

Lesson 2 / March 14, 2010

A Face In The Crowd

for use as

STEP 1

Lesson 2

Focus:

Jesus can forgive our sins

Lesson 2

Bible Basis:



Luke 5:18-25; 1 Timothy 2:3-5

Students will explore what we must do to be seen and accepted by people and by Jesus.



Materials:

A device with Internet access, Timothy Urban American Idol Golden Ticket interview, cardboard toilet paper roller


For more than nine years, tens of thousands of people have gathered in various cities across the United States and in Puerto Rico to audition for a TV show that has become a cultural icon for the twenty-first century.

-  **What is the name of that show?** (*“American Idol”*)
-  **Why do you think so many people show up at the auditions?** (*Most want to become famous, while others come to encourage and support those who hope to be America’s next “Idol” superstar.*)

Imagine that you are seated in a sports arena with 10,000 other girls and guys who have come to audition for “American Idol.”

-  **As you look around you at the ocean of people – some waving signs, others wearing outrageous costumes, some looking confident while still others look like they’re going to pass out for one reason or another – how do you feel?** (*excited, scared, physically ill, impatient, having second thoughts, hopeless*)
-  **What if your friends could somehow get you a pass to the front of the crowd, and you suddenly realize that you are among the first dozen or so contestants who will audition for the celebrity judges? How would you feel then?**

You have finished your audition. Randy says, “Dog, I think that was the best we’ve seen so far!” Kara says, “You were a little pitchy, but I like you!” And Simon says, “I’ll be honest with you, I think you’re going to go a long way in this competition.”

-  **What thoughts are racing through your mind as they hand you a Golden Ticket to the next phase of auditions in Hollywood, and you head out to surprise Ryan Seacrest and your anxiously awaiting family and friends?**

Lesson 2
Memory Verse

For there is one God
and one mediator
between God and men,
the man Christ Jesus.

— 1 Timothy 2:5

It's time for your Golden Ticket interview. Let's watch one to get a feel for some of the questions you'll be asked. Show Timothy Urban's downloaded interview. Then, holding a toilet paper roller in your hand like a microphone, approach selected individuals to answer the following interview questions. (Try not to embarrass anyone who feels insecure within the group.)

- ▶ **What would people be surprised to know about you?**
- ▶ **What sets you apart from other people?**
- ▶ **Why do you think you should be the next American Idol?**
- ▶ **How many of you feel nervous when you suddenly become the center of attention?**

The Bible study today is about a man who was lost in a crowd of people who were determined to get close to Jesus. Let's find out how his friends went about getting him a front-row audition.

[Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your *Middle School Teacher's Guide*; Step 4 appears below.]

Source:

AmericanIdol.com / Timothy Urban Golden Ticket interview
www.americanidol.com/videos/season_9/golden_ticket_interviews/timothy_urban

Lesson 2 / March 14, 2010

A Face In The Crowd

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STEP 4

Lesson 2 Focus:

Jesus can forgive our
sins

Lesson 2 Bible Basis:

Luke 5:18-25; 1
Timothy 2:3-5

Gather everyone and say, Imagine with me that we're back at "American Idol" auditions. You've impressed the judges and you've got your Golden Ticket. You are now in Hollywood and you're mingling with the other contestants.

- ▶ How does it feel to bond with people who are competing for the same prize?
- ▶ Have you ever wanted something so much that you were willing to do just about anything to get it?

You've made it through the first cut and into the next round! But you're watching many of the people you have bonded with having to leave. Their dreams are shattered and many of them are devastated.

- ▶ How do you feel about your bittersweet victory?
- ▶ Would you try to ease the pain of those around you who are suffering? Why or why not?

Now we begin the dreaded group audition. You will have to work with three to five other contestants, agree on a song, and choreograph your performance.

- ▶ How would you go about getting into a group? Would you take charge and choose the people you wanted to work with? Or would you wait for others to invite you to join them? Why?
- ▶ What do you think it would be like to have to cooperate with total strangers to achieve a common goal?

You can't believe it! You were the only one chosen from your group to continue on to "Judgment Day." And after even more unimaginable stress, you've heard the words, "You made it through!" Now you are among the top 24 contestants who will perform live before millions of television viewers.

But after your first performance on the American Idol stage, the judges agree that you chose "the wrong song" and it was "not as good as it could have been."

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Memory Verse

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America votes ... and you find yourself in the bottom four. It's the end of the road. You're going home.

- ▶ **What would happen if the criteria for getting into heaven were similar to the auditions for "American Idol" and you were judged according to how you compare with other people?**
- ▶ **Do the "American Idol" judges have authority to forgive sin? (No.) Who is the only judge who does have that authority? (The Son of God, Jesus Christ – a.k.a. the Son of Man; "...the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins..." – Luke 5:24)**
- ▶ **How would you feel if Jesus said to you, "Your sins are forgiven. You're going home!"**

Close your eyes and imagine that Jesus is kneeling directly in front of you. Pause to allow that image to appear in your teens' minds. You look into His face, and you hear Him ask, "What's troubling you? Trust Me enough to tell Me about the things you've done wrong and the mistakes that you've made." Allow a moment of silence.

Jesus gently places His hand on your shoulder. He looks into your eyes – into the depths of your soul – and says, "He who believes in me will have everlasting life. Your sins are forgiven. You are going home."

Close with the following prayer: Lord Jesus, we thank You for the forgiveness and mercy available to us when we sincerely believe that You are the mediator who has authority to make us right with God. We offer our thoughts and prayers to You and ask that each of us will feel your encouraging Presence as we journey through the coming week. In Your Name we pray, amen.

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