



GROW STUDENTS VOLUME 4 GROW STUDENTS VOLUME 4 GROW STUDENTS VOLUME 4



— A 1-YEAR STRATEGY FOR YOUR — **TEACHING**

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OVERVIEW

It's so important to have a strategy for what you will teach your students. Without a strategy, we run the risk of **missing important ideas, teaching only the topics that personally interest us most, and ultimately failing to give our students a full and holistic view of God.** The teaching strategy behind Grow Students has been created, influenced, and written by hundreds (literally) of real youth pastors, in real youth ministries, from a diversity of church contexts, cultures, sizes, and denominations. Our goal is to **help you help your students grow spiritually, by teaching and discussing Scripture in developmentally appropriate ways.**

OUR AUDIENCE

Grow Students is **designed with grades 6-12 in mind**, since we know most youth workers are responsible for both middle school and high school students.

If you're leading a ministry of just middle schoolers or just high schoolers, don't worry! We've got you covered. **Each series comes with a set of "middle school hacks" and another set of "high school hacks"** to help you customize each series to whichever age group you're leading. Plus, we also include a set of **"hacks for students with special needs"** with each series, which will help you adapt your teaching content for students with physical, developmental, or learning challenges.

OUR FORMAT

Every week of our curriculum comes in two formats:

- **SERMON & SMALL GROUP:** We provide a Sermon Guide, designed to be followed by a Small Group Guide. We usually recommend this format if you have more than 15 students and break into groups for discussion after the message.
- **HYBRID:** Since not every church splits into groups, the Hybrid Guide combines teaching and discussion in one format. We recommend this format if you have fewer than 15 students in your ministry, or if you have adult leaders lead and teach in small groups or host homes.

SCOPE & SEQUENCE

When we were determining what Grow Students would teach, and when we'd teach it, **we surveyed hundreds of youth pastors about the topics they teach about on an annual basis.** When we combined the results of that survey with our team's experience, we came up with a list of key topics that we use as the basis of our teaching strategy.

Although our scope and sequence is structured by topic, not every series is a topical series. **Many of our series are book or character studies** that fall under the scope of the topics in our scope and sequence. Some of these topics are recycled every year, while others may appear every other year.

EVERY YEAR

- **FRIENDSHIP:** A series on developing healthy friendships or community. Usually scheduled in August.
- **IDENTITY:** A series on discovering who God created us to be. Usually scheduled in the fall or winter to support the winter discipleship focus on knowing and using your gifts.
- **WISDOM:** A series on making wise choices in general or in a specific area (dating, social media, peer pressure, etc.). The timing of this series each year depends on the subject.
- **LOVING OTHERS:** A series on loving or serving others. Usually scheduled in November.
- **CHRISTMAS:** A series on the Christmas season or story. Scheduled every December.
- **SPIRITUAL HABITS:** Each year, we schedule at least one series on our four spiritual habits: spending time with God, spending time with others, using your gifts, and sharing your story. These series are usually scheduled in the spring to align with the spring discipleship focus of spending time with God.
- **EASTER:** A series on the Easter story. Scheduled for the two weeks leading up to Easter, but this series can also be taught as a single message or skipped, depending on your calendar.

- **JESUS:** A 4-week series on the life and message of Jesus. Usually scheduled near Easter.
- **DOUBT:** A series on approaching tough faith questions. Usually scheduled for the spring or summer, after you've had time to build plenty of trust with your students.
- **JUSTICE:** A 4-week series on biblical justice. Usually scheduled near our series on Jesus or our series on evangelism.
- **EVANGELISM:** A series to help students hear and share the good news of Jesus. Usually scheduled in the summer to align with the discipleship focus of sharing your story.

EVERY OTHER YEAR

- **AUTHORITY:** A series on responding to authority figures and examining who (or what) we allow to have authority in our lives. Usually scheduled in the beginning of the school year.
- **FAMILY:** A series on building healthy relationships and navigating conflict with our families. Usually scheduled for the spring in preparation for Mother's Day and Father's Day.
- **HURT & PAIN:** A series on trusting God during times of crisis. The timing of this series will change on the calendar, depending on its subject.

THIS YEAR IN GROW STUDENTS

This year, here are the series we'll be covering in Grow Students . . .



4 WEEKS ON FRIENDSHIP



4 WEEKS ON SPIRITUAL HABITS



4 WEEKS ON IDENTITY



4 WEEKS ON LOVING OTHERS



4 WEEKS ON CHRISTMAS



4 WEEKS ON WISDOM



4 WEEKS ON AUTHORITY



4 WEEKS ON JESUS



2 WEEKS ON EASTER



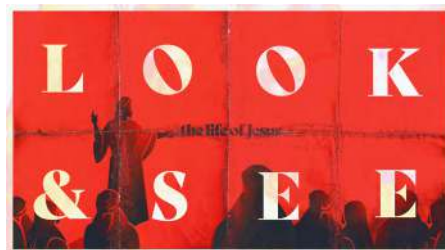
4 WEEKS ON DOUBT & QUESTIONS



4 WEEKS ON WORSHIP



4 WEEKS ON JUSTICE



4 WEEKS ON EVANGELISM

WHAT'S INCLUDED

While every series in our Teaching Strategy is unique, **we always provide you with the same core tools and resources to make each one happen.** With each series, we'll include . . .

TEACHING

- **Access to the Grow Message Builder Library** where all of your messages can be created, edited, viewed, and printed online
- **Sermon guides** for each week in PDF, DOC, and Message Builder formats
- **Small group guides** for each week in PDF and DOC formats, as well as in the Grow App
- **Small group guides for middle schoolers** for each week in PDF and DOC formats, as well as in the Grow App
- **Hybrid guides** for each week in PDF, DOC, and Message Builder formats
- **Activities, object lessons, music, reflection, response, and more** in every week of teaching
- **Hacks for middle schoolers** to help you customize each series for a middle school specific context
- **Hacks for high schoolers** to help you customize each series for a high school specific context
- **Hacks for teenagers with special needs** to help you customize each series to include students with different levels of physical, developmental, or learning abilities

COMMUNICATION

- **Weekly volunteer emails** in plain text, MailChimp, and HTML formats
- **Monthly parent emails** in plain text, MailChimp, and HTML formats
- **Weekly one-minute sermons**, summarizing each week of teaching into a script you can use for social media recap videos
- **A social media plan** for students, parents, and volunteers

GRAPHICS & VIDEO

- **60-second bumper videos** for every series
- **Countdown videos** for every series
- **Weekly one-minute sermon videos** for every week of curriculum
- **Editable series graphics** in PSD format
- **Series title slide images** in horizontal, vertical, and square formats, so you can use them easily on all print, online, and social media platforms
- **Series background slide images** in horizontal, vertical, and square formats, so you can create your own slides and use them easily on all print, online, and social media platforms
- **Big Idea images** for every week of teaching, in horizontal, vertical, and square formats, so you can use them easily on all print, online, and social media platforms

EVEN MORE STUFF

- **Room or stage design ideas** to complement each series' theme
- **Worship song suggestions** to complement each series
- **Bonus song suggestions** to complement each series, in addition to the worship songs
- **Game suggestions** for each week of teaching
- **A font list** of every font used during the year
- **A shopping list** of every item we suggest you purchase for your messages during the year