LESSON OVERVIEW: Students will learn how to conduct a personal SWOT analysis of their Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats, which will help them discover and fulfill God’s call on their life.

LESSON OBJECTIVES:
1. WHAT: Students will examine the SWOT formula and apply it personally to their unique life mission.
2. WHY: If you know yourself well—your strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats—God’s “This I Must Do” purpose for your life will become clearer and more doable.
3. HOW: After learning about the SWOT process, students will work with their Conversation Partner to do a SWOT analysis that results in action steps toward God’s incredible plan for their life.

MEMORY VERSE: And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns (Philippians 1:6 NLT).

LEADER-FACILITATOR PREP:
• [Optional Icebreaker] Gather the four ingredients to make three small bowls of seasoned popcorn for a Taste Test—and review the lesson segue.
• Remind yourself of several factors you’ve used to make a decision about whether to date someone or not. [See Introductory Remarks for examples.]
BEFORE LESSON: Text Messages for Students [optional]
Customize one or both of these text messages to fit your needs:

- Come to small group and learn about SWOT and what it’ll do for you.
- Can a “SWOT test” change your life forever? Let’s talk about it at small group.

AFTER LESSON: E-mail for Parent/Other Adult Mentor [optional]
Customize this e-mail to fit your needs:

Dear __________________________,

Thought you’d like to know that in our latest lesson of *The Way I’m Wired: Discovering Who God Made ME to Be*, we discussed an interesting concept: **Knowing Your Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats**. You may be familiar with the business term SWOT, which stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. Companies use a SWOT analysis to take stock of their assets and liabilities. Our students used the same formula to call to mind their strengths and opportunities that can enhance God’s strategic plan for their lives, along with the weaknesses and threats that can sabotage that plan. It gave them a quick overview of all those things that can support or stall their life mission!

**Major Teaching Point:**
If I know myself well—my strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats—God’s purpose for my life will become clearer and more doable.

**Our Memory Verse:** *And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns* (Philippians 1:6 NLT).

As the opportunity arises, talk with your teenager about our lesson. These questions will maximize your conversation. We highly recommend you start with S & O, which are easiest to answer!

- **S:** What top two strengths (natural talents, résumé skills, or learned abilities) has God wired into you from birth or helped you develop over the years? In what way have you used or could you use those strengths to do God’s work on earth?

- **W:** In what way could any of your weaknesses be blocking your desire to serve God wholeheartedly?

- **O:** What life opportunity do you have? Talk about how it might possibly be related to your life purpose.

- **T:** What threat are you facing? Share a few details about how that might be sabotaging God’s finest plans for you.
Prayerfully consider having a conversation with your teenager about your own SWOT analysis. (If you’re using the parent’s companion book, How Your Teenager Is Wired: Discovering Who God Made Your Teenager to Be, refer to Chapter 7.)

Thanks for your prayers for all our teenagers. Have a blessed day!

LESSON GUIDE

OPTIONAL ICEBREAKER: 3 MIN

Taste Test: Prepare three small bowls of popcorn. As the students arrive, ask them to close their eyes as they taste a few pieces of popcorn from each bowl.

- Bowl 1 has salt on it—**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Traditional seasoning for the U.S.
- Bowl 2 has sugar on it—**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Traditional seasoning for parts of northern Europe.
- Bowl 3 has pepper on it—**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Traditional seasoning for my dad.

ASK:
- Which bowl did you prefer, and why?
- Each bowl revealed a different preference for popcorn seasoning. What are two or three specific ways you’re different from your friends—even the people you consider your closest friends?

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** We all like different seasonings on our food. And we’re all different in many other respects, too, including our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Let’s dig in to check out this idea.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS: 5 MIN

Welcome your students and open in prayer. Then, **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** I once made a decision about whether to date someone (whose identity I will not reveal to you!) based on a surface-level factor. [The person had a cute smile, had a new car, was a sharp dresser.]

ASK:
- What other surface-level deciding factors might people use for dating someone? [family is rich; tells good jokes; is gorgeous; is a great kisser; is a member of the “in crowd”; is available and doesn’t have BO or bad breath; is the life of the party]

Well, just like we “check out” potential dating partners, businesses also have a process to check out whether they’ll “date and marry” a new business partner. They do what’s called a SWOT analysis (spelled S-W-O-T) to determine the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats of that potential business partner.
LESSON FOCUS: 5 MIN
SAY SOMETHING LIKE: This lesson focuses on how to do a SWOT analysis, so you can see how those four areas can greatly affect God’s plan for your life. If you know yourself well—your strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats—God’s purpose for your life will become clearer and more doable. [Leader: If you worked through the materials yourself with your own adult Conversation Partner, share a few appropriate highlights.]

READ PHILIPPIANS 1:6: And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

ASK:
- How confident are you that God, who began a good work in you with strengths and opportunities, will carry it on to completion, helping you with your weaknesses and threats? In what way is your answer based on personal experience?

DVD LESSON: 10 MIN
SAY SOMETHING LIKE: Let’s watch the DVD lesson to learn more about a SWOT analysis. Open your Life Map to the note-taking section for this lesson.

Start the DVD for Lesson 3 and pray silently as the material is presented. Pray for your teenagers, by name, that they’ll learn all they need to know about their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats—and that they’ll grant grace to themselves and their Conversation Partner later in the lesson. Stop DVD.

DVD REVIEW: 5 MIN
SAY SOMETHING LIKE: As the video explained, we all have things that are right and wrong in our lives. It’s important to get in the habit of seeing the truth about those things.

• “WHY” QUESTION... about God’s perspective: Why does God want you to take stock of your life—of your strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats?
• “HOW” QUESTION... about the benefit for teenagers: How does knowing about your SWOT details bring you joy or cause you to change for the better?

CONVERSATION PARTNER TIME: 40-45 MIN
SAY SOMETHING LIKE: In just a moment, it’ll be time to switch gears and go into your Conversation Partner time. We on the leadership team will be praying for your conversation—and we’ll also be coming around to observe the process. We expect you to focus intently on your SWOT discussion, so please don’t feel like you need to include us in your conversation. Just do your thing and do it well.

If you finish before the 40 minutes is up, please stay with your Conversation Partner and help each other memorize the Scripture verse; you also can focus on the suggested homework at the end of your Life Map. We’ll make an announcement when you have 5 minutes left to wrap up. Pair up with your assigned Conversation Partner now and head to a quiet place.
Pray silently: As you walk around, ask God to bless each teenager, by name, with Philippians 1:6 confidence and certainty. (Ask for yourself, too!)

CONCLUDING REMARKS: 5 MIN
Bring the group back together and ASK:
- Starting now, how will your insight from your SWOT analysis affect your day-to-day living and (if you have a glimpse of it already) your unique life mission?

Give a quick summary or personal challenge. Then, SAY SOMETHING LIKE: From our lesson, you can see the importance of asking God to give you the strengths and opportunities you need to complete the work assigned to you—and the significance of asking for protection against weaknesses and threats.

Just a reminder to take a look at the Homework Suggestion and also to memorize the Scripture verse—both of which can be found in your Life Map.

Close with a brief prayer.