CHARIS YOUTH

Series: Jesus Influencers

Lesson 3: Jesus Influencers Prioritize His Word

About This Lesson

Many social media influencers are celebrities who are not experts in an area. Just because an influencer is popular and has a big following doesn't mean they know facts about the topics they discuss. As Jesus influencers, we need to know about Jesus. The best source of knowledge is the Bible. By reading and allowing the Word of God to direct our lives, we can speak truth and influence people to want to read the Bible and know Jesus!

Key Takeaway: The Word of God is our primary source to read, meditate on, and follow. When we place God's Word first, we will know Jesus better and be a better Jesus influencer.

Key Verse: Matthew 4:4 *But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"*

Teaching Outline:

I. THE BIBLE IS VITAL TO YOUR LIFE

Matthew 4:4 *But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"*

A. "Word" is translated as *rhema*, an utterance, something spoken by the living voice (not a written word). A *rhema* word is a "now" word from God, not something that was only spoken in the past. God's Word is living, active, an authoritative proclamation, a declaration, full of the power of God!

II. CROWDS CAME TO JESUS TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Luke 5:1–4 *So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, [2] and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. [3] Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the*

land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. [4] *When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."*

A. In Luke 5:1, "word" is translated as *logos*, a doctrine, teaching, or sayings of God, which embodies a conception or idea. "Word" also denotes the essential Word of God, Jesus Christ, who was the Word made flesh (John 1:1–5).
   1. People seeking to hear the Word of God is always a sign of a true gospel revival. When this is lacking in any church, the program is mainly human. Do young people come to church for free food and fun rather than to learn the Word of God?

B. In Luke 5:4, the declaration, *"Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch,"* was a *rhema* Word from Jesus! It spoke a prophetic promise.

III. IF YOU DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND – BUT YOU KNOW A WORD IS FROM THE LORD – BELIEVE IT, ACT UPON IT, AND IT WILL WORK

Luke 5:5–6 *But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless, at Your word I will let down the net."* [6] *And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.*

A. In Luke 5:5, Simon didn't understand the word being spoken to him. According to his knowledge, what Jesus told him to do didn't make any sense.
   1. I don't know how my truck works, but my lack of understanding doesn't stop me from enjoying the turbo engine!

B. Three steps to follow when you don't understand:
   1. Desire understanding.
   2. Seek knowledge.
   3. Pray for wisdom and revelation.

C. Luke 5:5 says, "Nevertheless at your word" (*rhema*). Simon decided to trust Jesus' word.

D. Luke 5:6 says, "*…they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.*" This is a great picture of grace!!! Simon had worked, toiled, performed, and done everything in his own strength, but he caught no fish. When he believed and acted on a word from Jesus, they caught more fish than their boat could hold.

E. You can receive grace as you receive the promise! When you believe it and act upon it, you experience blessings, provision, and abundant fulfillment.
   1. We need to say, "I'm going to trust the promise from God. I'm going to act upon what God has spoken! I'm going to put faith in that WORD OF GRACE that's able to build me up and give me an inheritance."

IV. BE READY TO SHARE THE WORD

2 Timothy 4:2 *Preach the Word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.*

A. If you get away from the *logos* Word of God (the written/inspired/infallible Scripture) and from the person of Jesus Christ, then you will not hear and experience the *rhema* Word of God.

B. Every preacher, church, denomination, or believer who gets away from the *logos*, never hears and experiences the *rhema* – living, active, breathing, life-altering power of God.

C. Jesus influencers share the Word of God to make disciples.
   Luke 5:10 *…And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men."*
   Matthew 4:19 *Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

D. When you share the Word, you give people an opportunity to receive the Word that changes their lives. That's the goal for Jesus influencers!

Bottom Line:
Follow Jesus and believe the Bible! Then, you will be Jesus influencers who are fishers of men. If you're not a fisher of men, you will be fished by men. You will be the one taking the bait, biting the hook, and getting cooked!

Small Group Time:

1. Each day people follow certain news reporters, political analysts, politicians, pastors, health teachers, psychologists, and other experts in fields. Often the person

they follow has sponsors who recommend that you follow certain diets or daily health regimes, buy certain products or invest in certain things.

- What does it mean to follow Jesus in your daily life?
- How can prioritizing God's Word help you do that?
- Follow-up: Can you?

2. In Luke 5:5, Peter didn't fully understand Jesus' command, but he obeyed anyway.
    - Have you ever felt God leading you to do something that didn't make sense at the time? How did you respond?

3. Jesus told Peter that he would now "catch men" (Luke 5:10).
    - What do you think it means to be a "fisher of men" today?
    - How can you share Jesus with your friends and those around you?

Declaration:

I will read and follow the Bible. I will not be confused or believe lies. God's Word is my guidebook. I will follow the *logos* and experience the *rhema.*

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** What is the reason you follow Jesus?
- **Pray:** Have you made Jesus your Lord and Savior? If not, why not do that today? If you have, pray for someone you know who needs to make Jesus their Lord and Savior.
- **Read:** Choose a different book of the Bible each day and read one chapter in it. Notice the different styles and time periods of the books.
- **Live It:** Think about what area of your life needs improvement to show others that you follow Jesus and the Bible. Maybe your interactions with siblings need more compassion, or your interactions with teachers need humility. Focus on one area this week to follow Jesus daily.
- **Create:** Think about a time when a verse or something God spoke to you helped you make a decision or encouraged you. Create something to help you remember God's spoken word to you and encourage you to trust Him in the future. You might want to write something and post it, draw a picture, create a collage, write a song or poem about it, or decorate a box to keep a reminder of it inside the box.

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: What Bible story is your favorite, and why?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Look online for an object lesson or game that shows the importance of prioritizing things. End with highlighting that Jesus followers must prioritize reading and following what the Bible says so they will be better equipped to follow Jesus.

Opening Affirmation: "The Bible is my guidebook. I follow what the Word says. I am a Jesus influencer. Others are watching, and I want them to see Jesus in me!"

Giving Time: Mark 4:26–29 *And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, [27] and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. [28] For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. [29] But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."*

God wants to bless us so much that we can't explain our increase—except to point to God. When we give and are blessed, people will ask us how that happened, and we can give our testimony that it was God!

BEYOND – ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: Have the young people gather in small groups and brainstorm ways they can grow in trusting God's Word, even when they don't fully understand it. Challenge them to pick something from the list and do it this week. Next week, have them share how they grew in trusting God's Word.

Biblical Worldview: The bottom line is either you believe the Bible in its entirety, or you don't believe it. You cannot pick and choose the parts that you like and ignore what convicts you. Challenge the young people to write down anything they don't believe and why, and then anonymously put it in a designated box or envelope. Read through them and set aside time to talk with the pastor for more insight into how to address the topics. Most young people have heard things about the Bible but haven't researched to find out if they are true or not, or to understand the context. Help

guide the young people to search the Scriptures for themselves. Maybe you will want to address one topic each week and have the group look up verses and search to better understand and believe the Word!

Outreach/Missions: As followers of Jesus, we should all be helping influence others to want to follow Jesus. Talk about activities your church does as outreach to the community to help people know about your church and God's love for them. Talk about some practical ways the youth can step out in faith and influence others for Jesus at school, at home, in extracurricular activities, or on social media.