

# STREET CAMP

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# WELCOME

Beach Camp is more than just a trip – it's an unforgettable experience, a week that transforms lives, and a highlight students anticipate all year long!

We are incredibly thankful that you've chosen to serve as an Adult Leader this year. Your dedication, time and energy mean so much as you invest in the lives of these students.

We truly appreciate you!

Our prayer is that as you pour into these incredible teenagers, God will pour into you – filling you with joy, strength and blessings throughout the week.

So pray boldly, rest well, and get ready for an amazing week at the beach. We're so excited to have you on board for Beach Camp 2025!

# IMPORTANT STUFF



## **JAMESON BARKER**

Leaders | 812-786-6230

## **JORDAN WHICKER**

Waterscape Co-Captain (*PC Guys*) | 254-715-5740

## **COLE TRAVIS**

Waterscape Co-Captain (*NC Guys*) | 903-818-6272

## **ANNA FLY**

Waterscape Co-Captain (*NC Girls*) | 615-519-7847

## **BREE MARTINEZ**

Waterscape Co-Captain (*PC Girls*) | 562-665-4148

## **MORGAN MCVAY**

Waterscape Co-Captain (*PC Girls*) | 412-552-9898

## **JONATHAN THOMAS**

Summer Place Co-Captain (*PC Guys*) | 832-715-5191

## **MATT ELLENBURG**

Summer Place Co-Captain (*NC Guys*) | 606-383-3300

## **MAGGIE HICKS**

Azure Co-Captain (*PC Girls*) | 832-600-2743

## **TOREE MOHR**

Azure Co-Captain (*NC Girls*) | 513-441-4608

## **DAVID IBAJA**

Island Echos Co-Captain | 786-970-9997

## **ALAN CORTES**

Island Echos Co-Captain | 469-647-2754

# WHAT ARE WE DOING? **SCHEDULE**

## **MONDAY (6/9)**

- 4:30 AM** . . . Load Buses @ Plano and Prosper
- 5:00 AM** . . . Buses Depart
- 7:00 PM** . . . Buses Arrive @ Resorts
- 8:15 PM** . . . Load Buses: Resorts > Convention Center
- 8:45 PM** . . . Worship
- 10:30 PM** . . . Load Buses: Convention Center > Resorts
- 11:30 PM** . . . Lights Out

## **TUESDAY (6/10)**

- 8:00 AM** . . . Silent Sounds
- 8:45 AM** . . . Breakfast
- 10:00 AM** . . . Small Groups
- 11:15 AM** . . . Load Buses: Resorts > Rec
- 11:45 AM** . . . Rec
- 12:15 PM** . . . Load Buses: Rec > Resorts
- 12:45 PM** . . . Lunch
- 1:30 PM** . . . Free Time
- 5:00 PM** . . . Cleanup
- 6:30 PM** . . . Buses: Resorts > Convention Center
- 7:00 PM** . . . Worship
- 9:00 PM** . . . Buses: Convention Center > Resorts
- 9:30 PM** . . . Curfew/Condo Time
- 11:00 PM** . . . Lights Out

## **WEDNESDAY (6/11)**

- 8:00 AM** . . . Silent Sounds
- 8:45 AM** . . . Breakfast
- 10:00 AM** . . . Small Groups
- 11:15 AM** . . . Load Buses: Resorts > Rec
- 11:45 AM** . . . Rec

**12:15 PM** . . . Load Buses: Rec > Resorts  
**12:45 PM** . . . Lunch  
**1:30 PM** . . . Free Time  
**5:00 PM** . . . Cleanup  
**6:30 PM** . . . Buses: Resorts > Convention Center  
**7:00 PM** . . . Worship  
**9:00 PM** . . . Buses: Convention Center > Resorts  
**9:30 PM** . . . Curfew/Condo Time  
**11:00 PM** . . . Lights Out

## **THURSDAY (6/12)**

**8:00 AM** . . . Silent Sounds  
**8:45 AM** . . . Breakfast  
**10:00 AM** . . . Small Groups  
**11:15 AM** . . . Load Buses: Resorts > Rec  
**11:45 AM** . . . Rec  
**12:15 PM** . . . Load Buses: Rec > Resorts  
**12:45 PM** . . . Lunch  
**1:30 PM** . . . Free Time  
**4:00 PM** . . . Cleanup  
**5:00 PM** . . . Dinner in Condos  
**5:30 PM** . . . Load Buses: ESP ONLY  
Island Echos > Waterscape  
**5:45 PM** . . . Head to Beaches  
**6:00 PM** . . . Group Picture  
**6:15 PM** . . . Baptism @ Summer Place/  
Waterscape Beach  
**7:15 PM** . . . Acoustic Worship  
**7:35 PM** . . . Load Buses: ESP ONLY  
Waterscape > Island Echos  
**8:15 PM** . . . Curfew/Condo Time  
**10:30 PM** . . . Lights Out

## **FRIDAY (6/13)**

**5:30 AM** . . . Load buses @ Condos  
**6:00 AM** . . . Leave for Plano and Prosper  
**8:00 PM** . . . Buses arrive in Plano and Prosper

# 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 pages 10-11 on how to share Christ).
- Leaders help maintain and enforce camp guidelines. This includes enforcing dress code, keeping students off of 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!

## AT BEACH CAMP

- 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 under the bus.
- Camp nurses will be available the entire week to treat students and leaders if needed; however, medications will be distributed only during the hours below:
- Morning Meds – 8:45-9:15 a.m.
- Night Meds – 9:00-10:00 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 done 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 scenario 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.
- All students will be asked to leave their cell phone on the kitchen bar/counter during Family Group sessions, during dinner, and at night while sleeping. Students should not have their phones in their rooms during sleeping hours.

# SERIOUS CONVERSATIONS

1. Listen ... Listen ... Listen. Listen with understanding and objectivity. Identify the problem or need, but remain objective. You must feel with them without allowing yourself to be so totally immersed in the situation that you cannot help them get a mature perspective on it.
2. 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.
3. 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 directions.
4. 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 to an experience you had when you were younger. Also, don't simply quote verses ... explain and apply them.
5. 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 never tell anyone.
6. 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.

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7. Never promise students that you will keep their problems a secret. If they ask for secrecy, let them know that you have 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.
  8. 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.
  9. 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.
  10. Remember, under law, you are **required** to report any abuse. Contact a staff member immediately.

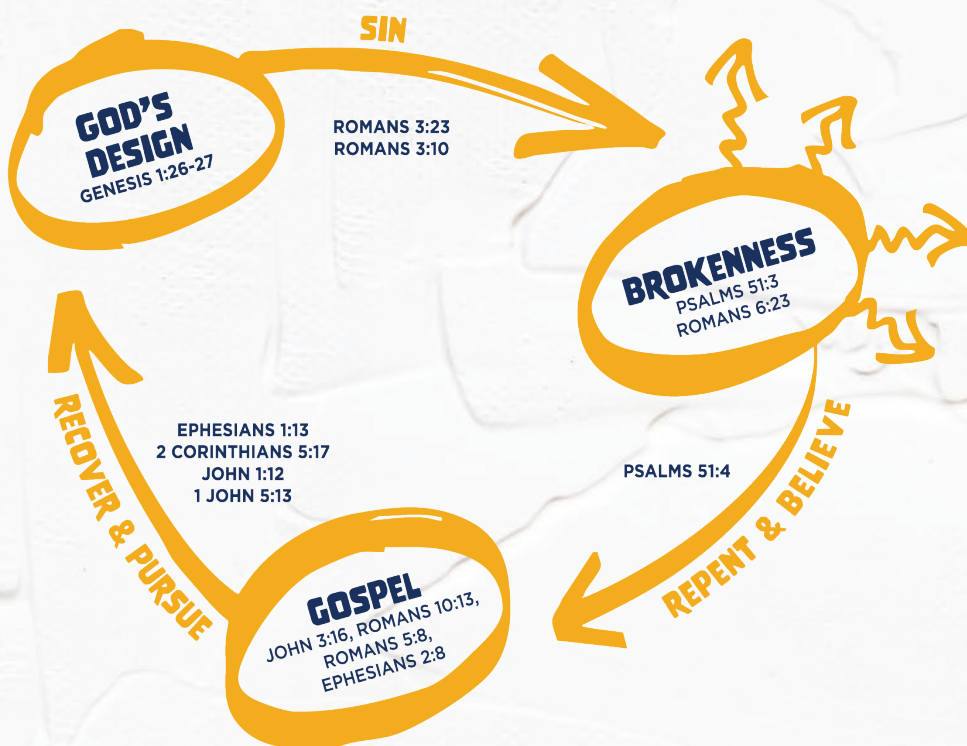
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# HOW TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH A STUDENT

1. 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.\*\*)
2. Once students communicate that they want to receive Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior, you can take them through the 3 Circles Method (see graphic below) or any method you are comfortable using.



**3.** 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 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.

**4.** 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.**

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

*John 3:16 - 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.*

**But people are sinful and separated from the life God has to offer you.**

*Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.*

**Jesus Christ is the only provision for sin and the life God has to offer.**

*John 14:6 - Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

**We receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior through personal invitation.**

*Revelation 3:20 - 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.*

**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 need parental permission in order to follow through with Believer's Baptism at this camp service.**

# 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 name tag and wristband.
- The Silent Sounds Captain (at each resort) will have extra Bibles, books and pens.
- Your students should walk down to the beach and sit down in the next open area spreading about six feet apart from each other. Students may bring their own towels to sit on, but they cannot bring a towel from the condo bathrooms.
- All leaders and students should participate in Silent Sounds. If you cannot take part in Silent Sounds because of an emergency, do not gather with other leaders and talk. This might give the students the impression that spending time with God is not important for adults.
- Everyone must remain seated until the siren is sounded.
- If you see students engaged in the following, get up quietly and correct their behavior:
  - Sitting too close or 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

# FAMILY DINNERS AROUND THE TABLE

For many, family dinners bring back childhood memories – sneaking veggies to the dog, favorite meals, or dreaded dish duty. But beyond the food, something deeper was happening: lives were being woven together, strengthened through laughter, conversations and shared moments.

At Beach Camp, every meal is an opportunity for the Lord to work in students' lives. That's why we'll eat together in our condos – not scattered or distracted, but gathered around the table, free from screens, engaging in real conversations. The Lord wants to mend, refine, and strengthen the bonds around your table.

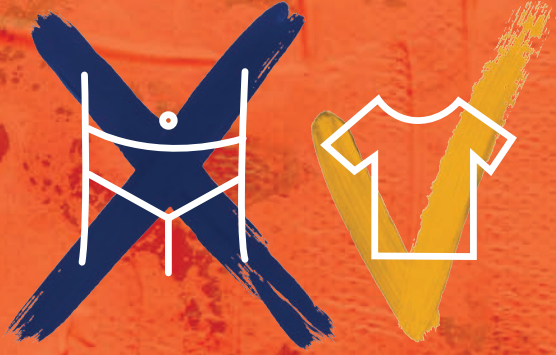
Take time to assign roles, just like at home, and use the provided questions and activities to spark meaningful discussions. Most importantly, invest in your students and help set the table (see what we did there?) for what God has prepared for them during evening Worship.

**NO  
FOOD**



**DELIVERIES**

# DRESS CODE



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, we will 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 you leave 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 adhered to strictly. 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/her to wait until someone else comes to swim alone. The two buddies are to 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 up with the number of nametags on the board.
- Watch for sunburn. Anyone who appears to be sunburned must apply sunscreen or put on a T-shirt.

# LIFEGUARD DUTIES

## AT THE BEACH

The Beach Safety Team is responsible for overseeing and organizing the beach “lifeguards.” They are responsible, with the help of other “lifeguards,” for seeing that the following items get to the beach 30 minutes before Free Time: sunscreen, bullhorn, name tag 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 promptly each day at 1:30 p.m. Please arrive for “lifeguard” duty AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

## AT THE POOL

- Never lie down to get a tan while on duty.
- Watch for sunburn for students and leaders. Those who appear to be sunburned must apply sunscreen or put on a T-shirt.
- No rough play is allowed 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 to be considerate of other guests. We need to avoid “overtaking” all of the pools or being rambunctious, especially if small children or senior citizens are in the pool.
- Keep all students off of and out of kid’s toys and pools.

# FREE TIME ASSIGNMENTS

## SUMMER PLACE



## ISLAND ECHOS



# WATERSCAPE



**AZURE**

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 us ensure that we are conscious of all the other families at the resort and that we don’t interfere with their vacations.

# REC TIME

Rec is a highly interactive and competitive three-day challenge Tuesday through Thursday of Beach Camp. 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 be the champion.

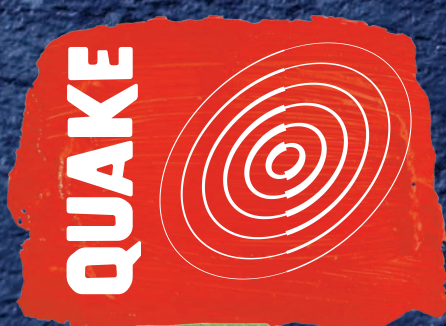
Your role is to keep the students of your condo excited and engaged each day. It's simple - your students will follow your lead. So, if you're not excited and all-in, don't expect them to be (each condo leader will be placed on a team with the students of your entire condo). You will be given your Rec 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).

## TEAM COLORS

Rec Teams will be noted by the following colors and names:





# LIFEGROUPS

*PLANO CAMPUS*

SUNDAYS @ 9:30 AND 11:00 AM

*NORTH CAMPUS*

SUNDAYS @ 10:00 AM

*PRESTONWOOD EN ESPAÑOL*

SUNDAYS @ 12:45 PM



# MONDAY

# WORSHIP NOTES



# WORSHIP SERVICES



## PLANO CAMPUS

SUNDAYS @ 9:30 AND 11:00 AM

## NORTH CAMPUS

SUNDAYS @ 8:30, 10:00, AND 11:30 AM

## PRESTONWOOD EN ESPAÑOL

PLANO CAMPUS, SUNDAYS @ 2:00 PM

NORTH CAMPUS, SATURDAYS @ 5:00 PM



Prestonwood

# MDWK



BEGINS  
AUGUST 20

# TUESDAY

TUESDAY

# SILENT SOUNDS

## SCRIPTURE

1 Chronicles 29:10–13; Isaiah 55:8–9

### **IMAGINE BEING INVITED INTO THE PRESENCE OF SOMEONE SO POWERFUL, SO AWE-INSPIRING, THAT YOU COULD HARDLY FATHOM HIS OR HER GREATNESS.**

You know that even the most eloquent words – the most beautiful descriptions – would fall short of genuinely capturing who they are. And yet, despite that, this person decides to reveal himself or herself to you. He or she doesn't just leave you in awe from a distance, but choose to share his or her heart with you. You are given access to his or her deep, unsearchable wisdom. This is a glimpse into our relationship with God.

There is a God, and He is much more than we can imagine. He is beyond our comprehension. His glory, His majesty, His holiness – they are infinite, and yet, He makes Himself known to us. This truth should fill us with both awe and immense gratitude. As we dive into this morning of Silent Sounds, we will explore how God reveals Himself to us by His grace.

### **GOD IS SO MUCH MORE THAN WE CAN IMAGINE**

To start, let's take a moment to consider the greatness of God. It's easy for us to think we know everything there is to know about God. After all, if you've grown up in the church or around Christians, you've heard the Bible, you've possibly sung the songs, and you might know the Christian "lingo." But the reality is that God is so much more than we can ever understand. His nature is far more profound and far richer than we can fathom.

In 1 Chronicles 29:10–13, King David stands before the congregation of Israel, preparing to build the temple. He speaks about God's greatness and majesty, acknowledging that everything in the heavens and on earth belongs to Him. David declares:

*"Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name."*

—1 Chronicles 29:11–13

# ACTIVITY

In your Bible, do the following steps:

- Draw a line under the one to whom David is directing his praise.
- Draw a circle around every word David uses to describe God.
- Draw a box around every sentence or phrase where David mentions God’s authority.

In the space provided, describe David’s posture or attitude toward God.

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David is overwhelmed by God’s greatness. His words reflect a profound reverence, but even these words fall short of describing the fullness of who God is. God’s greatness cannot be contained by human language or understanding. He is the Creator of the universe – He created the stars, the oceans, the mountains, and even the very breath in our lungs. He is the One who holds everything together by the power of His will.

Consider this: God spoke everything into existence (Genesis 1-2). He didn’t need anyone’s help, nor did He rely on anything outside of Himself. The universe itself reflects His immense power and wisdom. We realize how small we are when we try to wrap our minds around God’s greatness. No matter how many books we read or how much theology we study, we will never fully grasp the depths of His nature.

But the reality is that God is not just some far-off, distant god who is too great for us to understand. Yes, He is more than we can imagine, but He is not unreachable. And this is where God’s grace comes into play.

## GOD’S GRACE MAKES HIM KNOWABLE

Isaiah 55:8–9 reminds us of the vast difference between our thoughts and God’s thoughts:

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”* —Isaiah 55:8–9

## QUESTIONS

**1. What part of the Bible passages stood out to you the most? Was it something about God's power, glory or grace? Maybe it was the idea that God's ways are higher than ours. Write down your thoughts.**

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**2. What does it mean that God is much greater than you can fully understand? Does it feel overwhelming, comforting or awe-inspiring? Why? Consider how you feel when you think about how big and mighty God is.**

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**3. How does it make you feel that God, who is so vast and powerful, wants to make Himself known to you? Does this surprise you? Do you find it comforting to know you can have a personal relationship with someone as great as God? Write down your feelings.**

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God is infinitely higher than we are. His thoughts, His ways, and His understanding are beyond us. When we think we've reached the limits of knowledge, we're just beginning to scratch the surface of His eternal wisdom.

Yet, despite this infinite gap between us and God, He makes Himself known to us. God's grace allows us access to His wisdom, character and even His heart. While we can never fully understand God's infinite nature, He invites us into a relationship with Him. He doesn't leave us in the dark, trying to figure it all out alone. Through His Word, His Spirit and the life of Jesus Christ, He reveals Himself to us.

In English clergyman George Swinnock's book *The Blessed and Boundless God*, we're reminded of this truth: "God is both infinite and intimate. He is so much more than we could ever imagine, yet He chooses to reveal Himself to us in ways that we can begin to understand. The glory of God is not meant to keep us at arm's length but to draw us into a deeper relationship with Him. We can know Him because He has made Himself knowable."

## A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

So, how can we, as Prestonwood Students, experience this relationship with God? How can we tap into this knowledge of a God who is much greater than us?

### 1. THROUGH HIS WORD

God has given us the Bible not just as a book of rules but as a revelation of His heart. As we read the Scriptures, we discover more about who God is. We see His justice, mercy, holiness, love and so much more. The Bible contains everything we need to know to have a relationship with God. As you dive into God's Word, ask Him to open your eyes and heart to understand what He's saying.

**Suggested resource to begin reading God's Word:** *Foundations Devotional*



### 2. THROUGH PRAYER

Prayer is not just a way to ask for things; it's an invitation to communicate with the Creator of the universe, just as you would a best friend. When we pray, we acknowledge God is both near and far. He is the God who spoke the universe into existence, yet He listens to our every word. Prayer allows us to align our hearts with His, express our gratitude, and seek His will.

**Suggested resource to begin praying:**  
*Pray.com app*



### 3. THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

The ultimate way God has made Himself known to us is through Jesus. Jesus is God in the flesh, coming to reveal the Father to us. Jesus shows us God’s love, mercy, holiness and grace. He is the perfect example of how we are to live, and He makes it possible for us to be reconciled to God through His death and Resurrection. If you want to know God, look to Jesus.



**Suggested resource to begin praying:**  
*3 Circles Video*

God is so much more than we can ever comprehend. His greatness, power and holiness are beyond our understanding. But out of His grace, He makes Himself knowable to us. He invites us into a relationship with Him, one where we can learn from Him, experience His love, and grow in our knowledge of Who He is.

As you continue your journey with God (whatever this looks like at this point in your life), remember this: You will never fully know Him, but that’s OK. God is infinite, and we are finite. God has made Himself known to you in His mercy and grace. He has revealed Himself through His Word, Son and Spirit. And because of this, you can know Him and walk with Him.

In David’s words, let us give thanks to the God of glory, the God who is beyond understanding but who makes Himself known to His children. Let’s praise His glorious name, for He is worthy of all our worship.

**What’s one truth from this devotional that you want to hold onto and apply to your life?**

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### PRAYER

God, we thank You for being so much more than we can imagine. You are glorious, majestic and holy, yet You make Yourself known to us through Your grace. Help us to grow in our understanding of You and to embrace the relationship You offer us. Open our hearts to Your Word and teach us to walk in Your ways. We praise Your glorious name and are in awe of who You are. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

# TUESDAY FAMILY GROUP

## **BIG PICTURE**

This session will help you see how God has an eternal value and divine purpose for each of us.

## **SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:**

- Psalm 104:31
- Genesis 1:27, 31
- Proverbs 9:10
- Ephesians 2:10

## **SNAPSHOT**

Students will learn that some realities are simply because of who God is and their relationship with Him. In this session, students will learn two truths: God provides our eternal value and our divine purpose.

## **INTRO**

Yesterday, during our bus devo, we were introduced to our theme passage for the week, Ephesians 3:20, which says, *“<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”* We will learn this week that there is “so much more” to God and a life lived for His glory than we could ever imagine! No matter where you are in your faith, we have only scratched the surface of all God is and how He can work in our lives.

This morning at Silent Sounds, we learned more about God and how he is incomparably eternal, all-powerful, righteous, and holy.

**ASK** – What stood out most about what you read in Silent Sounds this morning?

## **THINK**

Hopefully, you took time this morning to consider just how incredibly infinite and powerful God is. Now, for our Family Group time, we will consider the “so much more” of how God sees us! The fact that God created you, placed His own image on you at creation, and has spelled out a plan for you in His Word is an incredible reality with

immense implications. There is so much more within the truth of how God sees us than we realize!

**MAIN POINT:** How God sees us provides the basis for our eternal value and divine purpose.

**ASK** – What would you say if you were to describe the person on your right to someone who has never met him or her? What aspects about the person would you draw upon when describing him or her?

## BIBLE

### PSALM 104:31 AND GENESIS 1:27, 31

What aspects did you draw from (appearance, personality, hobbies, etc.)? When we describe someone, no matter how well we know him or her, we are still limited in our knowledge of that person. However, God is the creator and sustainer of the universe and, therefore, has a complete understanding of who we are. He knows more about us than we do!

### **TRUTH: HOW GOD SEES US PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR OUR ETERNAL VALUE.**

God not only is the creator of the heavens and earth, but He also designed every detail of you! Therefore, His opinion of us should matter the most! Because God is my creator and subject-matter expert on you and your life, we should seek to define our life based on how He sees us rather than how anyone else sees us! So, how does God see us?

- **Have a student read Psalm 104:31**
- **Have another student read Genesis 1:27, 31**

Scripture teaches that God “rejoices in his works, “sees humanity, and says it was “very good” when He created it. God also placed His own image within man when He created humanity. Therefore, we need to understand today that God’s view of us is the basis for our value. Not only does God love you, but he also likes you. He enjoys you and delights in you. He desires to have a relationship with you.

**ASK** – How does knowing that God delights in you and created you in His own image affect your life’s value?

**ASK** – What are other ways or things we are tempted to see our value in our lives?

Although our culture around us will attempt to define our value in many ways (success, personality, looks, money, etc.), God defines it from only one source.

“The world tells you many lies about who you are, and you have to be realistic enough to remind yourself of this: every time you feel hurt or offended or rejected, you have to dare to say to yourself: ‘These feelings, strong as they may be, are not telling me the truth

about myself. The truth, even though I cannot feel it right now, is that I am the chosen child of God, precious in God's eyes, called the Beloved from all eternity, and held safe in an everlasting belief.” – Henri Nouwen, Dutch Theologian and Author

- **Have another student read Proverbs 9:10.**

Scripture teaches us that we must maintain a healthy fear of God to gain wisdom. This “fear of God” can be understood as the righteous awareness of His sovereignty and power, leading us to care more about what He thinks of us than what others do. Recognizing that God cares for us and delights in His creation forms the foundation of our eternal value.

The challenge for us is to view ourselves through the eyes of God. He views us as His beloved creation—valuable enough to send His one and only Son to die for us. There is nothing we can do to earn God's love; He already loves us with an immense love that is beyond comprehension, demonstrated through the sacrifice of Christ.

We must see ourselves in the light of this love and choose to live a life that reflects the value God has placed on us.

**TRUTH: HOW GOD SEES US PROVIDES THE BASIS  
FOR OUR ETERNAL VALUE.**

So far, we have seen in scripture that God's love for us gives us eternal value. We will also learn that how God sees us gives us eternal purpose.

When was the iPhone released? (*Answer: January 9, 2007.*) The launch of the iPhone was historic, as it was the first device to combine a music player, a computer, and a phone all in one. Its popularity skyrocketed after its release, and you can even sense this popularity by the number of iPhones likely represented in this room!

So, why is the iPhone so popular? Its success can largely be attributed to how Steve Jobs articulated its purpose. He has the authority to define this purpose since he created the iPhone. When someone uses an iPhone for purposes other than its intended use—such as using it to hammer a nail or as a cupholder—not only does the device lose its potential, but it may also suffer damage.

The same is true about God. He is our creator and, therefore, defines our purpose. That purpose is to follow Jesus and reflect the love of Christ to the world—to know Him and make Him known. However, many of us are tempted to live our lives in a way that does not fulfill that purpose. Thus, we are not only wasting our potential in God's plan, but we are also likely to damage our hearts and minds.

- **Have another student read Ephesians 2:10.**

This verse beautifully illustrates our identity as God's creation. The term “workmanship” is particularly significant; the Greek word used here is “*poiēma*,” which is where we get our English word “poem.”

This means we are God's "masterpiece."

The second half of the verse reveals our purpose: we are "created in Christ Jesus for good works." These good works reflect our duty to live out our faith by sharing the gospel's good news and demonstrating God's love to others. Importantly, we do not perform these works to earn God's love or forgiveness; He has already provided a means for forgiveness through Christ's sacrifice on the cross, and we need to accept that gift by faith in Him.

We are then called to "exercise our faith" (Philippians 2:12). Because of Christ's sacrifice and His resurrection from the dead, we are set free, empowering us to serve Christ and love others from a place of freedom.

**ASK** – How does knowing that God created you define your life's purpose?

**ASK** – How can you live out this purpose for your life this week, when we get back home, and in six months?

This morning in Silent Sounds, we learned so much about who God is and the "so much more" of knowing God. When we then turn to how God sees us, this gives us the basis for our eternal value and eternal purpose. The challenge for us is to, by faith, choose to see ourselves the way God sees us and live in a way that reflects God's design for our life.

## WRAP IT UP

### PERSONAL CHALLENGE

Take a moment to close your Family Group with a personal challenge for students.

Help set the stage for the time you're going to spend together. Challenge students to prepare their hearts and minds to experience what God is about to show them.

Provide space for them to meet God in prayer and reflection and begin to get themselves in the right mindset to let God move in their lives.

## PRAY

# DINNER & DISCUSSION

If you're finding conversation difficult at dinner, use these below:

- What's one moment from today that made you laugh or smile?
- If you had to describe your faith journey in one word, what would it be?
- What's a challenge you're facing right now, and how can we pray for you?

# TUESDAY WORSHIP NOTES



**TUESDAY**

# BED TIME



## **LEADER REMINDER:**

Take everyone's phones 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 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 some 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.

# WEDNESDAY



WEDNESDAY

# SILENT SOUNDS

## SCRIPTURE

Philippians 2:5-11; 2 Corinthians 5:21;  
Ephesians 2:4-5

### **HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO WRAP YOUR MIND AROUND SOMETHING SO INCREDIBLE THAT IT ALMOST SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND?**

Maybe it was the breathtaking sunrise this morning, the vast space last night, or the ocean's depth right in front of you. Some things are just beyond what we can fully grasp. But nothing compares to the sheer magnitude of God's love for us.

God's love is so much more than we expect, more than we can comprehend, and far more than we deserve. It's deeper, wider, and more powerful than anything in the universe. And the most mind-blowing part? That love was displayed in the most unexpected, radical way – through God's perfect Son, Jesus Christ.

### **JESUS: FULLY GOD, FULLY MAN**

Philippians 2:5-11 gives us a glimpse into just how incredible Jesus' love is.

*<sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. —Philippians 2:5-8*

Think about what this means. Jesus wasn't just some great teacher or a wise leader. He was – and is – fully God, the same God who created the universe, spoke light into existence, formed the mountains and set the stars in place, and chose to step down from heaven to walk among us.

**How does knowing that Jesus fully understands what it means to be human make His love feel more personal to you?**

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He didn't come in power or wealth. He didn't demand to be treated like a king, even though He had every right to. Instead, He came as a servant. He experienced hunger, exhaustion, temptation and pain. He laughed with His friends, wept over loss, and felt the weight of betrayal. Jesus fully embraced what it meant to be human - all because of His love for us.

**What does Philippians 2:5-8 teach us about Jesus' humility and love? How does that challenge the way you live?**

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**Want to know where these are in Scripture? Take a moment later today to look up these passages:**

**JESUS EXHIBITED HUMAN ATTRIBUTES.**

- He was tempted in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11).
- He got tired (John 4:5-6).
- He was thirsty (John 19:28).
- He was hungry (Matthew 4:2).
- He died on the Cross (Luke 23:46).

**JESUS HAD EMOTIONS.**

- He "marveled" (Matthew 8:10).
- He wept (John 11:35).

**HOWEVER, JESUS WAS SINLESS.**

- Satan couldn't get Him to sin in all his temptations (Luke 4:13).
- No one convicted Him of sinning (John 8:46).
- He did all that His Father wanted (John 8:29, 15:10).
- Others spoke of His being sinless:
  - Paul (2 Corinthians 5:21)
  - Hebrews (Hebrews 4:15, 7:26)
  - Peter (1 Peter 2:22)
  - John (1 John 2:1)



## JESUS WAS GOD.

- Omnipotence (fancy word for how He is all-powerful)
  - He stilled the storm at the sea (Matthew 8:26-27).
  - He multiplied the fishes and the loaves (Matthew 14:19).
  - He changed water into wine (John 2:1-11).
- Omniscience (fancy word for how He is all-knowing)
  - He knew people's thoughts (Mark 2:8).
  - He knew belief and unbelief in people's hearts (John 2:25, 16:30).
- Omnipresence (fancy word for how He is present everywhere, all the time)
  - Matthew 18:20, 28:20
- Sovereignty (fancy word for how He has supreme authority and dominion over all creation)
  - Forgive sins (Mark 2:5-7)
  - He claimed the authority of God (Matthew 5:22, 28, 32, 34, 39, 44).

## THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

But Jesus didn't just come to experience life on earth. He had a mission – a mission of love and redemption.

2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life. Yet, He willingly took on the punishment that we deserved. The weight of every lie, every selfish action, every sinful thought – we should have been the ones to pay the price. But Jesus took it all upon Himself. He suffered, bled, and died in our place. Why? Because His love for us is so great that He was willing to endure the unimaginable so that we could have new, abundant life (John 10:10).

This is the extravagant love of God. A love that doesn't hold back. A love that gives everything. A love that sacrifices.

## ALIVE IN CHRIST

There's more to the story, though. It doesn't end with Jesus' death. If it did, then we'd still be lost in our sins. But God's love is a love that brings life.

Ephesians 2:4-5 reminds us: "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved."

Jesus didn't stay in the grave. Three days later, He rose from the dead, conquering sin and death once and for all. And because of His Resurrection, we can experience new life. A life that isn't bound by

guilt or shame. A life that isn't defined by our mistakes. A life that is secure in the hands of a loving Savior for all of eternity.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

So, what does all of this mean for you? It means that Jesus' love isn't just a story from the past – it's a reality for you today.

1. **You Are Fully Loved** – You can do nothing to make God love you more or less. His love for you is complete, constant and unchanging.
2. **You Are Forgiven** – Because of Jesus, your sins don't define you. When you accept His sacrifice, you are washed clean and made new.
3. **You Are Called to Love Like Jesus** – Philippians 2:5 tells us to have the same mindset as Christ. That means we are called to serve, love, and put others before ourselves.
4. **You Have a Purpose** – Jesus didn't just save you from sin; He saved you for a purpose. You are part of His story, meant to shine His love to the world.

## CONCLUSION

God's love is more significant than we can imagine. It's overwhelming, unexpected and completely undeserved. Yet, it's offered freely to each of us. Jesus, fully God and fully man, humbled Himself to the point of death on the Cross so that we could experience new life with Him through His Resurrection.

Take a moment to reflect on that. Let it sink in. The God of the universe loves you personally, deeply and unconditionally. Have you ever surrendered your life to that love? If not, will you receive that love today? If so, how have you let that love change you today? Finally, who will you, in turn, share/show that love to today?

## WRAPPING UP

**What is your response? Work through this activity to consider where you stand with Jesus.**

*<sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. – Philippians 2:9-11*

## HOW HAVE YOU RESPONDED TO JESUS?

- ☐ I have never responded to Jesus, but I'm open to it.
- ☐ I am ready to respond in faith to Jesus for the first time.
- ☐ I need to re-focus on how I respond to Jesus.
- ☐ I'm not perfect, but I'm intentional about my response to Jesus.

**What's one truth from this devotional that you want to hold onto and apply to your life?**

[illegible]

## PRAY

Spend time this morning thanking God for His love. That is **so much more** than we could ever expect. Admit that you are undeserving of so much love, but then thank Him for still showing and giving us His love. Ask God to open your eyes today to see how you can love those around you, whether they are strangers by the pool, families on the beach, other students at Beach Camp, your condo leader, etc.

# WEDNESDAY FAMILY GROUP

## **BIG PICTURE**

This session will help you understand what is true about you and how they became true.

## **SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:**

- Ephesians 2:1-10
- John 3:36
- Romans 5:9

## **SNAPSHOT**

This session will examine the fourth statement that is true about students who have come to saving faith in Christ: They are an essential part of God's plan. Before examining this truth, students will focus on how these things became true about them. They have to understand that there was a time for them when these things weren't true.



EPHESIANS COMMENTARY

## **INTRO**

Remind students that they were challenged to grasp the “so much more” of how God sees them in the first Family Group session.

This morning in Silent Sounds, we looked at who Jesus was – and is. He was both fully God and fully man all at once.

Explain that in this Family Group Session, we will understand *how* the things that are true about us became true.

Now, instruct students to think about times in their lives when they've slowed down and focused on the basics. The foundational things. Say something like this:

- Think about how you focus on the basics regarding athletics (this is probably the easiest example to use). So much of any sport is about footwork and form. What about cheerleading? You need a solid base before you can do all the showy acrobatics.
- This even applies to schoolwork. Every year, math class gets more and more complicated, but it all starts with learning numbers, addition, subtraction, fractions, etc.

## THINK

- **Explain that the same is true when it comes to the Gospel. Say:**

As Christians who heard and responded to the Gospel, we may be inclined to think that it is too basic. That we've moved beyond it. Nothing could be further from the truth. We never grow beyond the foundational truths of the Gospel. And so today, we will talk about the Gospel and the powerful truth that the Gospel does in and through us.

Remember, we said our time this week would focus on examining certain true concepts about us because of our relationship with Christ. But first, we need to talk about how we got here.

If the purpose of our time is to talk about these truths, these essential aspects of who we are, what is the means by which these things became true about us? We have to understand that there was a time when these things weren't true. We know because of our faith journeys with God that these things are true for us because we heard and responded to the Gospel, the Good news that God loves us and redeems us from our sins through the death and Resurrection of His Son, Jesus.

The temptation is to think of the Gospel as basic, elementary stuff we learn and then move on. While it's true that the Gospel is foundational, it is not basic.

We read in Ephesians 2 in Silent Sounds this morning, and let's go back there and look at the broader passage. Turn to Ephesians in your Bible and someone volunteer to read Ephesians 2:1-10.

- **Explain that in Ephesians 2:1-10, Paul lays out one of Scripture's most precise depictions of the Gospel. In doing so, He passes along another powerful truth statement about us. But direct students' focus on what Paul says here about the Gospel, as it is the foundation of our identity as Christ-followers.**

Now, we are going to go back and take the passage verse by verse.

## BIBLE

### EPHESIANS 2:1-3

- **Have another student reread Ephesians 2:1-3. Then say:**

Do you see what Paul is doing here? He is doing the opposite of what we have been doing so far. Paul is not saying, "This is what is true about you in Christ." He's saying, "This is what was true about you when you were apart from Christ."

This is dense stuff, but don't shy away from it. Paul says that before we came to saving faith in Christ, what was true about us? In verse 1, he said we were "dead in the trespasses and sins." Highlight or underline that in your Bible. You have heard this before. But what do we make of this? I know a lot of sinners who don't know Jesus and are alive and breathing today. So what does this mean exactly?

God is so holy, good and righteous that our sin makes it to where we cannot be in fellowship with Him. Our sin separates us from God.

God is the author of life. He is the Creator of life, but He is also the keeper of eternal life, right? The only life after death is eternal life in heaven with God. And our sin keeps us from being in a relationship with God. And so, when we die as sinners, the Bible says we will be eternally separated from God. Death is final. And an eternity separated from the goodness of God is an eternity of dismal hopelessness. That is our fate apart from Christ. Not because God is mean or a jerk or harsh. It's because He is so perfect that He cannot tolerate a shade of wickedness. That we are dead in our sins is a truth about anyone who does not have a saving relationship with Jesus.

- **Direct their attention to verse 2 and explain that apart from God, we follow a course that leads away from God. Say something like this:**

We are surrounded by people who follow the “course of this world.” We see it all around us. It is the life people live with themselves at the center of it (selfishness). It's what it looks like to live a life where I am in charge, and I steer my life to satisfy my wants no matter how it affects others around me.

And here's the worst thing about that: it feels good at the time, but it leads to nothing but sorrow, sadness and unmet expectations (for you and for others around you). When people chase their hunger, they may fill themselves for a moment, but they will always be left hungry. Ultimately, this leads to destruction. This is true about people who live their lives apart from Christ.

But we *really* see a bleak picture in verse 3. Here, Paul says that because people pursue a life apart from God, a life of sin and brokenness, they become children of wrath.

**ASK** – What does this mean, and why is it important?

- We don't like to talk about this. The Bible tells us that our sin earns us God's wrath.

**ASK** – What is God's wrath?

- It is His terrible anger toward sin. Ouch, right?

We don't like to think about God this way, but it's only because we think about our anger when we think about God's anger. God is perfect in all His attributes. We saw this this morning in Silent Sounds. This means even His wrath is perfect, and His anger is perfect (unlike ours).

Romans 5:9 says, *“Jesus saved us from the wrath of God by going to the Cross.”*

John 3:36 says, *“The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who rejects the Son will not see life; instead, the wrath of God remains on him.”*

This is a BLEAK picture if we stopped here. If this were all there was, it would be the worst news. The good news for us is that Paul wasn't done!

### **EPHESIANS 2:4-5**

- Have another student reread Ephesians 2:4-5.
- Point out the two words at the beginning of verse 4. Have students underline or highlight those two words: "BUT GOD!" Explain that those words, while simple, change everything. Remind them that what Paul has just said about us in verses 2-3 was true about us. BUT GOD. Everything changes when we see the interjection of the Gospel. Say something like this:

There is hope in that phrase "but God...." This is that moment when maybe it isn't as bad as we think it is!

- Identify an example that pertains to your group depending on age and gender. Think of an example to illustrate this:
  - (If you have a HS guys group) This is when you ask a girl to Homecoming, and she tells you she already has a date ... but she adds that maybe y'all could do something after Homecoming! This is good news!
  - (If you have a JHigh girls group) This is your parents telling you they were going to make you babysit your little brother tonight, but their event was canceled, and you're free to hang out with your friends! There's hope!

What looked bad is not so bad after all!

BUT GOD. Yes, apart from God, we are dead in our sins. Yes, apart from God, we chase a path that leads to destruction and disappointment. Yes, apart from God, our sin makes us objects of God's wrath and punishment. BUT GOD!

Explain that Ephesians 2:4-5 are two of the most powerful verses in Scripture. Tell students that we learn three things about God and two things about us.

## **ILLUSTRATION: GOD AND US**

- Explain to students that we learn three things about God here and two things about us. Say something like:

**First, we learn that God is rich in mercy.**

**ASK** - What does it mean to be rich?

- Possible answer- To have so much as to have an excess.

You may know rich people. You may be rich yourself. But God isn't rich in stuff. God is rich, overflowing, abundantly full of mercy.

**Second, we learn that God is great in love.**

**ASK** - What did you learn about God's love this morning in Silent Sounds?

- His love is good, but His love is also great. God's love for you is excellent, mighty and legendary.

**Third, we learn that He is abounding in grace.**

**ASK** – In your own words, what is grace?

- To be abounding in grace is to be overflowing with it. God has so much grace it can't be contained.

We also learn two things about ourselves. Say something like this:

- First, our sins made us dead.
- But second, Jesus makes us alive.

When we were dead and had no appeal whatsoever, nothing to bring to the table, God made a way for us to experience His grace through His Son. He makes us alive. And look at how Paul describes this life, our alive-ness!

### **EPHESIANS 2:6-9**

- **Have another student reread verses 6-9.**

Explain that Paul says that God raised us up with Christ. In the same way God raised Jesus, He raises us. Say something like this:

**ASK** – Why does God do this?

- Look at verse 7. So that He could show us forever just how much He loves us.

**ASK** – Have you ever heard the phrase “ulterior motive”?

- An ulterior motive is a secret or unknown reason for doing something. It's often sinister.

For example, if you empty the dishwasher (or do any other chore you usually don't) and then ask your mom if you can play video games, she will be more inclined to say yes. *We* can do nice things for the wrong reasons. But *not God*.

- **Consider another example that's more fitting for your group if this doesn't apply.**

The primary reason He saved us, first and foremost, was to bring glory to Himself. But Paul says here that God showed us this grace, this underserved mercy, simply so that in the future we spend with Him, He might lavish His kindness and goodness on us. There are no ulterior motives. This is the purest act of goodness ever.

- **Direct their attention to verses 8 and 9. Explain that all of this is made possible not by anything we've done; it is all done for us despite our broken rebellious hearts. But God does all of this simply because He loves us. Say something like this:**

**ASK** – Isn't the Gospel the most absurd thing you have ever heard? I mean, it is just *beautifully* absurd, isn't it?

If we were to picture balance scales and I put my sinful life on one side and the immeasurable weight of God's goodness on the other side, that scale would never balance! The incomprehensible, unbalanced

nature of the Gospel. That God's love would see me, me! And love me. And go to the Cross to purchase me.

**PRO TIP: Use a blank piece of paper and draw this out for your students to have a visual to accompany this great word picture!**

How beautiful, wonderful and mighty is it that God seeks and calls us to Him! That is the Gospel. And it is amazing. And we should indeed preach it to ourselves every day as a reminder of how much God *loves* us and how *truly lost* we are apart from Christ.

But explain that you want to land on one final point, one last verse that ties this all together and gives you our next truth statement about who we are in Christ. Explain that there are many reasons *why* God saved us, but this is one of the main ones.

### **EPHESIANS 2:10**

#### **TRUTH: YOU ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF GOD'S PLAN.**

- Have one last student reread Ephesians 2:10.
- Then, remind students that your goal during your time together is to remind each other of some of the powerful, "so much more" truths that are true about us because we are with God in Christ. Say something like this:

There is a simple but powerful truth about you from this passage. It is simply this: You are an *essential* part of God's plan!

You are God's workmanship. Just as an artisan shapes a work of art with his own hands, you are the work of God's hands. He not only made you, but He made you, *you*. And He made you for a purpose.

- Go back to the Creation account in Genesis 2 and talk about how God formed man and breathed His very breath into the lungs of humanity to bring life into our lifeless bodies.
- Go to Psalm 139:13-16 where David talks about how God created us with purpose and intention before the creation of the world.

What was it? Good works. Good works do not save you; you're saved *for* good works. You're saved so that your life can be used as a resource to impact the world around you. You are an essential part of God's plan. You're not an afterthought. God didn't stumble upon you and decide to freshen you up and put you to good use. You were created with these good works in mind from the beginning!

God wants to use you. He didn't send His Son to die for you so you could sit on the sidelines. Jesus purchased your life on the Cross. He brought you from death to life so you could live a full, free life. He created you to do awesome, godly things that call people to Him.

And so I want to ask you a question that you should stop and consider.

**ASK** – How are you spending your life?

**ASK** – If I looked at your life, would I see the evidence of this verse at work?

Would I say, “Oh man, God must have created her for good works! Look at how she is spending her life! Look how she is making a difference in the world around her!”

Or if I looked at how you spent your life, would I say, “Oh, God created this guy for playing video games all day,” or “God created this young lady to spend all day on TikTok and Snapchat.”

**ASK** – How are you spending the life that Jesus purchased for you on the cross?

Your life is a gift. You do not know how long you will be here. Most of us in this room will live to be old and gray. A few of us may not live to see 25. Are you spending your life well? Do you know the truth about yourself that you are an essential part of God’s plan? Or are you wasting the life God purchased for you?

- **Remind them that resting, playing video games, using social media, etc., is fine when done in moderation. But explain that they know better than you how they’re spending their days. And if day after day, they’re spending hours and hours on things that don’t matter eternally; you have to lovingly ask if they’re truly living out the truth that God created them for awesome things and that they’re an essential part of His plan.**

## WRAP IT UP

### PERSONAL CHALLENGE

Take a moment to close your Family Group with a personal challenge for students.

I want to close our time together today and ask that you all think about your answer to these last couple of questions. At Free Time, think about how you use your God-redeemed time. At dinner tonight, think about what Jesus would think of your time-spending. Before bed tonight, evaluate how you own your essential part in God’s plan.

## PRAY

## DINNER & DISCUSSION

- What's one way you've seen God show up in your life recently?
- If you could only share one piece of advice with someone younger than you, what would it be?
- What's something you're grateful for today that you might not have noticed before?

# WEDNESDAY WORSHIP NOTES



**WEDNESDAY**

# **BED TIME**



## **LEADER REMINDER:**

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



# THURSDAY

# THURSDAY

# SILENT SOUNDS

## SCRIPTURE

Joshua 1:1-9

### DO YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST THING YOU WANTED TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP?

What type of car did you want to drive when you were older? Did you want to live in an apartment, a mansion, or a tiny home? Maybe you even wondered what it would be like to be a student in Prestonwood Students?!

The future is an interesting topic. It can bring a sense of excitement, or it can bring fear or anxiousness. It might even make you feel numb because it seems like an island far away and doesn't relate to you right now. Look out at the ocean in front of you. Can you envision the future, or are you lost in the waves?

If life is going great, the future might not seem pressing. After all, "Life is good! It doesn't matter if I consider the future!" If life seems to be dragging you through the mud, the future might be something "I just can't wait for."

You can rest right here, even as you sit in the sand: God has a plan for you (and He has had a plan far before you picked your first dream job, car or home). Have you considered that how you view the future indicates how large, powerful and sovereign God is over your life?

Have you left Him out of the conversation? Let's intentionally invite Him in this morning.

### Turn to Joshua 1. Before you read, pray these prompts:

1. God, would You give me wisdom, knowledge, and understanding for the words I'm about to read?
2. Would You teach me something new about You that I've never learned before?
3. God, would You correct anything I misread and guide me as I study?

## READ

Joshua 1:1-9

Let’s look at verse 7: “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.”

Be strong and courageous! Easier said than done, right? While some have described Joshua as a “hero of the faith,” he was still human. As human beings, it’s not always easy to be strong and courageous. For some, it’s spiders or snakes; for some, it’s heights or darkness.

**QUESTION**

**What are some situations where it’s hard for you to be strong and courageous?**

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This was certainly the case for Joshua. Coming off Moses’s heels, Joshua had big shoes to fill. Moses had led God’s people, the Israelites, out of Egyptian slavery, through the wilderness, through plagues and famine and drought. Joshua even got to see Moses speak with God! Now, it was Joshua’s turn. No pressure, right? Here he was, tasked with leading the Israelites to their final destination, the Promised Land, and he was being told to “be strong and courageous.”

Did you know we’re called to be strong and courageous as Christians? This may be an easy concept for you, or it may sound great in theory, but you have no idea how to actually live it out. Regarding the second option, have you ever considered that Joshua might have felt the same way?

However, God doesn’t leave us hanging. This would be a really sad story if God called us to something but never equipped us with the tools to get there. Look again at verse 5: “No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses so that I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Before Joshua enters an unknown place, encounters an unfamiliar circumstance, and is commanded to be strong and courageous, God reminds him of the truth that He (God) is with him.

We cannot be strong and courageous enough to face the future without the Lord. It’s like going into battle without armor or a weapon. Ascribing power to the Lord and surrendering our future to Him does two things:

- 1. It aligns our focus back to what matters – Him.
- 2. It restores power back to its rightful place – Him.

Grit and ambition will never be enough. If we rely on ourselves, we'll ultimately come up short. We'll be left cowering and crushed. God loves you enough to call you up, but it wouldn't be loving unless He gave you the tools to get there. An easy example of this would be to think of it like a bridge. It's the tool to help you get to the other side! Sound familiar?

Isaiah 41:10 says, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

ACTIVITY

- Circle every time you see the pronoun "I" in the verse above.
- Now, underline every time you see the pronoun "you."

This is personal. God desires to walk with you.

What's one truth from this devotional that you want to hold onto and apply to your life?

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QUESTIONS

Think of the Gospel. How does God give us the tools to be holy/strong/courageous?

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**In what areas of life is it easy for you to be strong?**

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**In what areas of life is it easy for you to be weak?**

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**Why do you think we aren't always able to see the big picture?**

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**How can you surrender your future plans to God?**

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**PRAY**

Pray to God and thank Him for how *big* and *powerful* He is. Adore Him for equipping us to be strong and courageous every single day. Pray and ask Him for opportunities to live out your faith and be strong and courageous today, just like Joshua.

# THURSDAY FAMILY GROUP

## **BIG PICTURE**

This session will help you recognize your tremendous potential if you will just own it.

## **SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:**

- Ephesians 4:17-24
- Galatians 5:22-23

## **SNAPSHOT**

This session will present the final truth about your students' identity in Christ. Their lives have tremendous potential, and many don't even realize it. But unless they embrace this, their lives will not have the impact they could have.



*EPHESIANS COMMENTARY*

## **INTRO**

Review truths you have already learned during Silent Sounds and Family Groups this week. These truths represent the “so much more” of what it means to be in a relationship with God. The truths we have covered thus far include:

- God’s got you.
- God delights in you.
- God empowers you.
- You are an essential part of God’s plan.
- You are not alone.

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

**ASK** – What have we learned in the last two family groups?

**OPTIONAL** – Scan this QR Code and watch the video as a group to set up this session.



## BIBLE

We are still reading Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Let's turn to Ephesians 4 in our Bibles.

### EPHESIANS 4:17-19

Paul said the Ephesians could no longer live as the Gentiles lived. But here's the crazy thing: Paul was talking to a predominantly Gentile church. There were likely some Jews in these churches, but the majority would have been non-Jews who had come to a saving faith in Jesus. Paul used "Gentile" to speak about someone who didn't believe in Jesus. So, he could have said, "You must no longer walk as non-Christians walk." Paul was talking to people who were Christians. And he said they cannot live as people who do not know Jesus.

The Ephesian Christians were surrounded by a super sinful culture. The Temple of Diana was one of the world's seven ancient wonders. The practices associated with the worship of Diana were awful (e.g., prostitution, crime, greed, corruption, etc.). Many of the Christians in Ephesus came from that kind of background. Paul said there must be a distinction between those who know Jesus and those who don't.

**ASK** – What does Paul's instruction to the Ephesians about no longer living as the Gentiles teach us about how Christians today should distinguish their lives from those who don't follow Christ?

**ASK** – Moving on to verse 18. Paul writes the phrase, "darkened in their understanding." Why do you think Paul wrote this verse?

The Ephesians were intelligent. You can be smart, but a lack of knowledge of God darkens your understanding. This is the case for anyone apart from God. Paul says in verse 18 that the reason for their lack of understanding is that they are alienated from God, cut off from him. They know stuff, but they don't understand.

We see this all the time in our world. The older you get, the truer this will be. You'll encounter sharp people who seemingly have it all together but are closed off to the possibility of God. You see these people, and you want them to believe because you think God could work through them powerfully. But despite all their intelligence, they will not see the truth of God. And in verse 19, we see why.

**ASK** – What do you think causes some people, despite their intelligence and success, to be closed off to the possibility of God?

### EPHESIANS 4:19

- Have another student reread Ephesians 4:19

#### **OPTIONAL NOTE:**

Point out where Paul uses the phrase "become callous" in verse 19. Explain that the Greek *pōrōsis* means a "hardening of the skin" so as not to be sensible of touch. <sup>1</sup> Say something like this:

- What Paul means is that they have surrendered themselves to their sin. They have become so used to their sin and enjoy

it so much that they don't even feel the guilt and shame of it. Paul says they are "greedy to practice every kind of impurity." In other words, they do it when they feel the urge to do something. There is no restraint. Forget "resisting temptation." There is no temptation! They have the urge to sin, and they do.

Remember, Paul is talking to Christians and saying to them, after all of this, *do not be like those who don't know Jesus*. You don't have to tell dogs not to act like cats. But it's not that simple. Because we all have sinful natures, and as much as we love God and serve Him, we stumble. We fail. We need this encouragement. We need these reminders. At the heart of what Paul is saying is the concept of consecration.

**ASK** – What does consecration mean?

Consecration is to be set apart to be used by God, to be "other." We are to be set apart, different from the world, so that we can be used for God's purposes because we are the face of Christ in this world! We should be different from the world around us! Not because we are self-righteous. Or holy. Or better than others. This is what Paul is trying to remind the Ephesians. And he brings it all together in verses 20 and 21

**ASK** – How can being "set apart" for God's purposes shape how we interact with the world, and why is it important that this difference isn't rooted in self-righteousness?

#### **EPHESIANS 4:20-21**

- **Have another student read Ephesians 4:20-21.**

Paul reminds the Ephesians that they can't live like non-believers, darkened in their understanding, because they know Jesus! Paul says, if you're reading this, I will assume you know Jesus.

**ASK** – Why does Paul emphasize that knowing Jesus should change how believers live, and how does this contrast with living like non-believers?

#### **EPHESIANS 4:22**

- **Have another student read Ephesians 4:22.**

Paul starts by looking at the Gentiles, those apart from God, and how they live. He then assumes the Ephesians aren't living this way. Then, he points them to a better way, the right way to think about living as a Christ follower.

**ASK** – How can we avoid the patterns of living that Paul warns the Ephesians about, and what does he encourage us to embrace as Christ-followers in our daily lives today?

These verses introduce the final truth about us. The final truth we learn is that your life has tremendous potential, but you must own it. To realize this potential, you must honestly look at your life.

**ASK** – Why is it important to honestly evaluate your life to realize its full potential, and how can taking ownership of your life impact your growth?

**ASK** – What can you change in your life right now that will greatly impact your walk with Jesus?

**ASK** – How will you continue walking with Jesus after Beach Camp?

Here is the beautiful truth about you as a Christ follower: Paul says in 2 Corinthians that you are a new creation. But if we're honest with ourselves, some of us still carry around a piece of our old life with us. We've been made new. We are saved by faith, and our salvation is secure. The question is not if you are saved or not; the question is whether or not you fully embrace the new life Jesus bought for you on the Cross. That is what Paul is saying here.

**ASK** – How can fully embracing the new life Jesus offers impact the way we live, and what might be holding some of us back from fully letting go of our old lives?

Paul says some of you are putting on aspects of your old life as if you'd put on a coat. You're saved by faith; you have been made new; and you're a child of God, but occasionally, you slip on this "old life" coat and wear it around a bit. You may say, "I'm going to watch things on my phone that are unholy and unacceptable. I will gossip about this person and make fun of her with my friends. I'm going to cuss and be rude. This is the image that Paul is painting!

**ASK** – Why do you think we sometimes choose to 'put on' our old lives, even though we've been made new in Christ?

**ASK** – How can we resist slipping back into old habits?

Paul says our old life is corrupt. The word *corrupt* is the same Greek concept for *decay*. That old life is rotten. It's dead. And the Greek tense here means that it isn't just rotten and decayed, it's rotting and decaying! The old life, the sin of selfishness, the life of laziness and complacency, the life of purposelessness, that life is dead. The picture Paul paints is that we are people of new life, people who have been washed clean by God clothed in righteousness by what Christ did on the Cross, risen to walk in the newness of life, and there is no place for us to be walking around with dead, rotting, garments on. This old life is the exact opposite of the new life that your faith in Christ purchased for you.

**ASK** – What does it mean to walk in the "newness of life" that Christ offers?

**ASK** – Why is it important to let go of the "rotting" aspects of our old life?

**EPHESIANS 4:24**

- Have another student read Ephesians 4:24

Paul tells us in this verse that there is a better way. Paul discusses putting on the “new self” created after God’s likeness in true righteousness and holiness.” How did Paul say that this new life was created? To look like Jesus in true righteousness and holiness. And as Christians, we have a choice each day.

**ASK** – What life are you choosing to put on today, next week, next year? Are you going to clothe yourself with the life Jesus bought for you? Or are you going to slip on the dead, old garment?

Your life has tremendous potential! There is so much potential for you, and some of you don’t even realize it. Many of you guys haven’t owned it because you’re still wearing your old, dead life. You’re still living in the same sins. But it doesn’t have to be that way.

**ASK** – What will you do when you get home from Beach Camp to continue your walk with Jesus?

**ASK** – How will you hold your friends and group accountable for their walk with Jesus when we return home?

**WRAP IT UP**

**SUGGESTIONS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY POST BEACH CAMP**

Create a plan for a devotional after Beach Camp as a Family Group to hold one another accountable. The first day starts tomorrow on the bus ride home!

**YOUVERSION BIBLE STUDIES.** This app allows you to make Bible plans with friends and see who completes and doesn’t each day. Leaders, encourage your students to participate in a Bible reading plan. Here are a couple of suggestions:



Spiritual  
Disciplines



The Calling: How to Discover  
Your God-Given Purpose



Spiritual  
Practices

## SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES RESOURCE PAGE



Starting Point

## SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES SERIES FOLLOWING BEACH CAMP

Join us for LifeGroups on Sunday mornings!

- Plano Campus (9:30am & 11am)
- North Campus (10:00 am)
- ESP Plano Campus (12:45 pm)

## PRAY

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<sup>1</sup> Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown, *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible, vol. 2* (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997), 351.

**THURSDAY**

# **BED TIME**



## **LEADER REMINDER:**

Take everyone's phones 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.