

# MIDDLE SCHOOL IDENTITY IN CHRIST

# 9

UNITE  
I AM CALLED

# SERVANTS OF JESUS HAVE ONE MASTER

**SERIES:**  
**GOD IS THE MASTER — I AM A SERVANT**



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**UNITE: I AM CALLED**

The Unite Year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are given a spirit of adoption as sons (Romans 8:15-16), are made a child of God, and we are also saved into a family- the Church. The Unite Year explores how we are to live as a part of a family, and to live in light of our calling as servants and disciples of Christ. We use our gifts to build up the church as we pursue unity, humility, and gentleness with our brothers and sisters in Christ (Ephesians 4:1-2).

**BIG TRUTH: SERVANTS OF JESUS HAVE ONE MASTER****BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 6:24**

*“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one or love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”*

**BIG IDEAS**

- Jesus is our treasure, so we live for His kingdom instead of our kingdoms.
- Jesus is our Savior, so we shift our devotion from false saviors to the true Savior.
- Jesus is our provision, so we walk by faith instead of living in anxiety and worry.

**BIBLE PASSAGE: MATTHEW 6:19-34****SERIES AIMS****[KNOW] Every student should know that...**

- They are a servant of Jesus
- They have been forgiven an unimaginable debt
- To be a servant means to lay down their lives

**[DO] Every student should strive to...**

- Forgive anyone who has wronged them as Jesus has forgiven them
- Walk by faith instead of giving into anxiety
- Be known by their allegiance to Christ and the gospel

**[FEEL] Every student should feel...**

- Awe at the forgiveness they have experienced in Christ
- Thankful for the grace that brought them from death to life and into God’s family
- Unworthy of the mercy and grace they have received

**[WANT] Every student should desire to...**

- Be faithful and pursue obedience to God
- Sacrifice their comfort and control for the sake of the gospel
- Be committed to Christ above all else

**STUDENT WORKOUT OVERVIEW:**

Jesus is our Master and we serve Him alone. This week we will ponder what it means to serve Jesus alone. We will pray for hearts that repent of the false saviors we’ve been serving and we will practice walking by faith.

**FAMILY WORKOUT OVERVIEW:**

Jesus followers have one Master. This week we will ponder how to discuss with our son or daughter that Jesus is the only Master. We will pray for them to walk by faith and not anxiety. We will lead them to serve Jesus as their only Master.

**BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 6:24**

*“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one or love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”*

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**A servant loves God above all else.**

*“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one or love the other...”*

- We can only serve one master. Whatever we love more than anything else is our master because it controls us. If it's money, we do whatever we have to in order to earn enough money. If it's another person, we live our lives in order to please them.
- What sets apart a servant of God from unbelievers is that they love God above all else. This type of love requires a relationship with Jesus which gives us the Holy Spirit and a daily discipline of dying to our other desires. We have to train our hearts to obey the Holy Spirit and to choose to love God over anything else. This is the mark of a servant of God.

**A servant sacrifices for God.**

*“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one or love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.”*

- Because a person cannot serve two masters at once, one master must be sacrificed in order to serve another. Servants of Jesus are willing to sacrifice the other things that master their hearts in order to serve Jesus alone.
- Jesus' servants are glad to make sacrifices for God. They give up their sinful desires and put off the things of this world. They choose to be used by God for His purposes. They sacrifice for Him because He is their one Master and they are devoted to Him above all other things.

**A servant does not store up treasure on earth.**

*“You cannot serve God and money.”*

- In this passage, Jesus teaches that our hearts can't serve Him and money. Typically, the love of money involves our devotion to earthly things. We desire money so that we can have an ideal life here on earth instead of living for Jesus.
- A servant of the Lord does not desire to store up treasure here on earth. Instead, he or she sacrifices these things to serve God. They seek to live for His Kingdom and their eternal home.

## **BIG IDEA #1: JESUS IS OUR TREASURE, SO WE LIVE FOR HIS KINGDOM INSTEAD OF OUR KINGDOM.<sup>1</sup>**

### **[ THIS ]**

In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, He taught many truths about a believer's life. In Matthew 6:19-34 specifically, He taught about the way in which a believer must live on this earth. Before we become believers, we are slaves to our sin natures. We sin against God and blindly follow our hearts that are broken and deceitful. We believe the lie that this world has something valuable to offer us. When we experience saving faith, we are set free to serve Jesus alone. We are His servants and content to be so. We put off the desires of our flesh and choose instead to live for Christ. Matthew 6:24 shows us that we cannot serve two masters. We cannot treasure two things. We will not truly live for one of them if we have dueling masters. We must die to this world and its earthly treasure and instead, treasure Jesus above all else.

### **[ THEREFORE ]**

**What earthly pursuits capture your heart? How can you die to them today?**

1 John 2:15-16 help us understand how easy it is to love the things of this world. Our hearts are sinful and they are easily drawn to perishable things in this world. In order to die to them, we must recognize them and then purposefully deny ourselves their pleasure.

**How is the idea of seeking God's kingdom over the world contradictory to what the world teaches?**

The world teaches that we must follow our hearts and make ourselves happy. This is not what God teaches. 2 Corinthians 4:4 and Ephesians 2:2 warn us to not follow the world. We are to put these things away and seek God above all. We are not created to make ourselves happy, but to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

### **[ THIS ]**

When we experience saving faith and truly understand the grace we have received, we will love Jesus all the more. As we grow in our understanding and knowledge of who Jesus is, we will grow in our love for Him and be more discontent with the things of this world. The things the world offers will no longer bring us joy because our joy will be found in Christ alone. If we treasure the things of this world, we will serve these things. When we treasure Jesus above all else, we gladly serve Him and submit to Him as our Master. If we do not treasure Him, we will pursue our little kingdoms here on earth that will one day pass away. We will focus on making ourselves great and having the life here on earth we think we want. When we treasure Jesus, we will live for His kingdom and desire to see His name made famous in all the earth.

### **[ THEREFORE ]**

**How can you practice treasuring Jesus above all else this week?**

Matthew 6:21 teaches us that what our heart loves reveals what we treasure. When we treasure Jesus above all else, we will want to obey Him and please Him. We will not mind obeying our parents or being kind to those who are mean to us. We will want to participate in serving others with our church because we will love Jesus above all.

**How can you tell what kingdom someone is pursuing?**

James 4:4 and John 12:25 teach us that we often love ourselves and having the things we like in this world is how we pursue our little kingdoms. Pursuing God's kingdom means dying to these things and seeking to make Him famous above ourselves.

1. Matthew 6:33: God's people seek His kingdom above their own earthly kingdoms. They serve Him over other things.

## BIG IDEA #2: JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR, SO WE SHIFT OUR DEVOTION FROM FALSE SAVIORS TO THE TRUE SAVIOR.<sup>2</sup>

### [ THIS ]

“All that glitters is not gold” is a saying used to describe something that seems precious and wonderful, but is actually not that great at all. This phrase is a perfect way to describe all the earthly things we find value in, yet they leave us empty and desiring something greater. In Matthew 6:24, Jesus teaches about the folly of seeking earthly things to satisfy us. We often pursue false saviors, things that can't really help us and can never save us. Things like success, relationships, and even false religions. These worldly things look like saviors sometimes. They seem to offer a type of salvation, or satisfaction, but they are really just temporal, empty things that will eventually fade away. These things seem precious, but they hold no eternal value and will always leave us feeling empty.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **What does it look like practically to shift our devotion from a false savior to Christ?**

False saviors are those who preach a salvation that is contrary to the Gospel or that adds to it. Matthew 7:15 and 2 Timothy 4:3 warn us against these people. As we shift our devotion from these things, we will focus on Christ and furthering His kingdom. We will put off worldly things.

### [ THIS ]

In Matthew 6:19-34, Jesus taught that only a pursuit of His kingdom is a worthy pursuit. We will know that Jesus is our Savior when our devotion is placed upon Him and Him alone. Jesus is the only way one can be saved. He is the only true Savior. All other people and things are false. To be devoted to something is to commit our loyalty and affection to one thing. It reigns supreme in our hearts and lives. Because Jesus is the highest being and greatest treasure we could ever have, our devotion should be placed upon Him. We will gladly put away our earthly desires and the false saviors we once pursued in order to fully pursue Him. We will place our allegiance on Him and serve Him above anyone or anything else. Our only pursuit should be His glory and the advancement of His kingdom.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **What does a life devoted to Jesus look like?**

The more we know Jesus and grow in our understanding of who He is, the more our devotion will grow and we will treasure Him. 2 Peter 3:18 and Philippians 1:9 speak to increasing our knowledge of Christ. We do this by studying His Word and praying.

#### **What are some obstacles you face in devoting yourself to Jesus each day?**

Time is a huge obstacle standing in our way of devoting ourselves to Jesus. We often manage our time poorly and day after day can pass without our taking time to spend alone with Jesus. Psalm 90:12 and Ephesians 5:16 remind us of the importance of using our time well and asking God to help us number our days that we might serve Him fully. When life is good, we may think we need God less. In order to fully devote ourselves to Him, we must seek Him every day.

2. Matthew 6: 21: Jesus is the true Savior and the One we should treasure above all else.

## BIG IDEA #3: JESUS IS OUR PROVISION, SO WE WALK BY FAITH INSTEAD OF LIVING IN ANXIETY AND WORRY.<sup>3</sup>

### [ THIS ]

Certain things are necessary to life, such as oxygen, food, and water. These things make a human life possible, yet Matthew 6:19-34 teaches us not to worry about these things. Jesus taught that we should not concern ourselves with these types of things, but, instead, we should concern ourselves with His kingdom. He pointed out the way He provides for the birds of the air and the flowers in the field. He loves us even more than He loves His created world, so He will take care of His children. Jesus is our provider. He sustains life on earth and gives His people everything they need exactly when they need it. He can be trusted as our provider. Even in our times of lack or want, He gives us Himself and He is enough for whatever we face. He can and will satisfy our every need with His presence in our lives.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**How do you seek to find satisfaction in Jesus no matter your circumstances?**

Zephaniah 3:17 gives us a beautiful picture of the way Jesus provides for us. He gives us all that we need and usually the things we want, too. 2 Corinthians 9:8 reminds us that His grace is sufficient for every need we have. Turning our eyes to Jesus and seeking to fill our hearts and minds with Him will bring satisfaction to us.

### [ THIS ]

Because we are human and have finite minds and some things are necessary to life, we are tempted to worry about them. We may not fully trust that Jesus will provide for us. Jesus can be trusted to care for us and He reminded His listeners in Matthew 6 that they do not even need to worry about these things. Instead of worry and fear, we must choose living by faith. Even when we're not sure how we are going to get the things we need, we can continue living faithfully because we trust that Jesus is going to come through for us. It is natural to feel worry, anxiety, and fear, but when we feel these emotions, our only real choice is to blindly trust Jesus and to set our hope in Him. This is walking by faith, when we see our circumstances for what they are, we do not know how to fix them, but we trust that Jesus does and will lead us through it.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Read Matthew 6:19-34. What situations usually lead you to feel worry or anxiety?**

These verses help us understand the Father's heart. He is a good Father who loves His creation. He is intimately involved with things like birds and the grasses in fields, yet He loves us so much more. Often just the daily things in life can cause worry and fear, yet we can always trust God.

**What are some ways you've trusted Jesus and have experienced His provision?**

In 1 Kings 17:7-16, we see the story of Elijah and a widow. The widow faithfully trusted God to care for her and she gave her food to help God's prophet, Elijah. When we live by faith and trust God to care for us, we will see Him provide in ordinary ways and in extraordinary ways.

3. Matthew 6:25: Because God is God, we do not have to be anxious about anything. He takes care of His children.