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, January 4, 2017

I. The Instead Introduction

a. Are You An "Instead" Kind Of Person?

- i. Defined = "in place of, alternative, substitute, replacement"
- ii. It's about time we acted like instead kind of people
- iii. Christian people are instead kind of people
- iv. This new series (this new year) was inspired by all God has taught me over the last few years and how God really empowers us to live an upside-down kind of life... opposite of what the world tells us:
 1. Battles (our battles, His victory)
 2. Sin (stop dwelling in your sin, be free)
 3. Following (be more than just a fan)
 4. Divided (Jesus needs our undivided heart)
 5. Struggles (He is stronger)
 6. Pain (temporary pain, eternal victory)
 7. Brokenness (break my heart for what breaks Yours, God)
 8. Repentance (180* change... repent!)

b. What Would Happen Instead?

- i. What would life (your family, your relationships, your struggles, your school, this church, this nation) be like if we walking in God's victory instead of defeat?

II. The Instead Kind Of God

a. He Loves Taking The Impossible...

- i. Take one of the greatest and most unlikely battles in all of the Bible = David and Goliath:

- ii. Nine-foot tall giant
- iii. Taunting the armies of Israel (people of God)
- iv. They had God on their side (but they were intimidated)...
- v. He was huge... God is bigger!
- vi. God's reputation was at stake
- vii. The army's fear did not honor God, The enemy-occupied Promised Land did not honor God, The gorilla of Gath did not honor God
- viii. Something had to be done! = David steps up:

1 Samuel 17:47 = "And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord's battle, and he will give you to us!" (NLT)

b. ...And Making It Possible

- i. This was a God-centered victory, but it can only be won if you suit up & get in the fight

Video = "Bill Hybels - David & Goliath" (3:37)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYxiDsRKOuw>

c. What "Goliaths" Are You Fighting?

- i. What "Goliaths" are you facing right now?
- ii. Examples during Winter Retreat = Dylan (struggle with anger), Souzana/Kenzie (struggle with unforgiveness), Nathan/Jordan (struggle with priorities), Ethan/Colby/Trevor (struggle with knowing more about God), etc...
- iii. Have the courage of David and the victory of Christ!
 1. God has chosen us... equipped us (guaranteed victory)
 2. The battle is the Lord's, but the army is us!
 3. The victory is already ours too!

III. The Instead Of Your Battle

a. Victor Not Victim

- i. Be honest, you and I claim to have Jesus in our hearts and be on the side of God, but we still walk around as defeated!
- ii. Why act like a victim when God is in control (always)? Why? (Students share)
- iii. Stop walking in shame and defeat, you are a victor! Satan wants you to think you are a victim, but last time I checked, God is WAY BIGGER than Satan!

INSTEAD

FBSM Small Group Leader Guide

- iv. Chris Tiegreen = "Goliath is an appropriate image for Satan – big, noisy, intimidating... and doomed." (Worship the King devo, 2/6)

b. Victory Over Defeat

- i. We're the only army God has redeemed for service
 - ii. Take David's advice, pick up those **five smooth stones**... they each represented something:
- COURAGE - David was not afraid to face the enemy. "Don't worry about a thing," David told Saul. "I'll go fight this Philistine!" (1 Samuel 17:32 NLT) It also takes courage to fight the giants you will face in your life.
 - CONFIDENCE - As a shepherd, David often had to protect the sheep from wild animals. This gave him the confidence he needed to face the giant. "The LORD who saved me from the claws of the lion and the bear will save me from this Philistine!" (1 Samuel 17:37 NLT) Like David, you can have confidence that God will help you overcome the problems you face each day.
 - PREPARATION - David didn't go to face the giant unprepared. He went down to the stream and picked out five smooth stones and put them in his shepherd's bag. Then, armed with his shepherd's staff and sling, he started out to fight Goliath. (1 Samuel 17:40 NLT) It is important for you to do everything possible to be certain you are prepared to face the challenges which you will meet in your daily life.
 - TRUST - David did not trust in his own ability to slay the giant. When Goliath shouted at David, cursed him, and was ready to kill him, David said, "You come to me with a sword and spear, but I come to you in the name of the LORD God Almighty." (1 Samuel 17:45 NLT) When you face problems, put your trust in God, not in your own ability.
 - VICTORY - "It is God's battle, not ours," David said. That is why David was able to win the victory over the giant with only a stone and sling. (1 Samuel 17:50 NLT) When you turn your battles over to God, you will have the victory over the giants in your life.

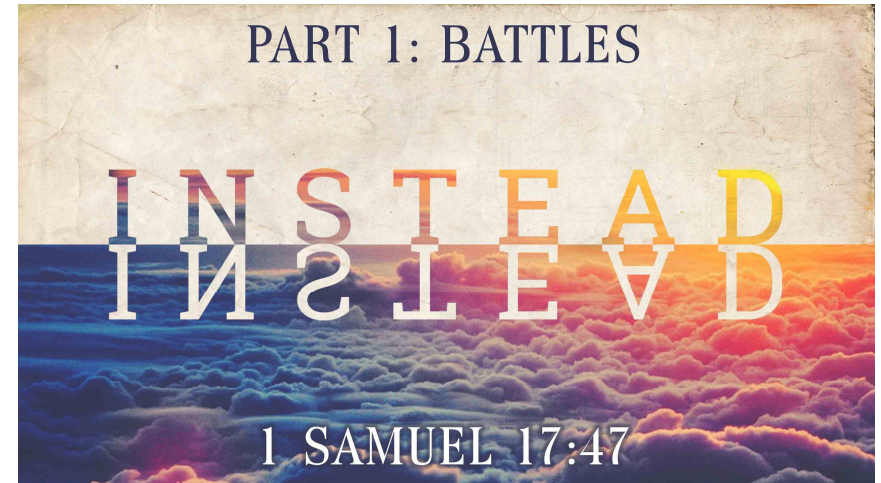
c. Why God Does What He Does...

- i. Have you ever stopped to think about why God created the world like He did? If He would have just created a perfect world, He would have been able to demonstrate His power, His wisdom, His purity, His creativity – all of His attributes. All, except one that is. His mercy. And so, He chooses to use our brokenness and our battles to reveal His mercy.

1. Mark 2:17 = "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." (NIV)



Like Him, let's begin this year by looking at the "instead" of every situation! Instead of defeat, would you walk in victory tonight? HE is your victory!



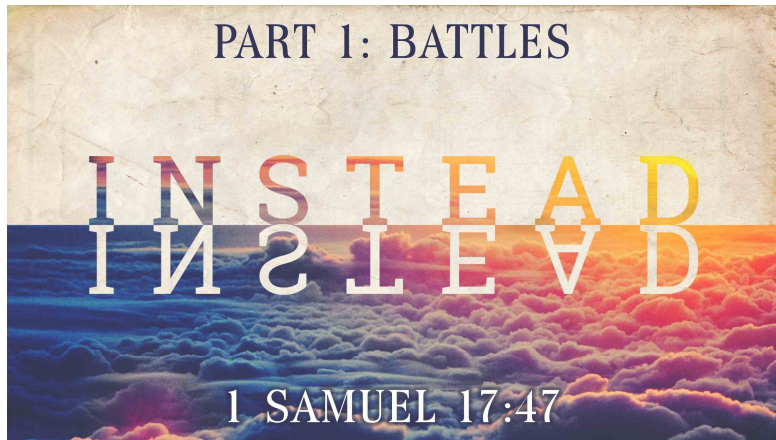
Date: Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Review: 1 Samuel 17:47 = "And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord's battle, and he will give you to us!" (NLT)

React: Name the battles you are facing right now. Now, how can the Lord get you through these battles victoriously?

Relate: Share New Year's resolutions and prayer requests with one another (as a whole group or break off into small groups of 2 or 3). Close prayer and accountability time as a whole group.

Leader's Notes:



Instead, Part 1: Battles

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, January 4, 2017

I. The _____ Introduction

a. Are You An "Instead" _____ Of Person?

- "In place of, alternative, substitute, replacement"
- Instead series:
- Battles (our battles, His victory)
- Sin (stop dwelling in your sin, be free)
- Following (be more than just a fan)
- Divided (Jesus needs our undivided heart)
- Struggles (He is stronger)
- Pain (temporary pain, eternal victory)
- Brokenness (break my heart for what breaks Yours)
- Repentance (180* change... repent!)

b. _____ Would Happen Instead?

INSTEAD

II. The Instead Kind Of _____

a. He Loves Taking The _____ ...

1 Samuel 17:47 = "And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord's battle, and he will give you to us!" (NLT)

b. ... And Making It _____

Video = "Bill Hybels - David & Goliath" (3:37)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYxjDsRKOuw>

c. What "_____ " Are You Fighting?

- Have the courage of David & the victory of Christ!

III. The Instead Of Your _____

a. _____ Not _____

b. _____ Over _____

- 5 smooth stones = _____

c. _____ God Does What He Does...

- Mark 2:17

