

# WnW19 Lessons

# WARMTH IN WINTER



# WOVEN

FEBRUARY 1-3 | #WNW19

"I want you to be **WOVEN** into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know about God."

Colossians 2:2

## LESSON 2: CORD OF THREE



Rev. Samuel Yun

Also known as P. Sam, Rev. Samuel Yun is currently the planting pastor for **EMBRACECHURCH**, a new faith community in Northern California that is reaching mostly unchurched and dis-churched individuals with "the hunch that life with God is better than life without God". His duties include preaching, vision casting, raising up leaders, counseling and setting the primary spiritual heartbeat of the community. He is a graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary (M. Div. 1995) and has been in the ordained ministry for 23 years. P. Sam is father of two, lover of all sports with a net, follower of Jesus, and immensely broken but constantly healed and strengthened by the love and grace of God. When not engaged in his all-time favorite activity (preaching!), he loves to spend extended times with his two amazing sons, Philip and Evan, watching marathon episodes of *The Office*, engaging in a little Yun family jam session or pretending to be a baller in the gym.

A couple of his most important theological thought/faith convictions:

1. "God is great...here and now... and all the time... beyond what we can actually imagine."
2. "If God can love the likes of me, God can love anyone."

Learn more at  
[www.warmthinwinter.com](http://www.warmthinwinter.com)



**WOVEN**  
FEBRUARY 1-3 | #WNW19

# Warmth In Winter 2019: Woven

Lessons to Prepare for WnW

## LESSON 2: CORD OF THREE

### LESSON OVERVIEW

Accountability.

It is something that we all need and yet sometimes we have given this important part of Christian community a bad name.

So, what is accountability and why is it important for the students we serve?

We were created for community. The race of faith was never meant to be one that run alone.

Let me ask you a tough question before you teach this lesson: Who makes up your strand of 3? Who holds you accountable?

Do you think that you are above that or don't have time? You are wading in dangerous waters. None of us are immune to the dangers that happen in lone waters.

So, before you even begin to teach this lesson, take a long look at who you could ask to stand with you and hold you accountable. This doesn't mean that you have to meet together with them for hours on end or gripe to each other about all that you aren't doing.

Find those friends, whether near or far, who know you best. Those friends who have the courage to call you out when you need it and hold your hand when you need prayer.

We all need support.

We all need to hear the truth and we all desperately need to know that there are those who are holding us in prayer and encourage us.

Use this lesson to remind students that we were never meant to live our faith out alone: we need each other.

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. **WHAT:** We were not meant to live our faith or life alone. We need a community.
2. **WHY:** A community holds us accountable to be our best self.
3. **HOW:** Teenagers will gain the reason why we need each other to be strong followers of Jesus Christ

### SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 4:12

### SUPPLIES

# Warmth In Winter 2019: Woven

Lessons to Prepare for WnW

## **LESSON 2: CORD OF THREE**

- 5 feet of Rope tied in a circle (enough for each group of 3 to have a circle)
- String, which by itself will break easily, but when braided with 3 will not break (use this for a teaching object lesson)
- Wristbands (like what you get at a concert) These can be made out of strips of paper and fastened to the wrist by overlapping an end and taping it together.
- Sharpies or Markers

### **THE BEFORE & AFTER [optional]**

#### **Text Message Questions**

We've provided a couple of different text message questions to send out to your teenagers prior to your meeting. Feel free to use one or both of the questions below. As with the rest of the curriculum, edit these questions to fit the needs of your ministry.

- What does accountability mean to you? See you at youth group tonight so we can talk about it.
- Who are you accountable to? Come hang out at youth group tonight and we'll talk about it.

### **2. LESSON GUIDE**

#### **GETTING THINGS STARTED(optional)**

(We have provided a couple of song options on the WnW19 Lesson page on [www.warmthinwinter.com](http://www.warmthinwinter.com))

As you begin your lesson, welcome your teenagers and invite them into your meeting area. Open in prayer, and then SAY SOMETHING LIKE:

*The saying is true: there is strength in numbers. The wisest man that ever lived observed that two is better than one, and a cord of three strands is not easily broken. God's vision for our lives of faith is for each of us to be deeply connected in community. We live in a world where we are highly connected online but severely disconnected in real life and in real time. We need to move away from the rhythm of quick posts, automatic likes, and careless swipes and move towards a deeper way of building friendships that strengthens our faith and nurtures our soul. We are called and wired to be in authentic community, and in God's design no one stands alone.*

Let's watch this video. ("Together" - Video is on the WnW19 Lesson page on [www.warmthinwinter.com](http://www.warmthinwinter.com))

#### **OPENING GAME: THREE TO THREE**

Have the students get in groups of three and give each group a rope tied together in a circle.

**SAY:** *Today, we are running a race... sounds simple enough, right? Nope. Each group of three has a rope. Right now place the rope in a circle on the ground, have the three people in your group stand inside the circle, grab the rope and bring it waist high on each of you. You might have to spread out to keep the rope from falling*

## Warmth In Winter 2019: Woven

Lessons to Prepare for WnW

### **LESSON 2: CORD OF THREE**

*and that is the point of this whole game: to keep your rope up around each of you at all times, which means you will have to work together. But this rule will make this game even more challenging: you cannot touch the rope with your hands.*

Have the teams line up, choose where they have to run to (preferably a pretty good distance away), and then run back to the starting line.

**SAY:** *If you drop your rope or one of the people on your team uses their hands - Start over! Ready!? SET!! GO!!!*

#### **ASK:**

- What challenge did you experience while running the race?
- How is this like or unlike the way your regular relationship is with the members of your team?
- What would have made the race more simple to complete?
- What did you learn about your team that would help you function more efficiently if we were to run the race again?

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *We all need friends. Not frenemies or the kind of friends who talk about you when you aren't around, but real true friends.*

*Who would like to share a funny story about you and a good friend? One that would illustrate how important it is to have good friends.*

#### **THOUGHTS:**

Pause for someone to share their story, remind them to make sure that it is appropriate to share with the group.

Then say something to process their story back to the group, be sure to highlight how their friendship demonstrated the importance of being strong together.

If you have a funny story to share about you and a good friend (or friends) which illustrates how important it is to have good friends.

If you have embarrassing photos that will help to make this funny and a great way for the youth to heckle you the next few weeks!

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *So what makes a true friend?*

(On newsprint write down what the youth say and back to these traits as you continue the lesson.)

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *These are great things to remember as we seek friends and be a friend to another. Sometimes really good friends, you know the kind who will tell you when you have a giant hole in the back of your pants or a piece of broccoli in your*

## Warmth In Winter 2019: Woven

Lessons to Prepare for WnW

### **LESSON 2: CORD OF THREE**

*teeth, can be tough to find. If you have these kind of friends, be thankful because most of us know that true and real friendship is a rare thing.*

*Look around this room. I have a challenge to share with you. Around this room are people who have your back.*

*And if we don't, then we need to start today agreeing and committing to be each other's 'people'.*

*The Bible describes this kind of friendship using a really cool image.*

Read Ecclesiastes 4:12 together as a group. Consider allowing one or more of the teenagers to read the text.

**SAY:** *I need 3 volunteers.*

*How strong are you? See if you can break this string by having you (give the string to one of the teenagers) and you (give an end to another teenager) pull as hard as you can to see if you can break the string. (Hopefully, the string will break!)*

*Be careful not to cut your hand with the string.*

*Now, let's have each of you take your strings and weave them together. (you could even get really creative and have them braid them, but don't take too long)*

*Now, let's see if we can break the three-corded string. (Hopefully the cord won't break!)*

*What do you think the point of this scripture is? (Pause for responses)*

*We are stronger together. A word you might have heard before that means the same is Accountability.*

*We need to have friends who love us, but will also be honest with us when we need to hear a hard truth. Being a friend and always nodding and smiling and agreeing isn't really being a friend.*

*The test of a true friend is whether they will tell you when you are wrong. Maybe you have been a real jerk this week and being awful to the people around you - a real friend will pull you aside and say 'Hey, is everything ok? I'm worried about you. You are kinda being a jerk'.*

*Holding each other accountable doesn't mean that you take cheap shots or tell each other every single time you do something wrong.*

*Holding someone accountable begins with loving them and truly caring for them; wanting them to be a better person and expecting the same from them when you are*

## Warmth In Winter 2019: Woven

Lessons to Prepare for WnW

### LESSON 2: CORD OF THREE

*struggling.*

*What are some ways that you can hold each other accountable?*

*Get in your group of three from earlier and come up with 3 examples of how friends could hold each other accountable and then choose one to share with the group. I'm going to give you 3-5 minutes.*

*You could even get super creative and act it out for us.*

*(Pause and give each group a chance to share.)*

**SAY:** *Maybe you are starting to hang out with friends who make poor decisions, a true friend would tell you the truth and challenge you.*

*Maybe your friend has started using really bad language around certain people - how could you hold them accountable?*

*You see a friend from youth group share a pic on Snapchat that isn't who you really know that they should be: how do you hold them accountable?*

*Now here is what accountability is not - It isn't getting together with others and sharing with them how you saw someone screw up.*

*That's just gossip.*

*Accountability is going directly to the person and caring for them.*

*I have a challenge for you all to take on this week.*

**Give each youth a wristband and sharpie. Have them get into their group of 3 again, if necessary, combine groups so that there are at least 3 in each group.**

**SAY:** *Take a minute in your groups to ask how you can pray for one another because accountability really can start here.*

*Share how you might struggle this week and you can make it something like you procrastinate for schoolwork and you need a friend, during the week, to ask how it's going.*

*Maybe it is more serious and you have something you struggle with that they need to pray for you during the week.*

## Warmth In Winter 2019: Woven

Lessons to Prepare for WnW

### **LESSON 2: CORD OF THREE**

*Be as specific as you want, but commit to keep everything private within that circle.*

*Then, write down each person in your groups' name on your wristband and put it on your wrist as a reminder to stand together with them throughout the week.*

#### **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. How can we pray for you and help you stand strong this week?
2. What struggles are you facing? What temptations are you fighting? (They can share 'unspoken' if they don't want to get specific). As each person shares, write their name on your wristband to remember to pray for them.
3. Why is accountability important?
4. Are there 2 or more other people who you could ask to help hold you accountable?

Give the groups time to share and then end with a group prayer.

**CLOSE WITH PRAYER:** Close with a prayer of your own or ask a teenager to pray.