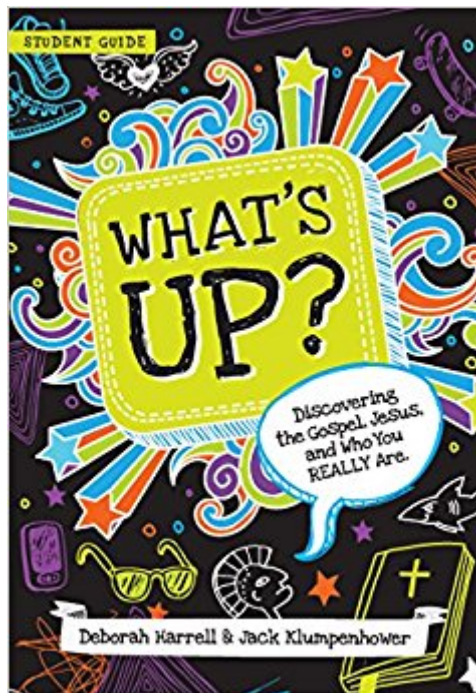




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# What's Up: Discovering The Gospel, Jesus, And Who You Really Are (Student Guide)



## Synopsis

Teacher Guide also available. The Gospel Is Good News...Even in Middle School! Have you ever asked a middle-school kid you know what's up with the gospel? Can they explain what it is and why it matters to a kid? Or do they suspect that being good, listening to parents, and obeying rules is ultimately what God expects? What's Up is a flexible middle-school curriculum workbook using illustrations, stories, and interactive activities to help kids understand why the gospel really is good news. A practical application of Klumpenhower's best-selling Show Them Jesus, What's Up answers the real questions of identity and purpose that begin to unfold in middle-school hearts and minds. Revealing God's love, forgiveness, and power to change, What's Up helps fourth through eighth-grade students understand that the gospel is all about God making us into who he meant us to be all along. As they learn how to lean wholly (and happily) on Jesus through these formative years, their lives are changed from the inside out. The curriculum guides middle-school age students in discovering Jesus through fifteen 90-minute lessons that can be expanded to cover twenty-six weeks. The student guide offers age-appropriate activities, fun illustrations, questions to think about, and personal application activities for home. Teachers will find easy-to-understand instructions and notes, helps and directions to make teaching the gospel to children clear and simple in the corresponding teacher guide. What's Up is easily adapted to a wide variety of group settings, including Sunday school, youth group, Christian school, and homeschool. Practically applies the gospel-centered teaching philosophy outlined in Klumpenhower's best-selling Show Them Jesus to a middle school context. Intentionally flexible, What's Up can be used with middle-school kids in small groups, Sunday school, or even one-on-one discipleship settings at home or church. Provides 15, 90-minute lessons or 26, 45-minute lessons. Middle schoolers learn by engaging, so What's Up keeps kids interacting with the Bible and with one another. What's Up is for church and unchurched kids alike since it allows them to read the stories before guiding them deeper, providing new insights, and driving biblical truth home in personal ways. This curriculum gets personal. What's Up is about sharing lives and watching Christ change people from the inside out. The Student Guide is filled with age-appropriate activities, fun illustrations, questions to think about, and personal application activities for home. The Teacher Guide offers easy-to-understand instructions and notes, helps, and directions to make teaching the gospel to children clear and simple. Requires little work outside of the classroom or teaching setting.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Words can't express how thankful I am for this curriculum. As a former middle school Bible teacher, I know how impossible it is to find truly gospel-centered material presented in a format that young people can process . . . and will find interesting at the same time. In a church youth culture awash with moralistic messages and frilly silliness, *What's Up?* sets the standard of good news written for young minds. Seriously . . . I can't recommend it too highly. --Elyse Fitzpatrick, Author of *Good News for Weary Women* and coauthor of *Give Them Grace* What an amazing gift, *What's Up?* is going to be for middle-school and junior-high ministry, and parents of fifth through eighth-graders. Debbie Harrell and Jack Klumpenhower have done an outstanding job of contextualizing the gospel of God's grace for kids in one of the most vulnerable for formative seasons of life. I get excited just thinking about how this curriculum, in the hands of grace-loving leaders, will help disciple a new generation of gospel-equipped, Jesus-loving students. And let me add, the teachers are going to benefit just as much as the students. Great job, Debbie and Jack. More, more, more! --Dr. Scotty Ward Smith, Founding Pastor of Christ Community Church; Teacher in Residence at West End Community Church; author of *Everyday Prayers: 365 Days to a Gospel-Centered Faith* Have you ever wondered how you could explain the great truths of the gospel to your children? *What's Up?* takes you step by step with solid teaching, thoughtful questions, insights, and practical application always leading you to Christ. It is a must-read for parents, teachers, young and old. --Rose Marie Miller, Author of *From Fear to Freedom* and *Nothing Is Impossible with God*

Deborah Harrell is the Overseas Educational Advisor for World Harvest Mission. She graduated with a BS degree in Child Development and Family Relations from the University of Arizona. Deborah is the author of the award-winning children's novel, *Pinto's Hope*, and contributing author of numerous

articles in professional journals. She lives in North Carolina with her husband, Jason and daughter, Sarah. Jack Klumpenhowe is a Bible teacher and a children's ministry curriculum writer with more than thirty years of experience. He has created Bible lessons and taught children about Jesus at churches, camps, clubs, conferences, and Christian schools all over the world, including World Harvest Mission conferences. He is the author of *Show Them Jesus: Teaching the Gospel to Kids*. He lives with his wife and two children in Durango, Colorado.

yes

The message of the gospel of Jesus Christ is the most important thing for all of humanity to hear and for Christians to build their faith around. For a few years now a lot of books have been published on defining the gospel and its implications for our lives. In addition to writing books on a more adult level, there are a number of books out that aim to explain the message of the gospel to children. Last year Jack Klumpenhowe released his book, *Show Them Jesus: Teaching the Gospel to Kids*, through New Growth Press. This book is a great tool for helping teachers of Sunday School aged kids to teach the gospel through the stories of the Bible and not merely moral lessons. Following this book, Jack has teamed up with Deborah Harrell, author and educator, to write *What's Up?: Discovering the Gospel, Jesus, and Who You REALLY Are*. *What's Up?* is a workbook curriculum designed for 5th-8th to teach them the basics of the gospel and its implications for their lives. The book uses various interactive teaching methods such as lecture, hands on activities, question and answer time, and projects for the students to do in class and at home. While written by Deborah and Jack, many of the lessons are heavily influenced by material produced by Serge in their Sonship and Gospel Transformation courses. There are fifteen lessons that are designed for 90 minutes of class time. Most of the lessons have two parts to them so the book can be expanded into twenty-seven lessons. The Teachers Guide In this curriculum, the role of the teacher is to guide the students through the material. All of the material that is in the Student Guide is also in the Teacher Guide but the Teacher Guide has additional material to help guide them on teaching the lesson. The lessons are divided into a beginning review of the previous week, the lesson for the current week and then it closes with an activity to make the lesson stick throughout the week as the student works on it at home. While each lesson is written to be done in a week, most of the lessons have two sections in case the teacher wants to expand the material into two weeks making it twenty-seven lessons. The Teacher Guide has a lesson summary outlining where the lesson is going along with a preparation section

guiding the teacher on how to prepare for the lesson. Inserted throughout the lesson are short boxes with helps for the teacher to further explain the purpose of the material and how to walk the students through it. The Student Guide Like the Teacher Guide, the Student Guide has the entirety of each lesson in the book. Each lesson has well-done graphics that are sure to draw Whats Up by Harrell and Klumpenhower students into the lesson and that they can identify with. While the teacher will be guiding the student through the lesson, the lesson explanations are clear enough that the students can easily understand the content and what is being asked of them. One of the primary uses of the graphics is to articulate for the student, in the language they would most likely use to say it, things they, or others, might say or think about the lesson content. Whether it is answering a question or asking one, the pictorials of kids their age will greatly aid the learning process for the student.

**Lesson Content** The main objective of the What's Up? workbook is to drive home the gospel message. The lessons follow a three-fold outline. First, the gospel message itself is presented to the students. This focuses on Jesus, the gospel, sin, our hearts, justification, and holiness. What teachers and students will see is a natural progression of the gospel message as it is presented in Scripture. Following the presentation of the gospel are five lessons that deal with heart issues. These tackle things like moralism, idolatry, and unbelief. These lessons help to take the truth of the gospel and root out false thinking about ourselves and God that keep us from the truth. Finally, the last five lessons address applying the gospel to the students lives. These lessons address repentance, forgiveness and living the Christian life in faith. These lessons really take the message of the gospel and make it the driving force in the believers life. Everything in the lesson is built around the gospel shaping the students daily life.

**Conclusion** What's Up? is the perfect example of what Jack Klumpenhower was driving at in Show Them Jesus. This material is gospel-saturated, Biblically grounded, age appropriate, engaging, easy to follow, and easily adaptable. This is a model for how to teach the gospel and its implications to kids. I hope to see more of this material made for kids younger than 5th grade and older than 8th grade. If you are looking for new material for Sunday School, homeschooling, or even a Wednesday night program then this is for you! I received this book for free from New Growth Press for this review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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