

Gravity

Week 1 – The Law of Magnets

DESCRIPTION

The ***Gravity*** series is about boundaries. Instead of talking in terms of rules, this series is centered on the idea that God created the world with built-in laws. Certain behaviors always lead to certain results. These laws are as predictable as the laws of nature. We'll call them the laws of life. God loves us and wants us to experience life the way it was meant to be lived and that's the heart behind the boundaries He has placed in our lives.

The Law of Magnets states that *we become like our friends*. Our friends hold a magnetic pull over our lives. This is a teaching about the powerful influence of a crowd. To demonstrate this idea, we'll study how a crowd, stirred up by hateful and jealous religious leaders, influenced Pilate to execute an innocent man.

The teaching lands with a call to evaluate the influence of our inner circle of friends.

Grab the Room by sharing a funny story about how we can't change gravity. Set up the series. Then, tell another story in which you ended up asking, "How did I end up here?"

Create tension by helping students evaluate the influence of their friends.

The **text** we'll study is Luke 23:13-25.

The **bottom line** of this teaching is this: We become exactly like our crowd.

Call for Movement: Evaluate your crowd.

OUTLINE

1. Science

Introduce the concept of *Gravity*. Make it fun!

2. How in World Did I End Up Here?

To transition into the Law of Magnets, tell a story in which you ended up saying, “How did I end up here?”

3. Pilate and the Mob

Walk the audience through the text.

4. The Law of Magnets

Help your audience feel the tension. Pilate probably wasn’t an evil person but he made a really bad choice because of the influence of the crowd.

Draw your audience into the idea of influence. Convince them that their friends hold a tremendous amount of influence over them.

5. How’s My Crowd?

First help your audience identify who their crowd is. Next, help them answer this question: “How’s my crowd?” How is your group of friends influencing you? What kind of wakes are they leaving in your life?

6. Respect the Law of Magnets

Call your audience to make a decision about the influence their friends have over their lives. Encourage them to respect the Law of Magnets.

7. Small Group Questions

SCRIPT

Science

Let's get nerdy. Who here likes science? Here's what I love about science: You can't argue with science. It just is. There are planets. Deal with it. You can trust science. It is reliable. It is predictable. I like that. The sun will rise tomorrow whether you like it or not.

You see, laws of nature govern life. We can either respect the laws and prosper, or we can ignore them at our own peril. Let me explain. If I climb up to the roof of my house and walk off the ledge, something is going to happen to me. What is that? Yes! I will plummet to the ground. It doesn't matter how much I *wish* life were different, the truth is that I will plummet to the ground because of a law of nature. This law is something we call *The Law of Gravity*. Maybe you've heard of it. You can't argue with gravity. It just is. You can either respect it or suffer the consequences. Respect gravity. Because if you don't, you will hurt yourself.

The Law of Gravity isn't the only law out there. We could talk for hours about the many laws that govern life. That is what this series is all about: The Laws of Nature, or better yet, the Laws of Life. You can't argue with them. They just exist. You can respect them and life will go as it should or you can ignore them and you will experience pain.

Tonight's law of life is the *Law of Magnets*.

How in the World Did I End Up Here?

Have you ever found yourself in a crazy situation and wondered to yourself, "How in the world did I end up here?" When I was in middle school, I hung out with some crazy guys who loved trouble. These guys had a fondness for destruction. We TP'd the same girl's house every weekend for six months. We forked people's yards, egged cars, and generally did damaging stuff to people's property. Yup, these were my friends.

One night I found myself miles away from home, lying prone in a farmer's field in the dead of winter as a spotlight scanned the field a few inches over my head. Why was I there do you ask? Great question.

Well, my friends thought it would be a good idea to light a roll of 500 powerful firecrackers and toss it into some guy's satellite dish. Afterward we ran like cheetahs until a spotlight forced us to hug the frozen earth. It was in that moment that I asked myself, "Self... how in the world did you end up here?" Then, lying there, freezing, I clicked my heels together and repeated, "There's no place like home. There's no place like home." Turns out, that doesn't work.

But for real, how did I get there? I was following the crowd. I was doing what everyone else was doing. I didn't know it then, but it was the Law of Magnets. What's the Law of Magnets? We'll get there. I'll give you a hint: It starts with a crowd.

Pilate and the Mob

Throughout the Jesus story there are crowds. Jesus was extremely popular and crowds followed him everywhere he went. They were usually for Him. They loved him. But in one crucial moment, they were violently opposed to him.

Near the end of his life, Jesus was betrayed by one of his own disciples and handed over to the Jewish religious leaders— guys who hated Jesus and wanted him dead. Not having the power to execute Jesus themselves, they took him to Pilate who was the Roman governor of the region. They accused him of leading an insurrection. Pilate investigated the situation and found that Jesus had done nothing wrong—nothing worth execution or even imprisonment.

Then Pilate called together the leading priests and other religious leaders, along with the people, and he announced his verdict. "You brought this man to me, accusing him of leading a revolt. I have examined him thoroughly on this point in your presence and find him innocent... I will release him." (Luke 23:13-17, NLT)

Pilate isn't a bad guy. He's a government official trying to do the right thing. But then things get crazy. Check it out:

Then a mighty roar rose from the crowd, and with one voice they shouted, "Kill him, and release Barabbas to us!" (Barabbas was in

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