

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:



When you scan this QR Code (also located on the back of your lanyard tag), you, will find all of the following:

- Schedule
- Curriculum
- Decision Form
- Mobile Order Form

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# WELCOME

An experience like no other. A life-changing week. A legacy event that students look forward to all year. All three of these statements are true and really do describe Beach Camp!

We are so grateful you have chosen to join us as an adult leader this year. We know you have made a real commitment to be part of this week, sacrificing time and energy to pour into the lives of students.

## For that, we are so thankful!

We pray you will receive a great blessing from the Lord through your week serving God, by pouring into the amazing teenagers that He sends to you.

Pray hard, rest up, and prepare for the best week of your life at the beach. We are grateful you're joining us at Beach Camp 2024!

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# INPORTANT

Jameson Barker Leaders | 812-786-6230

Jordan Whicker Waterscape Condo Co-Captain PC Guys | 254-715-5740

**Cole Travis** Waterscape Condo Co-Captain *NC Guys* | 903-818-6272

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# A SO AM LOAD BUSES & PLANO/Prosper

4:30 AM
Load Buses @ Plano/Prosper
5:00 AM
Buses Depart
7:00 PM
Buses Arrive @ Condos
8:15 PM
Load Buses: Resorts >>> FBC
8:45 PM
Worship
10:30 PM
Load Buses: FBC >>> Resorts
10:30 PM
Load Buses: FBC >>> Resorts
10:30 PM
Lights Out

TUESDAY 6.11

7:30 AM	Morning Meds (ends @ 8:30 AM)
8:00 AM	Breakfast
8:45 AM	Silent Sounds
10:00-AM	Family Groups
11:15 AM	Load Buses: Resorts >>> Rec
11:45 AM	Rec
12:15 PM	Load Buses: Rec >>> Resorts
12:45 PM	Lunch
2:00 PM	Free Time
4:30 PM	Clean Up
5:00 PM	Dinner
6:30 PM	Load Buses: Resorts >>> FBC
7:00 PM	Worship 🐐
9:00 PM	Load Buses: FBC >>> Resorts
9:30 PM	Curfew/Condo Time
9:30 PM	Night Meds (ends @ 10:30 PM)
11:00 PM	Lights Out

# WEDNESDAY 6.12

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7:30 AM	Morning Meds lends @ 8:30 AM
8:00 AM	Breakfast
8:45 AM	Silent Sounds
10:00 AM	Family Groups
11:15 AM	Load Buses: Resorts >>> Rec
11:45 AM	Rec
12:15 PM	Load Buses: Rec >>> Resorts
12:45 PM	Lunch
2:00 PM	Free Time
4:30 PM	Clean Up
5:00 PM	Dinner
6:30 PM	Load Buses: Resorts >>> FBC
7:00 PM	Worship
9:00 PM	Load Buses: FBC >>> Resorts
9:30 PM	Curfew/Condo Time
9:30 PM	Night Meds (ends @ 10:30 PM)
11:00 PM	Lights Out
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# THURSDAY 6.23

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7:30 AM	Morning Meds (ends @ 8:30 AM)
8:00 AM	Breakfast
8:45 AM	Silent Sounds
10:00 AM	Family Groups
11:15 AM	Load Buses: Resorts >>> Rec
11:45 AM	Rec
12:15 PM	Load Buses: Rec >>> Resorts
12:45 PM	Lunch
2:00 PM	Free Time
3:30 PM	Clean up
4:30 PM	Load Buses: Waterscape/Summer Place >>> The Gulf
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4:30 PM	Load Buses: Azure/Island Echos >>> The Gulf
4:30 PM 5:00 PM	
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# FRIDAY 6.14

6:00 AM	Load buses @ Condos
6:30 AM	Leave for Prosper/Plano
8:00 PM	Buses arrive in Prosper & Plano

# THE IDEAL BEACH CAMP LEADER

# LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

Leaders will be assigned a group of students. These students will be with you in your condo, during Family Group times, and will be part of your rec team. You are **responsible** for this group of students and making sure they are **on time** and **where they are supposed to be**.

All leaders and students must be outside during Free Time. No exceptions. All leaders will have at least one Free Time assignment for one of our camp days.



Leaders help in decision-encouraging each night. Decision-encouraging time will take place after each evening session (please see page 10 on how to share Christ).

Leaders help maintain and enforce camp guidelines. This includes enforcing dress code, keeping students off balconies at all times, and making sure everyone is wearing his or her lanyard.



One of the leader's main responsibilities is to facilitate the Family Group times. Questions and content are provided in this book.

Leaders should help provide an atmosphere of energy and excitement.



Sit with your students during all Worship sessions.

Allow NO FOOD DELIVERIES (for yourself or your students).





While at Beach Camp, limit TV time. Anything you watch should be appropriate for any church setting. If it's not, DO NOT watch it!

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# AT BEA(H (AMP



Do not, under any circumstance, give your room code to a student at any point during the week. Students should never be in their condo without their leader.

Once we arrive on Monday, your entire group will head to your condo. Make sure students take everything off the bus including luggage from under the bus.





Camp nurses will be available to treat students and leaders if needed during the entire week; however, medications will only be distributed during the hours below:

Morning Meds: 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Night Meds: 9:30-10:30 p.m.

Be loyal to all the other leaders and church staff. This means no gossiping or griping about another leader or staff. You are an example to your students. Set the example in dress, modesty, passion and attitude.





Quiet hours for all condos begin at 10:00 p.m. Please enforce this time in your condo.

Students are not allowed on the balconies at any time.



Nightly condo checks will be conducted by Prestonwood Students staff members and Service Team members each night.

Guy leaders meet with guys; girl leaders meet with girls. You should never be in a one-on-one situation with a student. If you find yourself in one, please move to a public area.





Leaders, DO NOT share a bed with the students. Leaders should sleep on the provided air mattress in the living room of your condo. If you have a room, do not close your door while you are sleeping. Please use discretion when changing clothes, showering, etc. Do all of this alone and in private, behind a closed bathroom door.

Students will be asked to leave their cell phones on the kitchen bar/counter during Family Group sessions, during dinner, and at night while sleeping. Students should not have their phone in their rooms during sleeping hours.



# SERIDUS CONVERSATIONS

- Remember, you are not a professional counselor. You are a Beach Camp Leader. If you believe a student might need professional counseling, please contact a staff member immediately.
- **2.** Remember, under law, you are required to report any abuse. Contact a staff member immediately.
- **3.** Listen ... Listen ... Listen . Listen with understanding and objectivity. Identify the problem or need, but remain objective. You can empathize with them without allowing yourself to be so immersed in the situation that you cannot help them get a mature perspective on it.
- **4.** Uncover the real problem. The real problem is usually several layers beneath the immediate problem. However, be sensitive and remember that, to them, any problem is still a problem.
- 5. Guide students to an understanding of themselves. Lead students to see the real problem themselves. As they see the problem, they may also see at least part of the solution. Allow them to make some suggestions toward a solution, but do not fail to give them direction.
- 6. Take students to the Word of God. The Bible is the only infallible source for the direction and guidance they need. It is your first and only authority. Be careful not to simplify the problem by relating it to an experience you had when you were younger. Also, don't simply quote verses ... explain and apply them.
- 7. Commit students to the Lord. God, not their friends, can best help them. Don't over-counsel. You don't have to have (and won't have) all the answers. Carefully guard confidential conversations. Never repeat anything said to you when talking with a student, unless it is to a church staff member. Never promise that you will not tell anyone.
- 8. Instruct students to an immediate course of action. If possible, direct their attention away from the problem, away from themselves, and away from you. Get them to work on some phase of the problem that can be resolved immediately.
- **9.** Never promise students that you will keep their problems a secret. If they ask for secrecy, let them know that you are required to let staff members know of any situations where a student's safety could be jeopardized. Please be open with staff about situations with your students. If you feel the issue/conversation is too much for you to handle, please ask one of the ministers to help.
- **10.** If a significant spiritual decision is made, please fill out the decision record in its entirety. We do our best to follow-up with students but cannot do that if we don't know what's going on. Please refer to the decision record and use it if a decision is made in your condo.

Never promise that you will never tell anyone. Let staff members know of any situations where a student's safety could be jeopardized. You are required to report any abuse.

# TEXT DEVICO TO 74788 TO RECEIVE A DAILY DEVOTIONAL

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# HOW TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH A STUDENT

- Ask the students: "Why did you decide to come forward during the invitation?" We want students to be able to share with you the reason for their decision. It is important that students make a personal decision, not one that they feel we want them to make. (\*\*Remember: Guys meet with guys and girls meet with girls.\*\*)
  - Once students communicate that they want to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, you can take them through the 3 Circles Method (see graphic below) or any method you are comfortable using.

PRIME BARS 1:3 BORNESS 1:20:21 PRIME BARS 1:3 BARANS 3:30 PRIME BARS 1:3 BARANS 3:30 PRIME BARS 1:3 BARANS 5:3 BARANS If students indicate to you that they want to rededicate their life (repent from sins), please have them retell their conversion story. This is when they came to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. It is important that students are not rededicating (repenting) their life when they really need to accept Christ for the first time.

Steps to sharing Christ:

- Identify the Problem: Sin | Jeremiah 17:9; Psalm 51:5
- The Solution: *Jesus* | Philippians 2:7-8; Hebrews 9:22; Romans 5:6-8
- The Response: Accept God's Offer | Mark 1:15; Romans 6:23

God loves you and offers you abundant and eternal life.

... I have come that they may have life and have it to the full. —John 10:10

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. — John 3:16

But people are sinful and separated from the life God has to offer you. For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. — Romans 3:23

Jesus Christ is the only provision for sin and the life God has to offer. Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." —John 14:6

We receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior through personal invitation. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. — Revelation 3:20

We participate in believer's baptism as an outward expression of our faith in Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior.

Baptism is, according to the Bible, an outward testimony of what has occurred inwardly in a believer's life. Christian baptism shows a believer's identification with Christ's death, burial and Resurrection. Romans 6:3–4 says,

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

In biblical baptism, the action of being immersed in the water symbolizes dying and being buried with Christ. Coming out of the water is a picture of Christ's Resurrection from the dead.

\*\*Students who indicate their decision to be baptized should first share how they became a Christian. We will have a baptism service at the end of camp. Students must have parental permission in order to follow through with Believer's Baptism at this camp service.

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# SILENT SOUNDS

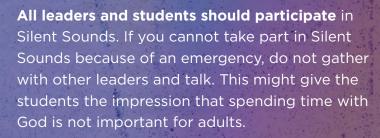


Silent Sounds is a time for students and leaders to **be still before God and listen to His voice** by reading His Word. Both you and your students, as a complete group, are to arrive promptly each morning for Silent Sounds.



Before leaving your condo each morning, be sure students have their **camp book, a Bible, a pen, their nametag and wristband**. *The Silent Sounds Captain (at each resort) will have extra Bibles, books and pens.* 







Everyone is to **remain seated** until the siren is sounded. Leaders sit behind your students on the beach. This helps you keep an eye on your students.

If you see students engaged in the following, **quietly correct their behavior:** 

- Sitting too close to each other/talking to each other
- Sharing Bibles
- Sitting on or near beach chairs or the water
- Sand doodling or sandcastle building
- Lying down, lying on their sides, or falling asleep
- Throwing sand or beach debris

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# EAMILY DINNERS AROUND THE TABLE

For many of you, that phrase brings back a torrent of childhood memories: slipping your vegetables under the table to the dog when mom wasn't looking, the meal your mom loved to cook because she knew it was your favorite, or even the assigned roles for either serving the meal or cleaning up the mess (dishes were the worst!). The truth, though? Much more was happening during those family dinners than anyone really knew at the time. The strands of lives seated around the table were being woven together, forming a cord that would not be easily weakened or undone. The laughter, discussions, disagreements and lessons all worked together to strengthen and develop each individual strand, thus making the whole that much stronger. Family bonds were forged. Lives were being changed.

At Beach Camp, every moment we have with the students is a moment the Lord is working in their lives—including dinner. We will eat in our condos as a family for all meals. Not scattered throughout the condo, in bedrooms, or in front of the TV—but around the dinner table. No cell phones, tablets, or gaming systems—just real conversations using real words with real people. Bonding as a condo...bonding as a family. The Lord wants to mend and make new the broken strands that are around your table. There are other strands He wants to refine, strengthen, and test. You don't have to spend the entire time buried in deep conversations, but don't shy away if they begin to take place. Embrace them and watch the Lord move in those moments.

Take time and assign some roles to help make this experience happen—just as you would at home. The questions/activities listed for each day in this leader guide can jump-start or even direct the conversation. Most importantly, use this time to get to know your students and help set the table (see what we did there?) for what the Lord has prepared for them during evening Worship.

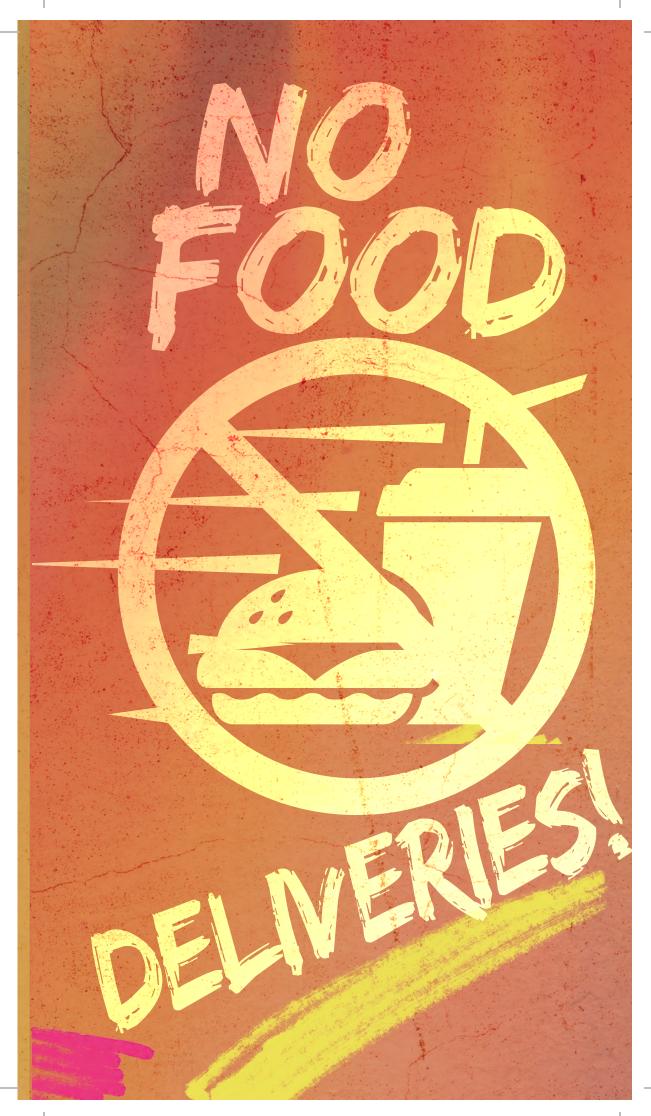
We expect students to use discretion and discernment in dress. If what they are wearing is deemed inappropriate or doesn't fit the dress code, ask students to go back upstairs and change clothes or give them an oversized T-shirt to wear over their clothes.

**Girls:** Only modest one-piece or "tankini" swimsuits that fully cover the midriff. Think "sporty one-piece" bathing suits! No mesh, cut-outs, hi-cut, low-cut, strapless or cheeky cut suits will be allowed.

Guys: No short (mid-thigh) or tight shorts will be allowed.

Students must wear tank tops/T-shirts and shorts to and from Free Time. T-shirts with sleeves are required during all worship sessions. Shoes must always be worn, except when on the beach or swimming.

\*Leaders, please check your students before leaving the condo each day to make sure every student is meeting the dress code.



# BEACH SAFETY GUIDELINES

The Beach Safety Captain and Beach Safety Team at each condo are responsible to organize and oversee all "lifeguards," as well as make sure guidelines in this handbook are strictly adhered to. The "lifeguards" are in consultation with the Beach Safety Team, and they will point out the swimming boundaries including how far out into the water students may go.

Each student who goes in the ocean must have a buddy. Solo swimmers or trios are not allowed. If a lone student comes to swim, ask him or her to wait until someone else comes to swim alone. The two buddies must put their nametags on the board before they enter the water. When the two buddies get out of the water (even if for a few moments) they must, together, immediately remove their nametags from the board. Make certain you know exactly how many students are in the water at all times. If the count of students in the water does not match the count of nametags on the board, call everyone out of the water and have a roll call.

The Beach Safety Team will blow the bullhorn siren to signal buddy-check at time intervals throughout free time. The buddy-check number must match with the number of nametags on the board.

Be on the lookout for students with sunburn. Anyone who appears to be sunburned must apply sunscreen or put on a T-shirt.

# LIFEGUARD DUTIES

The Beach Safety Team is responsible for overseeing and organizing the beach "lifeguards." With the help of other "lifeguards," they are responsible for seeing that the following items get to the beach 30 minutes before Free Time (1:30pm): sunscreen, bullhorn, nametag board (Buddy Board), flags, tents, etc.

The Beach Safety Team assigns "lifeguards" to the following tasks:

- Swimmers: "Lifeguards" will go into the water and station themselves on the border/perimeter and in the middle of the swim area in order to see students who may be in trouble.
- **Taggers:** These leaders will stay at the nametag board (Buddy Board) checking buddies in and out, as well as keeping a count of nametags at all times.
- **Counters:** These leaders should look for students coming out of the water and remind them to remove their nametags from the board immediately. This person may assist the taggers as well when the line gets long.

The beach opens each day promptly at 2:00 p.m. Please arrive for "lifeguard" duty AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

# PDDL DUTY

- Never lie down to get a tan while on duty.
- Watch for sunburn on students and leaders. Those who appear to be sunburned must apply sunscreen or put on a T-shirt.
- No rough play near the edges of the pool. No diving into the pool. Absolutely no one is allowed to push, pull, or throw anyone into the pool.
- Help students be considerate of other guests. We need to avoid "overtaking" all the pools or being rambunctious, especially if small children or senior citizens are in the pool.
- Keep all students off and out of kid's toys and pools.

# FREE-TIME ASSIGNMENT

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IME ASSIGNMENT

SUMMER PLACE FREE-TIME

There are three days we have free time at the beach (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday). You will be assigned free-time assignments as a leader. During your time slot, you will man the assigned station depending on your resort. Please check your assignments and then verify the location

While "on duty," you need to monitor all students to make sure they are where they are supposed to be and following all Beach Camp rules. This will help ensure that we are conscious of all the other families at the resort and that we don't interfere with their vacations.

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# REC TIME

Rec is a highly interactive and competitive threeday challenge beginning on Tuesday of Beach Camp and ending Thursday. All our JHigh and High School students and leaders will be split into four different teams. These teams will battle it out over the week as they compete to earn points to see who will win the championship.

Your role is to keep students from your condo excited and engaged each day. It's simple—your students will follow your lead. So, if you're not excited and all-in, don't expect them to be (each condo leader will be placed on a team with the students and of his or her entire condo). You will be given your Rec team assignment the week before Beach Camp so you can pack accordingly, but please know, there is a chance that it will change due to late signups. Please remain flexible!

The most practical and effective thing you can do to be prepared is simply bring whatever outrageous clothing, costume and flair you have that matches the color of your assigned team.

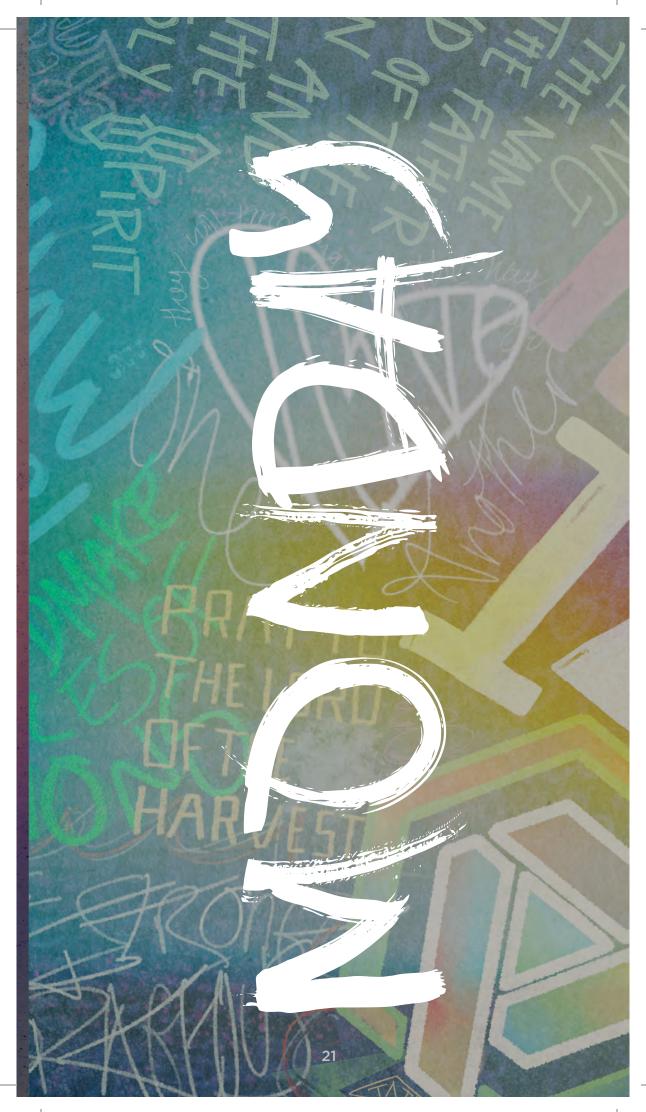
Your involvement, excitement and leadership with Rec is an absolute MUST for it to be successful. Please come ready to lead by example (and possibly lose your voice).

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**TEAM COLORS:** 

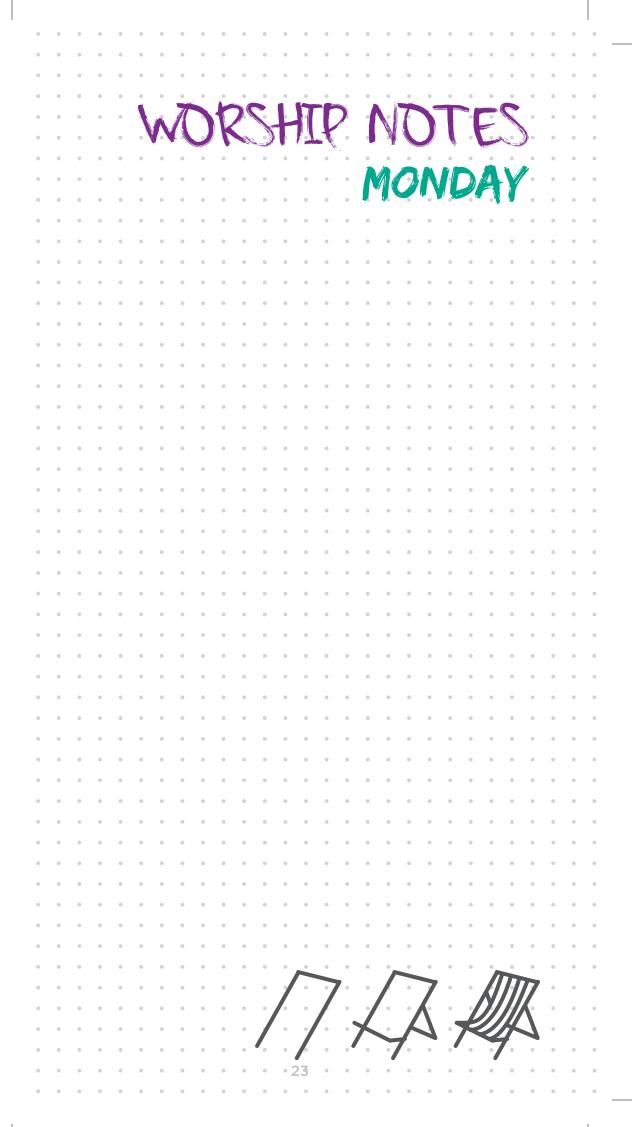
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# *"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord." Psalm 150:6*

Our God is deserving of our adoration, and if we have breath in our lungs, let us give glory to the King of Kings. Giving God praise through the act of musical worship is a gift we must appreciate and use to declare the victory we have in Him. This song declares that no matter what circumstance we walk through, we should respond with gratitude for our hope is found in Christ alone. Gratitude shouldn't just be expressed in monumental moments but should be an ongoing, continuous, never-ending, eternal recognition of the goodness of God in our lives. Our praise is produced by our faith, and our faith is rooted in Christ. What receives our adoration will be evident in the way we live our lives. We worship because Jesus rose and defeated the grave, so may we not keep this good news to ourselves but let's shout it out with PRAISE!





-MATTHEW 4:19

The word *follow* has many definitions:

- 1. Go after in time or order
- 2. Act according to
- 3. Pay close attention to
- 4. Practice

The word *follow* isn't new; however, in 2006, a new social media site was launched—Twitter. On this account, users were given the option to "follow" other users, giving a brand-new meaning to the word. Now, in 2024, there is little confusion as to what this word means, and it's used often among those who have social media. For example, let's take Instagram (which, by the way, is expected to have 1.4 billion users). On Instagram, following someone means that you are, in a way, subscribing to their life. Social media has allowed users the ability to connect with others and be a part of others' lives that otherwise may not be able to happen due to location, schedules, etc. Following another profile allows for a further connection with that person.

# QUESTIONS

Do you believe following someone on social media is the same as following that person in real life? Why do you think that?

Who is someone you follow on social media whom you would never actually follow in real life?

However, following someone on social media is a poor comparison with what it means to follow Jesus. The intimacy of relationship that Jesus calls us to can never be substituted with a simple and surface-level, online following. He calls us to so much more.

## Read Matthew 7:13-23.

This chapter in the Bible is the "finale" of one of Jesus' most famous sermons, the Sermon on the Mount. We can look back to the previous chapters to read more about what Jesus had to say about various moral questions, but in these verses, we are clued into the idea that in order to be a true disciple of Jesus, we have to walk a path that others aren't always willing to take. Following Jesus requires more than following a profile, knowing Bible stories, or wearing a cross around our necks; it requires us to know Him.

Think of Follow the Leader. It requires one player to lead, performing various actions, and it requires one person to follow, replicating what the leader has done. It would be odd if the follower agreed to play the game but never looked at or acknowledged the leader...in fact, it'd probably just be awkward!

> "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." —Matthew 4:19

## SILENT SOUNDS | FAMILY GROUP

Jesus tells us in Matthew 4:19 to "*follow* me." However, He's not looking for a simple click of a button on social media or even a halfway yes; He is looking for a change in direction. The truth is, we are always looking to and following something—whether we're aware of it or not! If we don't intentionally change our minds, we will unintentionally follow the direction of the world.

## QUESTIONS

Do you believe that if you don't intentionally change your mind, you will unintentionally follow the world? Why or why not?

How do you see yourself unintentionally following the world around you?

To truly follow Jesus requires us to know Him intimately. As we read in Matthew 7:21, not everyone who says they follow Jesus is actually a true follower! A person who intimately knows Jesus will display evidence of a changed life... and a changed direction. Following Jesus doesn't simply mean adding more to your to-do list; it means you are agreeing to a relationship with Him that leads to obedience.

## QUESTIONS

Is it possible to be a halfway follower of Jesus? How does Scripture prove this?

## SILENT SOUNDS | FAMILY GROUP

What does it mean to take the "narrow path" in your school, home, community, etc. (vv. 13-14)?

Describe evidence of a true follower of Jesus. (Hint: look at verses 15-20.)

Write down some ways you feel God calling you to be more like Him.

## QUESTIONS

As you close out your time with God this morning, use this prayer as a guide:

God, thank You for sending your Son, Jesus, to earth as an example for me to follow. While I am not perfect, You still sent Jesus to die for my sins and allow me an opportunity to enter into a relationship with Him. Would you help me grow and make me more like Him?

## NOTES

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# **"Follow me,** and I will make you fishers of men."

-MATTHEW 4:19

# LEADER PREP+

**MAIN IDEA:** We cannot follow Jesus unless we know who He is (and He is someone worth knowing).

## SCRIPTURES

\*Leader Tip: Begin your Family Group by assigning these Scriptures to students to read beforehand so they are ready to go when needed!

- Malachi 3:1
- Isaiah 40:1-5
- John 1:1–18
- Genesis 1:26
- Genesis 3:13-15
- Revelation 22:1-5

## **BIBLICAL BACKGROUNDS**

## Genres

- There are different genres that we can use to "categorize" Scripture: narrative, law, poetry, wisdom, prophecy, Gospels and letters. While we can look at what each of these genres mean, it is important to note that several books of the Bible belong to multiple genres.
- Narrative is a literary form characterized by sequential time action and involving plot, setting and characters. It is the story form of literature.
- Law is the legal material/commands of the Old Testament, primarily found in the first five books of the Bible.
- Poetry appeals primarily to our emotions. These books do not build complex grammatical arguments, but rather use

## SILENT SOUNDS | FAMILY GROUP

images to convey their meanings. They paint colorful pictures with words to convey messages loaded with emotional impact. This doesn't mean that they ignore logic or write illogically. It simply means that they focus on emotional aspects more than logical aspects.

- Prophecy contains primarily numerous short spoken or preached messages, usually proclaimed by a prophet to either the nation of Israel or the nation of Judah. They also contain visions from God as well as short narrative sections and symbolic acts.
- Wisdom books build a practical theology for living a dayto-day, godly life in a complicated world. They have a downto-earth, practical tone and make the subtle suggestion that godly living involves solid, common-sense choices.
- The Gospels are accounts of Jesus drawn from the personal experience of the apostles. In Greek, the word Gospel means "good news." These accounts are sourced in the eyewitness accounts of Jesus' earthly life and ministry.
- Letters contain everything from greetings, encouragement and warnings to instructions and expressions of thanks and affection, depending on the situation and purpose of the letter.

#### MAIN TAKEAWAYS

*Malachi 3:1*—Malachi is one of the minor prophets – the word minor indicates that it is one of the smaller books of prophecy. Malachi 3:1 includes a prophecy that hints at John the Baptist as the messenger and Jesus as the coming Savior. Included in Mark 1, this prophecy was written centuries before Jesus was born!

**Isaiah 7:14**—Isaiah is one of the major prophets and—you probably guessed it—it's because it is one of the larger books of prophecy! Similar to Malachi 3:1, this passage of Isaiah hints at the coming of Christ far before Jesus came to earth!

*Genesis 3:13–15*—With the entrance of sin, there was separation from God. However, God doesn't leave us without a way back to Him ... through His Son, Jesus! This is hinted at in these verses as Jesus will ultimately crush Satan's head in the end.

*John 1:1-18*—John is one of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John). Here, the author unfolds how Jesus is the physical embodiment of God's Word! Prophecies of old are fulfilled through Jesus Christ!

*Genesis 1:26*—The first chapter of Genesis is narrative, as it gives an account of creation. Here we can read about how man and woman were created in the image of the Father, Son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit!

**Revelation 22:1-5**—Here, the prophet John sees a vision of the New Earth, with Jesus on the throne. His death and Resurrection are not the end of the story; Jesus is coming back for us, again!



#### GET TO KNOW YOU

Since this is the *first* Family Group gathering of Beach Camp, take time to get the students and leaders comfortable with one another.

- Have leaders introduce themselves (maybe even play a round of Two Truths and a Lie).
- Have students introduce themselves and share their favorite Sonic drink order, etc.
- Bridge question into the content: Ask the students, "Who is the most famous person that follows you on social media?"

#### **OPENER**

Explain to the students that you are going to give a category, and you want them to give back the first celebrity/influencer/ person that comes to mind:

- Football (e.g., Tom Brady, Dak Prescott)
- Basketball
- Performer
- YouTube
- TikTok
- Prestonwood

**ASK:** "What made you shout those specific people? What brought that person to mind first?"

Say the name of one of the celebrities mentioned, whom most everyone in the group knows. Pretend you have never heard of this person; have the group and tell you about this person, convincing you they know a lot about him or her.

**SAY:** In order for someone to speak about and identify this person, he or she must have an interest in the person. This morning in our Silent Sounds (devotional), we talked about what it means to "follow." We know Jesus gives us the command to "follow Me," but to do this right requires us to actually know who He is!

## SILENT SOUNDS | FAMILY GROUP

Today, I want you to take a moment and think about these questions as I ask them:

- Who do I really think Jesus is?
- What do I think His heart is like?
- What does Jesus think when He looks at me?

After giving them some time to pause and think, pray:

God, thank You for gathering this group of students together. Thank You for giving us Your Word to be able to learn more about You. Would You show us new things about You and replace any lies or misconceptions we have of You? Amen.

#### **BIBLICAL CONTENT**

SAY: Now, let's begin to break down who Jesus is.

#### **1. Jesus Fulfilled Prophecies of Old**

To put that simpler, we could say, "Jesus made many things happen that had been predicted long before He was born."

Think back to January 2020. It was the start of a new year, a new decade. While we all had plans, we can all agree we had no idea what was in store for that year, COVID-19. Within three months, many things shut down; we were stuck in our houses. Well ... no one really wants to relive that, so we'll move on. The point is—we didn't see it coming.

However, we read in the Old Testament about prophets, people who spoke the very words of God, who would foretell the coming of someone who was going to right our wrongs and restore us back to God!

\*Leader Note: make sure to define what a prophet is. A prophet was someone purposefully selected to hear directly from God and report what they had heard to others. This was God's gracious way of communicating with humanity!

## Ask someone to read Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 7:14.

**SAY:** The books of Malachi and Isaiah were written centuries before Jesus ever entered the scene. The people at this time knew they were in need of a Savior, and it was all they could do to wait for Him to come!

## SILENT SOUNDS | FAMILY GROUP

## Ask someone to read Matthew 1:18–23.

**SAY:** Remember, the verses we read in Malachi and Isaiah were written by different authors *years* before Matthew was written! If those Old Testament passages were the hints, then the introduction of Jesus in Matthew is the solution!

**ASK:** How does this change our perspective of the Christmas Story?

**SAY:** One characteristic about God is that He is omniscient, all knowing.

ASK: What does this mean?

**SAY:** God is above time and space, and He knows all that has happened, is happening, and is going to happen! This means that from the beginning, God has known how the story was going to unveil. Let's prove it!

## Ask someone to read Genesis 3:13-15.

#### Leader Note: Take time to explain the creation and the Fall.

**SAY:** In Genesis 3, we find sin has entered the picture, distancing us (humanity) from God. The cool thing is that God never leaves us without an escape. Here we are given a prophecy that, while the Enemy is real, there was One to come who would crush his head! However, it is foretelling the story of the Cross, where Jesus would be killed ("he will strike your heel"). We know Jesus is victorious over death and as a result, our relationship can be restored with God!

## 2. Jesus Has Been There from the Start

**SAY:** We have already read about the prophecy of Jesus in Genesis 3, but Jesus is truly in the picture from the start!

## Ask someone to read John 1:1-18.

**SAY:** Here, we are given a full picture of who Jesus is. He's the physical embodiment of God.

**ASK:** What stands out to you in this passage about Jesus? Name some characteristics about Him.

**ASK:** Did you notice how the first few verses talk about how "the Word" was with God in the beginning? Let's look and see if we can find this.

## Ask someone to read Genesis 1:26.

**ASK:** Why do you think the word *our* is used here? To whom is it referring?

**SAY:** While we don't have an explicit verse that says, "God said let there be light, and there was light...*and Jesus was right beside Him*," we are given a hint in this verse that not only Jesus, but also the Holy Spirit was with God in the creation account. Man and woman were created in "our" image, a strategic wording affirming Jesus was there from the start.

Jesus is equal with both the Father and the Spirit. He is not just a one-off, Plan B for sin. From the beginning, Jesus has known us and knew He would one day die for us!

#### 3. Jesus Will Be Here in the End

**SAY:** Ok, so we know Jesus is eternal and that He was talked about *long* before He actually lived on the earth physically, but we don't see Him here in front of us now. So what's next?

The last book of the Bible is Revelation. In Revelation, the prophet John (the same one who wrote John 1:1-18) is given a vision of the future—specifically, what will happen when Jesus comes back again. While this book contains a lot of information for the future and you probably have questions about some of the details, we're going to focus on one key idea: Jesus is leading the charge!

#### Ask someone to read Revelation 22:1-5.

**SAY:** Just as it was the plan for Jesus to come to earth, die for our sins, and rise to life again, it is also the plan for Jesus to *come again* one day. While we don't know exactly when this is going to happen or what it will look like, we know Jesus, our Savior, will be leading the charge against Satan (once and for all). Then we will be a part of the New Earth, united with Him forever!

**ASK:** Does this make you want to act differently, knowing Jesus is coming back again? Why?

#### **BRING IT TO AN END**

**SAY:** Scripture says that we can knock and the door will be opened to us (Matthew 7:7-8). If we want to know Jesus more, all we have to do is seek and ask Him!

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. -MATTHEW 7:7-8

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**ASK:** What are some tangible ways we can learn more about Jesus?

**CHALLENGE:** Have your students think through a game plan to learn more about Jesus. Share ways that you fill yourself with truth (Bible, prayer, podcasts, worship, community, etc.). Be as practical as possible.

Leader Tip: This is a great moment to share with your students what your personal Christian walk looks like. Share what you are reading in Scripture, the plan you are following, your prayer rhythm, favorite Christian podcasts, worship music, and how you are personally plugged into a community at church).

#### PRAY

Ask God to give you the boldness and passion to rise to these challenges. Ask God to equip each of you with what's needed to grow in your daily walk with the Lord. Acknowledge the things that will distract you or keep you from growing and give those over to God. Ask Him to help you overcome those and remain focused on Him.

### NOTES



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## DINNER DISCUSSION

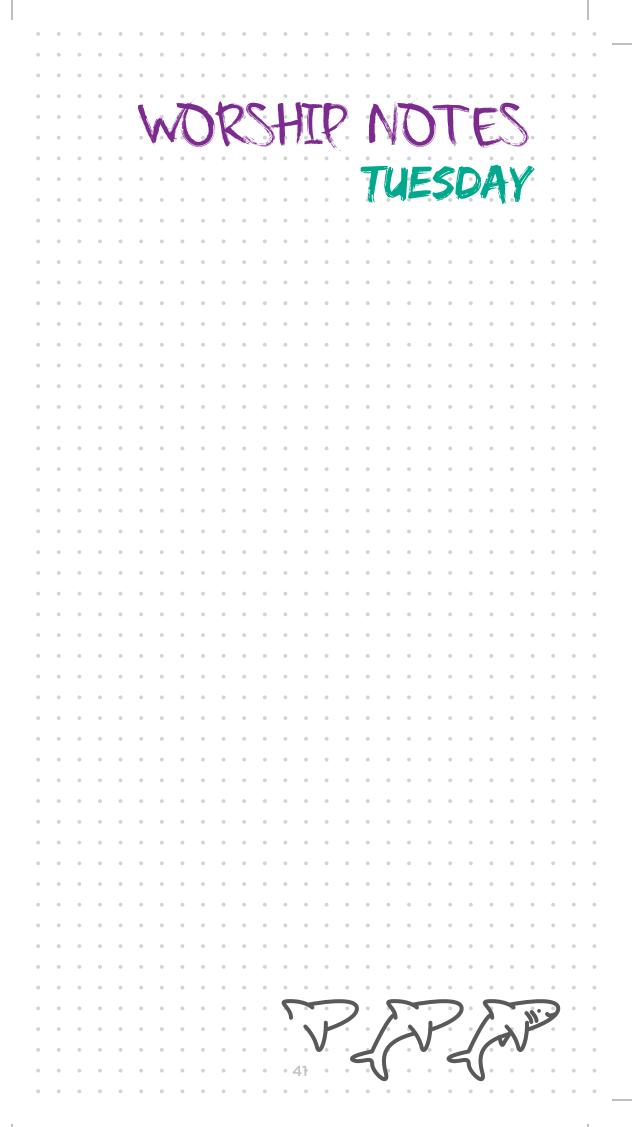
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- If you're finding conversation difficult at dinner, here are a couple of suggestions:
- Do you have a verse of the year or one that God is teaching you right now?
- What's one thing you want to accomplish this year and why?

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**#PRESTONWOODSTUDENTS** 

# TUESDAY BEDTINE

**Leader Reminder:** Take everyone's phone and charge them in the kitchen. Since you are sleeping in the living room, you will be able to monitor them each night. No student is to have his or her phone after Lights Out.

#### Every night before you fall asleep, we want you to ...

#### Know something!

You are being prayed for! Our staff is praying that you lead well, lead toward Jesus, and lead yourself by not sacrificing in your walk with Christ.

#### Feel something!

You find yourself leading a group of students this week. It's your second night with them. Some of you are already exhausted; some of you are thriving; some of you are prepared; some of you came into Beach Camp on two wheels. No matter what your situation, God has you here for a reason. Pause right now and read Philippians 4:19. God's going to use you and give you all that you need. The question is, are you asking Him for it?

#### Do something!

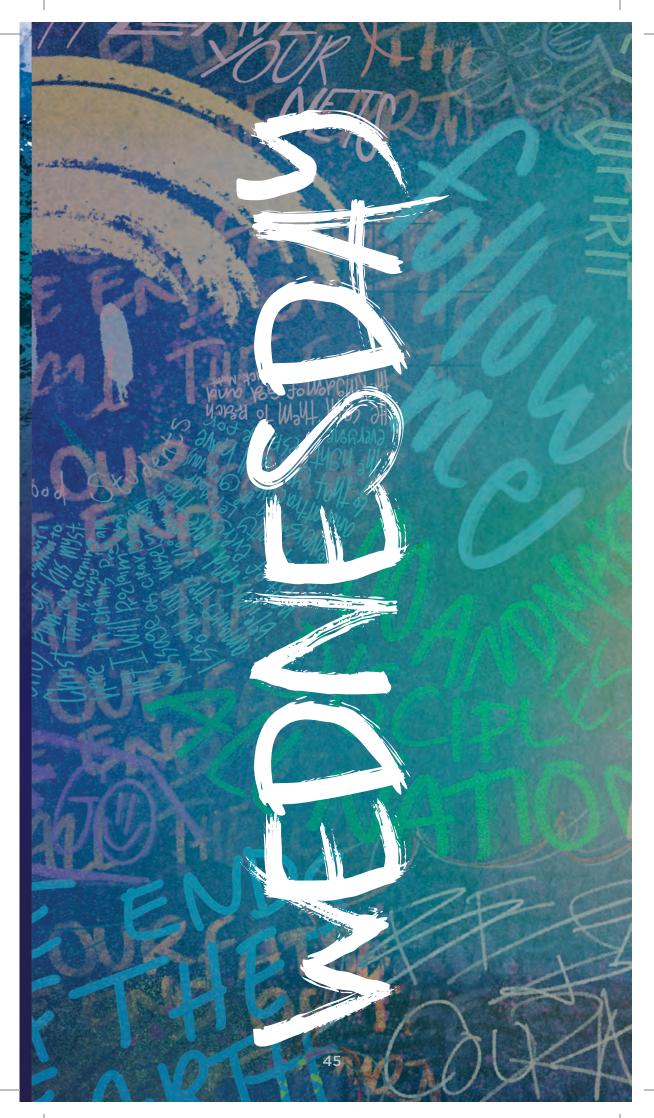
Take time to pray over your students as they are going to bed. Pray God would give them a thirst for Him tomorrow. Pray for their spiritual lives to grow and mature. Pray for them to have joy they have never felt.

43

Life is hard. That's just a fact. Regardless of race, gender, age, socio-economic background, or religious upbringing, you will go through seasons of excruciating (intense) hardship. Maybe you really messed up and you're experiencing some self-inflicted wounds for your actions, or you're truly a victim and are going through something unfair. Either way, tough times are coming, even if you follow Jesus. God doesn't promise an easy life, but He did provide the way. As Cody Carnes so beautifully illustrates in the lyrics of "Run to the Father", when life becomes too heavy to handle alone, we can run to a God who loves us and desires nothing more than to be close to us. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus tells a story about a boy who leaves home and blows his inheritance on a "good time." Once he hits rock bottom, he decides to go home to his father and beg for forgiveness.

#### *"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and RAN and embraced him and kissed him." —Luke 15:20*

"Run to the Father" gives us the beautiful reminder that because Jesus first loved us and ran to the Cross to save us from our sin and death, we can run to Him again and again to accept His free gift of grace.





"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." -MATTHEW 4:19

Imagine for a moment the feeling of passing your drivers exam, getting your driver license, then walking out to the driveway of your house, and seeing the car of your dreams sitting in the driveway!

That would be the best day ever! It brings along with it a joy of ownership and freedom that marks an important milestone in your teenage years. However, having your own car isn't all happiness and joy. It also requires a lot of responsibility. You have to maintain your car by getting the oil changed, buying new tires, and being ready to deal with a car that won't start at the most inopportune time. You also have to wash it and keep the inside clean.

The point is, when we trust in Christ as our Lord and Savior, we receive the greatest gifts of all: forgiveness of sin and eternal life! But salvation is not the finish line; it's the starting line. We then enter into a relationship with Jesus where we choose to meet with Him often, and He promises to continue to renew and change our hearts into all that He desires for us. As we go through life, we must continue to walk with Jesus because He is the author and perfecter of our faith. It is by His hand and power we are matured. The problem is, many Christians today are not growing in their faith because they either try to address the issues in their life on their own or they neglect to meet with Jesus and refuse to be changed by Him altogether. Today in our time in Silent Sounds, we will see exactly how Jesus continues to change our heart and how we can continue to seek Him every day.

## MAIN IDEA: The choice to follow Jesus is an invitation to be changed by Jesus.

Let's go back to Mark 1 as Jesus is calling His first disciples to follow Him. Let's focus on the exact words He uses as He calls them. Jesus first gives the invitation to follow Him, as we discussed in our Silent Sounds and Family Group time yesterday, but He also makes a promise. He says, "I will make you become fishers of men." He is calling them to abandon their life of looking for fish, and He is calling them to a life searching for lost people in need of a Savior. But how does Jesus go about changing and growing us, and why does it matter? How does He make us into something?

God uses three unique methods to mold us and mature us:

- Our hearts
- Our minds
- Our habits

#### **1. God Uses Suffering to Mature Our Hearts.**

#### Read James 1:2-4.

One sport that deserves a lot of respect is distance running. While many sports use running as a form of conditioning (or punishment!), the purpose of distance running is just that – running! You may enjoy a nice long run, or you may be the type of person who only runs if something is chasing you. But wise advice for anyone who wants to get better at running is this, "Run more." Our faith is the same way when we experience times of suffering.

James 1:2-4 says we shouldn't despise the suffering in our life, but instead count it as joy! James gives the explanation that we should count it all joy because it will produce endurance within our faith. How does this produce endurance? Because as we are stretched beyond our own

strength, we must choose to rely on the Father's. God is our source of all hope, all joy and all strength, but we must choose to go to Him to receive it. As we consider how Jesus develops and grows us, how He "makes us fishers of men," we must understand we are always in the process of becoming something new, and how we respond to suffering dictates the direction of that change.

## QUESTIONS

Do you tend to rely more on your own strength? Or God's?

What suffering are you walking through now? How might you think God is growing your faith through this?

#### Read Matthew 4:1-11.

Let us not forget, the moment just before Jesus called Andrew and Simon to follow Him and essentially kick-started His earthly ministry of preaching and performing miracles, Jesus suffered! Matthew 4:1-11 describes the 40 days and nights Jesus fasted in the wilderness and was tempted by Satan. Satan tempted Jesus to break His fast with bread, to doubt God's faithfulness by putting Him to the test, and finally tempted Jesus with possessions and authority (all of which Jesus already had). But Jesus' response to temptation was to turn to Scripture and trust in God instead of Satan.

The reality for us today is Satan and Jesus both desire our affection and attention. However, they "fish" for us using very different tactics. Satan fishes with hooks while Jesus fishes with nets. If you are familiar at all with fishing and hooks, fishermen will often either bait the hook with a worm or use elaborate lures that mimic smaller fish so when the fish they are attempting to catch latches on, they are hooked and reeled in. Satan will use deception when it comes to suffering in your life to tear you down, isolate you, and turn you away from God. However, Jesus casts a wide net of grace and mercy to all who trust in Him! Satan wants to deceive you as you walk through suffering and, in the end, define you by your suffering, but Jesus wants to carry you through suffering and grow you by suffering.

#### 2. God Uses His Word to Mature Our Minds.

Have you ever heard of the placebo effect? A placebo is anything that seems to be a "real" medical treatment – but isn't. It could be a pill, a shot or some other type of "fake" treatment. What all placebos have in common is they do not contain an active substance meant to affect health; however, in many instances, when taken they produce effects like that of the medicine the patient would have taken. For instance, if you have a headache and take what you think is Advil, the effect may be that your headache goes away. You actually didn't take an Advil; you took a pill made of sugar, one that has no effect on your body. Why did your headache go away? Well, it's the power of our minds over our bodies.

We must realize our own thoughts and beliefs are a powerful thing and will determine the direction of our lives. What you believe is what you become. This is why we need to be careful to discern what the world says is true in comparison to what God's Word says. We need to take our own thoughts captive and choose to believe God's Word over our feelings, circumstances and cultural trends.

#### Read Ephesians 4:11-16.

Paul is teaching that in order for us to grow in Christ and truly become the fishers of men Jesus is calling us to be, we cannot "be like children" and be tossed back and forth by lies. God reveals Himself to us in many ways. He reveals His majesty and glory through nature. He can divinely intervene in our lives through miracles and providing for our needs. He also often reveals to us truth and wisdom through the Bible. Our job is simply to trust Him and allow God's Word to mature our minds and determine the direction of our lives.

## QUESTIONS

What are common lies you find yourself believing about yourself?

What are common lies you find yourself believing about God?

How can you continue to trust in what God's Word says rather than the lies of the world?

#### **3. God Calls Us to Faithfulness to Mature Our Habits.**

Returning to our earlier conversation about owning a vehicle one day, one of the first lessons everyone needs to learn is not only how to operate the vehicle, but how to get around town. For years, your parents have had to know how to get from point A to point B. You haven't had to worry about directions...until now. Although you will now drive a route you have traveled hundreds of times, many students at first rely on their GPS to go from their house to school. Over time, though, these routes will be memorized and will be effortless. So memorized and effortless that many adults will habitually drive home after work, not remembering that other plans have been made.

This is because our habits are powerful and will determine the direction of our life. The final way that Jesus, over time, makes us become fishers of men is the formation of our habits that point us to Him while simultaneously cutting habits that turn us away from Him.

#### Read John 15:1-11.

In John 15, Jesus is in the middle of a long conversation with His disciples during the Last Supper. It's the final time they will all be together before Jesus is crucified. Jesus describes Himself as "the vine," the Father as "the vinedresser," and the disciples as "the branches." He is teaching them that if they continue to abide in Him, then they will show fruit, or proof, of being a disciple. Many guess this fruit is the same fruit described as the "Fruit of the Spirit" in Galatians 5 (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control). *Abide* simply means "to walk in obedience to."

Therefore, we must understand if we walk with Jesus and choose Him daily, we will bear all the characteristics of being fishers of men. Simple as that! We will not bear these characteristics unless we abide in Christ and allow Him to abide in us. This will take time, and we will always have good days and bad. But this is the promise of God, to form us and make us into that which He calls us to be.

**QUESTIONS** What are some habits in your life that need to change?

What are some habits or goals you can implement to abide in Christ?

## PRAYER

Spend a moment this morning in prayer. Ask God to bring to mind how you can grow closer to Him through your mind, heart and habits. Ask God to prepare you to talk about these things in Family Groups. Lastly, ask God to reveal Himself to you as you close out your time with Him on the beach.

### NOTES



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"Follow me, and **I will make** you fishers of men."

-MATTHEW 4:19

## LEADER PREP+

**MAIN IDEA:** The choice to follow Jesus is an invitation to be changed by Jesus.

#### SCRIPTURES

\*Leader Tip: Begin your Family Group by assigning these Scriptures to students to read beforehand so they are ready to go when needed!

- James 1:2-4
- Ephesians 4:11-16
- John 15:1-11

#### MAIN TAKEAWAYS

Let's go back to Mark 1 as Jesus is calling His first disciples to follow Him. Focus on the exact words He used. Jesus first gives the invitation to follow Him, as we discussed in our Silent Sounds and Family Group time yesterday, but He also makes a promise. And when Jesus makes a promise in Scripture, we need to pay attention because Jesus always fulfills His promises!

He not only invites them to follow Him, but He says "I will make you become fishers of men." Notice He does not say, "Follow me IF YOU ARE fishers of men," but Jesus invites them to follow Him in order to learn how to fish for something greater. He is calling them to leave their life of looking for fish. He is calling them to a life searching for lost people who desperately need to be saved from sin. How does Jesus go about changing us and why does it matter?

The focus on today's Family Group time is the process in which we "will be made to become fishers of men." Students need to understand that their life, day by day, is moving in a certain direction, and God sends three important experiences

our way in order to shape us into a fisher of men. However, it is our responsibility to continue to choose Jesus through these experiences, so we grow toward Him rather than away from Him.

Remember, the three experiences God uses to mature us are:

- 1. God Uses Suffering to Mature Our Hearts.
- 2. God Uses His Word to Mature Our Minds.
- 3. God Calls Us to Faithfulness to Mature Our Habits.

#### **BIBLICAL BACKGROUNDS**

#### The Book of James

The book of James was written by the half-brother of Jesus and was also known as "James the Just." For the large portion of Jesus' earthly ministry, James was not a believer (John 7:3-5), but after Jesus' Resurrection, he placed his faith in Christ and later became the head of the church in Jerusalem. The book of James is known as a pastoral epistle which, instead of being written to a specific group of people like the book of Romans or Galatians, is written to Christians among the nations and focuses on maturing in Christ.

#### The Gospel of Matthew

The Gospel of Matthew is written by the disciple of Christ of the same name and is a book that is formatted exactly how one would expect a tax-collector to write. There are times where he is very specific with numbers and Matthew is very detailed and puts the life and ministry of Jesus in chronological order. Matthew also wrote his Gospel with a Jewish audience in mind. Therefore, the temptation of Christ that students will read would have been very powerful to this audience since Jesus quotes from the Jewish Old Testament in His defense.

#### The Book of Ephesians

The book of Ephesians is another pastoral epistle written to the church in Ephesus by the apostle Paul around A.D. 60–63. Paul was thrown into prison in Rome for preaching the Gospel, and it is from here that he writes to the Ephesians. Ephesians is written to affirm and equip a maturing church and people and all those who desire to mature in Christ will receive a diverse set of teaching, affirmation and encouragement from this book.

#### The Gospel of John

The Gospel of John was written by John the apostle, one of the sons of Zebedee who was known as the disciple "whom Jesus loved" and along with Peter and James (the other son of Zebedee, not Jesus' brother) were closer to Jesus than any other of the disciples. John is a Gospel, which means it is an eyewitness testimony of the life and ministry of Jesus. Unlike the other Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) it is not completely written in chronological order but is written to highlight the deity of Jesus Himself.



#### **OPENER**

**ASK:** What stood out to you about Silent Sounds this morning?

**SAY:** You walked through three experiences that tend to make you grow closer to God or further away from God. Let's look at each and talk through them.

#### **BIBLICAL CONTENT**

#### 1. God Uses Suffering to Mature Our Hearts

ASK: What jumped out to you the most in this section?ASK: What was the most convicting part of this section?ASK: What was the most encouraging thing in this section?

#### Ask someone to re-read James 1:2-4.

**ASK:** Has anyone ever considered the idea that suffering can lead to our growth?

ASK: Is that an easy or difficult idea to live out? Why or not?

**ASK:** Who here knows the difference between a temptation and a trial?

**Leader Note:** Here is an answer to this question if you need a little help.

Both are difficult, but they come from different sources for different purposes. A temptation is from Satan designed for us to turn away from God. However, a trial is from God, a way to test our faith to grow and mature. God will always provide an escape from temptation and allow us a way to choose Him. But all of this falls under the banner of suffering, and students have read that.

"Satan fishes with hooks when Jesus fishes with nets. If you are familiar at all with fishing and hooks, fishermen will often either bait the hook with a worm or use elaborate lures that mimic smaller fish so when the fish they are attempting to catch latches on, it is hooked and reeled in. Satan will use deception to try to use the suffering in your life to tear

you down, isolate you, and turn you away from God. However, Jesus casts a wide net of grace and mercy to all who trust in Him! Satan wants to deceive you with suffering and define you by suffering, but Jesus wants to carry you through suffering and grow you by suffering."

#### 2. God Uses His Word to Mature Our Minds.

ASK: What stood out to you most in this section?ASK: What was most convicting for you in this section?ASK: What was most encouraging thing for you in this section?

#### Ask someone to re-read Ephesians 4:11–16.

**SAY:** Our main takeaway here is that our thoughts and beliefs are powerful. What you believe is what you become.

**ASK:** What are common lies you find yourself believing about yourself?

**ASK:** What are common lies you find yourself believing about God?

**ASK:** How can you continue to trust in God's Word rather than the lies of the world?

"Paul is teaching here that in order for us to grow in Christ and truly become the fishers of men Jesus is calling us to be, we cannot "be like children," tossed back and forth by lies. God reveals Himself to us in many ways; He reveals His majesty and glory through nature; He can divinely intervene in our lives through miracles and providing our needs; and He also often reveals to us truth and wisdom through the Bible. Our job is simply to trust Him and allow God's Word to mature our minds and determine the direction of our lives."

#### 3. God Calls Us to Faithfulness to Mature Our Habits.

ASK: What stood out to you most in this section?ASK: What was most convicting for you in this section?ASK: What was most encouraging for you in this section?

#### Ask someone to re-read John 15:1–11.

**SAY:** Our main takeaway from this section is that our habits are powerful. As God shapes and forms us into fishers of men, we must continue to choose Jesus and abide in Him in order to show the evidence of our faith.

**ASK:** Habits are a powerful thing! Does anyone have a daily routine of any kind that you stick to?

**ASK:** Have you ever found yourself doing something just out of habit?

**ASK:** What are some habits in your life that need to change? (e.g., gossiping, cheating on tests, cussing, etc.)

**ASK:** What are some habits or goals you can implement to abide in Christ?

"Abide simply means 'to walk in obedience to.' Therefore, we must understand if we walk with Jesus and choose Him daily, we will bear all the characteristics of being the fishers of men Jesus promises to make us into. Simple as that! We will not bear these characteristics unless we abide in Christ and allow Him to abide in us. This will take time, and we will always have good days and bad. But God promises to form us into that which He calls us to be."

#### **BRING IT TO AN END**

Remind students that this lesson is not about "earning forgiveness with God." We desire to seek Him and be changed by Him because we have been saved from our sin through Him. Once we are saved, our life with God has just begun. It's not the finish line of eternity in heaven that we focus on, it's the long life we will live pursuing Jesus. Salvation in Jesus changes our status before a holy God and begins our relationship with Him, but we need to continue to allow God to change our hearts, minds and habits to become fishers of men.

#### PRAY

Spend time asking God to change your view of suffering so that you can change your heart. Ask God to use His Word to change your mind. Ask God to use our habits to draw us closer to Him versus away from Him. Pray about the service tonight at the church and that God would use that time to have some enter into a relationship with Jesus for the very first time.



### NOTES

# DINNER DISCUSSION

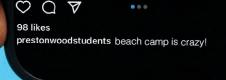
- Three questions to help with conversation:
- If you could pick up a new skill in an instant, what would it be?
- Who is someone you really admire? Why?
- If you could be one person from the Bible, who would it be and why?

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#PRESTONWOODSTUDENTS

# WEDNESDAY BEDTINE

**Leader Reminder:** Take everyone's phone and charge them in the kitchen. Since you are sleeping in the living room, you will be able to monitor them each night. No student is to have his or her phone after Lights Out.

#### Tonight, we want you to ...

#### Know something!

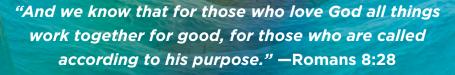
You are loved! All your time, energy and effort that you are pouring out on these students is not missed and not unappreciated. You are the backbone of what God does this week. If we can help or do anything for you, please let us know! And we mean this!

#### Feel something!

Read Luke 18:27. Remember that what you were able to witness tonight in the way God moved was truly the miraculous work of salvation. Only God can do this! You are leading so well, but you cannot take the place of Jesus. Rest in that peace and thank the Lord for His work!

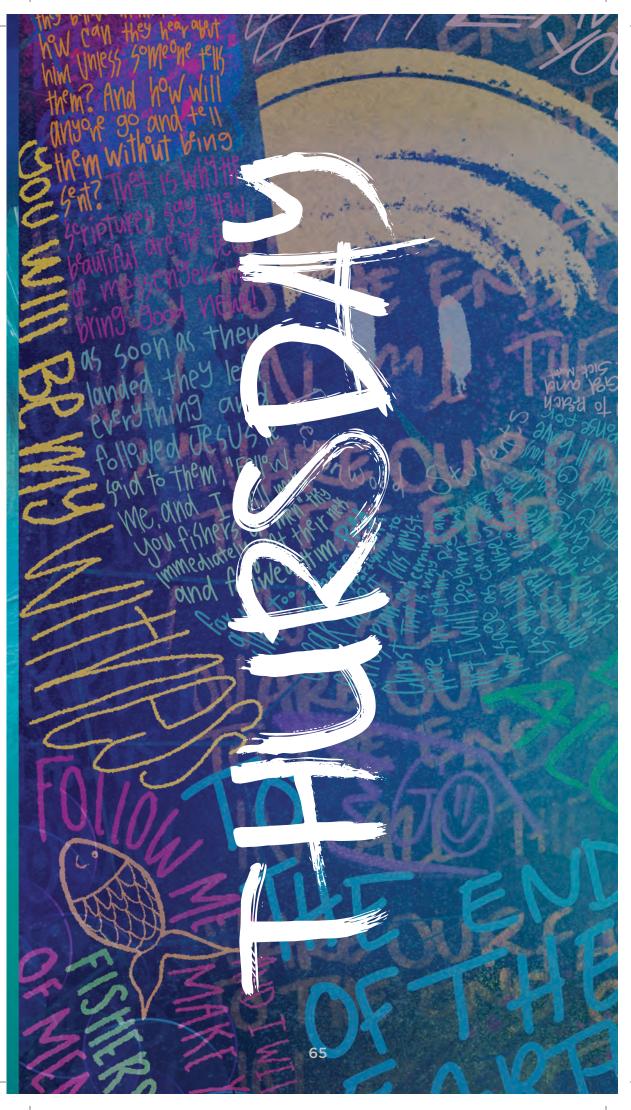
#### Do something!

Take time to pray for salvation. Pray for those who gave their lives to Christ tonight and pray for those who will tomorrow. Pray God would tear down walls in the lives of those hardened students who are resisting God's voice. Pray for your students by name in your condo as you end your time.



When we face trials and seasons of uncertainty, we must face only one direction, and that's toward the faithful and promise-keeping love of Christ. It's in the lowest moments that we, as Christians, hang on to the confidence of knowing that our God is more than able.

This song highlights our journey when facing doubt or troublesome times, leading to a place of realization that the Lord will always provide. The Lord is still working miracles in this very moment and has never stopped – and will never stop. You may need a miracle right now. If you allow the Waymaker to lead you in the valleys and place your trust in Him, you will find rest and see the Lord move in you and through you, which leads you to ask yourself, Who am I to deny what the Lord can do?



"Follow me, and I will make you **fishers of men."** -MATTHEW 4:19

As you are sitting on the beach this morning, look out at the ocean. Imagine there is a big fishing boat on the horizon. As the sun comes up, the fishermen are already on the boat setting sail to bring in their catch for the day. At this point, they are working and pulling in their nets. Close your eyes and put yourself on the boat. The wooden deck creaks under your feet when you take every step. Seagulls and other birds circle overhead waiting for a moment to swoop down and grab one of the fish off the deck. They are calling to each other constantly. The smell of the fresh catch assaults your nose with each breath. You're sweating in the sun and wearing rubber boots, pants and a jacket to keep the saltwater off your skin. This job isn't designed for the faint of heart or those who are accustomed to a "richer" life.

This is exactly what Jesus was seeing when He was looking out at the boat in order to call His first disciples. Jesus saw the boat and called Peter and Andrew to drop everything they were doing and follow Him. He called them to leave their family. He called them to leave their only source of income. He called them to leave all they had ever known. He called them out of a place of comfort. But what was He calling them to? At this point, they had no idea!

#### Read Matthew 4:18–22.

#### **1. Following Jesus Produces Obedience to Him.**

Today, we are going to do something a little different with our time in Silent Sounds – maybe something you've never done before. Over the years, many have come up with different methods of studying God's Word. Let's look at one called the H.E.A.R. method. When you are back home, this can be a tool you use to study Scripture on your own in your everyday life! Typically, you can do this with any passage in the Bible, but today we are going to do it with just a few verses!

H.E.A.R is an acrostic. If you don't know what that means, it's simply a list of things where the first letter of each word, taken together in order, form a word. In our example, each of the letters in the word "hear" stands for a step in our Bible study process.

**H: The first step is HIGHLIGHT**. In this step, you will take time to highlight each verse that stands out to you by underlining it or actually highlighting it in your Bible. After that, write answers to the following:

- The name of the book
- The passage of Scripture
- The verse numbers that especially speak to you
- A title to describe the passage

## QUESTIONS

**E: Second, we will EXPLAIN.** We are going to see what's happening in this passage. By asking some simple questions, with the help of God's Spirit, you can understand a passage or verse. Here are a few questions to get you started:

#### Why do you think this passage was written?

## What do you think God is intending to communicate through this text?

**A: Then, we will APPLY.** This is where we take the text and apply it to our lives right now in 2024. Answer the following questions:

How can this passage help me?

What does this passage mean today?

What would it look like to apply this verse in my life today?

What is God saying to me through this passage?

**R: Finally, RESPOND.** Your response to the passage may take on many forms. You may write something you need to do. You may describe how you will change because of what God has said to you. You may respond by writing out a prayer to God.

Your response is:

#### ACTION

For example, "I need to be obedient to what God is calling me to do today and share Christ with someone on the beach during Free Time."

#### CHANGE

For example, "I need to finally and fully surrender my life to Christ for the very first time."

#### PRAYER

For example, "God, allow me to say yes to whatever You are calling me to do today just as the disciples said yes to You when you called them to follow You."

#### 2. Delayed Obedience is Disobedience.

As we just saw in Matthew 4, when Jesus called the first disciples, they responded by following Him. They did so immediately. When we follow Jesus, we are being obedient to His command. When we say yes to Him, we are doing what He asks us to do. But what happens if we don't respond immediately?

#### Read Psalm 119:60.

Imagine every time your parents told you to do something or asked you to do something, you said, "I'll think about it." How would they react? Maybe it wouldn't affect them the first couple of times but then, at some point, they will get annoyed and possibly give some discipline for disobedience. Maybe they would take away your keys or your phone, lock up your gaming system, or take away your privilege to hang out with friends or go on dates, etc.

What if the disciples said that to Jesus when He called? "I hear you Jesus, but let me think about it. Can I let you know in a couple of months?" Or what if they responded by ignoring, not responding to, or ghosting His text message? Does that one hurt a little bit?

In our walk with Jesus, we cannot just ignore what He is calling us or commanding us to do. And even if we say we will follow Him later, that's disobedience. Delayed obedience is disobedience. When the Creator of the universe tells us to do something, He expects us to do it. Psalm 119:60 tells us to "hasten," which means to "hurry." We can't pause. We must *do*, and that's exactly what the fishermen did when Jesus called.

## QUESTIONS

Have you had an experience when you delayed obeying God and it had consequences? What happened? What did you learn from it?

When have you obeyed God even though you didn't fully understand His command? What were the consequences?

What has God told you to do that you're delaying right now?

#### **3. Being Obedient to the Call Jesus Has for Us Is** Sharing the Gospel with Those around Us.

#### Read Romans 10:14-15.

Paul is writing in Greek and uses the term *euangelion* ( $\epsilon \dot{u} \alpha \gamma \gamma \dot{\epsilon} \lambda i ov$ ) here. This translates to "good news" or "good message." Paul points out that it goes back to the preaching and sharing of the Gospel, and people must be sent out to share this euangelion with those who have never heard it before. God could have chosen any means for the message of the Good News to be shared, but He has given us this beautiful, awesome opportunity to partner with Him. He wants to use us to bring the Gospel to those around us just as He chose to call the early disciples to do the same after Jesus went to be with God in heaven.

Jesus and God knew the disciples would take the Gospel to places He never could. It's the same with us today. He trusts us to take the saving message of the Gospel anywhere our feet will go. This could be across the street to our neighbors' house, the beach this week at Beach Camp, or across the world at a Kenyan school called Project Lucas. No matter where your feet go, you are called and commanded to take the Gospel *there*!

#### SILENT SOUNDS | FAMILY GROUP

### QUESTIONS

Who are people that you influence who need to hear the Gospel? Be specific and list the names of those people in your life who come to mind.

Put it in your heart and mind right now to pick a time to share the Gospel with them when you get home. When can you share the Gospel with them?

### PRAYER

#### Spend time in prayer following this format:

God, thank You for having a relationship with me. Thank You for sending your Son to die on the Cross in order to forgive me of my sins. Thank You for providing a way for me to be close to You again. I pray that You would give me the courage and boldness to take the Gospel message to the names above when I get home. Please give me the moment to share and in that moment, the strength to actually do it. I pray that You would soften their hearts now to hear the message that I will bring them. I love You, Lord! It's all this I ask in Jesus' name, amen!

### NOTES





THURSDA

VILY G

#### "Follow me, and I will make you **fishers of men."** -MATTHEW 4:19

MAIN IDEA: Being "fishers of men" requires patience and the proper equipment.

#### SCRIPTURES

- Mark 1:16–20
- Matthew 9:35-38
- 1 Peter 3:15-16
- 2 Timothy 1:7-8

#### **OPENER**

When we talk about being "fishers of men," some questions come to mind right away. How do we catch people? What kind of bait do we use? What kind of tools do we need? Will it be hard or easy? Do I have what it takes to do this? And so many more.

On our last day in Family Groups, we'll look at two things you need as you set out to be a "fisher of men." Hopefully these two things will address some of these questions you may have.

#### The first thing we need is PATIENCE.

**ASK:** How many of you struggle with patience? Name something that tries your patience the most.

**SAY:** Let's look at what the Bible says about patience.

Ask students to read the following passages out loud:

- Galatians 6:9
- Psalm 37:7-9
- James 5:8
- Romans 12:12

**SAY:** Any good—or bad—fisherman knows you must have a lot of patience. There will be times when you wait hours without any bites. In fact, some people will go on fishing trips and

never catch a thing. Our natural response to this is frustration, feeling as if we didn't accomplish what we wanted to, or feeling as though we wasted our time.

**ASK:** What is your natural response when situations don't turn out as you hoped they would? Do you get angry, frustrated, hopeless, quiet, etc.?

**Leader Note:** Pause here and share a story about a time in your life that required *lots* of patience. What happened and how did you respond to the end result? If you felt frustrated or let down, be sure to communicate those feelings and tie it back to our response of having patience.

**SAY:** These same feelings can rise out of our pursuit of sharing the Gospel with those around us. When we have the courage and the strength to tell someone about Jesus, the result we want is to see that person surrender his or her life to Him. When that doesn't happen, we can get frustrated and wonder why that person didn't. That frustration can then bleed over into the next time we feel God moving us to share with someone. Humanly, we can allow that frustration to keep us from being obedient the next time.

Maybe it's not frustration for you, but a feeling that you let God down by not getting a person to accept Christ. We must remind ourselves, though, it's not our job to force people to give their lives to Jesus. It is our job to be obedient and to share the Gospel. The result is left up to God and the Holy Spirit as they move in the life of that person. Don't believe me?

#### Have a student read 1 Corinthians 3:1-15.

**ASK:** When sharing the Gospel and facing rejection, do you find it hard not to let feelings of any kind get in the way of doing it again? Why or why not?

**SAY:** This is why patience is such an important tool in our pursuit of obedience to God. We must remember it's not up to us; it's up to God. Not everyone we share the Gospel with is going to say yes. In fact, more often than not, those with whom you share the Gospel will say no. But you should remember, **it's not about the outcome, it's about obedience.** 

### The second thing we need is the PROPER EQUIPMENT.

ASK: What are some things you need when you go fishing?

- Fishing license
- Boat
- Fishing pole
- String
- Net
- Body of water (hopefully stocked with fish!)
- Tackle box
- Bait (lures, worms or bugs)
- Reel
- Waders

#### SILENT SOUNDS | FAMILY GROUP

**SAY:** In every occupation, hobby, sport or activity, you must have the proper equipment to be successful. Imagine walking onto the golf course and trying to play 18 holes with a hockey stick and a football. Imagine trying to run a marathon in clown shoes. Imagine trying to eat soup with a fork. Imagine trying to drive your car with no tires on it. None of these things would be easy because you have the wrong tools.



Sharing your faith (the Gospel) is no different. You need the proper equipment. What is that equipment? Well, it could be several different things.

### \*Leader Note: The section below is in the Student Books as well on page 58.

Your phone can be a great tool to make it easier. There are many apps to help you share your faith with those around you. Check out this list below. Scan each QR code to download the app or go to the website. This will take time on your part to become familiar with them. You will need to study. Again, these are just aids to help you share Jesus with all those around you.



MySharePal app



Life On Mission app



Li6W (Life in 6 Words) app



How to draw the 3 Circles Video

Don't have a phone? No big deal. Here are some ways you can share the Gospel without a device.

#### **ROMANS ROAD**

#### 1. ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. —Romans 3:23

With this verse we can establish that every human is a sinner from the beginning of creation when Adam and Eve first disobeyed God's instruction (Genesis 3). Because of that first sin, we all suffer from a desire to do wrong every day.

### 2. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. —Romans 6:23

Because of that first sin, humanity should face separation from God, which means an eternity spent in hell. God, being perfect in nature or sinless, cannot exist with something that is imperfect or sinful. But because God loved us so much, He chose to fix the brokenness humans created. He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to die on the Cross and pay the price in order that humanity might be forgiven.

### **3.** ...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. —Romans 5:8

God sent Jesus to die for us while we were still sinners. He loved us so much, even in our sinfulness, that He wanted to do something to save us.

#### If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. –Romans 10:9-10

In order to be forgiven though, we must surrender our life to God and acknowledge who Jesus was and is. We must ask Him and believe in Him so that we might be forgiven. This is a vital part of the process.

### 5. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." —Romans 10:13

There isn't a person Jesus didn't die for. No matter how bad you think your sins are, God still sent Jesus to die for you. You must confess Him as Lord and Savior of your life and begin walking/following Him.

#### SILENT SOUNDS | FAMILY GROUP

#### TESTIMONY

A testimony is simply the story of how you came to believe and trust in Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior. If you have never done the exercise below, spend some time and do it. We all need to know how to share our testimony in three minutes or less!

First, use the below space to write what your life was like *before* you became a Christian.

**Questions to think about:** How did you view sin? Did you even care about what you did in life? What were you focused on, and what took the majority of your time? Where did you get your identity from?

Second, use the below space to write *how* you became a Christian. Tell the story of the moment you chose to surrender to Jesus.

Lastly, use the below space to write what your life is like *after* you became a Christian.

**Questions to think about:** How has your life changed since before you loved Jesus? What is your focus? How do you view sin now? How do you see yourself now?

End this section by always asking, "Do you have a story similar to this?"

- If the answer is yes, have students share their story.
- If the answer is no, ask students if they would like to have a story of their own, and invite them to pray to accept Christ right there.

Now you can put all three parts together and practice sharing it. The more you practice sharing out loud, the more comfortable you become with sharing it. The beautiful thing about this method is that no one can argue with your story and your experience. They are simply listening to you share your life with them.

#### **JOHN 3:16**

#### "For God so loved the world..."

God loves us not for who we are – in spite of who we are. He loves us even in our sin and shame. He loves us when we mess up and when we deserve discipline. Honestly, we deserve His anger and wrath, but we get His love. When other people turn their backs on us, God turns to face us.

#### "...that He gave His only begotten Son..."

God chose not to leave us in our sin. Because of His love for us, He chose to send Jesus, His perfect Son, to live and breathe as a human. Due to our sin, we should be eternally separated from God, but God sent Jesus to pay the ultimate price to forgive us from our sins. On a cross 2,000 years ago, Jesus was the substitute for all the wrong that we would do. In that moment, He conquered sin and death and brought life to us again.

### *"...that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*

Notice that it's not about going to church, being baptized, helping the poor, living a good life, but it is about *believing* in Jesus and *surrendering* your life to Him. It's not about what you do but it's about trusting in the only One who could ever bring forgiveness from sin. We can know a lot about the Bible and about God, but that will never give us entry into heaven. It's all about trusting Jesus' sacrifice for us.

### The last piece of equipment is the ability to start these conversations.

Here are some steps to help you begin talking to someone, hopefully leading you to share your faith with them.

#### PRAY

Every great opportunity to share your faith begins with prayer. When you wake up in the morning or before you go to bed at night, ask God to give you the chance to share your faith with someone. Countless times in Scripture, we are told that if we ask, God will answer.

#### LOOK

We must be looking for the opportunity or the person the Lord is bringing to us to share with. If we aren't, we can completely miss it. That means we must slow down and pay attention as we go throughout our day. It also means we must know when God is leading us to say something.

#### TALK

Think about how you would begin a conversation with a friend. You would normally just start talking about something. You might ask a question; you might refer to something that's going on in your friend-circle or your school; or you might make a joke. It's no different in starting to talk about your faith. Look for something you have in common with the person. Is he drinking a drink? Use that as your conversation starter. Is she reading a book? Ask her what it's about. Is he eating food? Ask him where he got it because it looks really good. Many times, we overcomplicate this when it's really simple.

Couple of notes here:

- **Be courageous:** This takes courage! It's not easy, and it can be terrifying but the more you do it, the better you get at it.
- **Take friends:** It's always easier with a group of people because you can bounce off each other when you are talking. You can also hype each other up when you feel like you can't do it.
- Keep it simple: Don't use big words and don't take 45 minutes to share your faith. Keep it simple and short. That's why it's so important to practice.

**ASK:** What are some struggles or fears you have when it comes to sharing the Gospel?

#### **BRING IT TO AN END**

So, now that we have patience and we have the proper equipment, the next question is, "With whom do you need to share the Gospel?"

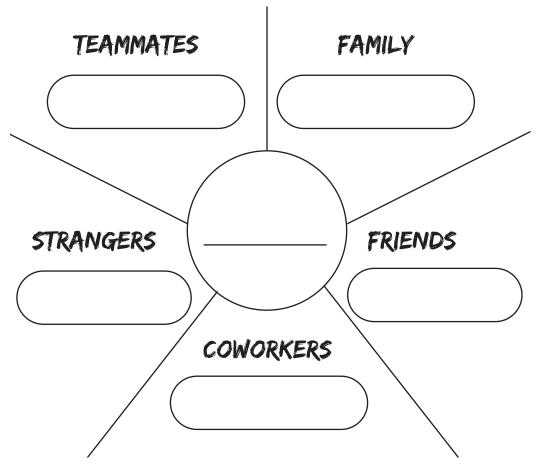
\*Leader Note: This is in the Student Book on pg. 63 for your reference.

An easy exercise to accomplish this is making what's called an *oikos* map. *Oikos* is a Greek word that does not mean "yogurt." It actually means "house." It's the basic societal unit for the culture of that time. In other words, and more simply put, it's those you care about.

This map allows you to visually put down on paper whom you want to share Jesus with. It will help you do three things:

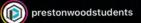
- **Identify** people in your life who are far from God (family, friends, coworkers, teammates, neighbors, etc.).
- **Understand** the potential multiplication impact they could have on others.
- **Pray** intentionally for these people and for opportunities to share with them.

Take time as you finish your Family Group to fill out your personal oikos map below.



Once this is done, have the students pray for the names they wrote. Then, as the leader, close your time together praying that students would have the courage to share their faith with the people listed on their map when they return from Beach Camp.







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98 likes prestonwoodstudents beach camp is crazy! #prestonwoodstudents

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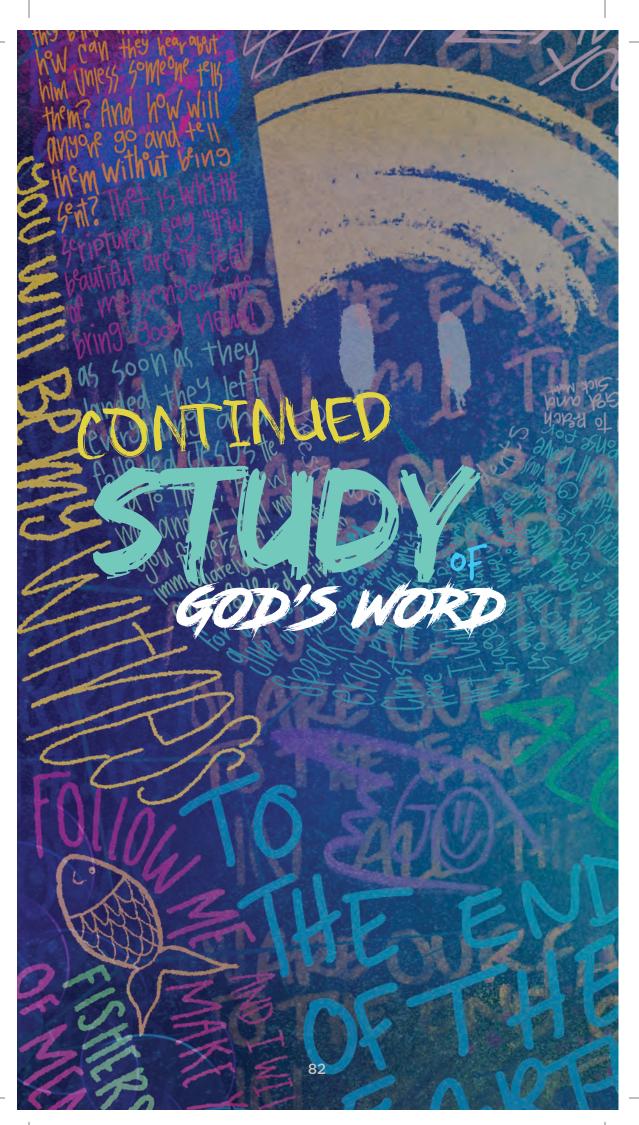
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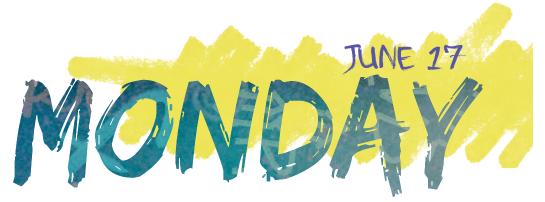
# THURSDAY BEDTINE

**Leader Reminder:** Take everyone's phone and charge them in the kitchen. Since you are sleeping in the living room, you will be able to monitor them each night. No student is to have his or her phone after Lights Out.

Make sure you fill out your Condo Cleanup form and submit it online. Make note of any damages, attach pictures, and answer all questions asked on the form.

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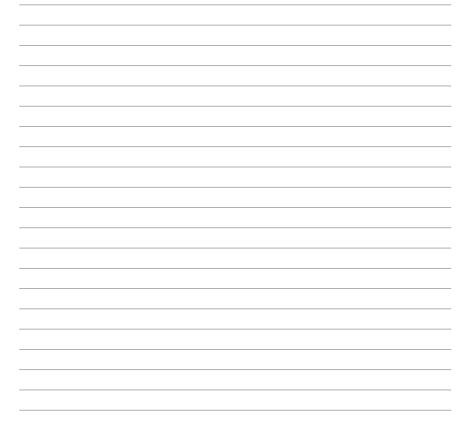


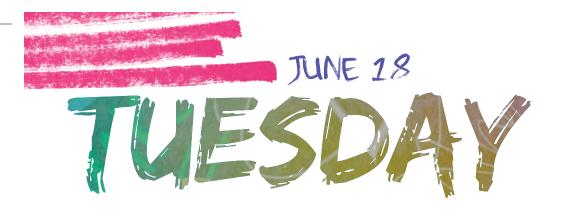


#### **1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-7**

Spiritual gifts—what are they? What are they about and what does Scripture have to say about them? In today's passage, Paul is writing to the church in Corinth. Paul asks a clarifying question: Do these things glorify the true Jesus or promote a false savior? Paul goes on to make a point to the Corinthians that there is a list of gifts, diverse and different, but agreeing in purpose. Paul understands our limitations, so he starts by explaining what the spirit of each gift is. This week, take notes on each gift, learn something, and pray for discernment for what the Spirit is trying to teach you regarding this often misunderstood topic.

Which gift do you immediately relate to? Make note of it in your notes. Which gift do you wish you could grow in and learn more about?





#### **ROMANS 12:1-8**

This passage is chock full of great and challenging truths! This is where spiritual gifts come in. Believers can't take credit for the gifts God has given them. They are simply called to use the gifts: prophecy (speaking God's truth), service, teaching, exhortation (instruction and encouragement), generosity, leadership and mercy—to build up the Church. Paul is painting a picture of diversity, but with unification of direction. He lets us know that it's OK to be different, and though God gifts each believer differently, He intends these gifts to be used for a unifying purpose. God desires for His Church to be unified, and that is why He gave each member a different gift. When all those gifts come together and are used properly, what a beautiful impact the Church can make!

How do you see spiritual gifts displayed in your own life? How are you specifically using this gift to impact the Church?



### JUNE 19



### ACTS 11:19-24

Having academic knowledge of something provides some context to a topic, but putting what you've learned into practice is even better. In this passage, we take what we learned from Paul in yesterday's passage and see it lived out. The apostles and early church believers were on a mission. They preached the Word of God. That's a gift. We see Barnabas also giving exhortation, another gift. We see him with great faith—yet another gift. In the end, "a great many people were added to the Lord" (v. 24). Hear this very clearly: identifying a spiritual gift in your life does *not* disqualify you from practicing the rest of them! God calls us to practice all these things just as Barnabus did.

How have you seen someone use his or her spiritual gift to make Jesus' name famous? How have you used your gifts recently?





#### ACTS 8:26-40

Here's another great account of someone who used his gifts to glorify God. While serving the Lord, Philip followed instructions from an angel and went on an incredible adventure. God simply wanted him elsewhere, and sometimes when it doesn't make sense to us to leave comfort, God intends for us to be useful in the desert. All it takes is a faithful obedience to what the Lord is calling you to do. He has a purpose for your life that will be more fulfilling than anything the world tries to offer you. Philip chose to be obedient and share the truth with the Ethiopian man. The man came to know Jesus Christ and was baptized! This encounter changed his life forever! You could also be a part of changing people's lives by being obedient to God.

What stands out to you about this passage? What can you learn from his example?



#### **JOHN 15:1-17**

JUNE 21

This is an incredibly beautiful passage about the essence of the Gospel and the simplicity of the Christian life. Jesus makes an analogy comparing Himself to a vine, God the Father to the vinedresser (caretaker), and believers to the branches coming from the vine. When Jesus saves believers, He connects them to Himself. Have you noticed how guickly plants and flowers shrivel up and die if you separate them from their roots? We cannot survive if we are separated from Jesus, not spending time with Him or learning more about Him through His Word. Our Christian life is simply about abiding in or staying connected to Him. Abiding is the only way to live the Christian life. Abiding in God results in bearing fruit, which is producing good works and using spiritual gifts to build up the Church. God is the source of life. He has made each of us for a purpose and given each of us a gift to use for the benefit of other believers. That is where our true fulfillment will be found.

Consider a time when you tried to do something in your own power and became overwhelmed. Do you believe your vine is connected to Jesus as your source of life?





### JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 2,5

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## BEACH CAMP 2025

June 8–13, 2025

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