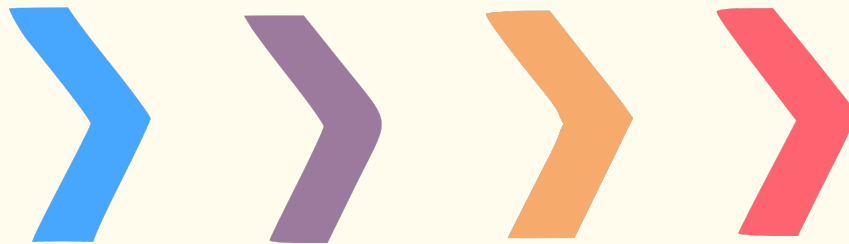


OUT OF YOUR

SHELL



FINDING YOUR PLACE IN THE BODY

PHILIP JENKINS AUSTEN OAKLEY
SCOTT UTTER JODY MARBLE

HELLO

Before you get started, the four of us guys just wanted to take a minute to say thank you for downloading this little series. We hope you enjoy using it as much as we enjoyed coming together to create it.

We each wrote one week of material for you to teach. Because of this, you will probably notice differences in our four voices over the next few weeks. Considering the topic for this class, we hope you will see that this was intentional. We believe that the unique traits that set us apart from one another are but threads woven together into a tapestry; displaying the outrageous love of Jesus Christ to the world.

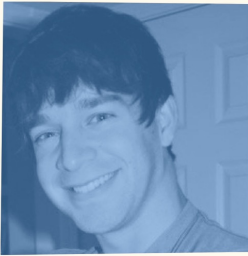
Are prayer is that the next four weeks will bring clarity and direction to the ministry in which you have been chosen to serve.

Scott, Jody, Philip, & Austen



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

[THE DUDES THAT WROTE IT.]



PHILIP JENKINS

 [@YOUTHMINOTAUR](#)

Philip Jenkins is the youth minister at the Mt. Juliet Church of Christ. He and his wife Laura have two kids named Lucas (4) and Holley (3). Philip is the chairman of the board of Evangelism University and has authored two books, *The Lunch Ladies* and *Take Route*.



AUSTEN OAKLEY

 [@AOK2](#)

Austen is currently the youth minister at the Stantonville church of Christ and will begin full-time with the Mount Juliet congregation following graduation. He is engaged to Bailey Burnette and will be getting married this summer. He is an avid sports fan and loves Auburn athletics.



SCOTT UTTER

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Scott teaches Bible at Columbia Academy (Columbia, TN) and works as a therapist at The Nurture House (Franklin, TN). He and his wife Abbé live in Spring Hill. Scott has served as youth minister at Estes Church of Christ and Millview Church of Christ. He also enjoys graphic design in his spare time.



JODY MARBLE

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Jody grew up in Oklahoma then attended Freed-Hardeman in 2010. He's been in Tennessee ever since. He worked with the Mount Juliet Church of Christ but works at Bartlett Woods Church at Christ as of April 2016. He's in a relationship with Katie Dalp, and he's definitely a "Michelangelo." Cowabunga Dude!

WEEK ONE: THE TEAM

[PHILIP JENKINS]

CLASS PREP

Hand out personality tests as students are walking in.

INTRO STUFF

- › Open with original Ninja Turtles theme from cartoon.
- › Struggling artists Kevin Eastman and Peter Laird were living in Northampton, Massachusetts, when they came up with the Turtles in November 1983. As a joke, Eastman drew a turtle standing on its hind legs, wearing a mask, with nunchucks strapped to its arms. Eastman wrote "Ninja Turtle" on the top of the page. Laird laughed and then drew a more refined version of the turtle. Not to be outdone, Eastman drew four turtles, each armed with a ninja-style weapon. Laird outlined the group shot in ink and added "Teenage Mutant" to the "Ninja Turtles" title. The original drawing of the Ninja Turtles sold for \$71,700.
- › There are many aspects of the Turtles that are a nod to Marvel Comics' superhero Daredevil. For example, Splinter, the Turtles' father figure and sensei, is an homage to Daredevil's sensei, Stick. The Foot Clan is a take-off of the ninja clan in Daredevil known as The Hand. However, the coolest connection is that the Turtles and Daredevil seem to share the same origin story. In Daredevil #1, Matt Murdoch sees a truck barreling down on an old man, so Murdoch knocks the man out of the way. As the truck swerves, a canister flies out the back and strikes Murdoch in the face. The canister is filled with a radioactive substance, which blinds Murdoch, but enhances his other senses to super-human levels. Later, he uses his heightened senses to fight crime as Daredevil. For the Turtles' origin, the same scenario plays out, except the canister bounces off the boy's head and smashes into a bowl of baby turtles, who fall, along with the canister, into an open manhole. Splinter finds the turtles crawling around in a viscous fluid seeping out of the broken canister, which is the mutagen that turns the Turtles and Splinter into human-sized heroes.¹

TRANSITION

I don't know if any of that sounds cool to you, or if all of that sounds cool to you, but have you ever considered the similarities between Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and the church? I'll answer that one for you: you haven't. But over the next few weeks that's what we're going to do—we'll talk about the team, the turtles, teamwork, and the teacher.

LESSON

- › Everybody in the Body matters to the Body.
- › But some important questions to consider: where do you fit into the Body? What part of the Body are you? Yes, you belong to the Body, but have you found your place in the Body?
- › The Bible never teaches that students are supposed to be the church *tomorrow*. They are the church *right now*.
- › Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-20.

¹ <http://mentalfloss.com/article/30862/complete-history-teenage-mutant-ninja-turtles>



QUICK, OBVIOUS OBSERVATIONS

1. **Even though there is diversity, the Spirit of God brings unity to the Body. (vs.13)**
2. **The Body was designed to have many body parts. (vs.14)**
3. **If you have been baptized, whether you feel like you're a part of the Body or not, you're still part of the Body, so do your part Body part! (vs.15)**
 - › Who says this? A foot. How important is your foot to your body?
 - › If you are someone that likes to withhold forgiveness or blame people in the church for times that they hurt your feelings, get over it and get back to doing your part in the Body!
 - › You're a part of the Body! That automatically makes you important to Him and to us!
4. **Do I know my part and am I doing it? (vs.18)**
 - › Are you an eye? A foot? A heart? A mouth? A brain? A hand? What role do you play?
 - › 1 Corinthians 12 uses the analogy of the body, but if I may let me use another analogy: the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.
 - › Everybody get out that personality test that you took at the beginning of class. I didn't want to put this at the top of the page, but this test was really our own version of which Ninja Turtle are you?
 - › Count up which letter you circled the most. If you circled
 - A. You are Leonardo.
 - B. You are Donatello.
 - C. You are Michelangelo.
 - D. You are Raphael

LEONARDO [THE HEART]

- › **People in the Bible with this personality:** Joshua, David, Deborah
- › **Potential strengths:** Leadership, planner, motivator, outgoing, go-getter, takes initiative, team-centered, sees big picture, courageous, comfortable taking charge, responsible, devoted student, disciplined, conscientious, not afraid to take risks, fixer, peace-maker, seeks to lead others towards success/goals.
- › **Potential weaknesses:** Sometimes unwilling to let others lead, can be stubborn about others' plans, can come across as a know-it-all, can be perceived as bossy, might have unrealistic expectations for others, delegating can be difficult, frustrated when people don't follow, sharing responsibility, knowing when to step aside, listening, handling criticism.

DONATELLO [THE BRAIN]

- › **People in the Bible with this personality:** Moses
- › **Potential strengths:** Sharp mind, intelligent, thinker, planner, creative, avoids conflict, loyal, soft spoken, reserved, quiet, prefers to keep opinion to self unless asked, diligent, capable, dependable, doesn't do drama, doesn't seek spotlight, introvert, humble, meek.
- › **Potential weaknesses:** Communication, motivating others, quietness can be confused for lack of passion, hesitant, doesn't always speak up when needed, shyness might



misinterpreted as rudeness, resistant to do things that put them in the spot light, may miss opportunities, can be easily overlooked (since he/she is so low-key), hard to open up.

MICHELANGELO [THE MOUTH]

- **People in the Bible with this personality:** John, Barnabas, Ruth
- **Potential strengths:** Fun-loving, free-spirited, relaxed, friendly, life of the party, encourager, magnetic, genuine, brings people together, inclusive, outgoing, cheerleader, energetic passion, presence/absence felt, sense of humor, light-hearted, doesn't take things too seriously, easy to get along with, makes connections quickly, relationship builder, spends time around others, with the people, big-hearted, genuine, dreamer, idealist, extravert, loyal.
- **Potential weaknesses:** Difficult to nail down, pressure to always be "on," lacks discipline, failure to plan, ever-changing plans are hard to follow, laid-back approach may frustrate others, may not take serious things seriously, can lack direction/focus, goal-setting, executing a plan, self-starting, dreaming up a plan, doesn't think things through very well.

RAPHAEL [THE MUSCLE]

- **People in the Bible with this personality:** Paul, Peter
- **Potential strengths:** Bold, passionate, outspoken, strong-willed, not easily swayed, hardworking, straight shooter, truth speaker, serious, deals with absolutes, sticks to plan, factual, team player, understands role, cut and dry, task orientated, dependable, a doer, gets things done, self-starter, doesn't need a lot of supervision, realistic.
- **Potential weaknesses:** May lack tact, stubborn, easily frustrated/flustered, expressive, emotional, expects others to have the same amount of discipline as they do, may seem to lack compassion, abrasive, expects results always, opinionated, not flexible, impatient, speaking up not always best, might lash out, might overreact, easily misunderstood.

CONCLUSION

- Well, did the test get some things right? We tried to create a test that showed some of the different personalities inside of this room, inside of the church, and also on the Ninja Turtles' team! Next week, we've got some really great things planned as we dig a little bit deeper into some of these personalities and how they fit together and work together inside the church.
- The Body of Christ is a beautiful thing. Many members. Different body parts, different roles. But one Body and one mission: His mission.
- End with a prayer for unity within the Body so that we can better carry out His mission.

TURTLE POWER: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Prepare handout with each turtle's description on it for everyone.
- Begin by going around the room and guess each other's turtle personas.



TAKEWAYS

- **The beautiful thing about the church is that we're all different, but we're all on the same team.**

Who are the most polar opposite personalities that you can think of inside of this church? How is it that those two people can coexist inside the Lord's church? (Because the love of Christ is the glue that holds this entire team, this entire family together. He is the head and wherever the head goes the Body follows. When He moves, we must move.)

Galatians 3:27-29

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

- **Don't try to be someone you're not. Play your part.**

1 Corinthians 12:15

If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.

The analogy in 1 Corinthians 12:15 is absurd. It makes zero sense for your foot to rebel against your own body because it isn't like a hand. It's just as absurd for us to be jealous of other people in the body for the gifts they have. If they can do something you can't do, good for them! They play a different role than you do. And that's not just "OK," that's fantastic, because the Body needs them to do what they were designed to do in and for the Body.



WEEK TWO: THE TURTLES

[AUSTEN OAKLEY]

CLASS PREP

- › Buy orange, purple, red, and blue bandanas and cut out holes to make masks out of them.
- › Decide what member of the congregation you want to talk to each group. You will need a Michelangelo, Donatello, Raphael, and Leonardo.
- › Let these individuals know a few days in advance, giving them adequate time to prepare to do the best job possible. Having trouble knowing who you should get? Here are some qualities of each:
 - ^ **Leonardo** is the heart of the group. He is a leader, planner, responsible, devoted student, and disciplined.
 - ^ **Donatello** is the mind of the group. He is a thinker, planner, inventor, avoids conflict, soft spoken, reserved, dependable, and doesn't seek the spot light.
 - ^ **Michelangelo** is the mouth of the group. He is fun loving, friendly, life of the party, magnetic, brings others together, inclusive, outgoing, energetic, sense of humor, and fun to be around.
 - ^ **Raphael** is the hands/feet of the group. He is bold, passionate, hardworking, truth speaker, serious, team player, task oriented.
- › If needed, customize the take-away challenges to fit your particular group.
- › Get four pizza boxes and put the pizza slice challenge cards in them for the students to take with them.

INTRO STUFF

- › Last week, we not only stressed to each student to understand the importance of finding a role in the body of Christ, but we actually helped them discover what their role could be based off of their personalities and interests.
- › Think about this: how much sense would it make for someone to see the potential that Stephen Curry had as a kid, but never teach him to shoot a basketball? What an incredible amount of potential that would have been wasted. And not because he did not want to learn, but simply because no one ever took the time to teach him.
- › In a similar sense, so many kids in the church today have all of the potential in the world, but they just simply do not know how to use their gifts and interests for God.

PROCEDURE

- › When the students come in, have a specific color mask to put on to go with their particular turtle. (**Leonardo**, **Donatello**, **Michelangelo**, **Raphael**)
- › Introduce the goal of tonight and what they are going to be doing.
- › Pray for tonight!
- › Core lesson



LESSON

- Option for a larger youth group:
 - ⤴ Break out into four groups. (Michelangelo's with the chosen Michelangelo, etc.)
 - ⤴ Ask the chosen group leader to be prepared to talk about how he uses his personality and gifts to help the church.
 - ⤴ Ask him to discuss both the strengths and the weaknesses of having this particular type of personality.
- Option for a smaller youth group:
 - ⤴ Instead of breaking up into four groups and having the four chosen "turtles" talk to their specific group, just have the chosen group leaders talk to everyone for 5-7 minutes, instead of 25-30 minutes.
 - ⤴ Ask each person to briefly talk about how he uses his personality and gifts to help the church.
 - ⤴ Ask him to briefly discuss both the strength and weaknesses of having this particular type of personality.
- Quick note for the leader: Whether your group is big or small, we would like to encourage you to refer to scripture when discussing these various personalities in action. For instance, a Donatello needs to have students turning to a passage or two about Moses. This class series is a *guide* for you, but we really want *you* to dig into scripture and make it your own.

GRAB A SLICE

- Challenge each student to use his/her personality type to help the body this week. Let each kid get a slice of pizza with the challenges on it. The items below are only suggestions. Feel free to come up with some on your own.
 - **LEONARDO**
 - ⤴ Make a visit with a minister.
 - ⤴ Have lunch with an elder.
 - ⤴ Volunteer to help with taking the Lord's supper to shut-ins.
 - **DONATELLO**
 - ⤴ Write a card to someone who is sick/hospitalized.
 - ⤴ Make an appreciation gift for an elder/minister.
 - ⤴ Write a thank you note/note of encouragement.
 - ⤴ Help serve food at the next fellowship meal.
 - ⤴ Make an appreciation gift for an elder/minister/Bible class teacher/widow.
 - **MICHELANGELO**
 - ⤴ Sit with someone you do not know well at church.
 - ⤴ Hang out with a younger kid in the youth group/help out with Pew Packers, Lads to Leaders, etc.



^ Have lunch with a minister.

> **RAPHAEL**

- ^ Find an elderly person that could use some help around the house
- ^ Help clean the church building.
- ^ Volunteer to help set up/clean up at the next youth event.

Option: If enough kid's complete a pizza slice, you could throw them a pizza party before church!



WEEK THREE: THE CONFLICT

[SCOTT UTTER]

CLASS PREP

Get four pizza boxes and put the pizza slice challenge cards in them for the students to take with them.

INTRO STUFF

- › Open with original Ninja Turtles theme from cartoon.
- › So, in case you've been sleeping in your chair during past couple of weeks, we've been talking about the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. A lot. I've been obsessed with the TMNT ever since I could say "cowabunga". Needless to say, I'm pretty excited about this stuff.
- › Up to to this point you have hopefully understood the point of what we are trying to accomplish here. Take a second and look around the room. There are lots of different faces with lots of different personalities. We all think differently. We all react to things differently. We even smell differently. Isn't it awesome?
- › By now, most have you have started to consider your role as a part of this extraordinary team called "the church".
- › Do you possess the valuable leadership gift of a Leonardo? What about those of you that identify with the inventive, creative personality of Donatello? Some of you might feel a little more like Michelangelo—possessing a fun loving spirit, yet wielding a beautiful heart of encouragement. Or maybe you would prefer to get your hands dirty through service rather than sit around like Raphael.
- › Before we go much further, know this: Whatever color bandana you wear, you have come to the right place! As it was stated at the very beginning of this series: "Everybody in the body matters to the body."
- › So let me encourage you with words of the sensational 90's musical trailblazers—The Backstreet Boys: "I don't care who you are. Where you're from. What you did..."

TRANSITION

We simply cannot stress enough how all of these different personalities and styles are so special and incomparably valuable to what it is we are trying to accomplish. While being different from one another can be a beautiful thing--it can also cause a lot of conflict and frustration in your group.

LESSON

- › You might not really be a fan of (or even be familiar with) the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. But as you could probably expect, there is often a lot of conflict among the four turtles--particularly between Leonardo (the natural-born leader) and Raphael (the hothead that really just wanted to get down to business).
- › Anytime you have two or more different vibes thrown together there is a highly likelihood of an occasional clash.
- › In Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 2: The Secret of the Ooze (It is awesome. Go watch it.) Leonardo and Raphael can't agree on a strategy for their team in their fight against the



enemy. Leonardo wants to be patient and listen to the instruction of Master Splinter while Raphael is ready to take action. Because the turtles can't agree, others are put in danger and the villains of the story gain the upper hand.

- **While some of you might care less about Ninja Turtles, there is actually a really cool parallel that can be shown between their team and our own.** When you have leaders, servants, encouragers and thinkers all together in the same room it can start to feel a little stuffy from time to time. Every single day is a mission that we as a church are a part of, and on each one of these days, Satan is going to use every second to play our personalities against one another.
- In the movie mentioned a second ago, Shredder creates two monstrous villains, Tokka and Rahzar, he used as weapons against the turtles. Satan doesn't have to use mutants or brute strength to destroy his targets. He, on the other hand, uses a more subtle--more *effective* form of combat. His arsenal consists of many weapons that take multiple forms.

TIME OUT, DUDE:

What are some of the 'weapons' that Satan likes to use against us that cause us to fight against each other? (*In case there is a shortage of answers, here are a few to get help continue the conversation: Jealousy, gossip, anger, apathy, etc.*)

LESSON [CONTINUED]

- **The devil is extremely strategic (Genesis 3:1).** Maybe you've seen some of these weapons at work within the church. When I think about this topic it's hard for me not to think about Paul's letter to the Ephesian church.

Spent a few minutes with your group and check out what Paul has to say in *Ephesians 4:17-24*.

- This is an extremely cool passage when you consider the audience. Here, Paul is talking to a specific group of people: The Gentile readers in Ephesus. What is he telling them? Don't live like Gentiles anymore.
- The thing is, the Gentiles that had been converted to Christianity had at one lived a life that was patterned after a worldly standard. They were, in essence, Satan's "foot-soldiers" and didn't really even know it.
- Reminding the church of their "pre-Jesus" selves, Paul then reminds the Ephesians that the bar has now been risen.

Now spend a few minutes with your group and read *Ephesians 4:25-32*.

- Now spend a few minutes with your group and read *Ephesians 4:25-32*.
- Did you catch that? The church is encouraged by Paul to do something different. Be truthful in the things you say. Don't act rashly out of anger. Work hard. Use positive, encouraging language.
- But did you catch the *really, really* big one?: "**Give no opportunity to the devil.**"



- › As we mentioned before, the devil is willing to try any angle (that sounds a lot like *triangle*). He's willing to do anything it takes to crush as many of you as he can—even when that means playing you against one another.

THE POINT

- › The point of all of this is that we have the ability to avoid any of this. At the heart of this specific message there is one obvious, yet crucial point we have to remember: We need each other.
- › Even *THE Han Solo* couldn't fly the Millennium Falcon alone. He needed a copilot in the form of a Wookiee named Chewbacca. And yes, I realize that I am hyperlinking to another nerdiverse (universe of nerdiness).

TAKEAWAYS

- › If you go back to the beginning of Ephesians 4, you'll see that Paul emphasizes this same idea that **we can't do this alone**.

Ephesians 4:1-6

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

- › In verse 5, Paul urges the Christians to “maintain the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace.”
- › Even though this message was directed toward the Ephesians at the time of its writing, the same challenge applies to us as a team of Christians. So how do we maintain this special bond? From a defensive standpoint, there are four specific qualities that we each individually can pick up as weapons to fight off what Satan is trying to do:
 - ↗ Humility
 - ↗ Gentleness
 - ↗ Patience
 - ↗ Love

TURTLE POWER: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- › Which of these four weapons would you consider yourself to be *most* skilled in implementing? Which of these four weapons would others say you are *most* skilled in implementing?
- › Now let's reverse it. Which of these four weapons would you consider yourself to be *least* skilled in implementing? Which of these four weapons would others say you are *least* skilled in implementing?



FINAL THOUGHT

- › The Devil we fight is all about destruction, darkness and disorder. He exists to form chaos within the church and destroy as many people as possible.
- › Honestly, it terrifies me that there is a devil who knows my name and desires my soul. But consider what amazing joy we are able to have when you think about the opposite side of the coin.
- › While Satan is all about chaos, the God our team is fighting for is a God of peace. In Romans 16:20, Paul speaks to the church saying "[t]he God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet."
- › **We need each other.** Together through humility, gentleness, patience, love—through the kind of peace that can only come from God—Satan will be crushed under our feet.

GRAB A SLICE

- › Challenge each student to use his/her personality type to help the body this week. Here are options from the previous week...**plus a few new ones!** Let each student grab a slice with the challenges on it and encourage them to try a challenge they haven't taken on yet.

› LEONARDO

- ↗ Make a visit with a minister.
- ↗ Have lunch with an elder.
- ↗ Volunteer to help with taking the Lord's supper to shut-ins.
- ↗ Schedule a Bible study someone.

› DONATELLO

- ↗ Write a card to someone who is sick/hospitalized.
- ↗ Make an appreciation gift for an elder/minister.
- ↗ Help serve food at the next fellowship meal.
- ↗ Ask a minister if you can help design a t-shirt or poster for a youth event.

› MICHELANGELO

- ↗ Sit with someone you do not know well at church.
- ↗ Hang out with a younger kid in the youth group/help out with Pew Packers, Lads to Leaders, etc.
- ↗ Have lunch with a minister.
- ↗ Text someone that you've noticed hasn't been to church in a while. Let them know they are loved and missed!

› RAPHAEL

- ↗ Find an elderly person that could use some help around the house
- ↗ Help clean the church building.
- ↗ Volunteer to help set up/clean up at the next youth event.



^ Dream up, organize and execute a service project with a group of friends.

Option: If enough kid's complete a pizza slice, you could throw them a pizza party before church!



WEEK FOUR: THE MASTER

[JODY MARBLE]

CLASS PREP

Optional: As kids are coming into class, have a grid-like-cartoon map set up on the projector. Have several directions in place of how to get to a certain place.

Example: (1) Start at the center of the map. (2) Go south two boxes. (3) Go east 3 boxes. (4) Go north one box. (5) Then go west 4 boxes.

When the class begins, ask students at what point on the map did they come to (It should be simple enough for all the students to figure it out.) The catch is the map is upside down. North is south, and south is north, etc. The point is without the right directions, key, or guide it's impossible to figure out where to go.

INTRO STUFF

- Paint picture of life/turtles without teacher/sensei, direction, guidance, etc. Examples could include:
 - Life without a teacher
 - A team without a coach
 - Monopoly without instructions
 - No "terms and conditions" documents = CHAOS (sarcasm)
- What or where would turtles be without Master Splinter?
 - Lonely, afraid, directionless, hopeless, etc?
 - Thankfully Jesus has taken us in and given us a family, safety, comfort, a home, etc!
- It did not take long for people to recognize that the Turtles had a Teacher, a Sensei.
 - Is it evident that you have a Master, a Teacher?
 - It shouldn't take long for someone to realize that a Christian has been with the Master.
- If you took Master Splinter out of the turtles life, then the turtles' life would be completely different.
 - If we took Jesus out of your life would it look completely different?
 - Would others be able to tell that something was missing?
 - Or would it look exactly like it does now?
- In the previous lessons we:
 - Looked at the Turtles Individually and learned how we're all different, but we all matter. (Everybody in the body matters to the body)
 - Looked at the Team and learned how each of us have a different functions, and we all must do our part to make sure we are at our best.



- ⤴ Third week we looked at how we must work as a team, and that ultimately we're all working towards the same thing!
- ⤴ In this lesson we're going to focus on what made the Turtles into a Team. We're going to focus on the Teacher, Sensei, and Master. We're going to focus on Jesus.
- ⤴ Let's take a closer look at what our lives could and should look like if we have spent time with the Master, with Jesus.

Acts 4:13

Now as they observed the **confidence** of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were **amazed**, and began to **recognize them as having been with Jesus**.

I. CONFIDENCE AND BOLDNESS

- **What was it that these people saw in Peter and John that made them realize that they had been with Jesus?**
 - ⤴ They saw their confidence!
- **Confidence:** A feeling or belief that you can do something well or succeed at something.
- **Some translations use the word boldness.** "Not hesitating or fearful in the face of actual or possible danger or rebuff; courageous and daring."
- **By the way, verse 13 tells us that Peter and John were "uneducated and untrained."** I think that's important because it shows us that we don't have to be the "scholar" or "preacher" or have all the answers to show others that we have been with the Master.
- **Peter and John:**
 - ⤴ Portrayed a feeling to others of success.
 - ⤴ Didn't hesitate or hide that they were Christian
 - ⤴ They weren't afraid of danger or embarrassment for the sake of Christ.
- **When people look at us, as Christians, and they see someone who is defeated or afraid we're NOT sending the message that we've been with Christ.** A Christian who has been with the Master cannot be defeated.
- **When Christians are hesitant to boldly stand up and do the right thing, what that says is that we have NOT spent enough time with the Master.** A Christian who has been with the Master doesn't hesitate to do the right thing.
- **Philippians 4:13**
 - ⤴ *"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."*
 - ⤴ Paul isn't talking about winning a football game or running a marathon, he's saying that I have confidence that no matter what comes my way I have confidence that I can make it through and do anything for the sake of Christ!
 - ⤴ God doesn't require us to run marathons or win baseball games. He requires us to confidently stand up for him with boldness.



- If you've ever watched Ninja Turtles, one thing you'll notice is that they don't back down, and that's because they have confidence in what their Master has imparted on them.
- We need to have a boldness that shows others that we're not afraid and that we have confidence that can only be found in Christ!
- What does it look like to have been with the Master?
 - ⤴ It looks like a Christian.
 - ⤴ A Christian looks like someone who is confident in who they are and more importantly whose they are.

II. AMAZED!

- In verse 13, the people saw Peter and John's boldness and it caused them to what?
 - ⤴ It caused them to be amazed!
 - ⤴ "Now as they observed the **confidence** of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were **amazed...**"
- When people see what God can do with someone they're always going to have the same reaction.
 - ⤴ They will be amazed.
- In the Gospels and the book of Acts you see the Apostles doing incredible things, miraculous things. Here are two examples in particular:
 - ⤴ Peter heals a lame man (Acts 3:6-7): *But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!" And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened.*
 - ⤴ Peter heals a paralyzed man (Acts 9:33-34): *There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years, for he was paralyzed. Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed." Immediately he got up. One thing the miracles in these passages and all like them have in common is that these miracles were done in and through the name of Jesus.*
 - ⤴ Without Jesus, Peter nor anyone else could have done such amazing things.
- When people saw the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, they were amazed.
 - ⤴ They were amazed at who they were, but also what they were able to do!
 - ⤴ They were amazed because of the incredible things that they did, and that was all because they were Disciples of the Sensei.
- Peter, John, and all of the disciples and Apostles of Jesus were able to do things that others never even dreamed of.
 - ⤴ When others saw their deeds and actions, they were amazed, because they had been with someone who had not just showed them a way, but show them THE WAY.
 - ⤴ Jesus has not only shown us a way, but THE WAY.



➤ **What would and should we look like if we have spent time with the Master? We would want someone who is:**

- Confident in who they are.
- Boldly stand up for WHOSE they are.
- Amazes others at what we are able to accomplish, because of our Master.

CONCLUSION

➤ **TMNT:**

- The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles is this crazy story about how four very different Ninja Turtles, with very different skills and personalities came together to make something awesome and do something amazing.
- Each turtle was different, but neither was more important than the other.
- They learned to find their place and their roles and became a stronger team.
- Sometimes they had to face difficulties with each other, but they were always united by the same goal, which was to defeat their enemy.
- However, the only way they ever made it was because of the became Disciples of the Sensei.

➤ **The Church:**

- The Church is this crazy awesome story about how very many different people, with different skills and personalities came together to make something awesome and do something amazing.
- Each person is different, but no one is more important than the other.
- Each must learn to find their place and role in the body so that we can become stronger.
- We may have differences and conflicts everyone and then, but ultimately we're united by the same goal, to defeat evil.
- However, if we don't devote ourselves to the Master, to Jesus, then we'll never make it.

➤ **Let's be people that look like we've been with and are devoted to the Master!**

