

Master Teacher Online Activities
First Quarter 2021

Lesson 1 - January 3, 2021

An Amazing Messenger

Scripture: Luke 4:14–22

- 1) Public reading of Scripture is powerful because Scripture was written for oral performance. Jesus does just that as He fulfills the Scriptures through His performance. Whereas we are not the fulfillment of Scripture like Jesus, we can read aloud. Get your Bible, find a full-length mirror and read this passage aloud while standing in the mirror (feel free to read other favorite passages).

- 2) Jesus' claim was difficult for the people who had known Him while He was growing up. Sometimes we have a hard time listening to the claims of those we have known as children. List out the times you have laughed at a claim made by someone you knew from childhood.

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Lesson 2 - January 10, 2021

The Ultimate Fish Story

Scripture: Luke 5:1–11

- 1) Fish was a prominent symbol in early Christianity. Jesus was not even a fisherman, but He finds a few of His disciples fishing by the sea in this passage. In other instances, fish show up and are a part of the story. Find other instances in the New Testament where fish are mentioned and list them together.

- 2) When Peter realized that he was in the presence of God he cried out. Consider the last time you were in the presence of God; did it convict you? Intentionally enter God's presence and search your spirit and mind. Reflect on God's goodness. Journal about the wonder of God's salvation and ability to transform.

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Lesson 3 - January 17, 2021

Healing for the Whole Person

Scripture: Mark 2:1–12

- 1) Wholeness is defined any number of ways by different people. Look up definitions for personal wholeness by using the internet. After doing so, write your own definition of wholeness. Have you been able to accomplish this through God or is wholeness a working goal?

- 2) Good friends are hard to find. The paralyzed man had at least four true friends. List out those people in your life who would carry you to Jesus and dig through a roof to get your healing. Send everyone on your list a card of friendship thanking God for each one's love and care.

- 3) The paralyzed man's sins were forgiven immediately by Jesus. One has to imagine that his load was immediately made light. Journal about when you met Jesus for the first time, and He forgave you. What did you feel? What weight did He take from you?

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Lesson 4 - January 24, 2021

Standing in the Gap

Scripture: John 17:14–24

- 1) Jesus stood in the gap as an intercessor for His disciples. We are called to do the same. This week spend time in intercession for other members of your family, neighborhood, and church.

- 2) Jesus prays that we would be sanctified. We should also pray for our own sanctification. This week pray for your own sanctification, and as you do so walk through your home with anointing oil. Ask God to make your home a place of peace and a place where His Spirit resides.

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Lesson 5 - January 31, 2021

Women Speak Out

Scripture: Luke 2:36–38; Acts 2:16–21, 21:8–9

- 1) Re-read Peter's sermon in Acts 2. In what ways does the coming of the Spirit on men and women call for a reorganization of the church and society?

- 2) Phillip had four Spirit-filled daughters. It is interesting to note that they were not pushed to marry. The anointing on their lives was what was noteworthy not whether or not they married and had children. Spend some time in thought, prayer, and imagination. How effective could the Church be if we pushed our daughters to be Spirit-filled as opposed to getting married and having children?

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Lesson 6 - February 7, 2021

No Insignificant Witnesses

Scripture: John 4:25–42

- 1) Jesus could have very easily derailed the going forth of the Gospel by not speaking to the Samaritan woman based on cultural custom. This week you are challenged, while in your mundane affairs, to speak to someone you would normally not talk with. If able to deeply engage, do so.

- 2) The Samaritan woman had several husbands in her life. It is likely that she has participated in levirate marriage which was provided for in the Old Testament law (Deuteronomy 25:5–10). It was a way to continue a bloodline and ensure that ancestral property remained in the family it was assigned. There is an example of its function in Genesis 38 between Judah and his daughter-in-law, Tamar. The Samaritan woman may have been through quite a bit. It is possible that her life added to her testimony about Jesus. When sharing the truth about Jesus what aspects of your life would add to your testimony? Journal about your spiritual journey and what parts of your life would be most impactful to your witness.

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Lesson 7 - February 14, 2021

Showing Loyalty

Scripture: Luke 8:1–3; Mark 15:40; John 20:10–18

- 1) Today is Valentine's Day. Saint Valentine of Rome was martyred in the 3rd century. It was his love and loyalty to God that resulted in his death. Today in celebration of his life how might you show loyalty and love to your God?

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Lesson 8 - February 21, 2021

Risk Taker

Scripture: Acts 18:1–3, 18–21, 24–26; Romans 16:3–4

- 1) Find a couple who is powerful in the Lord like Priscilla and Aquila. After identifying them ask them if might you sit and talk with them about how they work together in the Lord. Prepare questions for them and write down what they say.

- 2) Think about the biggest risk you have ever taken. Why did you take it? Was faith necessary to complete the risk? Was your faith in God deepened as you took the risk? Write your answers down in your faith journal.

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Lesson 9 - February 28, 2021

Showing Generous Hospitality

Scripture: Acts 18:11–15, 40; 1 Corinthians 1:26–30

- 1) Do a hospitality inventory of your congregation. Make a list of things that you imagine might make a first-time visitor feel welcome, as well as a list of things that might not feel welcoming. Enlist the help of a friend who is not familiar with your church. Have him or her attend without you. Later, write about your friend's experience of hospitality.

- 2) Research how purple dye was made in the 1st century. Did the process have anything to do with why it was expensive and therefore gave Lydia the ability to be generous?

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Lesson 10 - March 7, 2021

Facing the Impossible

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:15–22

- 1) Look at some ways people are still oppressed today (i.e., gender or economic or social oppression). What are some of the ways that you can face the impossible and help those who are oppressed and need an advocate?

- 2) Have you witnessed a prophet in your lifetime? What qualifications should a modern-day prophet exhibit? How might we check for veracity in their ministry?

- 3) Harriet Tubman is called Black Moses as a moniker of respect. Research her life. In what ways did she fulfill the prophetic side of Moses ministry?

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Lesson 11 - March 14, 2021

Making Wise Choices

Scripture: Joshua 5:13–6:5, 15–16, 30

- 1) Research the origins of the lyrics to “Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho”. How was the song used to communicate information about escape from slavery?

- 2) On October 30, 1974, George Foreman and Muhammad Ali squared off in the ring in a classic bout tagged, “The Rumble in the Jungle”. Ali won the fight by knockout in the eighth round. He employed a now famous tactic to defeat Foreman. Find out the name of the tactic and how he used it to win? How was it similar to the direction God gave to Joshua?

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Lesson 12 - March 21, 2021

Seeking Wisdom for the Future

Scripture: 2 Kings 22:14–20

- 1) Make a chart that compares how women participate in religion and government today and their role during Old Testament days. How does the election of Kamala Harris as vice-president have implications for the supposed roles of women in these public spheres?

- 2) Billy Graham, T.D. Jakes, Joseph Lowery, Rick Warren, Jesse Jackson, and Paula White: Each one of these figures have at one point or another served as an advisor to a sitting president. Compare and contrast Huldah's role to religious figures who advise the U.S. president. Are there any important differences? What are the similarities?

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Lesson 13 - March 28, 2021

The Bearer of Bad News

Scripture: 1 Kings 18:5–18

- 1) Sit and talk with a physician for a while. Doctors are familiar with needing to deliver bad news to unreceptive people. Find out what his/her strategy is for delivering bad news. What can you learn from the doctor if you have need to deliver bad news?

- 2) What good trouble can you cause? The Gospel is supposed to disturb everything and everyone who stands antithetical to God and the flourishing of His children. The sharing of the Gospel might mean involvement in fights that are not exclusively religious in nature. This week, take some time to think about what fight God needs you in. Perhaps God wants you to advocate for educational policy, equity in the workplace, or prison reform. Connect with a local group that is already doing the work and walk confidently like Elijah, knowing you are doing God's work.