



TEACH IT TALK SESSION 4

This talk guide is just that: a guide. It's not intended to be a manuscript to read aloud. It's here to give you ideas, structure, and stories to blend with your personal study (Prep It) as you prepare your talk.

The content complements the other Teach It guides, allowing you to give a talk on the same topic students are studying in other settings (such as small groups) without too much overlap.

1. Materials (Optional)

- Movie Clip: *Star Wars: Episode V -The Empire Strikes Back*. Scene: when Darth Vader reveals that he is Luke's father (Chapter 46—counter cues, 1:49:17 to 1:52:43), or another movie that depicts a revelation that changes everything
- Magic Eye poster or image projection: You can grab the image of the week at www.magiceye.com and project it on a screen, or you may have a poster or calendar you can use. Feel free to use another optical illusion such as the old lady/young lady picture, which you can easily find with a Web search.
- Depending on group size, print the Magic Eye image or another optical illusion—one for each student or small group of students.

2. Optional Openings

MOVIE CLIP

Explain that in almost every movie, there's a moment of clarity—a point when certain facts are revealed to a character. Show the scene from *Star Wars: Episode V -The Empire Strikes Back* when Darth Vader reveals that he's Luke's father (see DVD counter cues in Materials). Or feel free to show another movie scene with a similar moment. Point out the "eureka" moment, emphasizing the idea of "Now that I understand this, things will change. I acted this way before, but now that I see things in a different light, in some way I'll be a different person."

VISUAL ILLUSTRATION

Share that any crowd reacts tangibly whenever you show a brainteaser or a hidden picture within a picture. Distribute the Magic Eye images you've printed beforehand, or project the image on a screen. After a few minutes, point out that different people in the group saw the hidden picture at different times. Eventually someone pointed to the hidden object and said, "It's so obvious!" while others hadn't seen it yet. Use this illustration to point out that once you've "figured it out," it's hard not to see things in a whole new light. It becomes "so obvious!"

QUOTATIONS

Share the following quotations to illustrate how epiphanies and understanding can change our behavior:

You can know the name of a bird in all the languages of the world, but when you're finished, you'll know absolutely nothing whatever about the bird. So let's look at the bird and see what it's doing—that's what counts. I learned very early the difference between knowing the name of something and knowing something.

—Richard Feynman (1918–1988, American physicist and winner of the 1965 Nobel Prize in Physics)

That is what learning is. You suddenly understand something you've understood all your life, but in a new way.

—Doris Lessing (1919–present, award-winning British writer and winner of the 2007 Nobel Prize in Literature)

3. Digging In

PERSONAL STORY

Understanding why we worship can improve how we worship. To introduce the idea of how understanding something can change our behavior, share a personal story about struggling to learn something that you eventually “got!” such as:

- learning to dance
- learning to take care of your first home and lawn while living between seasoned homeowners who could see your stupid mistakes
- learning a sport like skiing or snowboarding (or the story of the first time you tried one of these sports)
- learning how to back a trailer
- learning how to drive a stick shift

Here's an example:

I'll never forget the first time I went snow skiing. It seemed like the dumbest thing anybody could do: strap on a pair of slick skis with no brakes and point down a steep, snow-covered hill. I soon discovered, though, that I did have brakes: my elbows, shoulders, knees, hips—and I think my nose actually stopped me a time or two. It wasn't fun. Thankfully, my friend, who had been a ski instructor, could teach me to ski. Before the day was over, I was actually using my skis to brake. I could snowplow with the best! For you non-skiers, that's the beginners' way to stop and turn. It's not pretty, but it gets the job done. Over a period of months, I skied a few more times, still snowplowing along and occasionally stopping with my nose for old times' sake. But I kept improving, and I'll never forget the moment I made a simple turn with a slight weight shift using the inside edge of my ski. The snowplowing days were over. Skiing actually became enjoyable, not nerve-wracking. I no longer avoided steep hills. In fact, I sought them out. Skiing was fun!

When I first started walking with Jesus, I noticed an annoying trend at Bible studies. Everyone knew stuff I didn't. We'd read through a chunk of Scripture, and people would start talking about such deep themes they were picking up. And I just sat back wondering, Are they reading the same thing I am? As they explained their thoughts, they made sense. I couldn't understand, though, why I needed to have this explained to me by people who had just read the same thing I had read. I wasn't always the dumbest guy in the room, but it sure felt that way when it came to reading the Bible. If you were to read my journal from that first year—well, first I'd tell you to quit reading my journal and mind your own business...how rude!—you'd see a very consistent prayer. I asked God time and again to please help me to understand and know his Word in a way that connected me on a deeper level with him. God answered that prayer. He helped me to see not just the words, but also a glimpse of the author through his revelation in the Scriptures. Bottom line—God says “yes!” to these prayers and reveals himself through his Word.

OPTIONAL MIX-INS

You may want to point a few expositional points:

-The historic relationship between Jews and Samaritans is pretty famous, but it helps to know that these races didn't get along. It was a leftover from a period in the Old Testament when the Jewish captives intermarried with other nations in Assyrian captivity. These Jews were then considered unclean.

-So, it was surprising to the woman at the well that a Jewish man would not only speak to her, but also ask a favor of her.

-As the conversation went along, the woman saw Jesus in a new way at about every exchange: first as a Jew, then as a “sir,” then as a water magician of some sort, then as a prophet, and finally as the Christ.



Continue with—

John 4:26-30 says:

Then Jesus declared [to the woman at the well], “I who speak to you am he.” Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

Many of us live like the disciples. Maybe we had this radical encounter with Jesus, and now we’re spending our lives with him. Because of this, we’re following him around day by day. But sometimes we forget just how big that is. We grow accustomed to knowing the God of the universe, and we lose perspective on just how huge that is.

The woman Jesus encountered at the well got it. She understood just how huge that is. If you read the entire chapter, you see that the disciples went into town and brought back a bag of hamburgers. (Actually, I’m not sure what kind of food it was, but I’m thinking burgers.) This woman went into town and brought back people. She was in awe! She’d just had an encounter that would change her forever, and she couldn’t contain herself. She had to tell someone.

I think worship does that. When we really worship, we fall in love. We delve into another realm that feels like awe. To be so transformed by something or someone to the point where it makes you want to shout it from the rooftops—that’s a great thing. Well, I should say, that’s a great thing if the person you’re worshiping is worth shouting about.

We spend a good portion of our lives worshiping cars, celebrities, money, and achievement. We spend a lot of our time telling others about these passions. Ultimately, there’s a God of the universe whom we know through his Word, who’s worth spending our lives pursuing. He’ll love us back. The more we look to him, the more we’ll realize that he’s truly worthy of our worship—and more.

Each new level of understanding about the truth of who Jesus is brings a new level of gratitude for what Jesus has done for us. And each new level of gratitude represents a deeper level of worship. When you first try to snow ski or snowboard, you’re not sure you want to. But you see people having a blast doing it, so you figure there must be something fulfilling about it. As you learn to do it and get better at it, you want more.

Maybe you’re somebody who has watched people worship and you could tell there’s something going on, but you haven’t been sure you want to try. But as you get to know Jesus better and understand more what he’s done for us, you’ll soon want to worship with everything you have... in spirit and in truth.

4. Taking It Inward

Continue with—

Think about your worship lately. Picture times when you’ve worshiped over the past six weeks. What’s it been like? During your worship times, if your brain were hooked up to some kind of measuring device, what percentage of the worship time would actually be devoted to Jesus, the Messiah, the Truth? What percentage of time would be devoted to distractions like hunger, room temperature, the guy or girl you have your eye on, the talent (or lack thereof) of the musicians—stuff like that?

The thing is, I'm not challenging you to pay attention to your percentages. I'm challenging you to experience the truth about Jesus. When we do that, the things that might normally distract us won't distract us. They become less important. And before long, we're doing something God is looking for: We're worshiping in spirit and in truth.

5. Wrapping It Up

Consider closing the session with a time of worship. Give your students a chance to practice worshiping Jesus distraction-free—worshiping him in spirit and in truth. Give them a chance to show God that they “get it,” and challenge them to keep showing him they get it after worship is over and they go on with the week.