





# THE ANDY STANLEY COLLECTION

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

### **ABOUT GOD**

God is the one and only true God, yet He exists in three persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. God is the Creator, so everything belongs to Him and is under His control. God is holy, so He is righteous, majestic and loving. God is all knowing and purposeful, so He's at work to bring about His will. No person, thing or idea compares to God.

### **ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES**

God reveals Himself to us through the Bible, and it is 100% accurate, reliable and authoritative.

### **ABOUT PEOPLE**

People are made in God's image and for His pleasure. But everybody falls short of God's intention, or ideal, for people. In other words, everyone has sinned. As a result, we are all separated from Him, even though He wants an intimate relationship with each of us.

### **ABOUT SALVATION**

That's why Jesus, God's Son, came and lived on this earth, died and rose again. God offers His free gift of salvation to all who believe in Jesus and accept Him as Savior, the only way to be forgiven and reconciled to God. Anyone who accepts this gift is adopted as a son or daughter into God's family and will live with Him forever in heaven.

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## CREATING THE ENVIRONMENT: CAN YOU HEAR ME?

We believe that the set, stage, music and everything in your room communicates a message—without you saying a word. That's why we put together a list of production ideas to help you set the stage for the session and the series. From the music you play when students come into the room to the worship set your band plays, we want to make sure that your room conveys "Can You Hear Me?" in a multi-sensory way. There is a downloadable checklist available in your series downloads that will give you all the elements for this session (and the entire series).

### BACKGROUND PLAYLIST FOR CAN YOU HEAR ME? SERIES:

- "Livin' On A Prayer" by Bon Jovi (from *Cross Road*)
- "Listen" by The Goo Goo Dolls (from *Let Love In*)
- "Talk" by Coldplay (from *X & Y*)
- "Put Ur Hands Up" by Family Force 5 (from *Business Up Front/Party In The Back*)
- "Sitting, Waiting, Wishing" by Jack Johnson (from *In Between Dreams*)
- "Give Me Your Eyes" by Brandon Heath (from *What If We*)
- "Be My Escape" by Relient K (from *MMHMM*)
- "Sweet Talk" by The Killers (from *Sawdust*)
- "Awakening" by Switchfoot (from *Oh! Gravity*)
- "Don't Speak" by No Doubt (from *Tragic Kingdom*)
- "Thank You for Hearing Me" by David Crowder Band (from *Can You Hear Us?*)

### WORSHIP PLAYLIST FOR CAN YOU HEAR ME? SESSION 1:

- "Come and Listen" from David Crowder (from *A Collision*)
- "Let God Arise" by Chris Tomlin (from *See the Morning*)
- "Our God is Love" by Lee McDerment (from *A Matchlight in the Dark*)
- "Walk by Faith" by Jeremy Camp (from *Stay*)
- "All Because of Jesus" by Fee (from *We Shine*)

### THE SET

When it comes to prayer, most of us are completely distracted by everything around us. For this series, create a sensory and media overload for your students. For instance, you could arrange several TVs around the room or on the stage that are showing different things. They could just be showing static. Do anything that will distract your students while they are gathering. Of course, you will probably want to tone down the distractions once the actual session gets started.

### SERIES ART

Art for PowerPoint backgrounds and for series promotional ads is available as a free download with every series. Visit the XP3 web site, log on to your account and download the images to use in your presentation, newsletters and web site.

### VIDEO

Both a video bumper and a video communicator are available for the "Can You Hear Me" series as a video download from the reThink store. You can purchase the videos by logging into your XP3 account and clicking on the "XP3 videos" link. The CYHM video communicator was created to be used in Session 3 of this series in place of a live communicator. The bumper video was created to be used as an intro for all three sessions of the CYHM series.



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## MIDDLE SCHOOL ADAPTATION: CAN YOU HEAR ME?

The teaching outline and the middle school small group dialog questions are important ways you can adapt the content of this series to communicate to middle school students. Also, the following activities and illustrations are designed to help middle school students connect with the subject matter in ways that engage them physically, mentally, socially and sometimes emotionally.

### GAME: TEXTING TRIVIA

*(This game is designed to be used as an icebreaker to Session 1.)*

All of our games during this series will be played using cell phones. Today's game is a simple trivia game that everybody can play. Simply ask the entire audience questions and the first one to text you the correct answer is the winner. If you want, you could also play guys vs. girls. Remind your students that normal texting rates apply. You don't want any angry parents! If you have some students who don't have cell phones or are not allowed to text, seat them next to someone else on their team who does have a phone and can text, to help them answer questions. Here are a few sample questions:

1. How many months of the calendar year contain 31 days? *7*
2. What's the last word in the song God Bless America? *Home*
3. Camels with 2 humps live only on what continent? *Asia*
4. How many lines long is a haiku poem? *3*
5. Do you have more bones in your body or muscles? *Muscles*
6. Name one of the first five books of the Old Testament? *Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, or Deuteronomy*
7. Spell the plural of QUIZ? *Quizzes*
8. What is  $(5 + 7 - 8)$ ? *4*
9. How many sides does a honeycomb have? *6*
10. What is this new series called we're starting today? *Can you hear me?*

Tie Breaker. First one to call my cell phone wins!

If you have the ability to put web pages up on a screen, you may also find it fun to create a free texting wall at <http://wiffiti.com>. It's a fun resource that may make it easier to see who the winner is.

### ILLUSTRATION: CLIP: MEET THE PARENTS

*(Use this clip before teaching point "D" in the INTRODUCTION section of the teaching script.)*

When it comes to prayer, we default to those formula prayers because sometimes we're not even sure what we're supposed to do. We may not know what to say or we just don't want to pray out loud. Start the series by playing a clip from the movie *Meet The Parents* starring Ben Stiller as Greg. In this scene, Greg prays a very funny prayer. Start the clip at 24:02 and play until 26:15 at the line "that was interesting."





## THE ANDY STANLEY COLLECTION

# CAN YOU HEAR ME?(1): CUL8R

**BOTTOM LINE: INTENTIONAL PRAYER PAVES THE WAY FOR INTIMACY AND RELATIONSHIP.**

## TEACHING OUTLINE

### INTRODUCTION:

Most formula prayers center on the idea of asking God for something.

### TENSION:

From our perspective, we don't get why God answers some prayers one way, and other prayers a different way.

Some of us decide prayer is just one big flip of a coin.

### TRUTH:

There was something different about how Jesus prayed.

*"Don't be like the hypocrites, for they love standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men" (Matthew 6:5 NIV).*

*"Don't be like the hypocrites, for they love standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full" (Matthew 6:5 NIV).*

*"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen (Matthew 6:6 NIV).*

*"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then, your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you" (Matthew 6:6 NIV).*

The reward is the relationship. God invented prayer for you to cultivate a relationship with Him.

### APPLICATION:

We can talk to God the rest of our lives and never feel connected to Him.

God wants us to understand the fullness of who He is and what He wants for us.

Where is that place? When is that time?

Find a place with few distractions where you can get alone, just you and God.

### LANDING:

I don't want you to think that prayer is simply asking and waiting.

Where can you carve out time this week to get alone with Him?



## THE ANDY STANLEY COLLECTION

# CAN YOU HEAR ME?(1): CUL8R

### TEACHING SCRIPT BY ANDY STANLEY

#### INTRODUCTION

- A. If you're like me, you probably don't remember the very first prayer you ever prayed. I do, however, remember one of the earliest prayers I prayed. It was a prayer that somebody taught me, a prayer where I simply mimicked what I heard. What about you? Maybe your parents taught you a prayer to say at bedtime, or at mealtime, or a prayer asking for safety while you traveled.
- B. One of the first prayers I learned was one I would say every night before I went to bed, and it went something like this:  
"Now I lay me down to sleep.  
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.  
If I die before I wake,  
I pray the Lord my soul to take. Amen."
- Now if you ask me, that prayer seems a little strange—morbid even, especially for a kid. "If I die before I wake"—is that really the last thought a kid should have before he or she falls asleep?
- C. That prayer is what we would call a "formula" prayer. And for a lot of us, that's how our parents, pastors and teachers taught us to talk to God. We just memorized a couple of lines. Most of these formula prayers have one thing in common—they all center on the idea of asking God for something.
- D. Now you may not pray that way anymore, but if you were to evaluate your prayers, you may find that while the words are different from when you were a kid, the intent behind the words is still the same. In fact, all my prayers pretty much go like this, "Help me, bless me, protect me, give to me." Then if there's time, I also add, "Help, bless, protect and give to everybody in my family and my inner circle of friends." The names and situations may vary slightly from prayer to prayer, but sooner or later, I usually drift back to me, mine, me, mine, mine. I don't know how it got that way, but it's mostly about me.
- E. There are some of you who used to pray that way, but you don't pray at all now. You quit. And the reason you quit is sort of the same reason I pray. You asked God for something and He didn't answer your prayer. Since you didn't get what you wanted, you quit praying. And the reason I pray is to get what I want, so we're really the same, our motives are the same. We treat prayer the same way. For us, prayer is like putting change in a vending machine and pressing the right buttons so that we can get whatever we want out of it. When we get what we want, it's great, and when we don't, we assume something has drastically gone wrong.
- F. Perhaps in your past you prayed for something really important. Maybe a family member you really loved was dying, and you thought, "God, if there's any prayer to say yes to, it's this one." Not only did He not answer your prayer the way you wanted, things got even worse. At that point, you decided, "I'm not going to pray anymore; it's just a waste of time. I mean, God doesn't listen. God doesn't answer. God's going to do whatever He wants to do anyway. Why does it even matter? I'm not even sure God's there." And the reason you end up thinking this way is because God didn't do what you thought He should do.
- G. Then there are some of us in here who don't pray at all for other reasons. It's not that we have anything against prayer, in fact we intend to do it, but we just never get around to it. Maybe you just don't feel comfortable praying. Maybe prayer seems silly, or maybe you just don't know what to say. Whatever the reason, prayer is not a part of your life.



## THE ANDY STANLEY COLLECTION

# CAN YOU HEAR ME?(1): CUL8R TEACHING SCRIPT

### TENSION

- A. It feels like we're missing something about prayer, doesn't it? Maybe if we asked differently or maybe if we said just the right words, the answers to our prayers would be different. If we could just find the right formula to unlock all the goodness in the vending machine, then we would be set. But from our perspective, it just doesn't make sense why God answers some prayers one way, and other prayers a different way.
- B. For example, my friend has been out of work for two years now. He's a great guy; smart, professional, funny. He has held his family together through some difficult times, praying like crazy. His wife is praying like crazy; his kids are praying like crazy. But over the course of two years, he cannot find a good job to support his family—even though the entire family has been praying and praying.

But I have this other friend who went car shopping, and had been praying that he would find a car in a ridiculously hard-to-find color in his price range. And sure enough, he went to the car dealership and found a blue car with tan interior, and the price of the car had been slashed to fit his price range.

And I'm thinking, "Okay, time out. God, I don't know how You work this whole thing, but I'm thinking You could have put a little less energy into the car request and shifted it over to the dad who needs a job, right?"

- C. Because of situations like those, some of us decide prayer is just one big flip of a coin, so who cares if you quit praying? Others of us just keep praying because we're afraid not to pray. The whole time we don't know how prayer works, or how God works, but we sure wish we could figure out the code or the combination, get the change in the machine and press the right buttons.

### TRUTH

- A. We are going to look at one passage of Scripture this week and next week, and then another passage in our third week, where Jesus actually teaches us how to pray. Now you may be thinking, "I don't need anybody to teach me how to pray. Prayer is just talking to God." I used to think that was all prayer was too. But I think we'll discover in studying these Scriptures that prayer is so much more. It's more than simply talking to God. We're going to look at verses that some of you have read before, and you may be shocked to discover what Jesus says about prayer.
- B. See, there was something different about how Jesus prayed. People noticed it in the words Jesus said and in the way He said them. They noticed it in how He prayed, many times going off in private to pray. There was something different, something appealing, in how Jesus talked to God.
- C. So what's the secret? What is so different about how Jesus prays? Listen to how Jesus explains the difference: *"Don't be like the hypocrites, for they love standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men"* (Matthew 6:5 NIV).

From this verse, one thing really stands out to me—it is something that you don't usually hear people make a big deal about, but apparently where you pray is important. You might think, "I can pray anywhere." I agree. I do think you can pray anywhere. I think you can pray anywhere at anytime. But for some reason, when Jesus starts talking about prayer, He talks about a proper place and an improper place to pray.



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# CAN YOU HEAR ME?(1): CUL8R TEACHING SCRIPT

### TRUTH (CONT'D)

- D. And the reason isn't because there's something magical about the place, but because the place is tied into something else. Jesus continues to give us insight into what that is:

*"Don't be like the hypocrites, for they love standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full" (Matthew 6:5 NIV).*

Some people pray just because they like the sound of their own voice. It's not that different from being in a one-sided conversation with someone. You can tell when someone could care less about what you have to say. That person is more engrossed in what he is saying. You're just there so that other people don't think that person is talking to himself. Jesus was referring to people who pray like that, specifically a group of religious people who wanted others to see how religious they were. They prayed public prayers as a spectacle in the synagogues in order to be seen. And Jesus says that people who pray that way will get a reward, but that reward is simply that other people saw them praying and thought how nice that was, or how spiritual that person was. That's all they're going to get. Congratulations. You stood out there for an hour and prayed. That was so moving. That's your reward.

- E. Jesus is explaining prayer as something more than just what religious people do. He's saying that prayer is about more than just the words you say when other people are around—that this conversation with God is more personal, more intimate than that. *"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen" (Matthew 6:6 NIV).*

This is a real shift in how many of us have been taught to pray. Most of us pray on the run. We pray that quick prayer before walking into class for the big test. Or before we walk down that certain hallway at school. "God, please fix that, help that, stop that." But there's something different about intentionally carving out time for someone. There's something intentional about meeting someone one on one. It's a different kind of relationship when you've made time to talk and meet with someone.

- F. Now listen to what Jesus says after that: *"Go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen."* Now check this out; here's a promise: *"Then, Your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you" (Matthew 6:6 NIV).* The little Greek word here for "reward" means repay. And that might cause you to think, "Now, that's what I'm talking about. If the reason I haven't gotten what I want from God is because I haven't gone into my room and closed the door, I'm going to go home right now, go straight to my room, close the door, and pray that God will get me into college with a full scholarship. If going into my room and closing the door is the magic formula, if that's what it takes to get what I want out of God, then I'll go to my room and close the door." But here is the thing, Jesus doesn't promise that—fortunately. The reward of going in your room and closing the door is not that you'll get everything you want from God.

- G. But there is a reward, and this verse promises you that the God who sees you in secret, the God who sees you intentionally carving out time for Him, the God who sees you doing something more than "help me, bless me, give me" while on the run, will take notice. You will be rewarded, and you know what? I think every person listening to this who has made it a habit in the morning or afternoons or evenings to get alone with God in a specific spot at a specific time could tell us what they think that reward is and we would all be on the same page. The reward is the relationship. God invented prayer for you to cultivate a relationship with Him. And this relationship is characterized by closeness and connection.



## THE ANDY STANLEY COLLECTION

# CAN YOU HEAR ME?(1): CUL8R TEACHING SCRIPT

### APPLICATION

- A. The best way to explain it is this: Think about your closest friend. Now, imagine if the only time you ever talked to or spent time with this person was in passing, at random intervals during the week—the only time, ever. Maybe a wave in the hallway, a quick chat in the lunch line, a word or two exchanged while you're changing out for P.E. or whatever. That's it. That's all the interaction you had with this friend. Ever. If your only conversations were like that, you could sit three feet from that person and feel completely disconnected, like you didn't know anything about him or her at all. Why? It isn't because you're not talking, because you are still talking. It's because there is a huge difference between talking to this friend randomly, and intentionally carving out and planning time to connect with that friend. It's just different. One deals with the chaos and randomness of life; the other deals with a closer connection and relationship. That is a mirror of what God wants with you and me.
- B. Because here's the reality—we can talk to God the rest of our lives and never feel connected to Him. If we don't go into our rooms—or wherever that place is where you and God can meet—we are missing out. A connection happens when we decide to spend time with God on a regular basis. There's nothing magic about the place, but there is something amazing about being that focused and that intentional about your time, your relationship with God.
- C. I understand getting discouraged when God doesn't do what we want, but that wouldn't frustrate us so much if we understood the big picture. And the big picture is easier to see and understand when in relationship with God. God wants a relationship with you more than anything. He's proved that time and time again. God wants us to understand the fullness of who He is and what He wants for us. But that's not going to happen randomly and occasionally.
- D. It's not going to happen when there's a real need staring you in the face like that big exam you're walking into or when a friend says, "Shoot up a prayer for me." If that's what your prayer life is limited to, you're not going to get it. If the only time you pray is when you're in this group, or when you break off into your small groups, you're not going to get it. You're not going to experience this. You're not going to be able to identify with people who say they have a personal relationship with God. You'll see people who have this close connection to God and think, "How can I have that with God?"
- God says, "That happens when you go into your room, close the door, and you're intentional about spending time with Me."
- E. So where is that place? And when is that time? In my life, nothing happens randomly. I have friends all the time who, when I see them, I say, "We should get together," but it never happens unless I intentionally make a plan to get together with them. The same thing happens with God. I don't just "find time" to get alone and pray, I have to make time. For me, it's in the morning, early, before my kids wake up. For you, it may be late at night. If I tried to do that, I would fall asleep. It just works differently for each of us but there is one common denominator—it has to be intentional or it will never happen.
- F. And if you can't find the time, then take something out of your schedule. Maybe it means that you don't check your MySpace or Facebook every night. For others, it may mean that you don't watch TV for hours. For some of you, it means waking up a little earlier. If you don't have the time, cut something else out. If you don't make the time, it will never happen.



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# CAN YOU HEAR ME?(1): CUL8R TEACHING SCRIPT

### APPLICATION (CONT'D)

G. And the room you decide to pray in may not be your actual room at all—especially if you share it with a brother or sister. Your room may be the den in the basement. Or the back porch. Or the bathroom. Find a place with few distractions where you can get alone, just you and God. Then close the door, and spend time with Him.

### LANDING

- A. You know what I don't want for you? I don't want you to spend your whole life missing out on what God ultimately has for you personally and relationally. I don't want any of us to wake up one day so disappointed with God because we pleaded and pleaded with Him, thinking that was all there was to prayer.
- B. What a tragedy! I don't want you to think prayer is simply asking and waiting, or like putting change in a vending machine. Because Jesus so specifically said, "I want you to go in your room and close the door. And here's the promise—when your unseen Father sees you alone in private, He will reward you with a relationship like none other in your life. I promise."
- C. And having figured that much out, next week we'll look at how Jesus teaches us to pray, what we say when we get alone with Him. But for now, I want you to be intentional about the time you do spend talking with Him. How is it going to happen? Where can you carve out time this week to get alone with Him?
- D. If you never do this, it's not going to bother me. The reality is I won't know. I would just hate for you to spend your whole life missing out. If we're going to pray anyway, why not learn how to pray in a way that connects you to God in a deeper way? If we're going to pray anyway, why not pray the way Jesus instructed us to pray? And when you go into your room, or wherever, and close the door behind you, the unseen Father will see you in secret and reward you.

### TRANSITION INTO SMALL GROUPS

