

LINK247

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Big Idea — When we choose to live radically for God, He will do radical exploits through us. This series will explore the role of young people in the end-time harvest through radical devotion, faith, conviction, and boldness.

- **Week 1 — Radical Devotion**

As disciples in the last days, our deep devotion will give us strength to conquer what's ahead.

- **Week 2 — Radical Faith**

As we radically believe and obey God, He will perform great exploits through us.

- **Week 3 — Radical Conviction**

When we decide to stand up for righteousness and the things of God, we will stand out to this world.

- **Week 4 — Radical Boldness**

Fear and worry does not have to stop us; today through the power of the Holy Ghost, we can walk boldly through our situations to fulfill end-time revival.

LINK247—YOUTH LESSON MAP



Each **LINK247** lesson follows the same lesson map. This map is designed to help you connect students with biblical truth. Each lesson has options to help you tailor the lesson to best fit the group you are teaching. Listed below are the elements in each **LINK247** lesson.

1

LAUNCH

Begin by choosing a Launch option that will connect with the group of students you are teaching.



2

UNLOCK

Next, using the outline provided, walk through the Bible with the students.



3

INTERSECT

Then provide practical applications for students to apply the truth in their daily lives.



4

ARRIVE

To end, conclude the message by choosing one or more of the Arrive options.



RADICAL

"THE PEOPLE THAT DO KNOW THEIR GOD SHALL BE STRONG, AND DO EXPLOITS."

WEEK 3 — RADICAL CONVICTION



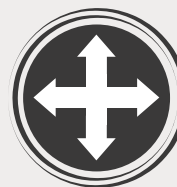
SERIES BIG IDEA

When we choose to live radically for God, He will do radical exploits through us. This series will explore the role of young people in the end-time harvest through radical devotion, faith, conviction, and boldness.



BIBLICAL PASSAGE

*Daniel 6:10–24; 11:32;
Acts 6:8–15; 7:54–60*



BOTTOM LINE

When we decide to stand up for righteousness and the things of God, we will stand out to this world.

LESSON OUTLINE



1. LAUNCH

Option 1 — Stand Up If . . .

Option 2 — Interactive Questions

Option 3 — Is It Worth It?

2. UNLOCK

A. Living in the Last Days

B. Week 2 Recap

C. Daniel's Conviction

D. Stephen's Conviction

3. INTERSECT

A. What Is Conviction?

B. Conviction Is Rooted in Character

C. Standing Up Makes You Stand Out

D. Radical Conviction

4. ARRIVE

Option 1 — Prayer

Option 2 — What Do I Stand For?

Option 3 — Small Groups

1

LAUNCH

Begin by choosing a Launch option that will connect with the group of students you are teaching.



Option 1 — Stand Up If . . .

- A. *Create a list of “stand up if . . .” statements to read to the group. Read the statements one by one to see who stands for each statement. Closer to the end of the list, use statements that require more difficult, revealing decisions.*
- B. *The point of this exercise is to show that standing up for something you believe can be difficult if your friends don’t join you; however, if you believe it, you should stand for it.*
- C. *Examples:*
 1. *Stand up if you think cats are better than dogs.*
 2. *Stand up if Sprite is the greatest soft drink.*
 3. *Stand up if you believe it’s OK to lie sometimes.*
 4. *Stand up if you feel called by God to serve in ministry.*

Option 2 — Interactive Questions

- A. *How would you define the word conviction?*
- B. *Have you ever felt convicted about something? Describe what it felt like to you.*
- C. *What are some personal convictions you have in your life?*
- D. *Why do you believe having Bible-based convictions is important during these last days?*

Option 3 — Is It Worth It?

- A. *Hand each student paper and a pen. On one side of the paper, students write: WORTH IT. On the other side of the paper, students write: NOT WORTH IT.*
- B. *Read off the following statements and have students raise their papers with their individual answers.*
 1. *You get to go to lunch with someone you consider a hero, BUT the person gets to slap you in the face every time you ask a question.*
 2. *You write a book that gets published, BUT no one will ever read it.*
 3. *You can read any book in any language and understand it, BUT you can only read one sentence per day.*
 4. *You land your dream job, BUT you don’t get paid.*
 5. *You can travel to any place on earth for vacation, BUT you have to go alone.*

2

UNLOCK

Next, using the outline provided, walk through the Bible with the students.



A. Living in the Last Days

1. Read James 5:7–8.
2. The words of James have an undertone. He wrote these words to encourage believers to be patient. The difficulty of the perilous times in the last days will have a pulling down and discouraging effect on the people of God.
3. A Gallup poll in March 2021 revealed that for the first time in Gallup's history, church membership in America dropped below 50 percent. Less than half of Americans surveyed affiliate with a church.
4. While church membership status is a simple metric of faith, this statistic speaks to a larger issue of how Americans practice their faith. More and more people are refusing to affiliate with any religion. Societies values, moral stances, and cultural norms are declining, which has caused mounting pressure on Christians.
5. James's words are timely for us today. The time to be patient and be established in the Lord is now. We must continue to stand for righteousness, truth, and godliness amid the pressures of a depraved society.
6. Read Daniel 7:25–27.
7. Spirit-filled students and young adults can sense the kingdoms and leaders of this world working to wear us out. The changes and deceptions are mounting against us. However, this is not how the story ends.
8. We are promised an everlasting kingdom where all dominions will serve and obey the Lord. Our responsibility is to stand firm in the last days with great conviction.

B. Week 2 Recap

1. Our faith is activated through prayer. If we make it a priority to call on God first and connect with Him daily, our faith can give us access to the power of God.
2. We all need friends who build up our faith. Both Daniel and Peter relied on their friends' faith to see God do great exploits.
3. Radical faith causes circumstances to change radically.

C. Daniel's Conviction

1. Daniel lived in very treacherous times. During multiple seasons of his life, his life was at risk if he chose to stand firm for his faith.
2. Read Daniel 6:10–24.
3. Daniel experienced tremendous favor while in Babylonian exile. He was given gifts, authority, and responsibility over important parts of Babylon's society and government.



4. Because of Daniel's impeccable integrity, he was set over the affairs of the kingdom to ensure finances were handled with honesty. As this story unfolds, it's clear the motives of the Babylonian presidents and princes could not be completely trusted.
5. The presidents and princes used manipulation to trick the king into signing a decree that temporarily forced everyone to pray to the king. Their true intent was to subvert Daniel and remove him from his role of authority by having him killed in a den of lions.
6. As soon as Daniel learned that the decree was signed, he turned to his God unashamedly. He opened the windows of his chamber toward Jerusalem and prayed, giving thanks to God, just like he always did.
7. In the face of threats, Daniel held strong to his conviction about his relationship with the Lord.

D. Stephen's Conviction

1. The Book of Acts has many accounts of God's church standing up for truth and righteousness in a pivotal time.
2. *Read Acts 6:8–15; 7:54–60.*
3. At the beginning of Acts 6, the early church came to the crossroads of spiritual leadership and administration. The twelve disciples needed to appoint key individuals to help serve tables. With wisdom, they chose seven men who could be trusted with this task.
4. One of the seven was named Stephen. Acts 6:5 refers to him as “a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost.” As Steven served and believed, the Lord worked through him mightily with great wonders, miracles, and wisdom to debate certain leaders of the synagogue.
5. At the end of Acts 6, Stephen was wrongly accused and arrested. When questioned by the highest court of religious leaders, Stephen stood firm by preaching a truth-filled message found in Acts 7. His convicting words and lifestyle infuriated the religious leaders to the point of having him stoned.
6. In the face of danger, Stephen held on to his conviction of truth.

3

INTERSECT

Then provide practical applications for students to apply the truth in their daily lives.



A. What Is Conviction?

1. Read James 4:17.
2. To have conviction is to know and do what is right.
3. Conviction is being convinced and confident that something is true. Having conviction means being strongly persuaded of and loyal to truth and what is right.
4. James summed up chapter 4 by offering a strong statement about conviction. He reminded us that if we know something to be good and we don't do it, it is a sin for us.
5. Our convictions should impact how we live, how we act, how we speak, and where we go. A person who carries biblical convictions is someone whose persuasions are derived from the Word of God. If we know the truth of God's Word, but we don't stand with it, we can be held guilty of sin.
6. Now, more than ever, is the time to stand for truth and righteousness. With mounting pressure to conform to the ways of society, we must cultivate a stronger knowledge and action for truth.
7. Radical convictions can keep us grounded in an ever-changing world.

B. Conviction Is Rooted in Character

1. Daniel could be trusted. While the other leaders in Babylon designed wicked plans, Daniel purposed his heart toward his God.
2. Stephen was faithful. With compassion for the Grecian widows, he served in a lowly role with a godly attitude.
3. Because of their relationship with God, these men had strong character that formed a basis for strong convictions. Their commitment to issues of honesty, integrity, and compassion forged conviction for truth, justice, and righteousness.
4. When we pursue God, He instills in us strong character to lay the groundwork for strong convictions.

C. Standing Up Makes You Stand Out

1. The hand of God was on Daniel's life. From the beginning of Daniel's story, God's favor, wisdom, and strength was on display. Alongside God's favor was Daniel's commitment to personal convictions. Because of his conviction for honesty, truth, and faithfulness, the enemy made him a target.
2. While Stephen began by serving tables, he also began in great faith and power. Stephen's commitment to the truth and power of Jesus Christ put him at odds with the religious leaders of the day. Because of Stephen's actions and words, the enemy sought to remove him.



3. In both stories, the Lord elevated these men. Their firm grasp on truth and righteousness released great power, ability, and favor in their lives. They stood up for the Lord, and it made them stand out to others.
4. Standing out may be uncomfortable and difficult, but we were made to stand out to this world.
5. *Read Hebrews 11:13.*

D. Radical Conviction

1. Daniel was delivered from the mouths of the lions. Stephen was killed as a martyr for Jesus Christ. Two similar stories of standing for truth with two different endings.
2. *Read II Timothy 4:5-8.*
3. Like Paul, we will receive a crown of righteousness if we fight the good fight, keep the faith, endure afflictions, and declare the gospel.
4. Radical conviction is a commitment to truth no matter the threat or outcome.

4

ARRIVE

To end, conclude the message by choosing one or more of the Arrive options.



Option 1 — Prayer

- A. *Have a time of prayer, encouraging students to declare their commitment to God and His Word.*
- B. *Conclude by having students pray for one another and for others' needs.*

Option 2 — What Do I Stand For?

- A. *Place a large whiteboard and markers at the front of the room.*
- B. *Call on students to come to the board and write truths, values, and principles a child of God should stand for in this wicked world.*
- C. *Then discuss each item written on the board.*

Option 3 — Small Groups

- A. *Form small groups. Appoint a leader over each group.*
- B. *Ask groups to share what they learned from today's lesson and how it impacts their personal commitment to the Lord. The group leader may want to create custom questions from the lesson that fit the demographic of the group.*
- C. *Ask group leaders to end with prayer.*