

OFF-ROADING

Series Image



Series Description

A 4-WEEK SERIES ON **SPIRITUAL HABITS** **GROW APP BUILDER CODE: XGSD**

Life and faith are an adventure! Sometimes the ride is straight and clear, but often our journey is full of bumps, potholes, rocks, and roadblocks. We usually have to go off-roading or off-script in order to navigate the obstacles & challenges that we face as things rarely go as planned. Off-roading is a great metaphor for our faith and the Jeep is an excellent vehicle to take on the trail. In this series, we'll compare the design and purpose of the Jeep to the design and purpose God has for us. The Jeep was built for WAR, for MUD, to LAST, and to ENJOY. The crazy thing is we were built for these things too! God designed us to engage in the spiritual battle, to serve others, to have a faith that endures, to enjoy Him, and to enjoy our faith journey. Hold on tight because its time for Jeeps and Jesus, oh yeah!

SERIES GOALS:

1. To know that we are made for War, for Mud, to Last, & to Enjoy
2. To feel empowered to fight the enemy, serve others, feed our souls, & enjoy God
3. To do action steps to strengthen our faith for War, for Mud, to Last, & to Enjoy

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OFF-ROADING

WEEK 1

SERIES GRAPHIC



BIG IDEA

We are BUILT FOR WAR.

BIBLE

Ephesians 6:11-18a

SERIES OVERVIEW:

This is a fun 4 week series that also goes deep. It uses off-roading as a metaphor for our faith and compares the design and purpose of the Jeep to the design and purpose God has for us. Jeeps and Jesus, oh yeah! This series tackles four main areas: the spiritual battle, serving others, feeding your soul, and enjoying God.

- **KEY QUESTION:** Why was the Jeep built?
- **ANSWER:** It was built for WAR, for MUD, to LAST, and to ENJOY.
- **TRANSTION:** As Christ followers, we are built for these things too.

SERIES GOALS:

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BUILT FOR WAR: Fighting the Spiritual Battle

OBJECT LESSON: Unveil a Jeep on stage

Visual Aid/Stage Design:

It could be a toy jeep, a remote control Jeep, a Little Tykes Jeep, or a real Jeep. The idea is to have some fun with it, play with it, get in it, and create a fun visual that sticks. Talk about why you think Jeeps are fun.

Pro Tip: Leave a Jeep on stage as a visual prop during the whole series.

The Physical Battlefield

VIDEO: Jeeps in the Mud Compilation (0:00-1:03)

Here is the video URL

INSTRUCTIONS: Share a personal story, illustration, or video clip about off-roading OR use the above video clip:

- **Pro Tip:** Mute the audio and play upbeat fun music in the background.

QUESTION: What would happen if we took the idea of "Off-Roadng" and added God to the mix? Let's find out!

INTRO:

Our theme during this series is "Off-Roading: When Mud and Faith Collide." To kick things off, we are going to use the Jeep as a framework to talk about faith. There is one main question that is going to guide our entire series: "Why was the Jeep built?" The Jeep was built for four main reasons: for WAR, for MUD, to LAST, and to ENJOY. This week we are going to focus on being BUILT FOR WAR.

BUILT FOR WAR: The Physical Battlefield

The original Jeep model was built for war. It was originally manufactured for the Armed Forces to aid in the fight of World War II. They were made to help fight the opposition in real physical battles. I like this first model of the Jeep because it was simple. It was rough, rugged, and reliable.

Jeeps were built to take a beating and keep going. When they broke down you could fix them easily. The parts were easy to get to, the bolts were simple, and the army could assemble them quickly. It was a very versatile vehicle.

Even the more modern Jeeps today have special trail armor that you can get to protect the under carriage, axels, bumpers, rocker panels, and headlights from damage.

Transition: In a similar way, we were built for war as well. Not a physical battle, but we live in an ongoing spiritual battle. There is a war going on for our souls, for our lives, and for our spiritual growth.

The Spiritual Battlefield

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 6:11-13a

As we talk about the spiritual battlefield, we need to put on our spiritual battle armor. Check out what God's Word says...

Read: Ephesians 6:11-13a

"Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground..." (NIV)

There is real spiritual opposition in our lives, and Satan is a real spiritual enemy to our faith. There

are forces of evil that do not want us to follow God, that do not want us to succeed, that do not want us to choose wisely, that want to trick us, trap us, tempt us, and keep us from the right path. However, the armor of God can protect us from the enemy and guard our hearts and minds.

QUOTE: "Overcomer"

To clarify what we are fighting for, I want to read a quote from Dr. David Jeremiah's book "Overcomer".

- *"From a spiritual perspective, we're not fighting for victory, but from victory, and that changes everything. We're called to be strong so we'll stand in the victory that's already been won." (Jeremiah, p.24)*

REFLECTION: Armor of God

Jesus already won the ultimate victory over the forces of darkness through His death and resurrection. Understanding this can help us fight our daily struggles of temptation by claiming our victory in Christ and asking Him for the strength to overcome temptation. The struggle is real. The battle is real.

The question is: How do we equip the Armor of God? Is it a one time deal or an ongoing process?

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 6:14-18a

Check out Paul's words in Ephesians about each piece of spiritual armor we are instructed to equip.

Read: Ephesians 6:14-18a

"Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests..." (NIV)

In simple terms, here is how we put on the armor:

- **Helmet of Salvation:** By putting our faith in Jesus to forgive our sins we have salvation. (v.17)

- **Belt of Truth:** We stand firm by claiming & living out the truths of scripture. (v.14)
- **Breastplate of Righteousness:** With salvation as our spiritual helmet, we are clothed in the righteousness of Christ as our body armor. We seek to obey Christ through living right and resisting sin. (v.14)
- **Shoes of Readiness:** We put on spiritual boots by living and sharing the gospel of peace. (v.15)
- **Shield of Faith:** We defend ourselves from the fiery arrows of the enemy with faith as our shield. (v.16)
- **Sword of the Spirit:** We fight off the enemy with the Word of God as our sword and with prayer. (v.17-18)

While putting on this spiritual armor may feel like a mental exercise and seem invisible, it is highly effective. Every day is a battle and we need to put on our armor, stand our ground, hold on to our faith on regular basis. While our salvation is in place when we put our faith in Christ, it is important to actively remember that and engage the other pieces of armor repeatedly and often.

QUOTE: "A More Elite Soldier"

Sometimes the spiritual battle may not seem real because we can't necessarily see the enemy. However, we can feel the effects of the battle and we know that it has real consequences in our lives.

- Check out this quote from Army Ranger Chuck Holton. In his book "A More Elite Soldier" he describes the battle and the type of soldiers we are called to be.

"Remember, the elite soldier is a competent, well-trained, well-equipped warrior. While he may not always be privy to the big picture, he understands his portion of the mission and performs it with perseverance and skill, trusting in the knowledge and ability of his commander.... Pursuing God's purpose is, by definition, the hard road- a path that few will be willing to follow. The real question is this: Are you willing to be an elite soldier? Are you ready to allow your Commander to make you more than you were, more than you are, and more than you ever could be without His help? God has a special mission for each of us, and for this reason we were given our few moments on earth. So don't be afraid. Join the battle! Time is short, and the mission cannot wait." (Holton, 2003 p.194-195)

Actually, you don't really have to join the battle. You are in the spiritual battle whether you want to be or not. What you have to decide is this: Are you going to be an elite soldier or not? Are you going to equip your armor, stand your ground, and fight the good fight of the faith?

VIDEO: "War Room" Trailer

Here is the video URL

INSTRUCTIONS: Use this clip to emphasize and demonstrate the spiritual battle we are living in and to highlight the power of prayer.

- **Set up:** In the movie, Miss Clara is a powerful prayer warrior. She has a special room where she goes to battle for the hearts & lives of the people around her. Listen to her prayers and her call for God to raise up more warriors.

REFLECTION: Wrap Up

We are BUILT FOR WAR. Jeeps were built for battle and so are we. Learning to put on the Armor of God and prepare for battle is a great way to put God's word into practice. As we compared and contrasted the physical battlefield vs. the spiritual battlefield, what are some ways that you could stand firm in your faith & fight temptation this week?

PRAYER:

Lord, please clothe us in the full Armor of God from head to toe. Prepare us for battle. Help us fight the good fight of our faith and hold on to you. Protect us from the enemy, and help us stand firm in Christ. Please give us victory over the struggles and temptations we face.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

For Starters:

1. What was the High Point & Low Point of your week?
2. Share a time when you went off-roading. What happened? (Jeep, truck, SUV, ATV, bike, etc)

Built for War: Fighting the Spiritual Battle

1. How would you describe the spiritual battle that the Bible says we are living in?
2. How would you explain the Armor of God and its purpose to a friend?
3. Why is it important to put on the Armor of God each day?
4. What spiritual battles are you currently facing in your life right now?
5. What temptations are you facing that are trying to pull you away from God?
6. How can you stand your ground and stand firm in your faith this week?

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OFF-ROADING

WEEK 2

BIG IDEA

We are BUILT FOR MUD.

Bible

Galatians 5:13-14; Philippians 2:3-5; John 13:4-5, 12-15;
Matthew 25:40

BUILT FOR MUD: Serving & Loving People

DRIVING IN THE MUD

STORY: The Mud Puddle

INSTRUCTIONS: Share a personal story or illustration about getting muddy

OR use the story below stating that "I want to share a story with you from a Youth Leader friend of mine."

Story:

One afternoon, I was hanging out with three guys from our youth group. We went to Taco Bell, played some basketball, and then it was time to drive them home. We were riding in my Jeep with the top down, and they started taunting me: "Hey man, do a burnout. Go on the gravel. Drive on the rocks. Kick up some dirt. Drive in the mud. Come on man! You never take us off-roading!" And they just kept prodding me and taunting me.

The pressure is on, and I start thinking in my head: "I have to be the safe Student Pastor. Their parents have entrusted me with their kids. I have to take them home in one piece." Then, I laugh to myself "That's a load of junk. I am going to get these guys!"

As we get closer to their home, these guys slowly quit bugging me about it. Suddenly, I see this dirt turn around where the semi-trucks can turn off and there is this HUGE mud puddle. I jerk the wheel hard! Pull in and hit the puddle, BOOM! The tire got swallowed up and muddy water goes flying up and over the top and gets all three of them wet. It was fantastic! They sat there in shock... and then all at once they cheered, OH YEAH! Mud was splattered all over my Jeep and all over us just like it was meant to be.

THE POINT: Jeeps were built for MUD.

Jeeps were built for mud. They were designed with a high ground clearance, four-wheel drive, and thick tire tread to get through the mud. Ultimately, driving in the mud, dirt, and sand helps fulfill its purpose. It was made for the mud. The Jeep was designed to go off-road and transport warriors across the battlefield. It was made to get military troops through the mud, dirt, and rough terrain.

Transition: In a similar way, we were built for mud. As followers of God, He spurs us on to get muddy too!

SERVING IN THE MUD

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 5:13-14; Philippians 2:3-5

One of the ways we can get muddy for Jesus is by serving others. It may be literally getting muddy digging a well on a mission trip or getting dirty cleaning up the local park. It may be figuratively getting dirty serving on a ministry team or helping those in need.

Read: Galatians 5:13-14

"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. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (NLT)

Getting muddy and dirty is all about serving each other and using our gifts and talents to help other people in the name of God. It is about building up one another, building up the church, building up the community, and reaching out to people with the message of Jesus.

However, it is not easy to serve on our own strength. Eventually our limits will be tested and our selfishness will start to show itself. In order to serve others well, we have to have the right heart and attitude. Consider these words from Paul about serving others...

Read: Philippians 2:3-5

"Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had." (NLT)

IMAGE: Team photo of serving & getting dirty

INSTRUCTIONS: Show a picture of your students serving in the community, serving in the church, or serving on a mission trip as an example. **Bonus: If you can, choose a picture where the people are muddy or dirty.*

Say something like:

- I wanted you to see a real life example of students putting the idea of serving & getting muddy for Jesus into practice.

QUESTION: Can you think of time when you got dirty helping someone in need?

SCRIPTURE: John 13:4-5, 12-15

As followers of Christ, we are **BUILT FOR MUD**. God designed us to be people who serve & love others. Jesus modeled it by washing the disciples feet & gave us an example to follow.

Read: John 13:4-5, 12-15

"So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.... After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you."

ACTIVITY: Foot Washing

INSTRUCTIONS: Invite a male & female leader to the front (that you have asked ahead of time). Then ask for a male & female student volunteer to come up. Have the guys pair up together and the girls pair up together. Have the leaders wash the students' feet and then have the students wash the leaders' feet.

Note: This can be a very powerful example of serving, but it can also be very humbling, awkward, & intimate. Prepare the leaders in advance, choose students that can handle it, and don't mix

genders.

Supplies:

- 2 Chairs (1 for each group)
- 2 Buckets of warm water (1 for each group)
- 2 Wash cloths or rags (1 for each group)
- 4 Dry towels (1 for each person)

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:40

Getting muddy and serving others can be contagious. Sometimes it starts with a small act of kindness. You stop and help push a stuck car out of an intersection. You mow your neighbor's lawn or babysit for free. You help the struggling kid with their homework. You share your lunch with someone at school. You serve at a shelter feeding the homeless. When you do those small things and get a little dirty, you are beginning to fulfill your purpose. A friend of mine shared this idea: "Getting dirty can feel unpleasant, but actually making someone's life better is worth the cost."

Check out what the Bible says about our acts of service:

Read: Matthew 25:40

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" - Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

Actually, it's a lot like the unspoken rule of off-roading. When you are on the trail and someone's vehicle is broken down... you stop and help. And that is what God wants us to do in life.

- Stop.
- Look around.
- Identify a need.
- Then help.

Transition: However, you can't get muddy all the time. Eventually, you have to bring your ride home and hose it down so it will last. We will talk more about that next time.

REFLECTION: Wrap Up

We are BUILT FOR MUD. Jeeps were built to get dirty and so are we. Using our gifts and talents to serve others is a great way to put God's word into practice. As we compared and contrasted driving in the mud vs. serving in the mud, what are some ways that you could serve and love others this week?

PRAYER:

Jesus thank you for giving us such a great example of servant leadership by washing the disciples feet. Would you please help us to humble ourselves and learn to serve those around us. Please give us creative ideas about how we can use the gifts & talents you gave us to help meet the needs of others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

For Starters:

1. What was the High Point & Low Point of your week?
2. Share a time when you got muddy. What happened?

Built for Mud: Serving and Loving People

1. What unique gifts or talents do you have that could benefit others?
2. Have you ever gotten muddy for Jesus by using your talents to help others? Explain.
3. What are some of your favorite ways to help others? What are some ways we could help you?
4. Have you ever done a service project or been on a mission trip? What was it like?
5. Have you ever served others on a ministry team or as a volunteer? What did you do?
6. If you could design your own service project, what would it be?
7. What is a specific way that you could serve and love others this week?

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OFF-ROADING

WEEK 3

BIG IDEA

We are BUILT TO LAST.

Bible

Psalm 62:5-6; Psalm 46:10; Exodus 20:8-10a, John 15:5;
James 1:5-6a; Zechariah 4:6

BUILT TO LAST: Feeding Your Soul

INTRO:

Jeeps were built to last. Did you know that the basic design of the Jeep Wrangler has not changed much? The style has endured. If you look at the WWII models and you look at a modern one today, the grill and the body-line pretty much look the same. They have made some changes and upgrades, but the basic design has remained consistent over time.

IMAGE: Classic Jeep Grill



INSTRUCTIONS: Check out this classic WWII era Jeep. I took this picture at an American Legion outpost. If you look at the grill, headlights, hood shape, and fenders and compare them to models today, the style hasn't changed much. Not only were they built to last, the style has also lasted a long time.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

ILLUSTRATION: Vehicle Maintenance Tips

If you want an off-road vehicle to last, you have to do maintenance on it. There are a couple things that you need to do on a regular basis.

1. First, you need to focus on the frame and the body. On a Jeep, the frame and the body are usually the first things to go because they are prone to rust.
2. Second, you need to take care of the engine and make sure you do oil changes and check the fluids.
3. Third, you need to take care of the brakes and make sure the brake pads and rotors get changed when needed.

SOUL MAINTENANCE: REST

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 62:5-6, Psalm 46:10, Exodus 20:8-10a

Transition: The frame, the engine, and the brakes are all part of basic vehicle maintenance. In a similar way, we need to do regular soul maintenance if our faith is going to last.

Soul maintenance is a little but tougher to do. It is not as scheduled as vehicle maintenance, and often we do not take the time to do it. Healthy soul maintenance involves three main things: to rest, to remain, and to rely.

First, we need to take time to **REST** and be still. Not to sleep and relax, but to quiet our heart, quiet our mind, and refresh our soul. Our souls need to recharge on a regular basis. One of the ways we can do that is by being still and reflecting on who God is and what He has done for us.

Read: Psalm 62:5-6, Psalm 46:10

"Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken." - Psalm 62:5-6 (NIV)

"Be still, and know that I am God! ..." Psalm 46:10a (NLT)

Often times, it can be hard to slow down and rest. We live in a busy world. We live in really busy times, and we have really busy lives. Unfortunately, our busyness often keeps us from God. We get so busy that our time with God gets cut out and our souls pay the price.

Did you know that God wants us to rest and he wants us to take a Sabbath (a day of rest) to worship and renew our souls?

Read: Exodus 20:8-10a

"Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God..." -Exodus 20:8-10a (NLT)

Take some time to stop, to pause, to look up, to be still, to remember the Lord, to calm down, to slow down, to re-center, and to pray.

QUOTE: Value of Sabbath Rest

- To illustrate the value of Sabbath rest, I want to read a quote from Louie Giglio's book "I am not, but I know I AM".

"God put Sabbath in every week for a reason. And the looking up we do on that first day of the week must bear fruit in all the moments of every other day for us to stay connected to the reality of I am not, but I know I AM.... For me, embracing smallness is not a one-time proposition, but a daily event. That's why in Eden there wasn't one big Sabbath to end all Sabbaths. God knew how strong the undertow of sinful pride would be. He knew how quickly we would read and believe our own press. That's why a seventh day of rest has anchored each week from the beginning of time, and why Sabbath is still calling us to the end of ourselves today." (Giglio, 2005, p.127-128)

SOUL MAINTENANCE: REMAIN

SCRIPTURE: John 15:5

Second, we need to **REMAIN** in Christ and His Word. We need to spend time with God reading the Bible. We need to let His Word move into our hearts and put it into practice.

Read: John 15:5

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." –John 15:5 (NLT)

As branches, we need to stay connected to the vine, which is Jesus. He is the one that feeds our souls and provides much needed nourishment to our spirits. We remain by talking to Him through prayer, by listening to His guidance, by reading and applying His Word, by worshipping Him, by going to youth group and learning more about Him, by going to church, and by developing our relationship with Jesus.

OBJECT LESSON: Tree Branch

INSTRUCTIONS: Ahead of time, cut off a small tree branch or plant with leaves on it.

Hold up the branch and ask the audience:

- Can this branch grow anymore?
- Can it produce more leaves or fruit?
- Why not?"

The obvious answer is "no" because it is disconnected from the tree/plant/vine. It can no longer get the nutrients that it needs and it will die.

The Point: As branches we need to **REMAIN** connected to the vine (Jesus).

SOUL MAINTENANCE: RELY

SCRIPTURE: James 1:5-6a, Zechariah 4:6

Third, we need to **RELY** on God and depend on Him for wisdom. He wants us to depend on Him in our decision-making and in the way that we live. For example, maybe you have a decision to make about a job, a project, an assignment, a family issue, or choosing a college and you ask God for wisdom. Maybe you are not sure if God would approve of the guy/girl you are going out with, the music you listen to, the movies you watch, or the video games you play. So, take some time and ask Him. Learn to rely on God.

Read: James 1:5-6a

"If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone..." –James 1:5-6a (NLT)

Also, we need to rely on the Spirit of God for help and strength, and not on our own power.

Read: Zechariah 4:6

"...This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty." –Zechariah 4:6b (NIV)

As you are going throughout your day, lift up small prayers. Ask God for help, help with friendships, help with family stuff, and help with school. God loves it when we rely on Him for wisdom and strength. Leaning on God in our daily lives refreshes our souls.

Transition: If we are going to last, we have to take care of our souls. And if a Jeep is going to last, you have to maintain it and upgrade it from time to time. However, the Jeep wasn't just built for war, for mud, and to last. It was also built to enjoy and to have fun. We'll talk about that next time.

REFLECTION: Wrap Up

We are BUILT TO LAST. Jeeps were built to last & need to be maintained and so do we. In order for our faith to last for the long haul, we need to do regular soul maintenance & put God's word into practice. Which of these 3 points stood out to you and how could you apply it to you life this week?

- REST in the Lord
- REMAIN in Christ
- RELY on God

PRAYER:

Jesus thank you for being in control of all things and for wanting our faith to endure. Would you please help us to take time to renew & refresh our souls through resting, remaining, and relying on you. It is easy for us to neglect our own soul maintenance at times, and we are sorry for that. Please help us feast on some good soul food this week.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

For Starters:

1. What was the High Point & Low Point of your week?
2. Share a time when you were super hunger or super tired. What happened?

Built to Last: Feeding Your Soul

1. What kinds of things help refresh your spirit?

2. How well do you feed your soul?

3. Why is it important to take time to renew your heart, mind, & soul? What happens if you don't?

4. What is some of your favorite soul food? Explain.

- WORSHIP: singing, writing, playing or listening to worship music, painting, drawing, giving
- PRAYER: praying silently/aloud, prayer walk, writing/journaling prayers, receiving prayer
- BIBLE: reading the Bible, listening to Biblical teaching, memorizing verses, in-depth study
- COMMUNITY: fellowship with friends, being in community, sharing life, helping others

5. What is... one way to REST, one way to REMAIN, & one way to RELY on God this week?

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OFF-ROADING

WEEK 4

BIG IDEA

We are BUILT TO ENJOY GOD.

Bible

Psalm 95:1-3; John 17:13; John 10:10; 1 Peter 1:8-9; Philip
pians 2:1-2; John 15:10-11

BUILT TO ENJOY: Enjoying the Journey

ENJOY THE RIDE

INTRO:

INSTRUCTIONS: If you followed the stage design idea, there should have been a Jeep up front during the whole series.

As we finish our series on Off-Roading, I want to draw your attention back to the Jeep that's been up front. It looks cool and it's fun, but it would be better if we could really drive it and take it off-roading for real. That would be super fun!

QUESTION: What if we went Off-roading right now?

OBJECT LESSON: Video Run Out

INSTRUCTIONS: (Needs Advanced Planning)

Make an off-roading VIDEO with some of your students and get parent approval. Borrow a Jeep or SUV and make a 3-5 minute clip. Edit the clip & add some fun music.

Note: Set up the clip using the question above. Then, ask "Who wants to go off-roading?" Select the students that already filmed the video with you from the crowd and run out of the room with them. (*Hint: Wearing the same clothes as the video.*) Then, play the video clip. After the clip, run back into the room together "cheering about how fun it was" and continue teaching.

- **Pro Tip:** It is a great way to get students engaged and make them feel like heroes.

POINT: Enjoy the Ride

Jeeps are fun and were built to be enjoyed! Sometimes, we just need to relax, grab some friends, take the top down, have some fun, and enjoy the ride. Riding in a Jeep can be a good reminder to not take life too seriously and that life can fun.

Transition: In a similar way, our faith was meant to be enjoyed as well.

ENJOY GOD

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 95:1-3

God made us to enjoy Him, to celebrate Him, to praise Him, to honor Him, and to give Him glory. Check out these words in the book of Psalms.

Read: Psalm 95:1-3

"Come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come to him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to him. For the LORD is a great God, a great King above all gods." -Psalm 95:1-3 (NLT)

We were designed to enjoy God and express our enjoyment to Him as we live our lives.

REFLECTION: Quote from "Desiring God"

What do you think about the following quote? What does it mean & do you agree or not?

- **Quote:** "The chief end of man is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever." - John Piper

What do you think it means to enjoy God? How do we do that?

ACTIVITY: Whiteboard

INSTRUCTIONS: Set up a big whiteboard and invite a student to come up front and write for everyone. Have the student divide the whiteboard in half & write down the audience's answers. Invite the whole group to come up with ideas that fit these two questions:

- **LEFT side of board:** What do you enjoy about God?
- **RIGHT side of board:** How has God helped you, answered prayer, or provided for you?

Moderate the audience's responses for about 3-4 minutes. Then, invite all the students to reflect on the answers on the whiteboard.

Ask: In light of these ideas, how does it make you feel about God?

ENJOY THE JOURNEY

QUESTION: On a trip, are you the kind of person who enjoys the journey or do you just want to get to your destination?

POINT: Enjoy the Journey

Sometimes our faith can become boring & stiff, or a stale bunch of rules to follow, but it wasn't meant to be that way. Following Jesus can be fun, and we can have some fun with our faith. It is not just about the destination, but learning to enjoy the journey. Laughing, singing, and playing can help us keep things in perspective and remind us that our faith journey can be enjoyable.

SCRIPTURE: John 17:13; John 10:10

Jesus came not just to save us from our sins and provide a way for us to go to heaven someday. He also wants to help us have a joyful & fulfilling life now here on earth. Check out Jesus' words in the book of John:

Read: John 17:13

"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them." (NIV)

Read: John 10:10

"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them rich and satisfying life." (NLT)

In a world full of challenges, suffering, and stress, Jesus' words are very encouraging. He wants to help us rise above our circumstances and find joy & enjoyment in our faith journey.

QUOTE: Laugh Again

Check out this quote from Chuck Swindoll's book "Laugh Again".

- "Life was meant to be enjoyed, not endured, and therefore every day I found something-anything- to laugh about."

This kind of perspective is refreshing! What would it take for you to laugh more & stress less?

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:8-9; John 15:10-11; Philippians 2:1-2

The Bible gives us some specific ways that we can find joy & enjoy our faith journey.

1. Joy in Relationship:

- In relationship with God- joy in knowing Him, joy in God's friendship, joy in His creation, joy in God's grace & forgiveness

Read: 1 Peter 1:8-9

"Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls." (NIV)

2. Joy in Obedience:

- Joy is a fruit of the Spirit, the result of a life lived for God (Galatians 5:22-23)

Read: John 15:10-11

"If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

3. Joy in Community:

- Joy in connecting with others, sharing life together, and leaning on one another

Read: Philippians 2:1-2

"Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship

together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose." (NLT)

REFLECTION: Wrap Up

We are BUILT TO ENJOY GOD. Jeeps were made to be enjoyed and so is our faith. In order to enjoy our faith more, we need to put God's word into practice. Which of these 3 points stood out to you and how could you apply it to you life this week?

- Enjoy the Ride
- Enjoy God
- Enjoy the Journey

SERIES SUMMARY:

Let's Review:

- BUILT FOR WAR: Fighting the spiritual battle. We put our armor on daily.
- BUILT FOR MUD: Serving and loving people. We took a step to get dirty and serve.
- BUILT TO LAST: Feeding your soul. We made a plan to rest, remain, and rely.
- BUILT TO ENJOY: Enjoy the journey. We design a fun way to express your faith.

In a way, being built for war, for mud, and to last helps us enjoy life more. As we put on God's armor we are protected from the enemy and empowered to live more freely. As we get muddy and serve, we experience the joy of helping others. As we invest in our own soul maintenance, our spirits are renewed and re-energized.

PRAYER:

God thank you for loving us and caring about us. We appreciate you and are grateful that you built us to enjoy you and to find enjoyment in you & in our faith. Please help us to continually find ways to celebrate what you have done and are doing in our lives. We need your help to enjoy the journey that you are taking us on and to find fun ways to express our faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

For Starters:

1. What was the High Point & Low Point of your week?
2. Share a time when you had a ton of fun or went on an exciting adventure. What happened?

Built to Enjoy: Enjoying the Journey

1. What is something you enjoy about your faith?
2. What is something you enjoy about God? What does He mean to you?
3. How has God helped you, answered prayer, or provided for you lately?
4. What can you do to thank Him and give Him praise for what He has done?
5. What are some "Yay, God!" moments in your life or in others that you can celebrate?
6. Why is it important to take time to enjoy God and enjoy your faith journey?
7. What is a way that you could enjoy God & enjoy life more this week?

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OFF-ROADING

Series Image



Series Description

A 4-WEEK SERIES ON **SPIRITUAL HABITS**

Life and faith are an adventure! Sometimes the ride is straight and clear, but often our journey is full of bumps, potholes, rocks, and roadblocks. We usually have to go off-roading or off-script in order to navigate the obstacles & challenges that we face as things rarely go as planned. Off-roading is a great metaphor for our faith and the Jeep is an excellent vehicle to take on the trail. In this series, we'll compare the design and purpose of the Jeep to the design and purpose God has for us. The Jeep was built for WAR, for MUD, to LAST, and to ENJOY. The crazy thing is we were built for these things too! God designed us to engage in the spiritual battle, to serve others, to have a faith that endures, to enjoy Him, and to enjoy our faith journey. Hold on tight because its time for Jeeps and Jesus, oh yeah!

SERIES GOALS:

1. To know that we are made for War, for Mud, to Last, & to Enjoy
2. To feel empowered to fight the enemy, serve others, feed our souls, & enjoy God
3. To do action steps to strengthen our faith for War, for Mud, to Last, & to Enjoy

WEEK 1: Discussion Questions

THE BIG IDEA: We are BUILT FOR WAR.

THE BIBLE: Ephesians 6:11-18a

CONVERSTATION:

For Starters:

1. What was the High Point & Low Point of your week?
2. Share a time when you went off-roading. What happened? (*Jeep, truck, SUV, ATV, bike, etc*)

Built for War: Fighting the Spiritual Battle

1. How would you describe the spiritual battle that the Bible says we are living in?
2. How would you explain the armor of God and its purpose to a friend?
3. Why is it important to put on the armor of God each day?
4. What spiritual battles are you currently facing in your life right now?
5. What temptations are you facing that are trying to pull you away from God?
6. How can you stand your ground and stand firm in your faith this week?

WEEK 2: Discussion Questions

THE BIG IDEA: We are BUILT FOR MUD.

THE BIBLE: Galatians 5:13-14; Philippians 2:3-5; John 13:4-5, 12-15; Matthew 25:40

CONVERSTATION:

For Starters:

1. What was the High Point & Low Point of your week?
2. Share a time when you got muddy. What happened?

Built for Mud: Serving and Loving People

1. What unique gifts or talents do you have that could benefit others?
2. Have you ever gotten muddy for Jesus by using your talents to help others? Explain.
3. What are some of your favorite ways to help others? What are some ways we could help you?
4. Have you ever done a service project or been on a mission trip? What was it like?
5. Have you ever served others on a ministry team or as a volunteer? What did you do?
6. If you could design your own service project, what would it be?
7. What is a specific way that you could serve and love others this week?

WEEK 3: Discussion Questions

THE BIG IDEA: We are BUILT TO LAST.

THE BIBLE: Psalm 62:5-6; Psalm 46:10; Exodus 20:8-10a, John 15:5; James 1:5-6a; Zechariah 4:6

CONVERSTATION:

For Starters:

1. What was the High Point & Low Point of your week?
2. Share a time when you were super hunger or super tired. What happened?

Built to Last: Feeding Your Soul

1. What kinds of things help refresh your spirit?
2. How well do you feed your soul?
3. Why is it important to take time to renew your heart, mind, & soul? What happens if you don't?
4. What is some of your favorite soul food? Explain.
 - WORSHIP: singing, writing, playing or listening to worship music, painting, drawing, giving
 - PRAYER: praying silently/aloud, prayer walk, writing/journaling prayers, receiving prayer
 - BIBLE: reading the Bible, listening to Biblical teaching, memorizing verses, in-depth study
 - COMMUNITY: fellowship with friends, being in community, sharing life, helping others
5. What is... one way to REST, one way to REMAIN, & one way to RELY on God this week?

WEEK 4: Discussion Questions

THE BIG IDEA: We are BUILT TO ENJOY GOD.

THE BIBLE: Psalm 95:1-3; John 17:13; John 10:10; 1 Peter 1:8-9; Philippians 2:1-2; John 15:10-11

CONVERSTATION:

For Starters:

1. What was the High Point & Low Point of your week?
2. Share a time when you had a ton of fun or went on an exciting adventure. What happened?

Built to Enjoy: Enjoying the Journey

1. What is something you enjoy about your faith?
2. What is something you enjoy about God? What does He mean to you?
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4. What can you do to thank Him and give Him praise for what He has done?

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7. What is a way that you could enjoy God & enjoy life more this week?

OFF-ROADING:

When Mud & Faith Collide

WEEK 1

- **BIG IDEA: We are BUILT FOR WAR**
- The Physical Battle:
- The Spiritual Battle:
 - *Armor of God: Ephesians 6:11-13a*



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

For Starters:

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OFF-ROADING:

When Mud & Faith Collide

WEEK 2

- **BIG IDEA: We are BUILT FOR MUD**
- Driving in the Mud:
- Serving in the Mud:
 - **Serve One Another:** Galatians 5:13-14
 - **Take Interest in Others:** Philippians 2:3-5
 - **Foot Washing:** John 13:4-5, 12-15
 - **The Least of These:** Matthew 25:40



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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Built for Mud: Serving and Loving People

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OFF-ROADING:

When Mud & Faith Collide

WEEK 3

- **BIG IDEA: We are BUILT TO LAST**
- Vehicle Maintenance:
- Soul Maintenance:
 - **REST:** Psalm 62:5-6, Psalm 46:10, Exodus 20:8-10a
 - **REMAIN:** John 15:5
 - **RELY:** James 1:5-6a, Zechariah 4:6



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OFF-ROADING:

When Mud & Faith Collide

WEEK 4

- **BIG IDEA: We are BUILT TO ENJOY GOD**
- Enjoy the Ride:
- Enjoy God: Psalm 95:1-3
- Enjoy the Journey:
 - **Full Life:** John 17:13
 - **Relationship:** 1 Peter 1:8-9
 - **Obedience:** John 15:10-11
 - **Community:** Philippians 2:1-2



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OFF-ROADING: When Mud and Faith Collide



1

BUILT FOR WAR



- The Physical Battle
- The Spiritual Battle

2

BUILT FOR WAR



“Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground...” - Ephesians 6:11-13a (NIV)

3

BUILT FOR MUD



- Driving in the MUD
- Serving in the MUD

4

BUILT FOR MUD



“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. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

-Galatians 5:13-14 (NLT)

5

BUILT FOR MUD



“Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.”

-Philippians 2:3-5 (NLT)

6

BUILT FOR MUD



"So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him."

-John 13:4-5

7

BUILT FOR MUD



"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"

-Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

8

BUILT TO LAST



- Vehicle Maintenance
- Soul Maintenance
 - Rest, Remain, Rely

9

BUILT TO LAST



"Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from Him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will not be shaken." -Psalm 62:5-6 (NIV)

"Be still and know that I am God!..." -Psalm 46:10a (NLT)

10

BUILT TO LAST



"Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God..."

-Exodus 20:8-10a (NIV)

11

BUILT TO LAST



"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." -John 15:5 (NLT)

12

BUILT TO LAST



"If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and He will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask Him, be sure that your faith is in God alone..."

-James 1:5-6a (NLT)

"... 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.

-Zechariah 4:6b (NIV)

13

BUILT TO ENJOY



- Enjoy the Ride
- Enjoy God
- Enjoy the Journey

14

BUILT TO ENJOY



"Come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come to him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to him. For the LORD is a great God, a great King above all gods."

- Psalm 95:1-3 (NLT)

15

BUILT TO ENJOY



"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them."

- John 17:13 (NIV)

"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."

- John 10:10 (NLT)

16

BUILT TO ENJOY



"Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls."

- 1 Peter 1:8-9 (NIV)

17

BUILT TO ENJOY



"If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

- John 15:10-11

18

BUILT TO ENJOY



"Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose." -*Philippians 2:1-2 (NLT)*

19

SUMMARY



- **WAR:** Fighting the Spiritual Battle
- **MUD:** Serving & Loving People
- **LAST:** Feeding Your Soul
- **ENJOY:** Enjoying the Journey

20

OFF-ROADING: When Mud and Faith Collide



21