



MIDDLE SCHOOL RESOURCE

The God Who Sends: Session 6

A Resurrected People

Key Statement: God's people are 1) made alive with Christ, 2) made alive to God, and 3) made alive for righteousness.

::CONNECT::

Option 1: Scavenger Hunt

- If your students have access to the internet, release them on a scavenger hunt. Their mission: to find a story where a group of people were in a crisis situation and someone (either from within that group or another person who joined them somehow) rescued *all* of them out of that situation. It could be from real life, history, comics, movies, books, sports, you name it.
 - It doesn't have to be life-threatening, though it could be. You could talk about stories like the movie *Alive*, but you could also talk about a weak basketball team that got a star player and ended up becoming a major force that season. Or even a musical group that seemed to be past its prime, but the addition a fresh new member revitalized the group.
- Have them share their stories.
- Relate these stories to how we are made alive with Christ. In our baptism (and if there are believers in your group who aren't yet baptized, now might be a great time to encourage them to get baptized), we are made alive with Jesus. He enters into our situation like the people in the stories did. And he makes certain that *everyone* makes it out alive; none of us can be snatched out of His hand.
- Furthermore, talk about the attitudes of the other people in the crisis/group. When the fresh new person came in, did they sit back and go, "He's here now; we can just do whatever." To the contrary, they were made alive to their new goal, to their new purpose, and so they gave it everything they had. Likewise, we were made alive to righteousness by Jesus' work, and so we ought to pursue it with everything we have, too.

Option 2: Dear Miss Manners

- Your students may have heard of the old advice column in newspapers years ago, "Dear Miss Manners." People would write in with their difficulties and ask Miss Manners for advice, to which she would respond in the paper.

- Your students are to imagine they are filling the role of Miss Manners. They're welcome to change the name of their column; it could be, Dear Dr. So-and-So, or whatever. I'd suggest you have the students work on this solo or in pairs.
- The students are all getting letters from various characters from films or books who have encountered a new stage in their lives. These characters are asking the question, "What now?" Your students are to write a short column back to them explaining what to do with this new life of theirs.
- Assign the following people for your students to respond to (feel free to add others if you can think of them):
 - Ebenezer Scrooge after he turns good
 - The genie from Disney's *Aladdin* after he's free
 - Darth Vader/Anakin Skywalker after he turns good (pretend he survives *Return of the Jedi*).
 - Gru from *Despicable Me*
 - The Grinch
 - Harry Osborn (Green Goblin) in *Spider-Man 3* (again, pretend he survived)
 - Catwoman in *The Dark Knight Rises*
 - Eustace from *The Dawn Treader*
 - Anybody else you can think of?
- Give the students time to compose their responses, then let them read them.
- Afterward, debrief on what the students suggested for the new direction of these characters' lives. Connect their responses to the new life we have in Christ. We are made alive to righteousness, just like these characters were made alive to new things. It'd be really cool if any of your students suggested living to God to these characters. If they didn't, you could ask them for verbal suggestions to say to these same characters.

Option 3: Road Signs

- Imagine the Christian life is analogous to driving. Tell your students they've been hired by the HDOT (Heavenly Department of Transportation) to commission road signs for traveling Christians based on the concepts of this lesson (being made alive to Christ, God, and righteousness). Break them into groups, and ask each group to create one road sign for each point of the lesson (three total).
- Suggestions for guidance:
 - You could turn a merge road sign into a reminder of how they have merged with Jesus in this new life.
 - Another sign might be an arrow pointing up reminding the students that their focus is now to be on God.
 - A stop sign could remind them to stop sinning, or to stop to spend some time focusing on God.
 - Green signs that give mileage to a destination could say "Righteousness, next two hundred miles" or something similar.
 - Loose rock signs or deer signs could serve as warnings not to focus on distractions.
- Have your students draw their signs and then share them. Debrief by praising and making connections with as many of them as you can. If they're really

good, you could even post them in the classroom or the church hallway to be reminders for future weeks.

::CONVEY::

If you are pressed for time this week, consider only covering points two and three of the session.

Remember, this is merely a suggested outline adaptation for a middle school group. If you decide to incorporate one or more option into your group time, you will likely have to be very selective on the material you decide to teach through. Keep in mind that each class is different, and as the leader guide suggests, personalize the lesson content for your class by determining what elements are most applicable. Don't feel pressured to teach through all of the content in a single meeting, but instead help middle school students to see the main overall point and big picture the lesson is conveying.

::COLLIDE::

See Leader Guide