


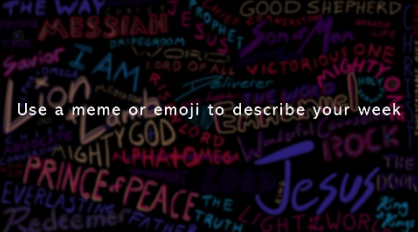

## Practice what you Preach

The two sons-Matthew 21.28.32




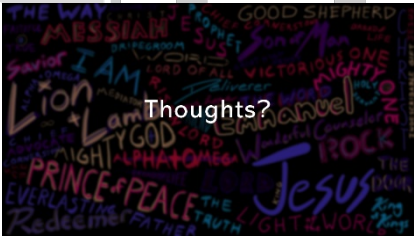

**Themes:** Putting words into action, doing, following through

**Summary:** Based of Jesus’ Parable of the Two Sons, this devotion is about the need to follow through on promises, do what you say and put words into action. It is a very simple but effective reminder for young people, especially as their growing faith will cause them to make statements that their actions will need to back up.

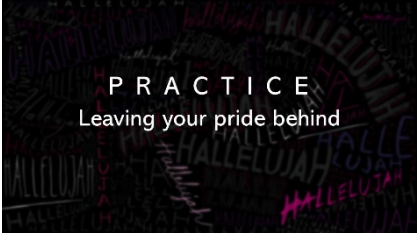
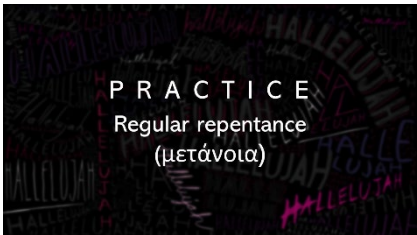

**How to use:** This resource is merely a guide. If you wish to use in its delivered form entirely, feel free to do so. If you wish to add, omit or edit anything, feel free to do so. It is intended to be a guide and provide some assistance in prep time for busy youth ministry leaders. For more info and resources like this, please visit [www.missionresourcing.org.nz/youth](http://www.missionresourcing.org.nz/youth)

SLIDE	Notes
	<p><b>1. Blank Slide</b> Take time for introductions, welcome, prayers etc.</p>
	<p><b>2. Ice breaker slide.</b> As a way to check in and get people to share how their week has been, get each person to find a meme or emoji on their phone to describe how their week has been. If they don't have a phone, they can either share phones with a partner or draw on paper. This is time for sharing and reflection to happen.</p>
	<p><b>3. Title Slide</b> Introduce the theme of the study, and the reading that you will be focusing on for today. If you want, you can ask if anyone has an idea of what the title might mean.</p>

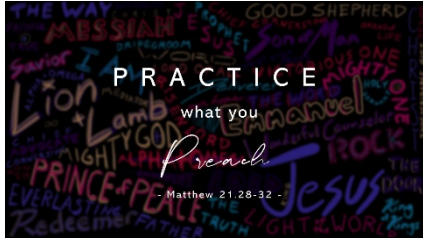
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 <p>Context</p>	<p><b>4. Context</b></p> <p>It's always good to look at the context around the reading in order to understand events before and after and give wider context. Show the following two photos and task group to explain what story they are and provide specific bible reference.</p>
	<p><b>5. Jesus' Triumphant Entry – Matthew 21.1-10</b></p> <p>Psalm Sunday.</p>
	<p><b>6. Jesus Clearing of the temple – Matthew 21.12-17</b></p> <p>You may wish to add more events as well – Jesus curses the fig tree (12) and The Authority of Jesus is challenged (23-27) if you wish. The point to emphasise is that these events started with celebration but are soon leading to a much darker conclusion.</p>
 <p>Thoughts?</p>	<p><b>7. Thoughts</b></p> <p>Get the group to then read Matthew 21.28.32 – either individually, in groups or one verse per person depending on the numbers. Get people to reflect and then share their thoughts on the readings – highlights, ideas, questions, misunderstandings all welcome. You may want to play a song while they do this as well.</p>
	<p><b>8. Blank Slide</b></p> <p>Feedback from group.</p>

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 <p>PRACTICE Leaving your pride behind</p>	<p><b>9. Practice – Leaving your pride behind</b></p> <p>Three main points from the reading. First being leaving pride behind. Explore what pride might mean. What are characteristics of prideful people? Its worth exploring the difference behind pride that is a result of doing something and pride that prevents us from doing something.</p> <p>The first son, who initially refuses to do the work, must remove his pride in order to what his father is asking him to do. The second son lets his pride prevent him from doing so.</p> <p><b><i>If you have any examples of pride you can use to relate to this, use here.</i></b></p>
 <p>PRACTICE Regular repentance (μετάνοια)</p>	<p><b>10. Practice – Regular Repentance</b></p> <p>Repentance is the act of turning away from sin and heading back towards God. Jesus talks about the tax collectors and prostitutes getting into the Kingdom of God. This is only because they acknowledge of their need to repent. Coming back to pride, the teachers of the law's pride meant they were unable to recognise their need to repent.</p> <p><b><i>To illustrate true repentance, get a person to stand up, rotate 360 degrees and keep walking. Then get them to rotate 180 degrees and keep walking. Which example best illustrates repentance? Get group to discuss.</i></b></p>
 <p>PRACTICE Living like your actions are the only way that people can know Christ</p>	<p><b>11. Practice – Living like your actions are the only way that people can know Christ</b></p> <p>Words are futile in faith without accompanying action. Words can be undone by lack of action – but action can restore lack of words.</p> <p>During COVID press conferences, The PM has a sign language interpreter next to her. Imagine our faith without words but only signs of actions. How effective would we be? What needs to be done in our lives to be better at backing up our words and doing what we say?</p>

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## 12. Summary and Prayer

Once done, ask for any feedback before closing in prayer – touching on the three points in doing so.

You might want to listen to, or sing, a song as well.



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