

Word Aflame Teen

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Teen Teacher's Manual

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Unit Aim: In our culture, the essence of Christmas is often lost in a flurry of materialism and frivolity. For many, Christmas is a time to burn through cash, attend parties, and make detailed wish lists. This series is designed to help teens unwrap God's purpose for the Christmas season.

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Editorial


by Evan Zenobia




Hello and Merry Christmas to all of our valued constituents of Word Aflame. It is with great excitement that we begin this second quarter of the all new Word Aflame curriculum with a fresh look and renewed purpose in providing the very best in Apostolic curriculum.

With this new quarter comes new units, theme ideas, and challenges for our students to work through and learn from. And in much the same way I imagine you, our teachers, may have new questions too. First, there are three icons appearing frequently throughout the curriculum:

The Gear Icon : This icon denotes a suggested time for discussion or student/teacher input.

The Pencil Icon : This icon denotes a specific answer to a question within the student handbook or other student writing prompt.

The Power Point Icon : This icon denotes the use of the designated item within the power point slides provided with the lesson such as fill-in-the-blank answers or Bible verses.

Word Aflame teen is meant to be activity driven to ensure your students are active and involved. Because of this we have dispersed various activities throughout the lessons to create the most engaging learning experience possible.

In addition we believe it is incredibly important that the new format is conducive and fluid to the way you want to teach. We have provided various options for you to choose from start to finish to including games, discussions, and applicable stories to ensure you can create the kind of atmosphere and experience you know your students will enjoy and learn the most from in the process.

It is because of your feedback that we continue to strive for quality and positive changes. I would like to personally thank all of you who put time in to reflect on the changes and spoke with us regarding the future of Word Aflame. We welcome your feedback and hope that you will once again share with us your thoughts on this great new quarter.

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CUSTOMIZE THE CURRICULUM

The Teen Teacher's Manual is available as PDF and DOC documents that can be customized to fit your teaching style, classroom setting, and schedule. Cut and paste, edit material out of or into the lesson, and make it your own using the following instructions.

Downloadable resources for both the teacher's manual and the teacher's resource packet (TRP) are available through access codes.

Downloadable Resources

1. Visit www.pentecostalpublishing.com to access the download site.
2. If you are an existing customer, click *sign in* to log in to your account. If you are a new user, click *create an account* to open an account for the site.
3. Hover over the *view cart* menu link and click the *view cart* button.
4. Enter in the Coupon Code box on the screen and click *update cart*. (The file should display on the screen and reflect that the download comes at no charge.)
5. Click *continue* and then *submit order*. You will see a button with the name of the zip file. Click on this button to download the resource.
6. This coupon code will be valid for one year from the date of the first lesson.

Teacher's Resource Packet

Downloadable Resources

To access the reproducible items from the resource packet (TRP), see the resource packet instruction sheet. If you have not purchased a packet, you can do so by going to www.pentecostalpublishing.com or calling 866-819-7667.

Theme Development

Unit 1: Unwrapping Christmas

- This is your usual Christmas-themed series and the decorations should be easy enough to come by to convey that.
- Consider the use of presents similar to the ones depicted by the posters as individual prop items.
- Make sure that all Christmas decorations are approved beforehand as some churches and pastors may be very specific on what is and is not allowed within the classroom.
- The use of Christmas lights can drastically improve the atmosphere of a classroom as a form of alternative lighting.

Unit 2: Money Matters

- This series is meant to convey an understanding of stewardship in its many forms as well as the specifics of finances and budgeting.
- Consider creating some faux stock boards with pie charts or stock numbers. These may also be displayed on screens if you have them to simulate something like a stock exchange room or what you might relate to Wall Street.
- Consider using generic burlap bags with money signs on them as well as other assorted items pertaining to money or banks such as fake cash, gold, and registers.

Unit 3: Friendship Island

- This series is all about friendships and the various relationships we encounter and build throughout our lives while presenting a tropical backdrop and theme throughout.
- Consider a Luau type set up or perhaps a resort feel each week.
- Consider the use of bright colors, flowers, sand, and tropical backdrops along with any other island-themed items you can procure.
- Consider using alternative seating to present a more relaxed feel like bean bags or beach chairs to add to the overall effect.
- Finally, encourage students to dress brightly or provide some cheap Hawaiian shirts for students to use while in the class.

Embark: This opening section is meant to elicit discussion and promote activity to encourage the learning process of students while creating a fun and engaging atmosphere.

Explore: This section is the basis for the lesson with various biblical references, key points, as well as personal examples to effectively convey the big idea in a logical and practical manner.


Expand: This section is intended to provide a consolidated yet effective means of closure perpetuated by closing discussions, activities, or prayers.

LESSON 1


REGIFTED

DECEMBER 4, 2016

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Matthew 1:21–23; Luke 2:25–32;
Hebrews 8:6–13 

BIBLE POINT

The greatest Christmas gift you will ever receive is God's offer of salvation through the New Covenant He has established with humanity. 

SUPPLIES

An eight-track tape, a vinyl record, a cassette tape, a CD (or images of these); a worthless gift wrapped in a nice package, a nicer gift wrapped in an ugly package

Legend:



PowerPoint Slide



Student Handbook



Activity

Unit Aim: In our culture, the essence of Christmas is often lost in a flurry of materialism and frivolity. For many, Christmas is a time to burn through cash, attend parties, and make detailed wish lists. This series is designed to help teens unwrap God's purpose for the Christmas season.

EMBARK

A. Option 1 — Better with Time

1. Display each of the following devices or images of them: an eight-track tape, a vinyl record, a cassette tape, and a CD.
2. Do you recognize any of these devices? What is each one called?
3. How many of you use CDs? How many of you have gone completely digital?
4. Over time, methods of media and audio storage have improved.
5. Display CD. At their introduction, compact discs could hold more information than the common computer hard drive.
6. Today, the storage capacity of a computer hard drive far exceeds that of a CD.
7. Major forms of media distribution last approximately twenty to thirty years before something new and improved comes along.
8. Have you ever stopped to consider that the first Christmas was God's way of improving an almost fifteen-hundred-year-old system?
9. Before Jesus' birth, God interacted with man through priests who offered animal sacrifices so that God would temporarily roll forward the people's sins.
10. When Jesus died on the cross, He became the ultimate sin sacrifice. Now God is free to interact with us on a personal level.
11. Be thankful you do not have to drag a lamb to church for the pastor to barbecue so that you can be free from the guilt of sin!
12. God's Christmas gift to you is His offer of salvation through the new, improved system He has established with humanity: a one-on-one personal relationship with Jesus.
13. How does the timeless message of Christmas compare to society's ever-changing chaos? Does it bring you assurance and why?





B. Option 2 — Something Better

1. Do you know the original purpose of Play-Doh?


2. Play-Doh was introduced in the 1930s (under a different name) as a wallpaper cleaner.
3. Twenty years after Play-Doh was invented, Joseph McVicker, the son (or nephew, by some accounts) of Play-Doh's inventor, repurposed the goop as modeling clay. Joseph was a millionaire by age thirty.
4. Play-Doh worked well removing soot from walls, but the creators were able to make it into something better.
5. Similarly, God had an Old Testament plan for how He would relate to humanity. For a time, it worked.
6. With the birth of Jesus, however, God unveiled a new, better plan for His relationship with us.
7. The true purpose of Christmas is to celebrate God's improved New Testament plan for a personal relationship with us.

EXPLORE

A. A Gift You Won't Want to Return



1. Have you ever regifted a Christmas present? If so, tell about it. 
2. According to a 2012 survey:
 - a. More than 60 percent of its participants planned to regift a present they had received that holiday season.
 - b. Eighty-seven percent believed they had been recipients of regifted items.
3. Often, the gifts we give each other are not appreciated—or are soon forgotten.
4. God's Christmas gift to you is something more valuable than the most expensive Coach purse or the latest cutting-edge smartphone.
5. God, the Creator of every atom in the universe, became human and came to walk among us.
 - a. He did this knowing those He came to save would eventually kill Him.
 - b. He did this knowing many would not take advantage of the gift of salvation offered them.
 - c. He did this so you and I could know Him, walk with Him, and spend eternity with Him.
6. *Read Luke 2:25–32.* 
7. Notice how Simeon described the baby Jesus in verses 30 through 32:
 - a. salvation prepared in the sight of all people
 - b. a light for the Gentiles
 - c. the glory of the Jews
8. **This is the truest meaning of Christmas: salvation for all—the most precious gift ever given.**  

B. Christmas Past, Present, and Future




1. Christmas was in the mind of God from the beginning of time.
2. Revelation 13:8 refers to “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” 

3. We know that Jesus is the Lamb in this passage.
4. Before the very first “let there be” of Creation, God determined in His foreknowledge that Jesus would go to the cross.
5. The soul-cleansing effects of Christ’s death and the redemptive power of His blood span the sins of saints from the Old Testament through the New Testament.
6. Jesus came to earth as a baby, grew into a man, and then died on the cross bearing the weight of the world’s sin.
7. As He rose from the dead, He absolved once and for all the sins of saints past, present, and future.


C. Covenant Defined

1. Another way to say “Old and New Testament” is “Old and New Covenant.”
2. What is a covenant? (a binding agreement, a promise, a contract) 
3. Examples of biblical covenants:
 - a. God’s covenant with Noah: He would never again destroy the earth with water.
 - b. God’s covenant with Abram: He would make a great nation of Abram’s descendants.
 - c. God’s covenant with King David: his descendants would be established as heirs to the throne.
4. What is an example of a modern-day covenant? (marriage) 




D. A Tale of Two Covenants

1. Read Hebrews 8:6-9. 
2. **The ministry (service) of Jesus is better than the ministry of the Old Testament priests. It is established on a better covenant with better promises.**  
3. The promises of the Old Testament were earthly.
4. They involved blessings the Israelites would receive in the Promised Land.
5. The promises of the New Testament are eternal.
6. They involve spiritual blessings of eternal life.
7. The Old Testament was based on God’s covenant with Abraham, the father of the Jews. God’s laws and a system of sacrificial offerings governed it.
8. Jesus’ death and resurrection ushered in the New Testament. It is governed by grace and relationship.
9. In the Old Testament, the blood of animals atoned for the people’s sins.
 - a. This system did not offer a permanent solution.
 - b. The people had to sacrifice animals again and again.
10. The sacrificial system did not provide redemption. It pointed Israel to the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus would one day make on the cross.




11. The Old Covenant offered provisional forgiveness.
12. The forgiveness of the New Covenant forgives and forgets.
13. Before the cross, God forgave sins in anticipation of Jesus' death and resurrection. Only then was the record of sin permanently erased.

- *In what ways is the New Testament covenant superior to the Old Testament covenant?*
- *In what ways is the New Testament Christian's life different from the Old Testament saint's life?* 


E. The Heart of Christmas

1. Read Hebrews 8:10–11. 
2. The New Covenant results in an inner change that cleans your heart and obliterates your sins.
3. You can have a close, personal relationship with God instead of one forged through habits and rituals.
4. In the New Covenant, we no longer follow God with head knowledge alone.
5. God's ways are woven into the very fabric of our lives, written on our minds and hearts.
6. Read Hebrews 8:12–13. 
7. The writer reinforced that the New Covenant replaces the old.
8. Though this passage quotes directly from Jeremiah 31:31–34, which is addressed to the Hebrews, the New Covenant is available to all. 


F. God's Purpose for Christmas

1. Christmas is about God becoming one of us.
 - a. Have you ever ached for someone who was suffering?
 - b. Hebrews 4:15 says Jesus can empathize with us because He has experienced pain and temptation as we have. 
 - c. As we go through life's trials, we can be confident God understands our hurts and struggles.
2. Christmas is about changing the way humanity relates to God.
 - a. We no longer serve Him by following laws and regulations.
 - b. We serve Him by loving Him.
 - c. We serve Him by allowing Him to saturate our hearts and minds.
3. It has been said that the best way to send an idea from one nation to another is to wrap it up in a person.
4. **At Christmas, the idea of sacrificial love was wrapped in the man Jesus and sent to earth.**  
5. These are God's gifts to us for Christmas: salvation, love, joy, hope, peace, and redemption.
6. God's gifts are too good to be regifted.


Microwave Christmas


1. Imagine you are starving and have a choice between a juicy, home-grilled steak and a microwaveable steak dinner. Which would you choose? Stand up for grilled. Stand up for microwave.
2. What are some benefits of the microwave dinner? (inexpensive, quick preparation)
3. What are some benefits of the home-cooked steak? (healthier, better taste, more satisfying)
4. When it comes to observing Christmas, people make different choices.
5. Some celebrate in an empty, cheap way: Christmas is all about spending money and getting presents. It's like choosing the microwave dinner. They have Christmas, but it's not all that fulfilling.
6. Some talk about Christ's birth, but their words never reach their hearts. It's kind of like talking about how good a juicy steak sounds, and then turning around and popping a frozen steak dinner into the microwave.
7. Celebrating the true meaning of Christmas is like having the home-cooked dinner: Christmas is fulfilling, hearty, and nourishing. 

G. All I Want for Christmas Is My Sins Erased






1. To God, Christmas is about more than a baby in a manger. It's about more than the miracle of a virgin birth; it's about more than the Creator of the universe coming to live among His creation.
2. Think of the very worst sin you have ever committed.
3. If you have already been released from the burden of this sin, thank the Lord!
4. If not, **God's gifts to you this Christmas are:**
 - a. **complete freedom from that sin,**
 - b. **a pardon for the mistakes you have made,**
 - c. **liberation from the burden of your sins.** 

H. A Heavenly Gift


1. Imagine joy surging through you every moment of every day.
2. Imagine looking upon the face of God and experiencing His love for you to your very core.
3. Imagine never hurting again:
 - a. never suffering another broken heart,
 - b. never again feeling the sting of a loved one's death,
 - c. never feeling the pain of a friend's betrayal.
4. This is heaven—an eternity with God.
5. This is what God offers you this Christmas.
6. It is up to you to accept God's gift.
7. *Read Acts 2:38–39.* You are called to partake of this gift! 

8. Read Romans 12:1–2. 
 - a. Live in full surrender to God.
 - b. Be transformed by the Holy Spirit.
 - c. Do not conform to the world's twisted ways.
9. Enjoy the miracle of Christmas as God remakes you.

I. Don't Put His Gift in the Regift Pile

1. What are some Christmas gifts from God we've discussed today? 
2. How can you show your appreciation for God's gifts?
 - a. Obey Romans 12:1–2. 
 - b. Actively involve God in every decision you make.
 - c. Don't be afraid to share with the world the goodness and love of God.
3. Read Matthew 25:34–40. 
4. Every person was made in the image of God.
5. So often, we become absorbed with ourselves—our wants, our needs, our desires, our problems.
6. God wants us to care about others. To minister to others is to minister to Jesus.
7. How can you make sure you do not leave Jesus out of Christmas? (spend quality time with Him, serve others, make church attendance a priority during the holidays rather than something optional) 
8. How can you make sure you do not take for granted God's precious gift to you—His New Covenant with humanity? 

Don't Judge a Gift by Its Cover

1. Before class, wrap two gifts, one attractive and one messy. In the attractive gift, put something silly or worthless, such as a baby's pacifier. In the messy gift, put something fun, such as a \$5 gift card.
2. Choose two teen volunteers. Let the first teen pick a gift, and give the remaining gift to the second teen.
3. Ask the teen with the pretty gift to open it and show what's inside. Have the teen with the ugly gift do the same.
4. What are some of the snazzy-looking gifts the world offers? (popularity, recognition, good times at the expense of integrity, wealth)
5. At first glance, God's gift may not seem all that attractive. A baby? A feeding trough for a crib? A call to turn from sin? Yet when you unwrap what Christmas is all about, you find the salvation offered is a gift beyond value. 

EXPAND

Prayer

1. Pray that teens would realize and appreciate God's gift to them.
2. Pray that God would open their eyes to the profound love He has for them.
3. Lead in a prayer of repentance.