

Introduction to the series:

In an age of Facebook, MySpace, and texting, we have many means of communication at our fingertips; yet we still lose relation with our friends, family, and even our God. During this series, we are going to attack this issue from 3 different angles. We'll look at how:

1. God is constantly TRANSMITTING himself to us.
2. We need to be TRANSMITTING our lives back to God.
3. We can TRANSMIT God into the world to reach people for Him.

Hopefully the leader's guides for each lesson are easy enough to work through. They are basic outlines built to allow you to elaborate and make each lesson relevant to your group. HAVE FUN!

Transmit - Day 1 Leaders Guide

Intro:

1. Start off with a story like the one below. If you don't have one, use mine.
 - About a year ago, with my previous youth group, I received a text from one of my students (the irony in this comes later). It was a picture message, and from what I could see it was of a piece of paper. I didn't quite know why he would send this text to me, so I asked him about it. He told me to take a closer look. When I did I couldn't believe my eyes. It was a picture of his cell phone bill, and more specifically, his text message count. The number was staggering. Are you ready for this...23,000! I calculated this out. 23,000 texts is just over 30 an hour, or about one every two minutes, IF YOU DON'T SLEEP! Say you sleep for 6 hours a night, you would have to send one text every 15 minutes, from the moment you wake up to the moment you fall asleep.

POINT 1:

- For many of us, while our situations may not be this extreme, we do find ourselves spending a lot of time texting, on Facebook, on MySpace, watching TV...spending our free time with technology.
- The thing is, when we do that, we lose track of God in the midst of it all.
- **OUTLINE #1:** With so much TECHNOLOGY in the world, we get lost in all the NOISE.
Here are some fun facts to illustrate this point...
Hint: On the outlines, they will say whether or not they relate to each fact. If you have time, have them share (or at least raise hands) if they relate or not. It could be fun to see who relates to what.
 - 31% of American Teenagers use more than 3000 texts per month (about 1 every 10 minutes on 8 hours of sleep)
 - 15% of American Teenagers use more than 6000 texts per month (about 1 every 5 minutes on 8 hours of sleep)
 - The average American teenager spends over 4 hours a day watching TV
 - The average American teenager spends 15 hours on the internet every day
 - **The average American teenager spends less than 1 hour a week with God.**
- That last one is discouraging, but tells a bigger story in the lives of our students.
- It tells a story that even though we are more "connected" than ever, with Facebook and MySpace, and all of that stuff, we are more disconnected from God. God doesn't have a cell phone, or a MySpace page, or a Facebook profile, in some ways it would be easier if he did.
- But just because God doesn't use social network sites, it doesn't mean he isn't communicating with us...

POINT 2:

- **OUTLINE #2:** God is constantly TRANSMITTING Himself to us.
- God wants to get a hold of you
- God wants to be in a relationship with you
- God wants to reveal himself to you

- And he has...
 - Romans 1:20 says "For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.
- God has shown us himself, he has communicated himself, he has transmitted himself to us through his creation.
- He's done it...
 - In the BIG things
 - Think about the earth right now, ask the students to think about what the most beautiful thing they've ever seen is.
 - God has created so much just here on the earth
Hint: This is a great time for a slideshow...
 1. The Grand Canyon
 2. Niagara Falls
 3. The ocean
 4. The rainforest
 5. The great plains
 6. The rocky mountains
 7. A volcano
 8. Mount Everest
 9. A Glacier
 10. Add your own...
 - You can even zoom out a little bit
Hint: NASA has some cool pictures if you are showing them...
 1. View of a hurricane from above
 2. View of earth from the moon
 3. Milky Way
 4. Supernova
 5. There are clusters of galaxies out there
 - God has created all of this stuff. Everywhere you look, you are going to see God in the form of something that he created. He is trying to TRANSMIT himself through the big things...but he's also trying to TRANSMIT himself
 - In the SMALL things
 - Here are some more fun facts for you...
 1. A caterpillar has 228 separate and distinct muscles...IN IT'S HEAD!
 2. The average Elm tree has over 6 million leaves on it
 3. In the Amazon Rainforest, there are over 3000 species of trees within 1 square mile.
 4. Here's one...how about laughing. Think about how many different kinds of laughs are in this youth group alone...
 - God is in even the smallest details of life. Yes he created all the big things, but he's in the smallest detail too. God is constantly TRANSMITTING himself to us.
 - God's FINGERPRINTS are everywhere!
 - Everywhere you look, you will see God.
 - Too often though, we can't get away from our cell phones long enough to notice that he's there.
 - We say, "just 5 more minutes on facebook and then I'll read my bible." We all know how 5 more minutes on facebook turns out.
 - God seems to take a backseat to the technology that we have around us. We may be more connected to each other, but we are less connected with God than ever.

- How do we connect with God then?

POINT 3:

- OUTLINE #3: We have to FIGHT through the STATIC to hear and see God around us.
- We make our lives so noisy and fill it with static with our ipods, tv's, computers, video games, cell phones.
- We have to make the effort to look for God
- We have to make the effort to hear God
- We have to focus, and fight through the static to hear and see what God has for us.
- It reminds me of a story in 1 Kings 19, where Elijah is in the wilderness, basically running for his life, and God meets him on Mount Horeb.
 - God tells Elijah to come out of the cave he was in because God himself was about to pass by, and here's what happens next...

"Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave." 1 Kings 19:11-13

- Elijah was in tune with God's voice. He knew what it sounded like. He wasn't distracted by the noise, the static. When the wind came, he was still listening. When the earthquake came, he was still listening. When the fire came, he was still listening. And the voice of God came in a gentle whisper.
- God speaks to us in those gentle whispers. We just have to be in tune with his voice. We have to step away from our noise, the static in our lives, the technology that runs our lives, and spend some time listening for God's voice. God is trying to reveal himself to us, we just have to be looking. We are distracted.
- I'm reminded of another story, but this one is an old story.
 - It's about a grandpa spending some time with his grandson
 - They were spending the day together, having fun talking and building things in the garage, but the grandson quickly realized, that the radio was playing static. He could faintly hear a baseball game going on behind it all.
 - "Grandpa," he said, "How do you hear the game, it's all static!"
 - "Son," he said, "Practice. I've been listening to the game on this station for years now, and I have learned to listen past the static. I have tuned my ears to hear the game, no matter how much static may be on top of it."
- That's what we have to do. We have to fight to hear God through all the static in our lives. Will it be easy overnight? No, it will take practice, but you have to fight to be in tune with the voice of God.

THE BURNING QUESTION:

- Are you IN TUNE with God?
- God is constantly trying to TRANSMIT himself to you. Will you take some time away from your technology and distractions and tune in?

Transmit - Day 2

Leader's Guide

Review:

- Spend a couple minutes reminding the students about last week's lesson
 - God is constantly TRANSMITTING himself to us
 - Big things and small things, etc.
 - We just need to step away from the distractions that keep us from him
 - We need to fight through the static to hear him and be with him
- This time, we're going to talk about what it looks like to fully TRANSMIT your life to God.

INTRO:

- What does it look like to fully TRANSMIT your life to Christ?
- Three words: fully TRANSMITTING your life to Christ means
 - BECOMING HIS DISCIPLE
- That's what it's all about! It's about becoming His disciple
- We're going to look at this from a little different angle though, we're going to go back into the time of Jesus, and look at what it meant to be a disciple back then.

POINT #1:

- But here's your first fill in...
- OUTLINE #1: You become his disciple by LEARNING about him.
- Being a disciple started back then at a very young age. We're talking young, like kindergarten age.
- Back then the people in charge would argue about how young was too young to get them started in school
 - School looked a little different back then though.
 - They weren't just math, science, and all that stuff
 - They started at a young age teaching them scripture
- They finally decided, that at the ripe age of 6 years old, they would send them to a local synagogue school.
- They called this first stage of schooling BET SEFER, and they would be in this school from age 6-10, and what would happen was, while they were in this school, they would MEMORIZE the TORAH.
 - Good time to quiz the kids: What's the TORAH? The first 5 books of the bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy).
- Memorized, all 5 books, by heart.
- Can you imagine?
- Now, how many of you are sitting out there thinking, "I could never do that..."
 - Not true, you could do it, we're just focused on memorizing other things.
 - How many of you, when you listen to the radio, know the words to almost every song?
 - How many of you, when you watch your favorite movie, can quote the whole thing?
 - We could do it, we just aren't as focused on scripture as they were then (the stats from last week back this up...)
- If you could memorize the TORAH, and you were the best of the best in your school, you would move on to the next part of your schooling, called BET TALMUD.
- In this part of your schooling, from the age of 10 to about 14, you would do something incredible...
- You would MEMORIZE the OLD TESTAMENT (not what they called it back then, they called them the HEBREW SCRIPTURES)
- Can you imagine this, Genesis, all the way to Malachi...memorized. Not only would they memorize it though, they would begin to learn a Rabbi's interpretation on different things, and they would learn the art of debating. They knew these scriptures front and back by the time they were 14 years old.

- If they were the best of the best of the best, they would move on to the next level of school, called **BET MIDRASH**.
- In this stage of schooling, they would go to a Rabbi, and ask that Rabbi if they could **follow** him, if they could become his disciple. This Rabbi would then proceed to test the student, asking about the scriptures, all kinds of questions, to see if he was good enough to be his disciple.
- If the student was not good enough, the Rabbi would say, literally, "go home and learn your family trade." The student would then go home, learn the family trade, and never become a rabbi himself, even though he had gone through all kinds of schooling to be one.
- If the Rabbi thought he WAS good enough to be his disciple, he would say to the student, "follow me."
- Which brings me to the second point...

POINT #2:

- **OUTLINE #2:** You become his disciple by **FOLLOWING** him.
- See, if you were asked by a Rabbi to follow him, you would **DROP EVERYTHING**, and follow him wherever he went
- The bathroom, lunch, dinner, etc. EVERYWHERE.
- Because you wanted to be exactly like your Rabbi.
- You would stand like he stood
- You would talk like he talked
- You would walk like he walked
- You would do everything exactly like he did, because you were learning to be a Rabbi, just like him. You were his disciple.

POINT #3:

- Here's the cool part about following Jesus, and being a disciple of Jesus, **TRANSMITTING** your life to him.
- Let's take a look at Matthew 4:18-22, Jesus calling his Disciples
- "As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.' At once, they left their nets and followed him.
"Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James, son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him."
- Think with me for a second...what were these guys doing? They were **FISHERMEN**. These guys were the B team. These guys weren't the best of the best of the best. They were doing the family business. **OUTLINE #3:** Jesus called them even though they weren't the **BEST OF THE BEST**
- A lot of us when we think about following Christ, just think we're not good enough. "I've done too many bad things to be able to do that. Why would Jesus want me, Jesus can't use me."
- He can. Jesus called the "not good enoughs" to follow him. He called the B team. He called the guys who had dropped out of school. And he said, you can do what I'm doing.
- Whenever I used to read that scripture, I used to think, how could they just drop everything and follow him. I mean, James and John were right there with their dad, and they left him.
- But this was a big deal. A Rabbi thought they were good enough. A Rabbi had called them. A Rabbi thought that they could do what he did. **UNBELIEVABLE!!!**
- I don't know about you, but that gives me hope. It lets me know that I don't have to be perfect for Jesus to use me. It lets me know that I don't have to be super-Christian, or know every word in the Bible, for Jesus to use me.
- All I have to do is be willing to drop everything and follow him.

THE BURNING QUESTION:

- Are you willing to **DROP EVERYTHING AND FOLLOW HIM?**
- End the session by challenging your students that to fully transmit their lives to Christ, it takes EVERYTHING.

TRANSMIT – Day 3

Leader's Guide

REVIEW:

- Review the last couple sessions of TRANSMIT, keep it fresh in their minds.
- Session 1:
 - GOD IS CONSTANTLY TRANSMITTING HIMSELF TO US
 - In the big things
 - In the small things
 - We need to fight through the noise we create in our lives to be able to hear his soft whisper
- Session 2:
 - WE NEED TO TRANSMIT OUR LIVES BACK TO GOD

THIS WEEK:

- This week we're just going to jump right into it.
- You say, "Ok, I know that God is transmitting himself to us constantly. I know that I need to transmit my life back to God. But what's the next step?"
- The next step is TRANSMITTING God out into the world.
- What does that look like?
- Actually, Jesus himself answered that question for us. And we find his answer in Matthew Chapter 5 as part of one of his biggest sermons, the sermon on the mount.
- The scripture is on your outline there, but before we read it, let's just go into a little of the background
- The Sermon on the Mount is one of Jesus' biggest sermons, not just longest, but biggest in letting us know how he thinks. He's letting us know how we should act as Christians, what our mindset should be. All of that is right here in this sermon.
- So it's one of the biggest sermons, but on top of that, the passage that we are about to read is right at the beginning of this sermon, which puts some added emphasis on it.
- Teachers at this time had a structure to how they spoke and taught.
- Things that the beginning of the sermon had great importance, and that is exactly where we find this passage.
- It's kind of like a movie...at the beginning of the movie, there is a build up time, you are getting to know the characters, getting to know some details that will somehow be important later, etc.
- And this is where we are. This is part of Jesus' big intro here.
- Jesus is saying, live like this, this is what it takes to TRANSMIT me, to show me and what I stand for to the world.

POINT 1:

- Let's just start by reading Verse 13.
- "You are the salt of the earth. But if the earth loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot."
- As I read this, I can't help but put myself there. I can't help but think about what the people that Jesus was talking to would have been thinking at this point. And as I was thinking, and researching, I realized that the people listening to Jesus would have had some preconceived notions about salt.
- Salt was a very popular thing back in those days.
- In fact, the Roman's had a saying, "There is nothing more useful than Sun and Salt."
- The Greeks even called salt "Divine"
- Salt was a big deal, and in the time of Jesus, salt was connected with three different qualities.
 1. Salt was a **PURIFYING** agent.
 - It was thought of as one of the most pure things known to man, probably for two reasons
 - It's color (white), still today thought of as the "color of purity"

- It came from the sea (which was then considered one of the most pure things in the world. Purity and the ocean aren't usually thought of together now, but then, it was)
- So what does it mean for us? If we are going to TRANSMIT God into the world by being the salt of the earth, we need to be EXAMPLES of PURITY.
 - I know, I said purity, but we're not going to have the sex talk...it's more than that...
 - We live in a world today that is constantly lowering it's standards.
 - Think about the ads that we have today
 - The amount of sex and drugs on TV is absurd
 - Once the clock hits midnight, it's like everything goes wild (pun intended)
 - Moral standards and the values of honesty and integrity are declining by the day!
 - We need to be examples of purity though
 - We need to hold ourselves at a higher standard
 - Honesty, Integrity, and our morals cannot be put on the back burner
 - They have to be at the front and shape how we live our lives.

2. Salt was a PRESERVING agent

- They didn't have refrigerators or freezers back then, so what they would do is literally rub salt all over it to keep it good. If they left the meat alone, it would go bad.
 - You could say that salt preserved things from corruption.
- We need to PRESERVE our friends from CORRUPTION
- Correct me if I'm wrong, but aren't there some people that you hang around with that it's just easy to tell bad jokes, be crude with, and just "relax" our standards around...
- There are also those people that when you are around them, you just feel like you need to be on your best behavior, you need to be good, because they would care if you told bad jokes or cussed a lot, or all of that stuff.
 - Maybe this is how you feel at church, you feel like you need to be good, but when you get to school and hang out with those friends it's different.
 - STORY: (FEEL FREE TO USE YOUR OWN)
 - When I was in High School, I remember when I hung out with my friends, in the locker room, it was so easy to throw around cuss words, say "that's what she said", and all that stuff. But when I was at church it was different. It was easy to be good at church, because I knew that I needed to be.
 - That's the kind of influence that we need to have on the world around us. We need to be the people that it's easy to be good around.
 - We preserve our friends and surrounding people from corruption by being an example of what it means to be good, and making it easy to achieve that.

3. Salt FLAVORS things

- The same is true today, food can get bland and gross if it doesn't have salt on it.
- Christianity has the same effect on life. Without it, life can be bland and boring
 - Unfortunately, people tend to see it the opposite way, they think that Christianity takes all the fun OUT of life.
 - That is sad for me. When you are a Christian, life is fun!
 - You have a life worth sharing
 - People see being a Christian as being the vanilla in a chocolate world, it's the opposite!
- In order to TRANSMIT god to the world, we have to share him! We have to SHARE our FLAVOR with the world.
- o I like the last part of the verse though. It says, "If the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything..."
 - Think about this, we have a purpose for being here on the earth. We need to be TRANSMITTING, sharing God to everyone we meet.
 - Salt effects everything that it touches, are you effecting the things you touch?
 - Is the world effecting you, or are you effecting the world?

POINT #2:

- Let's start our next part by reading the rest of the passage here, verses 14-16.
- "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven."
- So, just like the salt thing, I wanted to research and see what the people back then would have been thinking when Jesus started talking about being the "light" of the world.
- Here's the cool thing, when Jesus said this, he was actually using a phrase that was really well known among the Jewish people of that time, although he took it a step further.
 - What the Jews used to say was that Jerusalem was a "light to the Gentiles." Famous Rabbi's were called, "Lamps of Israel."
 - So this imagery of light was not hard for them to understand at all.
 - But Jesus took it one step further, he said they would be the light OF THE WORLD!
- The Jews believed one thing whole-heartedly about being that light though...they didn't light themselves. It was God who lit the fire. It was God who lit the lamp. They were just TRANSMITTING God's light into the world.
- But what would it have meant to actually be that light? What did it look like to actually transmit GOD'S light into the world.
- Here's a couple things that light was known for back then (and still today, really.)
 1. A light is meant to be SEEN
 - The verse says, "a city on a hill cannot be hidden," and "they put the light on a stand..."
 - I guess to put it simply, lights are not meant to be hidden
 - The same thing is true for Christians
 - We need to keep our light TURNED ON for Christ!
 - There is no such thing as a "secret Christian."
 - Too often we only bring our lights out for special occasions...Sunday, mid-week, but we're called to be a light seen by everyone, everywhere, at all times.
 - Your light is either on or it's off, there is no dimmer switch on Christianity.
 - *Use the Revelation 3 image of lukewarm if you'd like here...*
 - Your light needs to be on in order to TRANSMIT God into the world.
 2. A light is a GUIDE.
 - Today, we have things like flashlights, lighthouses, top lights, clap lights, night lights, motion lights, etc.
 - All of them are meant for us to be able to see.
 - All of them are so we can be guided in the right direction.
 - To fully TRANSMIT God into the world, we need to POINT people towards CHRIST.
 - How do we do that? Lucky for us, we have the greatest example in Jesus Christ.
 - You know, in John 14, when Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life," I use to think he said, "I am the way, the truth, and the LIGHT." Now that I look back, I wasn't exactly wrong. Jesus is our light. Jesus is our example of how to live.
 - That's what we need to be for other people as well.
 - We need to show people what it means to live for Christ. We need to TRANSMIT his love to the world.
 - What does that look like?
 - Maybe it's taking a stand against things that are wrong
 - Maybe it's being ok with saying no to the world
 - Maybe it's saying no to your friends...
 - The world should not be influencing and guiding us, we should be influencing and guiding the world.

Conclusion:

- I'm reminded of a story that my dad used to tell me. It was about a guy, who, racing home from work on his motorcycle, lost control of his bike and crashed into a fence on the other side of the road.
- Everything was fine after the crash, but his rear view mirror on the side of the bike was broken

- As he was getting ready to leave, he noticed that there was a piece of mirror that had broken into a perfect circle, so he picked it up, pushed the rest of the glass to the side, and went on his way.
- He was a little embarrassed about the crash, so he decided to stay in that night, but as he was getting ready for bed, he reached in his pocket and found the piece of the mirror that he had taken from the crash site.
- That night, as he was laying in bed, he was having some trouble sleeping.
- There was a sliver of moonlight shining through the window and shining right on his face.
- He remembered the piece of mirror on the nightstand and decided to play a little game. He decided that he was going to try and catch the moonlight with the mirror and try to reflect his light into the darkest corners of the room.
- We are the same way. Our lives need to reflect, to TRANSMIT Christ.

Hint: Michaels has packs of 25 small circular mirrors for around \$3. You can hand those out and use them to remind the kids to constantly reflect Christ, and transmit him constantly to the world.