







***This book belongs to***

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"THEN YOU WILL  
KNOW THE TRUTH,  
AND THE TRUTH  
WILL SET  
YOU FREE."  
—JOHN 8:32

PLANO CAMPUS SCHEDULE/MAP 2

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STAFF 58



# PLANO

## CAMPUS

### FRIDAY, JAN. 31

- 6:45 PM . . . DOORS OPEN
- 7:00 PM . . . SESSION 1
- 8:45 PM . . . LIFEGROUPS 1
- 9:45 PM . . . LIFEGROUP HANGZ
- 10:30 PM . . . DISMISS

### SATURDAY, FEB. 1

- 8:00 AM . . . MORNING DEVO (IN YOUR OWN HOME)
- 9:45 AM . . . DOORS OPEN
- 10:00 AM . . . SESSION 2
- 11:30 AM . . . LIFEGROUPS 2
- 12:30 PM . . . LUNCH
- 1:15 PM . . . BREAKOUT 1
- 2:00 PM . . . BREAKOUT 2
- 2:45 PM . . . LIFEGROUPS 3
- 4:00 PM . . . AFTERNOON FUN
- 5:45 PM . . . DINNER
- 6:15 PM . . . DOORS OPEN
- 6:30 PM . . . GROUP PICTURE
- 6:45 PM . . . SESSION 3
- 9:30 PM . . . DISMISS

### SUNDAY, FEB. 2

\*EVERYONE WEARS FREEDOM T-SHIRTS ON SUNDAY MORNING\*

- 9:30 AM . . . SESSION 4/LIFEGROUPS 4
- 11:00 AM . . . MAIN WORSHIP SERVICE
- 12:30 PM . . . DISMISSAL
- 12:45 PM . . . PRESTONWOOD ESPAÑOL STUDENTS  
SESSION 4 / LIFEGROUPS
- 2:00 PM . . . PRESTONWOOD ESPAÑOL STUDENTS  
MAIN WORSHIP SERVICE



"I WILL WALK ABOUT IN  
FREEDOM, FOR I HAVE  
SOUGHT OUT YOUR  
PRECEPTS."

—PSALM 119:45

# NORTH

## CAMPUS

### FRIDAY, JAN. 31

- 6:45 PM . . . DOORS OPEN
- 7:00 PM . . . SESSION 1
- 8:45 PM . . . LIFEGROUPS 1
- 9:45 PM . . . AFTER PARTY
- 10:30 PM . . . DISMISS

### SATURDAY, FEB. 1

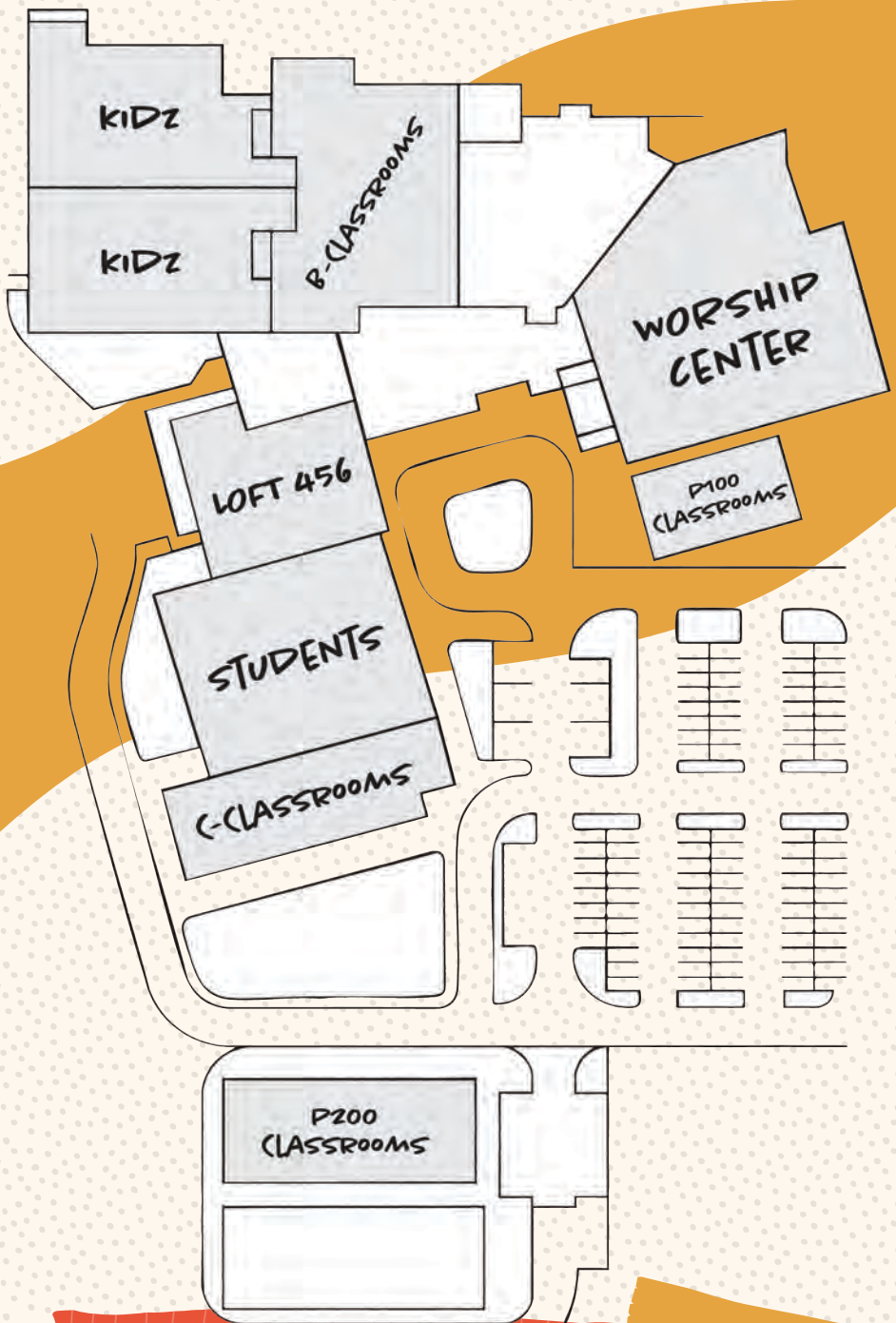
- 8:00 AM . . . MORNING DEVO (IN YOUR OWN HOME)
- 10:00 AM . . . DOORS OPEN
- 10:30 AM . . . SESSION 2
- NOON . . . LUNCH/LIFEGROUPS 2
- 1:15 PM . . . ROTATIONS
- 5:00 PM . . . DINNER/LIFEGROUPS 3
- 6:15 PM . . . DOORS OPEN
- 6:30 PM . . . GROUP PICTURE
- 6:45 PM . . . SESSION 3
- 9:30 PM . . . DISMISS

### SUNDAY, FEB. 2

\*EVERYONE WEARS FREEDOM T-SHIRTS  
ON SUNDAY MORNING\*

- 10:00 AM . . . SESSION 4/LIFEGROUPS 4
- 11:30 AM . . . MAIN WORSHIP SERVICE
- 12:30 PM . . . DISMISSAL





NOW THE LORD IS THE SPIRIT,  
AND WHERE THE SPIRIT  
OF THE LORD IS, THERE IS  
FREEDOM.

-2 CORINTHIANS 3:17



# Decision



## BEFORE ENCOURAGING

- When we offer an opportunity for students to make a decision, please be looking for students from your group. If you see a student from your group make a decision, please encourage that student.  
*Note: Guys encourage guys; girls encourage girls.*
- Be aware of invitation times when the speaker will ask students to stand up if they want to make a decision for Christ. Please be looking for students nearest you and stand with them.
- **Note:** Sometimes students will raise their hand but not stand up. If you see students do this, please ask them if they would like for you to go with them.

## BEGIN ENCOURAGING

- First, ask the students why they came forward.
- Discuss their spiritual background (e.g., what church do they go to? Does their family go to church? What do they know about a relationship with Christ?). *Note: A great question to ask is, "What do you believe it takes for a person to go to heaven?"*
- If you sense that a student is dealing with a crisis such as an eating disorder, depression, family issues, abuse or anything you are not comfortable discussing — you MUST let a Prestonwood staff member know.
- If for any reason you are unsure of what to do in an encouraging situation, please don't hesitate to let a Prestonwood staff member know.

## **FIRST-TIME DECISION TO ACCEPT CHRIST**

- Share with the students how they can know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.
- Use the Romans Road. It is important that students have no doubt that they now have eternal life in Jesus Christ.
- **Romans Road:** Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:8-10

## **BAPTISM**

Some students will make a decision to be baptized during the Worship Service. If students make this decision, please find out when they accepted Christ. It is important that students get baptized after they put their faith in Jesus. At Prestonwood we believe in Believer's Baptism.

For every student who comes forward to accept Christ during the weekend, we want to talk to each one about Believer's Baptism. A great passage to share about the importance of getting baptized after salvation is Acts 8:26-40. **Note:** *We will be baptizing on Sunday morning in the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service at Plano, the 11:30 a.m. Worship Service at North, and the 2:00 p.m. Español Worship Service at the Plano Campus.*

## **BRINGING DECISION ENCOURAGING TO A CLOSE**

- Review what it means to be a Christian.
- Have students fill out paperwork completely with their name, address, etc. *Note: The encourager needs to fill out the section regarding the student's decision.*
- Review baptism and the importance of what getting baptized means.
- Pray with the students.
- Smile! This is a time of celebration! God is moving in the hearts of His people!
- Ask if they need a Bible.
- If students want to be baptized at Freedom, we must have parent permission. Please ask students to call/text their parent(s) immediately and confirm that they are allowed to be baptized at Freedom.
- As you exit the Encouragers Room, please give the counseling form to the person at the door collecting these forms. Please share with this person the decisions the students made and whether or not they received permission to be baptized.



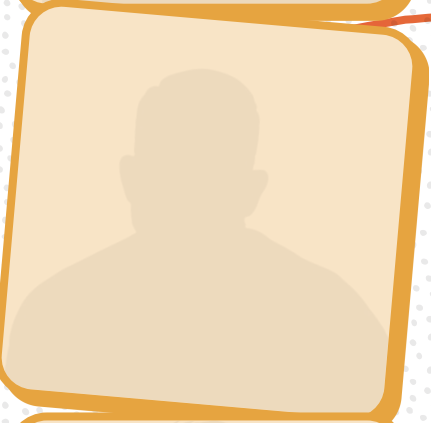
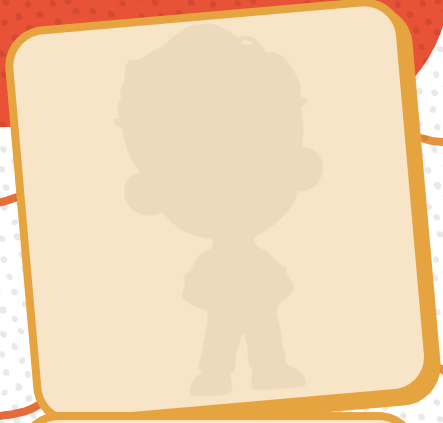
# PLANO/ESP CAMPUS

THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND, ASK OUR STAFF MEMBERS FOR A STICKER. COLLECT ALL EIGHT OF THEM; LET A STAFF MEMBER KNOW, AND YOU WILL POSSIBLY WIN A PRIZE! HAPPY HUNTING!




# NORTH CAMPUS

THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND, ASK OUR STAFF MEMBERS FOR A STICKER. COLLECT ALL EIGHT OF THEM; LET A STAFF MEMBER KNOW, AND YOU WILL POSSIBLY WIN A PRIZE! HAPPY HUNTING!



# MDWK



I came to Jesus at a young age but never claimed my faith for myself. I would walk through all of the motions of being a 'good' christian. Reading my Bible, praying, spending along time at church. But those things were all vain. I realized a long time later that a works-based faith is not what God is after. He is after our heart. I began to give over little things to God and the prayer 'Lord I give you everyone and everything' took such a weight off my chest. I truly began living for the Lord when I began not just reading the Bible but acting out what God says and imitating the way Jesus is. I truly am growing in my relationship with the Lord when I give Him the little things. God cares for you individually ♡ reeseblass

OUR NEW MDWK SERIES

**BEGINS FEBRUARY 12**

Relationships • Self-Esteem/Insecurity  
Setting Healthy Boundaries





3-ON-3

BASKETBALL

TOURNAMENT

7-12 GRADE GUYS • PLANO CAMPUS

APRIL 12



# LifeGroup

FRIDAY PM



## MESSAGE THOUGHTS

While the speaker is communicating, look for/think about the following things:

- Repetitive words, original language, prescriptive/descriptive, uniqueness of God, CONTEXT, etc.

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- First 5 minutes of message = Write a question.

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- Next 15 minutes of message = Write a question.

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Take time to introduce everyone by sharing their name and favorite fast-food restaurant.
- Recap the message in one or two sentences. Share with the group.
- Reread the passage from the session in three different Bible versions (ESV, NIV, CSB, etc.).
- What is the biggest takeaway and why? What was the biggest challenge you heard?
- What didn't make sense? What didn't you understand?
- Did you learn anything new tonight that you have never heard before?
- How is what we've discussed supposed to change how you live every day?

## IN CLOSING

Spend time praying as a group. Share prayer requests and make a list below. On the left side, write down general prayer requests for any student(s). On the right side, write down specific prayer requests that pertain to Freedom WKND.

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## NEED MORE?

Leaders, have your students open their Bible and read Romans 6:15–23.

The main point of this passage is pretty simple: Apart from Christ, we are dead in our sins. In Christ, we are alive to righteousness. Paul frames this argument in vivid language. In these verses, Paul uses a metaphor of sorts. He says that we are all enslaved to something. Either we are enslaved to sin and are therefore held captive, or we are enslaved to righteousness and are therefore free. It's one of the most powerful and beautiful paradoxes of the Christian faith: by submitting to Christ, we are set free.

Paul ends this passage with a verse familiar to most Christians that captures the heart of the freedom we have in Christ. In verse 23, Paul reveals the results of the two different kinds of enslavement he set up in verses 15–22. If we are slaves to sin, we earn death for ourselves. Apart from Christ, this is the only option. But, when we come to saving faith in Jesus, we are given the blessing of eternal life in a harmonious relationship with God. By faith in the life and work of Jesus, we are set free from the penalty of sin.

- Paul says in this passage that every one of us belongs to someone. We only have two choices. What two choices does Paul say we have as masters? We are either slaves to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_? Which is it?
- What is the result of being a slave to sin?
- Pause for a moment here. When Paul says that being a slave to sin earns us death, what does he mean?
  - *Answer:* Paul is reminding us that all sin is rebellion against God, the perfect Creator of all things. The only right punishment for rebellion against a perfect God who gave us life in the first place is death. Paul is saying that when we live under the “ownership” of sin, the only right result is death. Not an immediate death, but a permanent separation from God when we die. Explain that when it comes to the stuff we have to deal with in our lives, this is by far the heaviest burden of them all.



"BEING SET FREE AND WALKING IN

FREEDOM ARE NOT THE SAME. THE FIRST

WAS DONE FOR US BY JESUS, BUT THE

SECOND WE MUST CHOOSE TO DO OURSELVES

IN HIS STRENGTH AND BY HIS GRACE."

—CHRISTINE CAINE

EVANGELIST AND FOUNDER OF THE A21 CAMPAIGN

- What, then, is the result of being a slave to obedience?
  - *Answer:* Righteousness (v. 16). When we go from being slaves to sin to being slaves to God, we not only gain the gift of eternal life with God, but God sees us as holy. He sees us as righteous. That's literally what it means to no longer be a slave to sin. The power of sin is broken.
- There is a powerful truth in what we have been talking about: In Christ, we are free from the burden and penalty of our sins. We are forgiven. That's what Paul was talking about. Think for a moment about the things that weigh you down, the things you mentioned in the first part of this session. How does it feel to have to deal with those things?

## WRAP UP

**Ask** – How does what we just talked about change my life?

**Explain** – Close by explaining to students that there is tremendous hope in the truth of the Gospel. In Christ, there is freedom and life and forgiveness and a powerful future that is almost too good to be true. None of us have to live with the burden of guilt and shame. Through faith in Christ, we can all be TRULY free from the eternal consequences of sin.


**Pray!**

spring

# girls night out

GRADES 7-12

[PRESTONWOODSTUDENTS.ORG/GIRLS](http://PRESTONWOODSTUDENTS.ORG/GIRLS)



The girls ministry at Prestonwood North and Plano has changed my life in numerous ways!! When I was at one of the lowest points in my life one of my friends invited me to MDWK and a GNO event that was 2 days later! I was so nervous and convicted to go because of how far away I was from the Lord but I went and it was the best decision of my life!! I was welcomed with open arms by everyone. From MDWK and GNO I made the decision to come on Sunday and get involved with the Church. Since then I have rededicated my life to Christ and gotten called to serve in ministry! Girls ministry to me has brought me my closest friends and a one of kind community you can't find anywhere else. Whether it is from discipleship or summer bible study I have always felt welcomed and accepted no matter what walk of life I was in!!

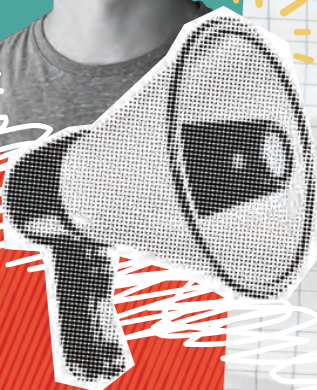
# Speaker Resources

SHANE PRUITT

PLANO CAMPUS SPEAKER



I RECOMMEND...



- *Calling Out the Called* - GenSend Webinar
- *9 Common Lies Christians Believe: And Why God's Truth Is Infinitely Better* - Shane Pruitt
- *Life Essentials: New Believers Guide for Students* - GenSend
- *Essentials for College Ministry* - GenSend
- *The GenSend Podcast*
- *Youth and Collegiate Evangelism Courses* - North American Mission Board
- *Revival Generation Bible Study* - Shane Pruitt

NORTH CAMPUS SPEAKER

LUKE LEZON



I RECOMMEND...

- *Your Mess Matters* - Luke Lezon
- *Mere Christianity* - CS. Lewis
- *The Screwtape Letters* - CS. Lewis
- *The Anxious Generation* - Jonathan Haidt
- *Lectures to My Students* - Charles Spurgeon



# Devo

SATURDAY AM

*OPEN YOUR BIBLE TO MATTHEW 4 AND READ VERSES 1-11.*

Last night, we discovered how God provides freedom from the power of sin in your life. This is 100-percent true, as true as anything there is. And yet, we still sin. God has taken away the power of sin to rule over us. He has given us His Spirit. He has filled us with His righteousness.

All of this is true. And yet, we still sin. It's what it means to have a sin nature. In Christ, God sees us as holy, but we still have to contend with sin. One way we do this is by fighting back. It's what Jesus did in Matthew 4:1-11. Take a moment to reread that passage.

Here, Jesus is tempted by Satan. Jesus, fully God and fully man, facing down evil and winning the battle. Jesus fought temptation. And in His example, we see a blueprint for living in the freedom God has given to us.

First, we have to recognize the Enemy. We can't fall prey to the schemes of the Devil if we see them for what they are. So, we have to be on the alert.

Second, we have to know God and His Word. We can't fight sin with our own strength. We have to fight in the power of God's Spirit and the knowledge of His Word. We have to lean in to who we are in Christ.

Third, we have to know that when we successfully counter sin, it will come again. We know this, but sometimes we forget it. Sometimes we win one battle and then let down our guard. We have to be watchful.

It's a painful truth when we think about: This side of heaven, we'll never be free from sin. But thankfully, God's grace made it possible that in Christ, we can be free from the penalty of sin. Our challenge is to fight. And to keep fighting.

Consider these questions:

*WHAT IS ONE AREA IN WHICH YOU STRUGGLE WITH SIN?*

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WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO FIGHT? OR DO YOU FIND YOURSELF JUST GIVING UP?

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HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT PRAYING FOR GOD TO GIVE YOU THE STRENGTH TO OVERCOME ANY SINFUL HABITS IN YOUR LIFE?

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CLOSE YOUR DEVOTIONAL THIS MORNING IN PRAYER. WRITE A PRAYER ASKING GOD TO GIVE YOU THE STRENGTH TO OVERCOME ANY SINFUL HABITS IN YOUR LIFE. ASK GOD TO HELP YOU FIGHT THE SIN THAT YOU STRUGGLE WITH.

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"JESUS CHRIST IS ABLE TO SET US FREE BECAUSE HE HAS DEALT WITH THE SIN THAT ENSLAVES US."

—SINCLAIR B. FERGUSON  
SCOTTISH THEOLOGIAN

**JUNE  
8-13  
2025**



Hello, my name is Azael Carrillo, I have attended church all my life with my family, we would go to church every Wednesday and Sunday without fail, my parents have always served and there came a point when I also served, but that did not make me a Christian. Sometimes we think that going to church and knowing biblical stories and even knowing who Jesus is will be enough but it's not like that. This past summer at beach camp in the first service of Pastor Chris, I felt the call to accept Jesus Christ in my heart, I couldn't stay in my seat I had to go to the altar and have that encounter that will change my life forever, I decided to be baptized on Thursday at beach camp.

From that day my life has forever changed, now it's not just my parents' God, it's My God, don't waste any more time waiting for the perfect time to make the decision to accept Christ in your heart, the perfect time is NOW! He is waiting for you, arms open.



**[PRESTONWOODSTUDENTS.ORG/BEACHCAMP](https://PRESTONWOODSTUDENTS.ORG/BEACHCAMP)**







# LifeGroup

SATURDAY AM

## MESSAGE THOUGHTS

While the speaker is communicating, look for/think about the following things:

- Repetitive words, original language, prescriptive/descriptive, uniqueness of God, CONTEXT, etc.

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- First 5 minutes of message = Write a question.

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- Next 15 minutes of message = Write a question.

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Recap the message in one or two sentences. Share with the group.
- Reread the passage from the session in three different Bible versions (ESV, NIV, CSB, etc.).
- Biggest takeaway and why? What was the biggest challenge you heard?
- What didn't make sense? What didn't you understand?
- Did you learn anything new today that you have never heard before?
- How is what we've discussed supposed to change how you live every day?

## NEED MORE?

Leaders, have your students open their Bible and read Romans 8:31-39.

The main point for this lesson is found in verses 31-33 (although verses 37-39 will serve as an exclamation point). What we want students to know is that God is for them (v. 31). No one can bring any "charge" against them. No one can condemn them. They are above the arrows that the world shoots at them. Why? Because God loved them so much that He sent His Son to redeem them. In the face of such a lavish gift, a gift that once-and-for-all validates their value and worth, what can the world throw at them that can have any real effect on their standing?

When our students understand that they are spoken for and that God's love perfectly covers them, it frees them from feeling the need to measure up to the standards the world around them puts on them.

"PRAISE GOD WITH THE  
HEART HE HAS CHANGED,  
THE LIPS HE HAS LOOSED, AND  
THE LIFE HE HAS SPARED."

—CHARLES SPURGEON  
ENGLISH PREACHER AND THEOLOGIAN

- Give some examples, not necessarily from your personal life, but how teenagers can be “against” other teenagers. How does this play out?
- When someone tries to tear you down, how does it make you feel?
- What happens when *you* are the one bringing yourself down? Give some examples of what this might look like.
  - Sometimes, we are our own biggest critic. We can pick apart our image, accomplishments and actions. We can bring ourselves down by an overall low self-image.
- God is 100-percent for you. He’s all in. What does that mean to you? How would you explain it?
- How does God’s being “for you” change the way you interact with the world around you?
  - God, the almighty Creator of the universe, isn’t just in your corner or on your side. The perfect, eternal God is united behind you in support of you. He is all in. He is *with* you. He is aligned with you against the world. From this reality flows assurance, confidence, boldness and humility. It is a powerful, foundational truth that helps us understand the rest of what Paul says in this passage.
- When Paul says God justifies us, do you know what he means? And can you guess what it has to do with others’ speaking against us?
  - Paul uses a legal term to talk about how in Christ, the debt of our sin has been forgiven. God has *justified* us. That means “made innocent.” But it’s more than that. It means “made whole and made *right*.” In God’s eyes, if you are in Christ, you are seen as holy and above reproach and without blame in any way (Colossians 1:22). In other words, there is nothing anyone can say against you.

## WRAP UP

- **Ask** – How does what we just talked about change my life?
- **Explain** – God is for you. He chose to send His Son to once-and-for-all validate you. His love covers you. You are, essentially, bulletproof. There is nothing the world can throw at you. There is no standard that you don’t meet. You are set free from every voice and every measure that says you aren’t good enough. In Christ, you are enough. And that is as hopeful a message as there is.
- **Pray!**

# LEAD TEAM

Jump in and serve.

You can make a difference.

TO SIGN UP

TEXT...

**PCHSLEAD**

(PLANO CAMPUS HIGH SCHOOL)

**PCJHIGHLEAD**

(PLANO CAMPUS JUNIOR HIGH)

**ESPLEAD**

(ESPAÑOL STUDENTS)

To 74788

TEXT...

**NCHSLEAD**

(NORTH CAMPUS HIGH SCHOOL)

**NCJHIGHLEAD**

(NORTH CAMPUS JUNIOR HIGH)

To 55125



# BREAKOUT

# 1

TOPIC \_\_\_\_\_

SPEAKER \_\_\_\_\_

PASSAGES \_\_\_\_\_

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NOTES

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# LIFEGROUPS

PLANO CAMPUS


SUNDAYS @ 9:30 AND 11:00 AM

NORTH CAMPUS

SUNDAYS @ 10:00 AM

PRESTONWOOD  
EN ESPAÑOL

SUNDAYS @ 12:45 PM



A couple years ago I moved from California to Texas. I had just been unplugged from a community that I was deeply invested in - it's where my roots were. My family and I were looking for a church, so one week we went to Prestonwood. I attended LifeGroups and I quickly got plugged in and felt welcomed. People started to recognize me, call me by my name, and make me "one of their own." Throughout my time at Prestonwood, I have made real friends and been blessed by phenomenal mentors. God has been working in my life - and He has used Prestonwood LifeGroups in a big way.

— Ryder Barr

[PRESTONWOODSTUDENTS.ORG/LIFEGROUPS](http://PRESTONWOODSTUDENTS.ORG/LIFEGROUPS)

# BREAKOUT 2

TOPIC \_\_\_\_\_

SPEAKER \_\_\_\_\_

PASSAGES \_\_\_\_\_

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NOTES

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# LifeGroup

SATURDAY PM

## SCRIPTURE Matthew 11:28-30

### MAIN POINT

Through saving faith in Jesus, we can have rest for our souls. Life is full of anxiety and stress. Jesus promises a deeper peace that can only be known when we surrender our lives to Him. It is a rest that serves as the foundation for how we see the world. When viewed through this assurance that Christ offers, the stressors of our life pale in comparison. In one or two sentences, share with the group.

- What are the things that make you tired?
- There are different kinds of tired ...
  - Physical tiredness from exertion
  - Emotional exhaustion from relational stress
  - Mental exhaustion from studying or rigorous academic exercises
  - Spiritual exhaustion from the weight of our sin or as we become more aware of our sin nature as we try to pursue God.
- What does Jesus say He offers to the tired in verse 28?
- Think about a deeper level of exhaustion. Think about the exhaustion that you feel from the stress and anxiety in your life. Describe how you feel when you are stressed or anxious. When Jesus says, “come to me all who are heavy laden,” He’s not talking about a physical burden. He’s talking about our worries. The spiritual. The emotional. The mental. That’s what He says to bring to Him.
- So that we don’t miss it, what does Jesus promise us if we bring our burdens to Him?
- Do you know what Jesus meant when He said, “Take my yoke upon you”? (Hint: Jesus isn’t talking about an egg’s yolk.)
- A yoke was sort of a wooden beam that you would place across the shoulders of an animal, an ox or a donkey, that would allow you to control them. You would attach reins to the yoke, and in this way, you essentially steer the animal. This is how you might plow a field or pull a cart.
- What does it mean, then, to “take Jesus’ yoke upon you”?
- Jesus is saying that to find the peace and rest that He offers, we must take His yoke upon us. We must allow Him to steer us. We must surrender the leadership of our life to God.
- Have you ever felt the heaviness of your anxiety and stress? How does it make you feel?
- How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus promises to lighten your burdens?

"I SOUGHT THE LORD,  
AND HE ANSWERED ME  
AND DELIVERED ME  
FROM ALL MY FEARS."

-PSALM 34:4

## WRAP UP

- **Ask** - How does what we just talked about change my life?
- **Explain** - The stress and anxiety of daily life can weigh us down, exhausting us spiritually and emotionally. At times it can be overwhelming. Jesus promises that in Him, we can find rest. We can know peace. He doesn't promise that we won't be stressed or anxious. He doesn't say that all of our troubles will go away. What He says is that in the face of those stressors, He offers the baseline of peace, the assurance of rest. It's the unshakable confidence that says no matter what you face, you're good.
- **Pray!**





SPRING  
BREAK

# MISSION TRIP

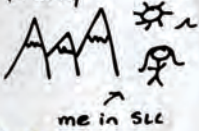
# DALLAS

MARCH 10-13 AND 17-20, 2025

Hi!! This past March I had the incredible opportunity to go with our student team to Salt Lake City, Utah over spring break. This trip was such a learning opportunity for me in so many ways. Living in this part of Texas and being so involved in the church has provided me with a great biblical community to be constantly surrounded with. However, in SLC, being a Christian is not the normal way of living. Being in this minority was a very different experience for me. It showed me how big the world is, and how lost so many people are. As Christians, we are not called to be comfortable. We are called to go out and make disciples. Stepping out from my usual church bubble was so refreshing because I got to see how God works in every place. God made a beautiful and HUGE world and this trip helped me see that.

-Bella Kirlin

P.S. the mountains were so pretty



me in SLC



When I first heard about the salt lake city mission trip, it did not really interest me because I assumed that I would not be able to go due to my mini-semester trip. However through prayer and faith one day was cut off from that trip which allowed me to go. On the trip I was with a group of people that I didn't know very well. In a place I had never been to the day after I had a job interview and had just gotten back from New York. Being tired with a group of practically strangers did not stop the holy spirit from moving. As it is, miraculously I never felt tired, connected with people in this trip, and helped share the gospel with potentially over 100 people. Along with this, I got to witness multiple gospel conversations with complete strangers. One of my favorite parts of the trip was the fact that we would not see the results of our ministry, meaning that in no way could we boast about what we did. This mission trip was a very humbling experience that taught me to trust in the Lord, and gave me some lasting ~~friend~~ connections with new friends.

-Blake Roberts



# Devo

SUNDAY AM

*THIS MORNING, OPEN YOUR BIBLE TO EXODUS 3:1-12.*

Read this passage and then ask God to open your heart and your mind to hear and see what He is trying to teach you.

There are times in our lives when we are faced with a task, and we look at the task and ourselves, and say: "No way. I'm not up to the challenge." Either we feel as if the task were too big or we're too small. It's not unusual to feel that way. But we have to be careful when applying that kind of thinking to our faith.

Reread verse 11. God came to Moses (the same Moses who was wasting his life in the desert, herding sheep) and spoke in an audible voice. And what did Moses do? He argued with God. He said, "No way. I'm not up to the challenge. The task is too big, and I am too small." We can probably even see ourselves in Moses' shoes. But when God has a plan for us, He doesn't let our excuses get in the way.

Heroes of the Old and New Testament echo Moses' response throughout the Bible - men such as the prophet Isaiah (see Isaiah 6:8) and the prophet Samuel (see 1 Samuel 3:4). And just as with these prophets, God had a plan for Moses. In Moses' case, God asked him to go back to Egypt, where he was a treasonous murderer. Then He wanted Moses to speak to Pharaoh and demand freedom for the Israelites. That's a big ask. But in the end, Moses did the job.

There are many reasons we may feel inadequate to accomplish the tasks God puts in front of us. But being set free from measuring up means that we are also set free from our expectations of how we measure up. If God is for you, no one can be against you. Not even yourself.

Don't let that little voice inside you that says "I can't" or "I don't measure up" win. If God has a task for you, then He's given you everything you need to pull it off. Embrace the truth.

"A BIRD THAT YOU SET FREE MAY BE CAUGHT AGAIN, BUT A WORD THAT ESCAPES YOUR LIPS WILL NOT RETURN."

—JEWISH PROVERB



# WORSHIP SERVICES



PLANO  
CAMPUS

SUNDAYS @  
9:30 AND  
11 AM

NORTH  
CAMPUS

SUNDAYS @  
8:30, 10, AND 11:30 AM

PRESTONWOOD EN

ESPAÑOL

SUNDAYS @ 2:00 PM

I have been apart of prestonwood for all of my life and I've been going to worship services here for longer than that. For me Prestonwood worship services have been the catalyst through which my theology and faith have been refined. Throughout every stage of my Christianity, being that when I was an atheist and seeing the lord more than I ever have in my life. Prestonwood has always been there to provide the supportive community I needed in each & every stage of my life and the worship services always provides an opportunity to worship God in the way that I need to.



Prestonwood







# LifeGroup

SUNDAY AM

## MESSAGE THOUGHTS

While the speaker is communicating, look for/think about the following things:

- Repetitive words, original language, prescriptive/descriptive, uniqueness of God, CONTEXT, etc.
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- First 5 minutes of message = Write a question.
- 

- Next 15 minutes of message = Write a question.
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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Recap the message in one or two sentences. Share with the group.
- Reread the passage from the session in three different Bible versions (ESV, NIV, CSB, etc.).
- Biggest takeaway and why? What was the biggest challenge you heard?
- What didn't make sense? What didn't you understand?
- Did you learn anything new this morning that you have never heard before?
- How is what we've discussed supposed to change how you live every day?

## NEED MORE?

**Leaders, have your students open their Bible and read Ephesians 2:1-10 and Matthew 5:16.**

**Main Point:** This Ephesians passage is one of the richest ones in Scripture. We're familiar with Paul's words here on salvation, grace and faith. Paul says here that God saved us from our sins through faith in Christ, not by our good deeds. Paul then makes a profound statement: We are God's "workmanship," literally the fruit of God's creative efforts. Why did God work to create us? For what purpose were we made? Paul says God created us and called us to Him so that we might walk in the "good works" He prepared for us before He even called us!

An important aspect of our purpose is to live out the good works God has called us to do. This is what we were set free to do. The really awesome thing is that when you pair this truth with Matthew 5:16, we discover that our good works have a redemptive purpose: They are to point others to a saving relationship with God.

Read the following scenarios or make up your own. For each scenario, allow students to answer with an item of their choosing from the list below, and how they would use it. Repeat this process for each scenario. Encourage creativity and have fun.

LAPTOP	BOBBY PIN	WRAPPER
LIPSTICK	CELL PHONE	BASEBALL GLOVE
CAR KEY	CURLING IRON	SUNGLASSES
CANDY BAR	CHEWING GUM	

**Scenario 1:** You are at the grocery store when a sweet elderly lady asks you to get a box of prunes off the top shelf. You can't reach them either, but you're all in. You're going to play matchmaker to this old lady and her prunes. What do you use to get the prunes, and how do you use it?

**Scenario 2:** You've just had your hair done before the big dance. It's perfect. As you leave the salon, you realize it's pouring rain. Your car is across the street. If you don't leave now, you're going to be late. What do you use to get to the car without ruining your "new do," and how do you use it?

**Scenario 3:** You're playing a video game against an opponent you really want to beat. He has been talking trash the whole game. It's coming down to the wire, but suddenly it looks like you may lose. You need a distraction. What do you use from the list to cause a victory-stealing distraction, and how do you use it?

**Scenario 4:** Walking across the lunchroom, you're engaged in a super in-depth debate with your friend about what is the better school lunch: taco day or chili day. You don't notice the puddle of spilled milk until it's too late. You slip and fall and dump your tray all over yourself. Everyone is looking and laughing. Think fast: how do you use one of the objects on the list to get yourself out of this situation?

The reason this was fun is that you were tasked with using objects outside of their intended purpose. Things have an intended purpose, and they function best when they operate within this purpose. We're about to learn how this concept applies to our faith.

- Have a student read Ephesians 2:1-3.  
This is where we were before Christ set us free from sin. Circle any words or phrases that describe how we lived before God, in Christ, freed us from sin and death.
- Have a student read Ephesians 2:4-9.



"OUT OF MY DISTRESS  
I CALLED ON THE LORD;  
THE LORD ANSWERED ME  
AND SET ME FREE."

—PSALM 118:5

- Draw a square around some of the words and phrases Paul uses to describe how we are set free in Christ.
- Underline anywhere you see Paul talking about how we accept the freedom God offers us.
- Just so we're all on the same page, how do we gain our freedom from sin's impact? Do we work hard for it? Do we have to be good enough so that God grants us freedom based on our actions?
- **Leaders, have a student read Ephesians 2:10.**
  - Put an exclamation mark beside any words or phrases Paul uses to talk about the purpose we have been set free to pursue.
  - Give an example of what "good works" look like in your world today.
- **Leaders, have a student read Matthew 5:16.**

Jesus makes the concept Paul was writing about a little clearer. How does this add to what Paul just said about our purpose?

## WRAP UP

- **Ask** - How does what we just talked about change my life?
- **Explain** - When we take Paul and Jesus' words together, we get the picture that our lives have great meaning. We have a purpose. We were set free for a reason. We were freed from sin and death so that we might live in such a way that we point others to the freedom that is in Christ. This is the measure of our lives. We don't live according to the world's definition of success but God's. God doesn't measure your success by your grades, your achievements, the school you'll attend, or the career you'll have. God's desire for you is that you would live a powerful life of godly influence, aimed at pointing others toward Him. *That's* the purpose for which you were set free.
- **Pray!**



# FREEDOM CELEBRATION

FEBRUARY 5

6:30 PM

STUDENT MINSITRY  
BUILDING



# Post Freedom Devos

**FINDING YOUR IDENTITY AND PURPOSE**  
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 3

*LEADERS AND STUDENTS, WHY NOT CONTINUE THE COMMUNITY OF FREEDOM WKND, AS WELL AS THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF BEING IN GOD'S WORD, BY SHARING A DEVOTIONAL PLAN FOR YOUR LIFEGROUP?*

Use the Bible app by following this link and create a group so you can discuss and keep track of everyone's progress.



START  
READING "THE  
CALLING" WITH  
YOUR FRIENDS



**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3**

## **HOW TO FIND YOUR CALLING**

What will you do with your life? Where will you go to college? What career will you choose? Do you plan to marry? Have kids? Stay home or move away?

Questions such as these are so important because how we answer them determines the direction of our lives. This is also what makes these questions so overwhelming. We don't want to make the wrong choice, and it's not always clear which is the right choice. That's why we're so glad you're reading this. Because over the next five days, we're going to show you how to find and fulfill

your calling, your God-given purpose, so you can live free from the anxiety of trying to figure out your future, and so you can be confident God is with you and will use you for good.

In his letter to the Christians in Ephesus, Paul writes:

**Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. —Ephesians 4:1, NLT**

As a follower of Jesus, you have been called by God and created with a purpose so much bigger than yourself.

But how do we do that? How do we live a life worthy of our calling when we aren't even sure what our calling is? Let's start by making sure we understand what the word *calling* actually means.

Your calling consists of your *identity*, *purpose* and *assignment*. Your identity is who you are. Your purpose is what you're made to do. And your assignment is how you do it. All of these elements are essential to your calling. Also, the order matters immensely, because until you know who you are, you'll never know what you're supposed to do. And if you don't know what you're meant to do, then how in the world are you going to know how to do it?

Before we get into all of that, though, we have to cover one more idea. It's what makes our calling good news and not an exhausting list of to-dos.

Are you ready?

Your calling isn't something you earn. It's something Jesus won. And, because of His grace, He has given it to you.

Imagine that at the end of class, your teacher asks you to stick around for a few minutes. If you're like most people, you might feel a little bit anxious, wondering what this could be about and what you might've done wrong. As you approach your teacher's desk, your heart is pounding and your knees are shaking. You take a deep breath and ask, "You wanted to see me?"

"Yes. I've decided to give you an A on next week's test."

It takes a second for the words to sink in. You feel a strange combination of excitement and confusion. "But, I haven't taken that test yet."

"That's right, but I've already decided you're getting an A."

"What if I bomb it?"

"You're still getting an A. My only request is you do the work you believe is worthy of an A."

With that, the conversation ends. You walk away with quiet confidence and firm determination to live up to the grade you've been given.

**Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. —Ephesians 4:1, NLT**

You have been called by God and created for a purpose so much bigger than yourself. You don't have to earn it. It's already been

given to you. So, choose to live a life worthy of the gift Jesus has won for you.

Tomorrow, we're going to learn the first part of our calling, our identity, by discovering who we are because of who God is. For now, let's pray.

*Pray: Lord Jesus, thank You for dying for me. I want to live a life worthy of the calling You have given me. Give me the faith to trust who You say I am, do what You made me to do, and love others the same way You have loved me. I devote my whole life to You. In Jesus' name, amen.*

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

## **YOUR IDENTITY**

Today, we're beginning with the most foundational element of our calling: our identity. Why? Because finding your calling starts with knowing who God is and trusting who He says you are.

**Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. —Ephesians 4:1, NLT**

More than anything else, our identity is defined by our relationships: our relationships with our parents (are you the perfect kid or the rebel?), our relationships with our friends (do you have great friendships or not so much?), our relationships with the people we look up to (artists, athletes, influencers, pastors, etc.), and our romantic relationships (are you dating? single? is it complicated?). Our view of ourselves is more shaped by our relationships with others than anything else. And while this can – and often does – lead to dysfunction, it's important to understand that this is not a defect. It's by design.

God designed us to find our identity in our relationship with Him. The fullness of who you are can only be found in the fullness of who He is. So, who is God?

God is the Trinity: three persons (Father, Son, and Spirit), united in one being.

God is a good and loving Father who wants a relationship with His kids. God is Jesus, the Son, our loving Savior who sacrificed Himself for the sins of the world. God is the Holy Spirit, who fills us with new life and power when we become Christians.

Here's why this matters: Your true identity is found in the Trinity. So, for the remainder of today's reading, we're going to look at who God is as the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, and who we are in relation to Him so we can grasp our God-given identity. So, who is God?

### **1. GOD IS THE FATHER AND WE ARE HIS CHILDREN.**

**God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. —Ephesians 1:5, NLT**

When you put your faith in Jesus, you are adopted into the family of God. He becomes your Father, and you become His child. Being a child isn't something you earn or have to work for. It's something you are born into. God chose you to be His kid because He wanted to. And calling you His son or daughter brings Him so much joy.

If you're a follower of Jesus, you have been adopted into God's family. You're His kid, and He is your Dad. His love for you is unconditional. That means He loves you no matter what, with no strings attached.

### **2. GOD IS THE SON, AND WE ARE HIS FOLLOWERS.**

**Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God. —Ephesians 5:2, NLT**

God loves you so much that He became a human being and sacrificed Himself to save you from your sins. Now, we are to live a life filled with love, following the example of Jesus. And just to be clear, following Jesus is not the same thing as following your favorite streamer or influencer. Following Jesus is a way of life that redefines everything about you.

Jesus doesn't just want part of you. He wants all of you. Following Him isn't just one more activity you add to your schedule when it's convenient. Being His follower is an identity that changes us from the inside out.

### **3. GOD IS THE SPIRIT, AND WE ARE HIS DWELLING PLACE.**

**I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. —Ephesians 3:16, NLT**

When you become a Christian, the Holy Spirit fills you and gives you the strength to do things you couldn't do before: to know God intimately and personally, to pray with power even when you don't have the words to say, and to be transformed into a person of love.

All you have to do is ask Him. When you do, God will give you the power to know who He is, how much He loves you, and who He says you are.

So, who is God? And who are you in relation to Him?

1. God is the Father, and we are His children.
2. God is the Son, and we are His followers.
3. God is the Spirit, and we are His dwelling place.

Now what? Get the truth in and live the truth out. Let the truth of who God is and who He says you are plant itself deep in your heart by memorizing the verses we've read today. Then, live in alignment with your God-given identity by resting in the unconditional love of your Father, following the example of the Son, and asking the Spirit to give you strength. When you do, God will show you who He is, and help you trust who He says you are.

*Pray: Heavenly Father, thank You for choosing to adopt me. Thank You that You are my Father, and I am Your child. Help me to relate to You that way and trust You more fully as my good and loving Dad. Jesus, thank You for inviting me to walk with You and learn from You. Help me to become more like You as we spend time together and to live and love as You do. Holy Spirit, thank You for Your presence with me and in me. Empower me to internalize Your truth and live out my true identity today. In Jesus' name, amen.*

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

## **YOUR PURPOSE**

Finding your calling starts with knowing who God is and trusting who He says you are. Once we know who God is and who we are because of our relationship to Him, the time comes to figure out what we're made to do. Every single one of us, as human beings, as children of our Father, as followers of the Son, and as the dwelling places of the Spirit, have been created to fulfill a purpose that is so much bigger than ourselves.

But how do we find that purpose? Well, if we continue our reading from the book of Ephesians, Paul lays it out for us:

**Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all. —Ephesians 4:1-6, NLT**

OK, that's a lot packed into just a few sentences, so let's break it down line by line. Are you ready?

**Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. —Ephesians 4:1, NLT**

As a reminder, you have been called by God for a special purpose that you don't have to earn because it is something Jesus won.

**Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. —Ephesians 4:2, NLT**

Living a life worthy of the calling you've been given looks like being humble, gentle and patient with other people because of your love for them. Love, in biblical terms, is not simply what we think or how we feel. Love is what we do and how we live. It's a choice we make to sacrifice for the good of another person.

**Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. —Ephesians 4:3, NLT**



The Enemy loves it when the people we treat the worst are the ones we're supposed to love the most. He thrives on stirring up division and conflict between followers of Jesus because he wants the family of God to be torn apart by hate. This is why we need to make every effort to stay united, not by our own strength but by the power of the Holy Spirit who gives us strength. Hate drives us apart, but love brings us together.

**For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. —Ephesians 4:4, NLT**

As the family of God, we are united as one body, held together by the Holy Spirit, and moving toward the hope of Jesus' return to finish what He started. Until then, we get to play a part in bringing that promised future into the present.

**There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all. —Ephesians 4:5-6, NLT**

Our faith, our loyalty, and our lives belong to the three-and-one God who is over all, in all, and living through all. This is what it means to live a life worthy of the calling you've been given.

Putting it all together, what are these six verses saying? Your purpose is to love God with your whole self and love your neighbor as yourself. This purpose is exactly what Jesus said matters more than anything else:

**Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these." —Mark 12:29-31, NLT**

Love God with all you are and love other people the way you want to be loved. This is the "capital-P" Purpose we were made to fulfill. And that's a really big purpose with as many ways to do it as there are people on the planet. So, to help you bring focus to what it might look like for you, one of the best things you can do is choose a *life verse*.

A life verse is a Bible verse that gives you direction in life. Specifically, it helps clarify what it looks like for you to love God with your whole self and love your neighbor as yourself.

For some of you, as soon as we started talking about a life verse, a Scripture popped into your mind. If so, that's awesome! For others, you have no idea what your life verse might be or where to start. Don't stress about it. For now, scan this QR Code and look over this list of 30 popular Bible verses to see if any stick out to you.

Finding your life verse is a process that takes time. And even though *life* is in the



name, if you pick something and change it later, there's nothing wrong with that. As your life changes, chances are pretty good your life verse will, too. The goal of this exercise is to help you clarify how you are uniquely wired by God to fulfill the purpose He has given to all of us: to love God with your whole self and love your neighbor as yourself.

**Pray:** *Father, help me to love You with all I am. I want to desire You more than I desire anything else. I want to trust You more than I trust myself. I want to know You in a real and personal way. And I want to serve You with my very best. Lord, teach me to love others the same way You have loved me. Make me who You want me to be. In Jesus' name, amen*

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

## **YOUR ASSIGNMENT**

Your calling consists of your identity (who you are), your purpose (what you're made to do), and your assignment (how you do it). On Tuesday, we learned that finding your calling starts with knowing who God is and trusting who He says you are.

- God is the Father, and we are His children.
- God is the Son, and we are His followers.
- God is the Spirit, and we are His dwelling place.

Yesterday, we discovered your purpose is to love God with your whole self and love your neighbor as yourself. Today, we're going to explore four big questions to help us determine the best assignment for us in this chapter of our lives.

### **QUESTION 1: WHAT ARE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS?**

When we become Christians, the Holy Spirit takes up residence inside of us. He fills us and gives us the strength to do things we couldn't do before, empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling, and He gives us gifts by His grace to accomplish our purpose.

**However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. —Ephesians 4:7, NLT**

Whatever gifts you have, know God gave them to you purposefully, according to His generosity, so you could serve others and glorify Jesus. In the book of 1 Corinthians, Paul tells us:

**There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives**

someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have. —1 Corinthians 12:4–11, NLT

This is not an exhaustive list of every spiritual gift, but it draws our attention to the reason for these gifts. The Holy Spirit gives gifts to each of us so we can help each other. So, wherever we are, whatever we're doing, we can serve others and glorify Jesus.

Go back and read through that list, slowly. Then, check out the passages from Romans and 1 Peter below. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you how He has gifted you. God gives us spiritual gifts because He *wants* us to have them and use them to love Him and love others. He's not hiding them from you. He's working in you to bring them to the surface to help you fulfill your purpose.

In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. —Romans 12:6–8, NLT

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen. —1 Peter 4:10–11, NLT

Take a moment to pray, asking God what gifts He has given you to fulfill your purpose.

### **QUESTION 2: WHAT BRINGS YOU JOY?**

What makes you feel most alive? What's the thing that, when you're doing it, you're at your best, and when you aren't doing it, you wish you were? Maybe it's helping a friend through a hard situation. Maybe it's giving a presentation about something that really matters to you. Maybe it's caring for someone who's injured and helping that person through the recovery process. Maybe it's teaching your younger siblings a new skill. There are some things that will just light you up on the inside. Pay attention to those things because they are often indicators that point us in the direction of our assignment.

### **QUESTION 3: WHAT BREAKS YOUR HEART?**

Think of the things that make you feel as though you've been punched in the gut every time you see them – maybe a righteous anger is stirred up. You think, “This is wrong. It shouldn't be this way.” Things such as divorce, loneliness, bullying, gossip, poverty, suicide and people who don't know Jesus. When those thoughts and feelings are stirred up, don't run away. Lean in. Because the more you become like Jesus, the more the things that break His heart will break yours. Our hearts are supposed to break over evil, injustice and suffering. And that broken heart is meant to lead to compassionate action. In fact, the things that break your heart most are very often the things God is calling you to go and do something about.

### **QUESTION 4: WHAT DOES THE WORLD NEED?**

God's assignment for you won't be a waste of time, and it won't be disconnected from His good plans to rescue people from sin and restore the world. When you walk into your school, your house or around your neighborhood, what if you started asking the question, “What would it take for this place to look a little more like heaven?” And then, what if you partnered with Jesus to make it happen? Maybe the kids in your school need some hope. Maybe everyone walks around thinking, “Everything sucks and that's just how it is.” What if you had a different attitude? What if you encouraged people at every chance you had and shared the hope you have because of Jesus?

If you want to figure out the best assignment for this chapter of your life, then pay attention to where your gifts, passions, pains and the needs of people align. Tomorrow, we're going to bring it all together and take a step in walking out our calling. For now, let's pray.

*Pray: Lord, I want to honor You with all that I do. Teach me how to love You with all that I am and give me the faith to follow through. Show me how to love others the same way You have loved me. When I fall short or get off track, gently bring me back to You and put me on the right track. I need Your help in all of this. In Jesus' name, amen.*

### **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

## **HOW TO FULFILL YOUR CALLING**

**Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. —Ephesians 4:1, NLT**

As a follower of Jesus, you have been called by God and created with a purpose so much bigger than yourself. Your calling consists of your identity, your purpose and your assignment.

Your identity is who you are because of who God is.

- God is the Father, and we are His children.
- God is the Son, and we are His followers.
- God is the Spirit, and we are His dwelling place.

Your purpose is what God created you to do: to love Him with your whole self and love your neighbor as yourself.

Your assignment is how you accomplish that purpose. And here's the really important thing: If you are living out your God-given identity in pursuit of your God-given purpose, then your assignment can be *whatever* you want it to be.

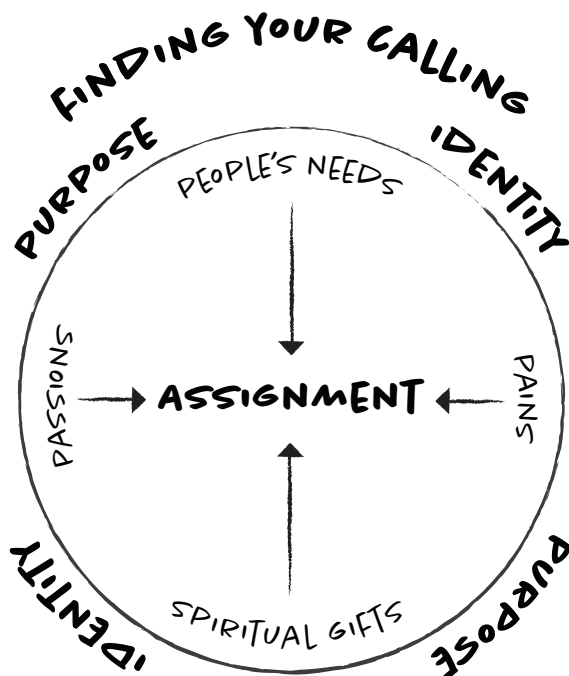
And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. —Colossians 3:17, NLT

Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ. —Colossians 3:23-24, NLT

So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. —1 Corinthians 10:31, NLT

Most people spend most of their time stressing about the *how* questions. But God cares far more about *who* you become and *what* you pursue than *how* you do it.

Think of your calling like a large circle. Your identity and purpose make up the rim of the circle. Your assignment can be *anything* that fits inside of that circle. And as long as the assignment you choose is in the circle, you will be fulfilling God's will for your life. There will certainly be things that are a better match than others for your spiritual gifts, your passions, your pains and the needs of the people around you. That's what makes the questions from yesterday's reading so helpful – they help us narrow our focus and hone in on assignments that might be a better match for us.



OK, but what if you make the wrong choice? What if you decide to do something that doesn't go well or doesn't turn out as you expected?

The answer to that question isn't *if* it happens, but *when* it happens. All of us will make choices that seem good at the time, but later we'll wish we hadn't made. If you don't believe us, just read the Bible and look at the lives of the people so many of us look up to. Even though they were mostly faithful, none of them were perfect. But their shortcomings didn't prevent God from using them to do amazing things. Often, it was through their failures that they learned some of the most valuable lessons.

Author and pastor John Ortberg says, "God can use a wrong door to shape a right heart."

As long as you are doing your best to stay faithful to Jesus and live in a way that is helpful to people, God can and will use whatever you do for good.

Writing to his apprentice Timothy, Paul says,

**"For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time – to show us his grace through Christ Jesus." –2 Timothy 1:9, NLT**

And 1 Thessalonians tells us, "God's will is for you to be holy ..."

So, how do you fulfill your calling? You choose to live out your identity as a child of the Father, a follower of the Son, and a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. You choose to love God with your whole self and love your neighbor as yourself. And whatever assignment you choose, you trust God to use it to make you holy and bring Him glory.

**Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. –Ephesians 4:1, NLT**

You have been called by God to play a part in His good plans to restore the world – not because of anything you did to earn it, but because of how much God loves you and wants you to experience the joy of serving Him and making a difference. So, live a life worthy of that calling, because *you* have been called by God.

**Pray:** *Heavenly Father, thank You for calling me Yours and calling me to a purpose that is so much bigger than myself. I want to live a life worthy of it all. Help me to know who You are and trust who You say I am. Show me how to love You with all I am and love others the way I want to be loved. Guide me to an assignment where I can be faithful to You and helpful to others. Through it all, I'm so grateful You promise to be with me. In Jesus' name, amen*

# Week of February 10

## **HOW TO BE A BAD FRIEND: TEAR THEM DOWN WITH YOUR WORDS**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

Read Proverbs 16:28.

If you want to be a bad friend, one of the things you can do is tear down your friends with your words. Words are funny things. They can be either super encouraging or super destructive. You have probably experienced this in some way in your life. The old saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me" is a great saying but one that's easier said than done. The truth is that words hurt ... a lot! This is why it's so important to watch what we say and how we say it. Today's passage talks about how a dishonest person spreads strife or conflict and how a whisperer (gossiper) drives friends apart.

**When was the last time you were torn down by a friend's words? What happened?**

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**When was the last time you were encouraged by a friend? What did he or she say to you?**

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**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

**Read Proverbs 12:18.**

Words are compared to many different things in Scripture to show us how powerful they really are. Today's passage compares reckless words to a sword being thrust at someone. These words have the power to cut and pierce, no matter how strong the person receiving them is. This is why we must think before we speak. We should never blatantly say things. The second part of this passage gives the correct way to use our words. What's the opposite of a destructive weapon? Healing! So, using wise and thoughtful words will bring healing. This means that we need to be wise with everything we say. We need to heal instead of cause pain. If we can do this, then we have the opportunity to gain friends rather than push people away from us. Especially in a culture that seems to tear people down often, we should be a source of healing that brings people up.

**How can you be wise in how you use your words on a daily basis?**

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**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

**Read James 3:1-6.**

After James says that teachers will be judged with a greater strictness because they say and use words to point people to Christ, he gives three examples of the power of the tongue and our words. The first example is a bit that's placed in the mouth of a horse to guide it in the direction the rider wants to go. The small bit guides the horse's whole body. Secondly, the rudder on a boat steers the boat in the direction the pilot wants to sail. Thirdly, a small spark has the potential to set a whole forest ablaze. James is trying to warn us that the tongue is a small thing, yet it has the power to do irreparable harm to others and to ourselves. This is why we must pay careful attention to what we say and the words we use.

**Think of a fourth example to add to James's three, where something small can control something major. Write it below.**

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**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

Read James 3:7-12.

The tongue is something that we cannot tame.

James says that it is a “restless evil, full of deadly poison.” Why does he say that? Because we can use it to worship the Lord and then turn right around and destroy people with it. He uses two examples here of why that shouldn’t be the case. Fresh water and salt water cannot come from the same opening, just as a fig tree cannot bear olives. Our mouths shouldn’t be able to spout forth both worship and destruction.

**Do you have a habit of praising God and then gossiping? Or praising God and then tearing someone down? Why?**

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How can we not allow this to happen to our friendships? We must be diligent to think through everything before we say anything. Even though it would be easy to say whatever we want, that’s not what we are called to in our relationship with God. We are called to a higher standard where we think before we speak. It always takes time to build friendships from scratch, but we can lose friendships very quickly with our words. Trust is another thing that takes time to build but can be quickly lost. Today, pay attention to what you say and how you say it. Maybe you even need to ask forgiveness from friends for things you have said to them or about them. Take five minutes today to say you’re sorry. Forgiveness brings healing.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

Read Matthew 15:18.

Jesus, teaching about things that defile a person, addresses what comes out of our mouths. He draws a direct line from the mouth to the heart because what we say comes from our heart. We can do a great job of masking our thoughts so that no hears them or sees them. What we cannot do, though, is mask our words. When we have something on our heart, we are more likely to talk about it. When we bottle up those things, they begin to affect us in numerous ways, and that’s why our words flow out of our hearts.

What's on your heart lately that you find yourself talking about to others?

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This idea can be pretty scary to some of us. When we really look at what and whom we talk about, it can shine a light into the darkness of our own lives. If a direct line can be drawn from our mouth to our heart, then we have to look at how we use our words. What is the current condition of your heart? What attitude comes out of your mouth that originates from your heart? Probably 99 percent of the time, the spiritual battles in our lives come straight from our heart!



LEADERS ONLY

# Ministry Safe

## CODE OF CONDUCT

Prestonwood Baptist Church is committed to protecting students in its care, and we will always be above reproach when interacting with students both in and outside of Prestonwood. Unfortunately, our world has become so strained that people are quick to jump to conclusions and assume inappropriate behavior. Our actions and intentions must always be pure and honoring to Christ.

### VERBAL CONTACT

#### APPROPRIATE

- Verbal praise for achievement or behavior
- Verbal encouragement
- Biblically based teaching (non-sexual)
- Normal, healthy conversation

#### INAPPROPRIATE

- Compliments or questions relating to physique or body development
- Sexual jokes, homosexual innuendos, or bathroom humor
- Profanity or vulgar language
- Verbal harassment or abuse
- Individual secrets or special gifts
- Sexual coaching or conversation

### TERRITORY

#### APPROPRIATE

- Public one-on-one interaction, as further defined below.
- Group or public environments

#### INAPPROPRIATE

- Sitting or lying on a bed with a student
- Private one-on-one interactions
- Hazing of any kind

### MODESTY

Staff, leaders and students should practice modesty in their appearance and actions at all times. Staff, volunteers and students should be careful to maintain privacy and be alone behind a closed door in any scenario involving undressing, including changing clothes, taking showers, or using the restroom. In overnight settings, sleepwear must be modest.

**Consequences:** Any violation of these policies will be immediate grounds for dismissal and removal from the Prestonwood activity or event. A violation of one of these policies might not only be misunderstood by staff, leaders, or students, but result in legal consequences from parents.

## PHYSICAL CONTACT

Every staff member and volunteer should take the subject of physical contact with the utmost concern and seriousness. Physical contact in any form should not give even the appearance of wrongdoing. The personal behavior of staff members and volunteers in Student Ministry must foster trust at all times. Personal conduct must be above reproach. Student Ministry Leaders are responsible for protecting minors under their supervision from inappropriate or unwanted touch by others.

### APPROPRIATE

Side hugs, pats on the back and other forms of appropriate physical affection between adults and students are generally suitable in the church setting.

Physical contact should be for the benefit of the student, and never be based upon an adult's emotional needs.

Physical contact and affection should occur only in observable places or when in the presence of other students, staff members or volunteers. It is much less likely that touch will be inappropriate (or interpreted as such) when physical contact is open to observation.

### INAPPROPRIATE

Inappropriate touching and displays of affection are forbidden. Any inappropriate physical contact, touching or displays of affection should be immediately reported to a supervisor or the Minister to Students.

- Do not force physical contact, touch or affection on a reluctant student. A student's preference not to be touched must be respected.
- Back rubs, massages, etc.
- Touching of knees or legs
- Physical affection in isolated areas
- Touching a student in anger, disgust, or frustration
- "Good games"
- Frontal hugs, do your best to avoid and do not initiate
- Lap and leg sitting
- Kissing
- Tickling or wrestling with a student
- Walking hand-in-hand

DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD,  
BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWAL  
OF YOUR MIND, THAT BY TESTING YOU MAY  
DISCERN WHAT IS THE WILL OF GOD, WHAT IS  
GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT.

—ROMANS 12:2

PRESTONWOOD STUDENTS

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# STAY CONNECTED AT EACH CAMPUS!

## PLANO CAMPUS

 @pwstudents  @prestonwoodstudents

## NORTH CAMPUS

 @pwstudentsnorth  @prestonwoodstudentsnorth

## PRESTONWOOD EN ESPAÑOL

 @prestonwoodstudentsespanol

CALL: 972-820-5000



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# WHAT NOW?

SALVATION

JOIN A  
LIFEGROUP  
ON SUNDAY MORNINGS.



FOLLOW UP WITH  
BAPTISM

TEXT  
"DEVO"  
TO 74788  
TO RECEIVE DAILY  
DEVOTIONALS.



SIGN UP FOR A  
**SIX-WEEK  
DISCIPLESHIP  
TIME.**



REGISTER FOR  
**BEACH  
CAMP**

**JOIN US  
FOR MDWK**  
ON WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30 PM





TEXT **DEVO** TO **74788** FOR  
OUR DAILY DEVOTIONALS



### **PLANO CAMPUS**

 @pwstudents  @prestonwoodstudents

### **NORTH CAMPUS**

 @pwstudentsnorth  @prestonwoodstudentsnorth

### **PRESTONWOOD EN ESPAÑOL**

 @prestonwoodstudentsespanol

# Freedom

JANUARY 30-  
FEBRUARY 1, 2026

The Freedom Celebration is probably one of the coolest events that Pwood does. It is an opportunity just to reflect on what God did over the weekend & have one last event to conclude Freedom. The best part is just watching all the people who made a decision be so bold & unstramed of what they did & how excited they are to tell everyone what they did & why. Plus its a ton of fun!

Fun! Coleman-Pales

Hi I'm Dasha, I asked Christ into my life when I was 6 and got baptized 2 years later. Growing up I didn't go to church regularly so I had never experienced an event like Freedom before. From the worship to the fellowship you can just feel God's presence. The second night of Freedom pastor Clayton King was speaking. At the end of his message he gave the invitation to be called to ministry. I could feel God tugging on my heart but I was afraid. What would people think of me? I'm too young to be called. All these thoughts raced in my head till Clayton said he answered the call when he was 13. I knew at that moment God called me to serve him by going into ministry, even at just 13. I stood up with my friends terrified but knew it was the right choice. I'm so grateful for Freedom and for Freedom celebration. At the celebration I got to hear other people's testimonies just like mine. It was so fun getting to see how God worked through everyone's lives in a different way and getting to celebrate that. I totally recommend coming to the Freedom celebration to see how God may have worked in your friend's lives as well!





PRESTONWOOD  
S T U D E N T S