CHARIS YOUTH

Series: Divine Imagination

Lesson 3: Rehearse the Victory

About This Lesson

Many young people dream of being rich social media influencers and having an easy life. God created each person with a good plan and a future that He can help guide, if they partner with Him to fulfill the dreams He put in them. This lesson encourages the youth to rehearse victories with Jesus.

Key Takeaway: God imagined every star, solar system, planet, element, animal, and every detail of the crown of His creation—mankind. Since God planned you and has good plans for you, use your imagination to plan and prepare for your God-guided future.

Key Verse: Exodus 17:14 (KJV) *And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua.*

Teaching Outline:

I. GOD'S IMAGINATION FOR YOU IS INCREDIBLY GOOD

Hebrews 9:9 *It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience.*

A. God has a soul. He has a heart. He has dreams. He has thoughts. He has desires. He is full of compassion. He even has an imagination.
   1. We are made in God's image with a soul, a heart, dreams, thoughts, desires, and an imagination!

B. God imagined the universe before He spoke it into existence.

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

C. God imagined every star, solar system, planet, element, animal, and every detail of the crown of His creation—mankind. He imagined every bone, tissue, and organ of every person who would ever be conceived. He already created them in His imagination, and that includes YOU.
Jeremiah 1:5 *Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.*
   1. God only has good plans for you—victorious plans! He doesn't plan for you to be defeated. He plans for you to succeed, and He has made it possible through Jesus!
      Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*
      a. Since God has good plans for you, use your imagination to plan and prepare for your God-guided future.

II. REHEARSE THE VICTORY

Luke 5:12–13 *And it happened when He was in a certain city, that behold, a man who was full of leprosy saw Jesus; and he fell on his face and implored Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."*
[13] Then He put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately the leprosy left him.

A. Victory over the Amalekites Exodus 17:8–16 (KJV)
   1. Every time they were preparing for battle, Joshua rehearsed the victory!
   Exodus 17:14 (KJV) And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua.
   2. V. 15 Moses built an altar named Jehovah Nissi, meaning "the Lord is my banner or victory."
   3. Prepare for God to keep His promises!

III. PRACTICE, PLAN, AND PICTURE IT HAPPENING

A. When someone creates, they dream about it first, imagine it, plan for it, get excited about it, and then make it happen.
   1. For example, Mozart planned an entire symphony in his head before he wrote it down.

B. When you rehearse or practice, you need to picture the victory!

C. The Old Testament shows a picture of victory given prophetically to the Israelites.
Zechariah 9:16 *The LORD their God will save them in that day, as the flock of His people. For they shall be like the jewels of a crown, lifted like a banner over His land.*
1. The Israelites had a picture of God saving them, even though they went through oppression and hardships. To get through tough times, rehearse the victories of the past and imagine those in your future.

D. Imagine yourself praying for the sick and seeing them recover. Begin to rehearse the victory so you are prepared for it.
1. Divine dreams and visions will be about victory, not nightmares. God does not have nightmares about you, and neither should you.

IV. PRACTICE YOUR END ZONE DANCE!

2 Corinthians 2:14 *Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses (manifests) the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.*

A. We are victorious through Jesus. When God leads us, it will always be to victory!
Romans 8:31–39 *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? [32] He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? [33] Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. [34] Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. [35] Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? [36] As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."*
[37] Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. [38] For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, [39] nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. V. 31 If God is for us, who can be against us? Imagine anyone against you looks at you and sees God standing behind you like a big bodyguard, and they run away.

2. V. 33 God justifies! He makes things right. I don't have to.
3. V. 34 Jesus makes intercession, meaning to jump down in the pit with you!
4. V. 35 In the physical realm, nothing can beat us!
5. V. 37 We are more than conquerors! Try to imagine that. The closest we can think is super victorious!
6. V. 38-39 In the spiritual realm, nothing can beat us!

B. Too many people are simply going through life in reaction mode.
   1. Don't just react, play defense, or simply survive because none of these modes takes any creativity, forethought, or imagination. It's a dull way to live.
   2. We should be vibrant, full of life, and full of imagination.
   3. Be radical and counterculture:
      a. Rather than react, anticipate.
      b. Rather than playing defense, go on the offense and use creativity and imagination.
      c. Rather than just trying to survive, thrive! Creativity flourishes in places of thriving and prosperity.

C. The future glory of Zion was described so the people could imagine what God would do. At the moment, they couldn't see it with their physical eyes, but the prophet helped them use their spiritual eyes to see the victory God would bring to their land.
   Isaiah 35:1-2 *The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, even with joy and singing.*
   1. In your life, imagine those desert-like, difficult situations turning around and blossoming right now! Imagine streams flowing into those dry places you've experienced. Begin to rejoice, be joyful, and sing a song of victory! Do a victory dance!

Bottom Line:
To get through tough times, rehearse the victories of the past and imagine those in your future. Remember, God has good plans for you, so use your imagination to plan and prepare for your God-guided future.

Small Group Time:

1. Many athletes talk about using visualization techniques to prepare for a big game. Businesses use it to motivate sales and create new products.

- Have you used or heard someone talk about using visualization techniques to help them prepare for success? Did it work?
- What do you need to be visualizing this week to prepare for victory?

2. Our victory comes through Jesus. When we rely on our own strength, knowledge, and skills, we don't have the assurance of victory. The Bible is full of promises that will help you rehearse your victory with God.

- What areas of your life have you been relying on yourself and need to change so that you rely on Jesus?
- What promises do you have that will help you rehearse the victory? (From today's lesson: Jeremiah 1:5 and 29:11, 2 Corinthians 2:14, and Romans 8:31 and 37.)

Declaration:
"I will rehearse each victory because I am always victorious with Jesus in the physical and spiritual realms."

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** What situation this week do you need to start rehearsing the victory rather than fearing?
- **Pray:** Ask God to help you dream the dreams He has for you so you can start imagining them.
- **Read:** Habakkuk 2:2 says to write the vision so you can run with it. As you read this verse each day, ask the Holy Spirit to give you a vision to rehearse so you can do it.
- **Live It:** Write down a Bible promise on a 3 x 5 card. Each day, read it and imagine Jesus leading you to victory in an area of your life where you struggle. When you have a victory, write it on the back of the 3 x 5 card. Keep the cards as reminders to imagine the good things God wants to do with you and in you!
- **Create:** Make your "end zone" victory dance to do each time you recognize that God has brought a victory into your life!

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: What would you like to accomplish by the time you graduate?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Lead a discussion asking the youth to describe what their bedrooms would look Have the youth explain the steps they took to create something, such as a piece of artwork, song, project for school, or special meal. Ask them if they visualized the finished work before they began, and if it looked/was better or worse than they imagined.

Opening Affirmation: "I thank God for my divine imagination and will use it to bring Him glory."

Giving Time: 2 Corinthians 9:8 *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.*

If you want to be poor, be poor. Stop striving, working, being productive, caring about others, and stop giving. If you want to prosper, go to work, be productive, be a good steward, care for the needs of others, and be a giver! God promises you will have more than enough to give to every good work. Dream about giving and rehearse the victories God will bring into your life!

BEYOND – ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: This week's challenge is to set aside an afternoon to go for a walk, sit in your favorite chair, turn off the phone, and simply dream. Dream big! Dream wild! Don't worry about offending anyone with rehearsing your victory. Big dreamers can be offensive. Why? Because most people don't dream at all. Encourage everyone to journal or record their dream as a way to remember it and keep it in their thoughts as they move forward toward seeing it happen.

Biblical Worldview: As Christians, we read the Bible and recognize that God encourages godly dreaming and rehearsing victory through Jesus. When young people start rehearsing what the power of God can do through them, it is a powerful

witness to their peers. Encourage them to dream godly dreams, fulfill all the good things that God has for them, and share with their friends the source of their victories—Jesus.

Outreach/Missions: Many missionaries work in countries where people don't dream because they live in extreme poverty, where their thoughts focus only on essentials for survival, or in controlled environments where they lack choices, so no one dreams. Missionaries can share about Jesus, and Jesus brings hope to their lives so they can start to dream. Pray for missionaries to dream of the victories Jesus will bring as they minister to people.