



# WEEK 2

## HYBRID TEACHING GUIDE

# BACK TO THE FUTURE

## THE BIG IDEA

Jesus can rebuild what has been destroyed.

## THE BIBLE

John 2:12-21; Jeremiah 31:1-4a;  
Psalm 147:1-3; I John 2:6

**WHAT?** *What are we talking about today?*

### QUESTION | What's your favorite movie about time travel?

- Welcome to Week 2 of our series Back to the Future, where we're talking about how traveling between the past and the present can help change the future.
- Since we're talking about time travel, **what's your favorite movie about time travel?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give a few students a chance to respond.*

### VIDEO | A Clip from Doctor Strange

- One of my favorite time travel movies is *Doctor Strange*.
  - If you haven't seen it, Dr. Stephen Strange is a narcissistic neurosurgeon who destroys his hands in a horrible car accident. But his hands are everything to him — the key to his success, money, fame, and sense of identity.
  - So Dr. Strange goes on a journey to find someone called "the Ancient One," who he hopes can help him rebuild his hands and the life he lost.
  - Instead, he discovers there's more to his journey than just restoring his hands.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play a portion or all of this clip from Doctor Strange, where Doctor Strange first experiences the power of the Ancient One.*
- This moment is Doctor Strange's first (but not last) experience of traveling through time, space, and dimensions. While his journey began because he wanted to save his hands and rebuild his old life, Doctor Strange ultimately makes it his mission to save and rebuild something much bigger than himself.

## ACTIVITY | Rebuild Race

- It won't require any superpowers, but I've got a rebuilding mission for you.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before your teaching time, [buy](#), borrow, or [build](#) a giant Jenga game. Assemble the tower and use paint or [masking tape](#) to create a distinct pattern or word (like "rebuild") on at least one of the sides of the tower in order to turn the tower into a three-dimensional puzzle. Begin your teaching time with the tower assembled. When you're ready to play, destroy the tower and scatter the pieces. Then invite students to see how quickly they can rebuild the tower. (Maybe they can rebuild it before the end of a song, like "If I Could Turn Back Time" by Cher?) Depending on the size of your group and how many students you'd like to participate, you could . . .
  - Have everyone work together to rebuild the tower.
  - Select 5-10 students to rebuild the tower while the rest of the group watches.
  - Create groups of 3-5 who work in 1-minute shifts until the tower is rebuilt.

## DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.
  - **Have you ever broken something that you wish could be fixed and returned to you?**
  - **How do you think you would react if something important to you was destroyed?**

## QUESTION | What's something you wish you could see be rebuilt?

- It's pretty satisfying to rebuild something, don't you think? **But is there anything in your life you wish you could see be rebuilt?** Maybe . . .
  - Your local swimming pool or park was replaced by a new building project.
  - Your epic LEGO creation was destroyed by your annoying cousin.
  - Your favorite amusement park closed down and has been left abandoned.
  - A place in town where you made some great memories is under new ownership and looks nothing like it used to.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give a few students a chance to respond.
- If time travel were real, I think we could all think of something we'd like to see rebuilt or restored. It could be a physical location . . . or maybe it's a relationship, an experience, an opportunity, or the way things used to be.

**SO WHAT?** Why does it matter to God and to us?

## DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.
  - **What are some things that can break, fall apart, or be destroyed in a person's life?**

## STORY | Talk about a time something in your life was destroyed.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell a story from your own life (or ask a student or volunteer to tell a story) about a moment in your life when something that mattered to you was destroyed. Whether the thing destroyed was a relationship, an opportunity, or life as you used to know it, share what was destroyed and what that experience was like. Then share what you would do if you could turn back time. What would you do differently? How could you rebuild what was destroyed?

## VIDEO | A Time-Lapsed Renovation

- When something goes wrong, our minds go to all the ways that things can be made right again. It's natural to want to see things rebuild after they've been destroyed.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Silently play [this video](#) of a time-lapsed home renovation project (or something similar) while you talk.
- When you read the Bible, you might be surprised how many passages of Scripture are about construction projects. There are verses upon verses giving dimensions, details, and descriptions of physical buildings — most notably, the temple.
  - God gives the people of Israel detailed instructions for building a temple of worship.
  - When God's people finally the temple, it's a huge reason to celebrate.
  - When the temple was destroyed, it was a source of extreme grief, anguish, fear, and doubt.
  - Seeing the temple rebuilt became a frequent and extremely important prayer for God's people. They were desperate for the Temple to be rebuilt and spent centuries praying, hoping, and waiting for that day to come.
- This might be confusing. Why the obsession with a temple? What's the big deal? It's not like God literally lives there, right? Why did rebuilding this building matter so much?

## OBJECT LESSON | The Past and Future Timeline

- Like we did last week, we're going to do some time-traveling in order to answer that question. We're going to travel back to the time of Jesus, then back even further, to find out why these words from the past matter so much today — and have the potential to change the future.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Continue to use the arrow you built during Week 1. As you teach, continuously reference where you are on the timeline, with left symbolizing the Old Testament passage, center symbolizing the time of Jesus, and right symbolizing present day.

## VIDEO | "Temple," from The Bible Project

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play a portion of [this video](#) about the Temple from The Bible Project, ending after the phrase, "And here we come to the story of Jesus," at 02:59.

## SCRIPTURE | John 2:12-21

- When Jesus came into the world, people were looking for a Messiah who could rebuild what had been destroyed — physically (by rebuilding the temple) and spiritually (by rebuilding the relationship between people and God).

- When Jesus began His ministry on earth, He announced He had come to set people free (physically and spiritually) – but that’s not all He came to do.
- Early in Jesus’ ministry, He made another shocking (and confusing) declaration.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read John 2:12-21.*
- What is going on here? Jesus, a faithful Jewish man and teacher, seems to be destroying the temple God’s people held so sacred – at least, they said they held it sacred.
- When Jesus sees what was happening in the temple, He’s angered by it.
  - You might wonder, “So would Jesus be mad about a church that sells coffee? Or books? Or candy? Or pizza?” Maybe . . . but maybe not.
  - You see, it wasn’t just the fact that things were being sold that made Jesus angry. He was angry because people were being taken advantage of – especially those in the most need.
  - The money-changers and sellers in the temple that day weren’t trying to help people worship. They were there only to make a profit. They did so by targeting people who had traveled a long distance to worship and charging extremely high prices simply because they could.
- Not only were these people taking advantage of others, but they were doing so in the name of God. So . . .
  - Jesus gets creative by making a homemade whip.
  - He drives out the animals that were being bought and sold.
  - He flips tables.
  - He makes a real spectacle.
- The religious leaders, of course, panic. They can’t believe He’s being so disruptive! But when they question His authority, Jesus says something both scandalous and confusing.
  - Jesus points to this sacred building from the past and redefines it in the present. He says, “This isn’t the temple. I am.”
  - Then He points toward the future and says, “Someday you’re going to destroy Me, but I’ll be rebuilt.”
- In the past, the temple was the place where people could connect with God. In the future, Jesus was declaring He would be the source of connection between God and humankind.

## DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you’re working only with middle schoolers.*
  - ☆ **Why do you think the people of Israel were so upset when their temple was destroyed? Why was rebuilding it so important to them?**
  - **How did Jesus rebuild humanity’s relationship with God? How has Jesus rebuilt your relationship with God?**

## SCRIPTURE | Jeremiah 31:1-4a

- Jesus knew what was written in Scripture, long before He walked on earth. He knew (and so did the religious leaders who opposed Him) about the prophet Jeremiah, who wrote this . . .

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read *Jeremiah 31:1-4a*.
- Jeremiah didn't know exactly what God had in store, but he knew one day God would rebuild what had been destroyed.
- The people of Jesus' day thought this meant the temple building would be rebuilt and the nation of Israel would grow in power and influence. But that's not what God intended.
  - Jesus knew without Him, humanity would always be pulled toward evil, corruption, and injustice. Not even the temple was safe from our sin.
  - But Jesus had a permanent solution. He had a plan to rebuild everything that had been destroyed, and to rebuild it once and for all.
- When Jesus said He would raise His body from the dead, He wasn't only talking about Himself. He was talking about us too, because His resurrection from the dead . . .
  - Rebuilt the relationship between humanity and God that had been destroyed.
  - Gives us the opportunity to rebuild our relationships with God and find freedom from sin and death.
  - Invites us to join Jesus on His mission to rebuild the things that are broken in the world around us.

### SCRIPTURE | Psalm 147:1-3

- Although the authors of the Old Testament didn't know what God had in store through Jesus, they knew God had a plan to rebuild what had been destroyed. You can hear their hopefulness in these words from the past.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read *Psalm 147:1-3*.
- Jesus didn't come to rebuild a building that could one day be destroyed again.
  - He came to rebuild our broken connection with God.
  - He came to tear down systems of injustice so a more just world could be created.
  - Jesus came to **rebuild what has been destroyed**.

**NOW WHAT?** *What does God want us to do about it?*

### REFLECTION | "Turning Over Tables" by The Brilliance

- I don't know how you need Jesus to rebuild things in your life right now, but I know there's something. Maybe you need Him to rebuild . . .
  - Your relationship with God.
  - Someone else's relationship with God.
  - Your relationship with someone you love.
  - Something in your life that feels broken.
  - Something in the world that's unjust.
- No matter what feels destroyed, the love of Jesus can rebuild it.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before your teaching time, prepare slides with the lyrics of the song "Turning Over Tables" by The Brilliance. Encourage students to read and reflect on the lyrics while you play or perform the song, and then reflect silently or respond to these questions out loud . . .

- What words stood out to you?
- What do these words invite you to do?
- What “tables” do you need Jesus to turn over?
- What “tables” could you help turn over for someone else?

## DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you’re working only with middle schoolers.
  - ★ **Why do you think Jesus was so angry to see what was happening in the temple? Have you ever been that angry about an injustice?**
  - **Read I John 2:6. In the Scripture we read today, what are some things Jesus did that we could do too?**

## ACTIVITY | The Rebuilding Board

- Sometimes we can feel overwhelmed the things in us or around us that seem destroyed, but Jesus never leaves us without hope. Like we read in Jeremiah, God’s love is an everlasting and unfailing love that can rebuild what has been destroyed.
- Let’s take some time to think of the things we need Jesus to rebuild or that we can help rebuild in Jesus’ name.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before your teaching time, gather a large [cork board](#), [note cards](#) in four different colors, [push pins](#), markers, and [construction paper](#) in the same colors as your cards. At the top of the board, use the construction paper to label four color-coded categories: my life, my relationships, my community, the world. Ask students to reflect on things that have been destroyed and need to be rebuilt. Then have them come to the front, write those things on the correct color of note card, and add them to the board.
- Each card you see represents a building project. Some of these cards represent things only Jesus can do, while others represent things Jesus is inviting you to do something about. Maybe . . .
  - You feel small because the problem seems so big.
  - You feel like your own life is so complicated and broken that the thought of doing anything to help fix it is overwhelming.
  - You’re frustrated enough to flip a table but not sure how to turn that anger into anything except more destruction.
- Whether it’s you that feels broken or the world you live in, Jesus really can rebuild things that have been destroyed.
  - Things might never look the way they did before they fell apart, but that’s okay. Maybe Jesus doesn’t want to build more of the same. Maybe He wants to build something brand new – something better than you even thought possible. Remember, God’s people prayed for a new temple, but Jesus came to give us something much bigger.
  - Sometimes things need to be destroyed before they can be rebuilt. Especially when it comes to issues of injustice, tables need to be turned and unjust systems need to be torn down before something just and righteous can be built.

- Jesus' mission is to rebuild what has been destroyed, and if Jesus you know Jesus, His mission becomes your mission. If you're learning how to follow Jesus and live like Him, then maybe your next step is to make His mission your own.
- **Jesus can rebuild what has been destroyed** and we can help rebuild what's been destroyed in Jesus' name. So what will you do?
  - What will you ask Jesus to rebuild?
  - What will you help Jesus rebuild?

## OBJECT LESSON | Justice Takes All of Us

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Continue your jigsaw puzzle before or after your teaching time, reminding students know it will take some time to put it together, but you hope to have it finished by the end of this series. Continue keeping one of the central pieces of the puzzle hidden until the project is complete. During Week 4, when the project is nearly complete, you'll complete this object lesson.*

## DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.*
  - **What could we do to learn more about the injustices happening in the world?**
  - **What's something you want to see God rebuild in the world or in your community?**  
**What could we do to help rebuild what's been destroyed?**
  - ☆ **What's something you want to see Jesus rebuild in your life or relationships?**  
**How can we help or pray for you?**