

CORE 4

Series Overview

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BIG PICTURE:

This 4 week series covers the core values of our student ministry based on our vision & mission. These concepts drive everything that we do and are at the heart of why we exist as a student ministry.

VISION:

To build a relational student ministry that helps teenagers:

- REACH UP to know & love God
- REACH IN to grow & mature
- REACH OUT to serve & love

MISSION:

To help students in our city:

- CONNECT with God personally
- FOLLOW Christ passionately
- LIVE out their faith consistently
- IMPACT the world courageously

VALUES:

- SPIRITUAL STABILITY
- DEPENDENCE ON GOD
- MORAL GROWTH
- SERVING & LOVING

CORE 4

Building Faith, Character, & Leadership

1. CONNECT: Spiritual Stability

2. FOLLOW: Dependence on God

3. LIVE: Moral Growth

4. IMPACT: Serving & Loving

The logo for amplifyministries, featuring the word "amplify" in a stylized blue font with a radio wave icon above the "y", and "ministries" in a smaller, simpler blue font below it.

CORE 4

WEEK I: Student Handout

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CONNECT

Connect With God Personally: REACH UP to know & love God

Spiritual Stability

If someone asked you to build a pyramid, how would you do it? Well, you would probably start with the base and make a strong foundation and then build up from there. It wouldn't make sense to start at the top or the middle because it would be unstable and collapse. In a similar way, we need a strong foundation when it comes to building our faith.

If someone asked you, "What are the Core Beliefs of the Christian faith?" what would you say? It is a big question to think about, but would you

have an answer for them? More importantly, would your answer be accurate? Maybe you would say something about God or faith, but what about the rest? What exactly do you believe about God, Jesus, the Spirit, Sin, Salvation, & Forgiveness? Ok, so maybe you know a little about these topics, but do you know why you believe these things? Can you explain your beliefs to a friend?

As we connect with God personally, it is important to know what we believe & why we believe it.

Connect
Follow
Live
Impact



FUSION

CORE 4

WEEK 1: Student Handout

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CONNECT

Connect With God Personally: REACH UP to know & love God

CONNECTING WITH GOD:

“For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. -John 3:16

BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION:

“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. -Matthew 7:24-25

1. GOD'S LOVE:

- He loves you so much! (John 3:16-17)

2. OUR REBELLION:

- We all sin and mess up (Romans 3:23)

3. JESUS' SACRIFICE:

- He died on the cross for our sins & rose again (Romans 5:8)

4. OUR FAITH:

- We believe & have faith (Romans 10:9-10)
- We ask Him to forgive us (1 John 1:9)

TAKE TIME TO GROW:

- **G**o to God in prayer (Phil. 4:6-7)
- **R**ead the Bible (2 Tim. 3:14-17)
- **O**bey God (Luke 6:46-48)
- **W**orship (Heb. 10:24-25)
- **T**ell others (1 Pet. 3:15-16)
- **H**oly Spirit will guide you (Jn. 14:26)

Adapted from © Youth for Christ

SONG: “We Believe” by Newsboys

<https://youtu.be/WjZ01FcK0yk>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why is it important to know what you believe and why you believe it?
2. Do you believe that God loves you and cares about you? Explain.
3. Do you believe that you are sinful and that your sins separate you from God? Explain.
4. Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins & rose again? Explain.
5. Do you believe that you can be forgiven & restored to God by putting your faith in Jesus? Explain.
6. Have you put your faith in Jesus? If so, why? If not, why not?
7. How would you describe the type of foundation that your faith is built on? (*strong/medium/weak*)
8. What are some ways that you could grow this week and make that foundation stronger?
9. Pray

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WEEK 2: Student Handout

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FOLLOW

Follow Christ Passionately: REACH IN to grow & mature

Dependence on God

Most of us celebrate the 4th of July with a parade or a cookout with friends. We watch fireworks and celebrate our independence as a nation. Our independence is something with protect and fight for. Even as we grow up, we long to be independent. Teenagers often get tired of being under their parents' authority and want to be on their own. However, in our struggle for independence we can forget that we were not designed to be completely independent.

As much as we enjoy our freedom & independence, there is part of us that needs wisdom & guidance outside of ourselves. God calls us to be dependent on Him. Part of growing in our faith and maturing in Christ is learning to be dependent on God and to seek His wisdom for our lives. Because we love our independence, it is easy to make decisions on our own and not stop to consider what God thinks about our choices. In order to follow Christ passionately, we need to rely on God in our daily lives.

Connect
Follow
Live
Impact



RESONATE

FOLLOW

Follow Christ Passionately: REACH IN to grow & mature

I. DENY YOURSELF:

- Surrender your will
- Give up your self-centered view
- Submit to his authority
- Die to your selfish ways

“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” -Matt 16:24

2. TAKE UP YOUR CROSS:

- Make sacrifices
- Take responsibility
- Endure hardship & suffering
- Be disciplined & persevere

NOTES:

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3. FOLLOW WHERE HE LEADS:

- Listen to His voice & obey His commands
- Follow Him moment by moment & day by day
- Go where He sends you
- Do what He would do

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1.How much independence & freedom do your parents give you? How much do you wish you had? Explain.
- 2.Why does God want us to follow him & be dependent on Him?
- 3.What does it mean to “deny ourselves”? Give an example of a time you set aside your desires to follow God.
- 4.Have you ever had to make any sacrifices to follow God? Explain. What does it look like to take up our cross daily?
- 5.How is your relationship with God going? (hot, warm, cold) Are following him, listening to him, worshipping him, obeying him, relying on him? Are you letting him lead you?
- 6.How’s your passion for Jesus right now? What would it take to be more passionate about your faith?
- 7.PRAY

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WEEK 3: Student Handout

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LIVE

Live Out Your Faith Consistently: REACH IN to grow & mature

Moral Growth

Who decides what is right & wrong? When we are young, our parents often teach us right from wrong, but who told them? As we get older, society often communicates what is right and wrong with laws and regulations. The police enforce those laws and there are consequences if we break them. Even in our friendship circles there are right & wrong ways to dress, talk, or act. But in the end, how are we really supposed to live?

When it comes to moral choices and right living, there is really only one

authority- God. The Bible gives us God's words and shows us how to live as people of rich character and deep conviction. It can be difficult to follow God at times because we may have to change our behavior even if we don't want to. That's what living for Christ is all about- growing in maturity and becoming more like him.

It is challenging to live out our faith consistently, but as we learn to make wise moral decisions we are one step closer to being the person God intended us to be.



DOWNLOAD



RESONATE

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WEEK 3: Student Handout

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LIVE

Live Out Your Faith Consistently: REACH IN to grow & mature

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” -Eph. 4:22-24

I. PUT OFF THE OLD SELF:

• Obey God

- Live Differently (1Pet. 1:14)
- Live Carefully (1Pet. 1:14)
- Live Honorably (1Pet. 1:14-15)

• Be Holy

- Totally devoted or dedicated to God
- Set aside for his special use
- Set apart from sin & its influence
- To imitate him by following his moral standards

(To be holy: taken from the Life Application Concise NT Commentary)

• Get Rid of Sin

- Impure Behavior (1 Pet. 2:1)
- Impure Words (Eph. 4:25-32)
- Impure Thoughts (Eph. 5:3-4)

2. BE MADE NEW:

- Think Clearly- new way of thinking (1Pet. 1:13)
- Spiritual Renewal of Thoughts & Attitudes
- Exercise Self-control (1Pet. 1:13)
- Discern Right from Wrong
- New Way of Making Decisions
- Become Person of Character & Conviction
- Look Ahead (1Pet. 1:13)
- Recall God's Judgment/Christ's Payment (1Pet. 1:17)

3. PUT ON THE NEW SELF:

- Follow God's Example (Eph. 5:1)
- Live a Life of Love (Eph. 5:2)
- Be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving, thankful (Eph. 4:32)
- Live by the Spirit (Eph. 5:18)
- Shine Bright (Eph. 5:13-14)
- Be Wise (Eph. 5:15)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why is it so hard to put off our old self & sinful way of living?
2. What does it mean to be holy? How do we do that?
3. Of the sins listed, which ones do you struggle with the most? What is a step you could take to resist it & get rid of it?
4. How's your level of self-control when you are tempted to sin? Explain. How can we resist the urge to give in?
5. Does what you believe match with how you live? Explain.
6. How can we live out our faith more consistently?
7. What are some ways you are living for God and shining bright for Christ?
8. PRAY

CORE 4

WEEK 4: Student Handout

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IMPACT

Impact Your World Courageously: REACH OUT to serve & love

Serving & Loving

Technology has really impacted our world recently. It seems like there are new devices showing up all the time that promise to improve our lives: from smart phones, iPods, iPads, laptops, and high tech watches to voice commands, touch screens, self-parking cars, and hybrid vehicles. Technology is making a difference in our world, but is it really going to last in the end. Eventually, it will become outdated and something new will take its place.

So how can we really make a difference in the world that will last longer than the latest tech? Well, the secret to making an eternal impact is by putting our faith into action.

The commands of God can be summed up in two main things: love God & love people. We can make a lasting difference in the world by loving God and sharing his love with others. As we reach out to serve & love those around us, we can begin to impact our world courageously and help change peoples lives for eternity.



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WEEK 4: Student Handout

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Impact

Impact Your World Courageously: REACH OUT to serve & love

The Greatest Commandment

- Matthew 22:37-40

The Great Commission

- Matthew 28:19-20

I. SERVING

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.” –Philippians 2:3

- **S**erve one another in love (*Gal. 5:13*)
- **E**verywhere you go
- **R**ely on God’s strength
- **V**alue others more than yourself (*Phil. 2:3-5*)
- **E**xpress God’s love with your actions

2. LOVING

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” –John 13:34-35

- **G**OD created us to be with Him
- **O**UR sins separate us from God
- **S**INS cannot be removed by good deeds
- **P**AYING the price for sin, Jesus died & rose again
- **E**VERYONE who trusts in Him alone has eternal life
- **L**IFE that’s eternal starts now and lasts forever

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3. SALT & LIGHT –Matthew 5:13-16

-3x3 OUTREACH CHALLENGE

- **PICK** 3 friends Friend #1: _____
- **PRAY** for 3 friends Friend #2: _____
- **INVITE** 3 friends Friend #3: _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are some of your favorite activities or hobbies?
2. Who are some people that have made a difference in your life? Explain.
3. Do you have a desire to make a difference and impact your school & your friends for God? Why or why not?
4. Share some ways that you have tried to love God or love others. What is something you could do this week to show your love for God or people?
5. Are you currently serving in the church or in the community? If so, what motivates you to help others?
6. How could our youth group make a bigger impact for Christ?
7. Who are 3 friends you could start praying for & courageously invite to our next outreach event?
8. PRAY



1



2



3



4



5



6

CORE 4



LIVE

Live Out Your Faith Consistently: REACH IN to grow & mature

7

CORE 4



MORAL GROWTH

LIVE

Live Out Your Faith Consistently: REACH IN to grow & mature

8

CORE 4



IMPACT

Impact Your World Courageously: REACH OUT to serve & love

9

CORE 4



SERVING & LOVING

IMPACT

Impact Your World Courageously: REACH OUT to serve & love

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