

Lesson 11 / February 14, 2010

Changing Teams

for use as

STEP 1

Lesson 11 Focus:

Jesus came to change sinners like me.

Lesson 11 Bible Basis:

Matthew 9:9-13

Lesson 11 Memory Verse

By his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.

—2 Thessalonians 1:11b

In today's lesson, students will see the difference that Christ has made in the lives of two men and how Christ can change theirs.

During today's lesson, your students will explore the transformation of two different people. The first person is Colt McCoy, quarterback for the University of Texas. The second person is someone who lived thousands of years ago named Matthew. As students look at the lives of these two men, they will discover that salvation through Jesus Christ can change our priorities and give us purpose in life.

If you have access to the Internet in your classroom, have your students watch this short video on the Website "I am Second." (If your classroom does not have Internet access, watch the video and explain it to your class.) The video contains a frank discussion of McCoy's own story of spiritual purpose—a life that seeks God first and football second.

http://www.iamsecond.com/#/seconds/Colt_McCoy/

When you are finished watching the clip, ask the following questions.

- 1 Why does Colt McCoy say "I am Second"? What makes him different from other young star athletes?
- 2 What does McCoy say he would like his legacy to be when people remember him?
- 3 Some people might say that McCoy's commitment to Christ might change his football talent for the worse. What does he say about that? Has it made him less competitive on the field? Why or why not?
- 4 Even if you're not an athlete, what does salvation in Christ do to change your priorities or your life's purpose?

Now let's look at the life of Matthew and see how Jesus changed his life.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your *Middle School Teacher's Guide*; Step 4 appears below.)

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Changing Teams

 for use as
STEP 4
Lesson 11
Focus:

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 sinners like me.

Lesson 11
Bible Basis:

Matthew 9:9-13

Lesson 11
Memory Verse

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Students will do a simple activity that illustrates change and apply it to their own lives.

Materials:

- four unappealing food items (see below)
- “secret” ingredients (see below)
- blindfold

Students can create striking transformations to food by adding simple ingredients. This fun exercise shows your students the contrast between a life without Christ and a life changed by Jesus.

Start by setting out four unappealing food items, such as unsweetened lemonade, a dish of plain yogurt, a stalk of celery, a cup of black coffee, or other unpleasant or bland food. Cover the items up with a towel or sheet so the students cannot see them.

Blindfold a volunteer and give him or her a taste of the first item. Ask the student to describe what it tastes like. Then have another volunteer (not blindfolded) add a “secret” ingredient to the sample. Sugar is an obvious choice, as well as ranch salad dressing, coffee creamer, etc., depending on the food. The blindfolded student will then explain the contrast to the group. You can repeat this for each of the food items.

Once your done, ask these questions.

- ▶ **How is life without Christ a little like some of these foods we tried first?**
- ▶ **What does Jesus do that makes our lives better?**
- ▶ **Does he change everyone in exactly the same way? Explain.**
- ▶ **Why do you think some people would rather reject Christ’s changes?**
- ▶ **What would it take for you to ask Jesus to make changes in your life?**
(Give students a couple minutes to quietly think about whatever hinders them from allowing Jesus to change them.)

Close in prayer. Invite students to hold hands and make a prayer circle. Ask students to quietly pray for the person on their right or perhaps pray out loud in spontaneous “popcorn” prayer.

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