

WHAT IS VANTAGE?

Students are looking to the world to define who they are.

But we know that something's missing. A change in perspective changes everything. In the same way that a microscope reveals the tiniest moving parts and a mountain view makes skyscrapers fade, God's grace transforms the way we see and understand our world forever. *Vantage* is a yearlong curriculum (52 lessons) based on the [8 Roots of Deep Discipleship](#) that shows how God's grace changes the way that we see ourselves and our world. Students will examine the issues that confuse and divide our world by digging into what God has already said through his Word. From his vantage point, they will see that God isn't just here to tell us what we can or can't do, he's seeking to redeem the world.

DESIGNED FOR MULTIPLE ENVIRONMENTS



Whether you meet once or multiple times a week, each flexible lesson can be used as a comprehensive *Large Group Talk* with separate *Small Group Discussion Guide*, an in-depth *Small Group Lesson*, or a stand-alone *Large Group Talk*. We've built in flexibility to meet your changing needs.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Vantage includes 52 Lessons, divided into smaller, 4-lesson sets (PDF and Word). We've included one lesson in this sample with corresponding Memory Verse and Mark of a Disciple graphics. *Vantage* was created to fit perfectly into the Deep Discipleship system (including the [8 Roots of Deep Discipleship](#) and *Marks of a Disciple*), designed to help your students grow deep faith. Each one of the 8 Roots is covered in-depth in its own set of lessons.

VANTAGE ALSO INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING (NOT INCLUDED IN THIS SAMPLE):

*For a full list, see [What's Included](#) on page 6.

- Community Engagement Guides
- Video Training for Adult Leaders
- Parent Guides
- Media and Graphics

WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

It's simple. Included in this sample is one lesson (*True or False*) from the *WARPED* set of lessons. Open the folder entitled *WARPED* and you'll find a Facilitator Guide and Student Guide.

To learn more about *Vantage*, check out the *SCOPE AND SEQUENCE* that give you an entire overview of this resource.

**Have Any Questions?
Give us a call!**

THE 8 ROOTS OF DEEP DISCIPLESHIP

RESCUE

The Rescue Root helps students understand their need for a savior:

We are slaves, held captive by terrible enemies: sin and death. In this fallen, corrupt, and shattered world, we need a rescuer—Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer. In fact, he’s the only one who can free us. And once we’ve been freed, we have the opportunity to join in the rescue mission for others.

APOLOGETICS

The Apologetics Root, which prepares students to explain the hope they have in Christ:

The Bible encourages us to defend our faith: “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,” (1 Pet. 3:15, ESV). That’s the point of apologetics—to explain our hope in Christ to others. In the Apologetics Root your students will find ways to do just that.

COMMUNITY

The Community Root, which helps students understand the meaning of biblical fellowship:

We weren’t created to be alone. Our emotional, physical, and spiritual well-beings depend on deep, loving relationships with other people. God has created a family for you. They are his people, and they will help you grow in another essential connection—with God.

IDENTITY

The Identity Root, which helps students discover their unique identity in Christ:

God created humans in his own image, unique in all creation. Then sin entered the picture, and all people developed a warped version of their original identity. Christ came and died on the cross and rose again to offer us a new identity, even better than the first. He took on our sin and shame so we could take on his righteousness. He identifies with us so we can find our identity in him—a redeemed identity.

KNOWLEDGE

The Knowledge Root, which helps students understand the basics about God:

God is enormous. He’s too big, too awesome, and too complicated to wrap our minds around. Yet he wants us to know him. He wants a relationship with us, so he has revealed himself in a number of ways. We will never know everything about God. But in order to become his disciples, we need to know some essential truths about the One we follow.

WORSHIP

The Worship Root, which helps students explore what it means to have a lifestyle of worship:

Worship is more than just singing. It is a lifestyle. It’s how you go about your day, and it happens when you get a vivid glimpse of God, his power, and his majesty. In the Bible, anyone who has a close encounter with God can’t help but marvel at his glory. The angels, his messengers, are in a constant state of worship. We, too, can express a life of worship by encountering God on a daily basis.

KINGDOM

The Kingdom Root, which helps students understand how to live in the Kingdom of God every day:

When students embrace the Kingdom life, they begin to look at the small things differently. They realize the weight that their decisions carry, and they can start to live by God’s value system instead of the world’s tainted values.

OUTREACH

The Outreach Root, which helps students understand their God-given mission:

Jesus gave his followers one last command: to spread the good news of his death and resurrection—the gospel—to the whole world. When we become members of Christ’s body of believers, the story doesn’t end. That’s just the beginning! Now we get to join in a remarkable mission to care for the least, to love other people, and to share Jesus as Lord wherever we go.

SCOPE

We recommend that you start with the four lessons included in *REFERENCE POINT*, then base your sequence on the needs of your group. Below is a description for each set of lessons included in *Vantage*, as well as a suggested overall sequence.

*Note that the *SEASONAL* Lesson Set can be used throughout the year during holidays and major milestones in your group. The lessons in *ASKING FOR A FRIEND* help students wrestle with difficult issues and can be used together as one unit or spread throughout the year as stand-alone lessons.

SUGGESTED SEQUENCE



1. REFERENCE POINT (4 Lessons)

Jesus is our reference point. We can never live up to the perfect, sinless life he lived—and that's actually Good News.

1. Rebellion Leads to Brokenness (Genesis 3)
2. The Great Exchange (Matthew 27:11–26)
3. Embracing the Good News (Romans 10:9–17)
4. Spreading the Good News (Acts 2:36–41)



2. SPLIT (4 Lessons)

Many things threaten to divide the community of faith. God's perspective reminds us that we're called to love one another and focus on what unites us—Christ.

1. Purpose over Politics (Titus 3:1–10)
2. Diversity, Not Division (1 Cor. 12:12–26)
3. Messy Families (Gen. 16)
4. Church Like Christ (Rom. 12:1–8)



3. SHADOWS (4 Lessons)

God's redemptive grace brings us hope and helps us walk faithfully through the low-points of life.

1. The Good Shepherd (Ps. 23)
2. Trained by Discipline (Heb. 12:3–12)
3. Seeking God in Suffering (Job 23:8–10; 38:1–18)
4. Eternal Hope (Rev. 21:3–4)



4. MIRROR (4 Lessons)

We have a unique identity as God’s children, and a unique calling to live differently, mirroring Christ and his love to the world.

- 1. I Am God’s Child (1 John 2:28–3:3)
- 2. A New Me (Eph. 4:17–32)
- 3. I Am Loved (Rom. 5:6–11)
- 4. I Have a Job (2 Cor. 5:11–21)



5. BLURRY (4 Lessons)

Every believer experiences doubt. When we’re wrestling with uncertainty, we can turn to God for help because God’s grace is bigger than our doubts.

- 1. Eyes on the Prize (Matthew 14:22–32)
- 2. Slaying Giants (Numbers 13:1–2; 13:35–14:4)
- 3. Just Do It (Numbers 22:7–35)
- 4. Faith on Trial (James 1:2–18)



6. SPECTRUM (4 Lessons)

Our world is filled with a broad spectrum of competing beliefs. What makes the Christian perspective different and how should we respond?

- 1. The God You Can Know (Rom. 1:20; Acts 17:22–31)
- 2. What About You? (1 Pet. 3:15–16)
- 3. The Only Way (John 14:6; 10:30–31; 3:16)
- 4. So Now What? (Eph. 5:1–15)



7. EXPOSED (4 Lessons)

God’s transformative forgiveness and grace changes how we see our failure and sin, leading us to confession and new life.

- 1. An Antidote to Shame (John 21:4–19)
- 2. Walk in the Light (1 John 1:5–2:6)
- 3. A Recipe for Confession (Ps. 51)
- 4. Forgiven to Forgive (Matt. 18:21–35)



8. WARPED (4 Lessons)

Most of us won’t believe an obvious lie. Instead, we’re led astray when the truth is warped just a little bit. We need God’s clear perspective to separate lies from God’s truth.

- 1. True or False? (John 8:42–47; 1 John 4:1–6)
- 2. Helping or Hurting? (1 Cor. 15:33; Rom. 16:17–18; 2 Tim. 2:22)
- 3. Mistaking Jesus (2 Tim. 4:1–5; Jer. 17:7–10)
- 4. Love ≠ Tolerance (1 Cor. 13:4–7; 1 John 4:7–16)



9. SHAMELESS (4 Lessons)

God created sexuality and his plan for us is to live without shame. As we experience the Good News of God’s grace, we begin to view our bodies from his perspective—that we belong to God and are created in his image.

1. Level Playing Field (Eph. 2:1–10)
2. Different and Good (Gen. 1:26–31; 2:24–25)
3. Belief before Desire (James 4:1–10)
4. Your Body Isn’t Yours (1 Cor. 6:12–20)



10. LIMITLESS (4 Lessons)

What the world views as freedom—doing whatever you want— isn’t God’s plan for us. God offers us true freedom as we believe, trust, and follow Christ.

1. True Freedom (Gal. 5:13–25)
2. Free from Worry (Matt. 6:25–34)
3. God-Focused Freedom (Rom. 8:18–28)
4. Free to Submit (1 Pet. 2:13–25)



11. ASKING FOR A FRIEND (4 Lessons)

When difficult issues come up, it’s easy to just agree with what the world says. We need to challenge ourselves to start with what God says, then engage others with God’s truth in love.

1. Why is Abortion Such a Big Deal? (Ps. 139)
2. Why Do Bad Things Happen? (Gen. 50:15–21)
3. Why Is Being a Christian Unpopular? (1 Cor. 3:18–4:4)
4. What If I Feel Hopeless? (Ps. 91)



12. SEASONAL/HOLIDAY: (8 Lessons)

These seasonal lessons are independent from each other yet tied together by one common thread—the lineage of Christ. We’ve been invited to join God’s family and revisiting this truth throughout the ministry year will remind students of their special role as a citizen of heaven.

1. *New Year/Beginnings*: Sin No More (John 8:1–11)
2. *Easter 1*: A Humble King (Matt. 21:1–11)
3. *Easter 2*: Sacrificial Lamb (Mark 14:12–25)
4. *Easter 3*: The Truth at the Tomb (Matt. 28:1–15)
5. *Graduation*: What’s Your Legacy? (Col. 3:1–17)
6. *Thanksgiving*: One Big Family (Eph. 2:11–22)
7. *Christmas 1*: Outside In (Josh. 2)
8. *Christmas 2*: Been There, Done That (Luke 2:1–20)



WHAT'S INCLUDED

52 LESSONS



- **FACILITATOR GUIDE** PDF and Word Versions
- **STUDENT GUIDE** PDF and Word Versions
- **WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT** Easy-to-use teaching points that unpack biblical themes
- **A SECOND LOOK** An additional illustration with discussion questions
- **APPLY IT** A practical application for the week
- **THINK ABOUT IT** Challenging quotes or verses
- **MARKS OF A DISCIPLE** Identify signs of growth in students
- **MEMORY VERSE** Promote Bible memorization
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GUIDE** Two experiential activities to reinforce each series' lessons
- **HOLIDAY LESSONS** Seasonal teaching
- **ONLINE TEACHER MANAGEMENT*** Give your volunteers online access to digital curriculum

** Included with HERO Membership*

ANNUAL MINISTRY BLUEPRINT



- **GOSPEL THREAD** 8 roots of Deep Discipleship
- **SCOPE AND SEQUENCE** Suggested yearly teaching outline
- **DUAL ENVIRONMENT** Specific instructions for use in small group and large group

VOLUNTEERS



- **FACILITATOR GUIDE** PDF and Word Versions
- **VOLUNTEER TIPS AND TRAINING** Advice for Lesson Facilitators
- **VOLUNTEER TRAINING VIDEOS*** 18 Youth Ministry Training Videos for Volunteers
- **STUDENT DISCIPLESHIP TRACKER*** Equip Volunteers to Create an Individualized Discipleship Plan for Every Student
- **ONLINE TEACHER MANAGEMENT*** Online Access to Digital Curriculum
- **ONLINE MESSAGE CENTER*** Update Volunteers via the Message Center

** Included with HERO Membership*

MEDIA



- **POWERPOINT SLIDES** Background, Title, and Teaching Point Slides
- **PROPRESENTER SLIDES** Background, Title, and Teaching Point Slides
- **PROMO ART** Sized for Instagram, Posters, and Web Banners
- **MEMORY VERSE** Graphic of Weekly Verse
- **GOSPEL THREAD VIDEOS*** Animated Videos of the 8 Roots of Deep Discipleship
- **COUNTDOWN VIDEOS*** 20 Animated Countdown Videos
- **MOTION LOOPS*** 22 Animated Motion Loops
- **BUMPER VIDEOS** 44 Animated Bumper Videos

** Included with HERO Membership*

PARENTS



- **PARENT GUIDE** Lesson Overview and Scripture Covered for Every Series
- **QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK** Debrief Questions Designed for Parents
- **FAMILY ACTIVITY** Activity Designed for the Whole Family
- **HOW TO RUN A PARENT MEETING*** Video Training for Youth Workers
- **ONLINE DISCIPLESHIP TRACKER*** Partner with Parents to Create an Individualized Discipleship Plan for Every Student

** Included with HERO Membership*

TECHNOLOGY



- **ONLINE TEACHER MANAGEMENT*** Online Access to Digital Curriculum
- **ONLINE MESSAGE CENTER*** Update Volunteers via the Message Center

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DOWNLOAD A SAMPLE

leadertreks.org/vantage-sample-lesson