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Beach Camp

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 2026!

SCHEDULE

MONDAY (6/8)

- 4:30 AM** . . Load Buses and Depart from
Plano & Prosper
- 8:45 PM** . . Worship at Fort Walton Beach, Florida
- 11:30 PM** . . Lights Out

TUESDAY (6/9) & WEDNESDAY (6/10)

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 8:00 AM . . . Silent Sounds | 2:00 PM . . . Free Time |
| 8:45 AM . . . Breakfast | 5:00 PM . . . Dinner |
| 10:00 AM . . . Family
Group Time | 7:00 PM . . . Worship |
| 11:45 AM . . . Rec | 9:30 PM . . . Condo Time |
| 12:45 PM . . . Lunch | 11:00 PM . . . Lights Out |

THURSDAY (6/11)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 8:00 AM . . . Silent Sounds | 2:00 PM . . . Free Time |
| 8:45 AM . . . Breakfast | 5:00 PM . . . Dinner (pick
up at HQ) |
| 10:15 AM . . . Worship
Service | 6:15 PM . . . Baptism
Service |
| 11:45 AM . . . Rec | 8:15 PM . . . Condo Time |
| 12:45 PM . . . Lunch &
Family Group
Time | 10:30 PM . . . Lights Out |

FRIDAY (6/12)

- 6:00 AM** . . . Head Home
- 8:45 PM** . . . Buses Arrive in Plano & Prosper

IMPORTANT STUFF

LEADER HOTLINE

Have an urgent need while at camp? Our Leader Hotline will text you on your way to Beach Camp! Save the number to use later. For more urgent matters, contact our staff below.

JACOB NORVELL

Waterscape Co-Captain (*NC Guys*) | 865-469-4063

JACOB DUFFER

Waterscape Co-Captain (*PC Guys*) | 512-994-7751

ANNA BUCHANAN

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

MAGGIE MORGAN

Waterscape Co-Captain (*PC Girls*) | 918-576-1810

MORGAN LETCHER

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

JONATHAN THOMAS

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

MATT ELLENBERG

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

MAGGIE HUCKS

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

TÖREE MOHR

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

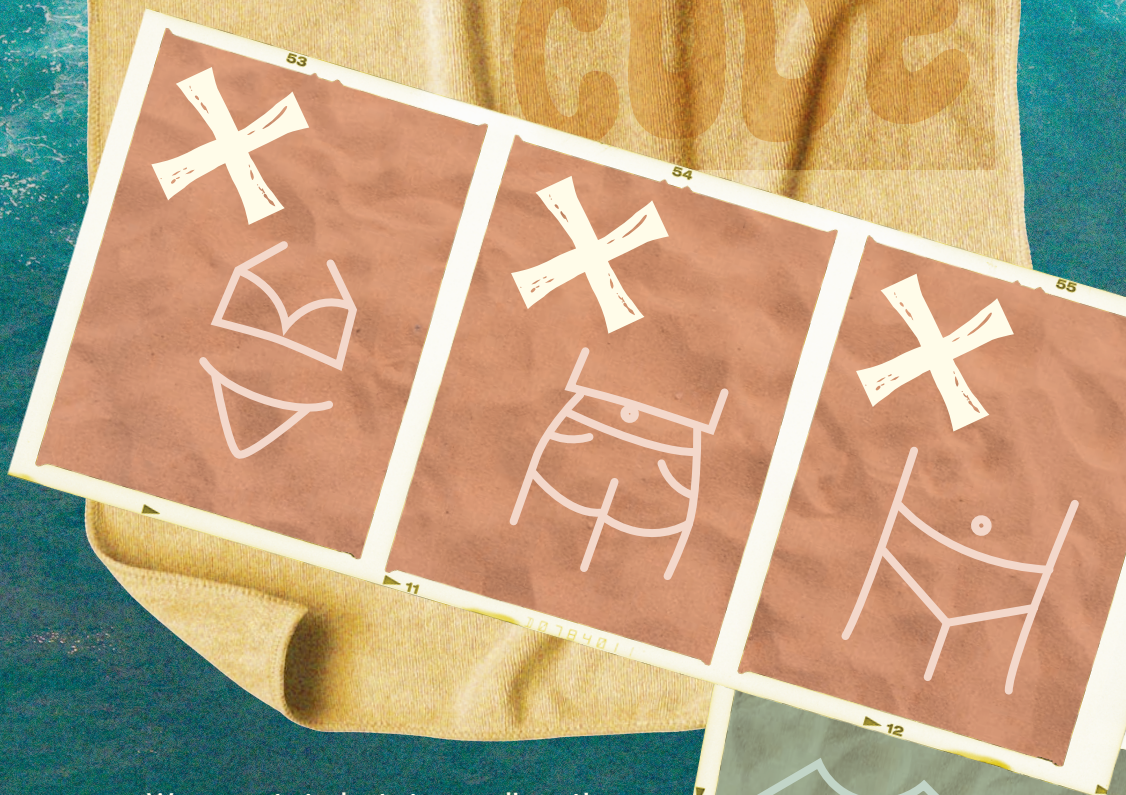
DAVID IBIJA

Island Echos Co-Captain | 786-970-9997

ALAN CORTES

Island Echos Co-Captain | 469-647-2754

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.



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.
- 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. You are expected to follow Ministry Safe guidelines 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, before leaving for worship, 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.

NEVER PROMISE THAT YOU WILL
NEVER TELL ANYONE.

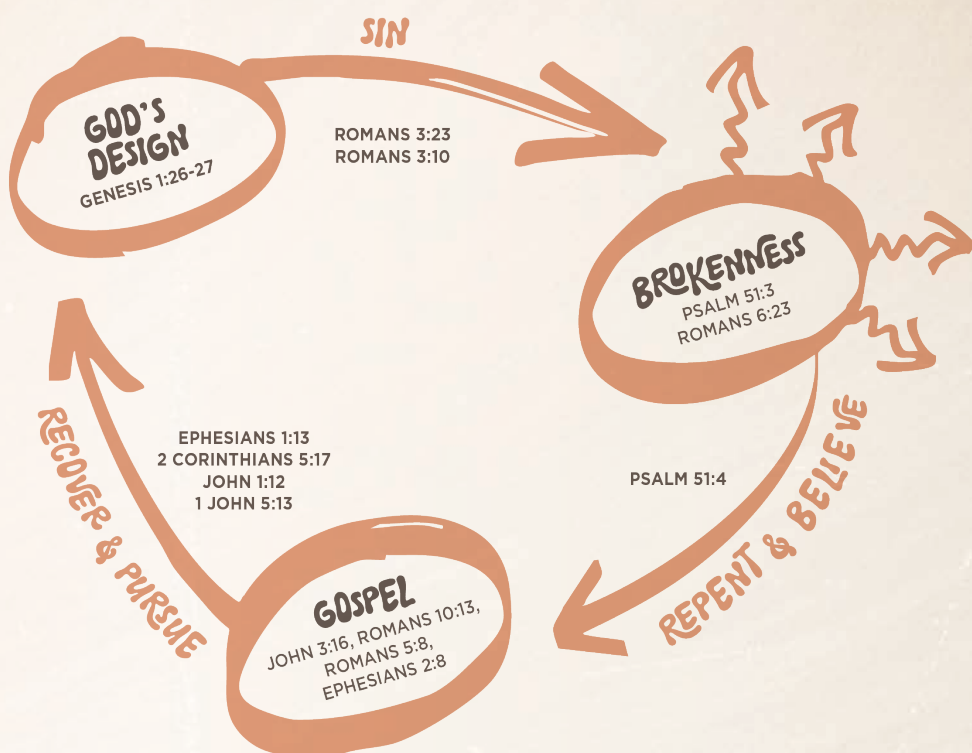
LET STAFF MEMBERS KNOW OF ANY
SITUATIONS WHERE A STUDENT'S
SAFETY COULD BE JEOPARDIZED.

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.
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.

YOU ARE REQUIRED
TO REPORT ANY ABUSE.

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.

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 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.



BEACH SAFETY GUIDELINES

- The Beach Safety Captain and Beach Safety Team at each condo are responsible to organize and oversee all “lifeguards,” as well as make sure guidelines in this handbook are strictly followed. The lifeguards are in consultation with the Beach Safety Team, and they will point out the swimming boundaries including how far 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 another lone student comes. 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 “buddy 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 nametag 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 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 or diving is allowed. 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

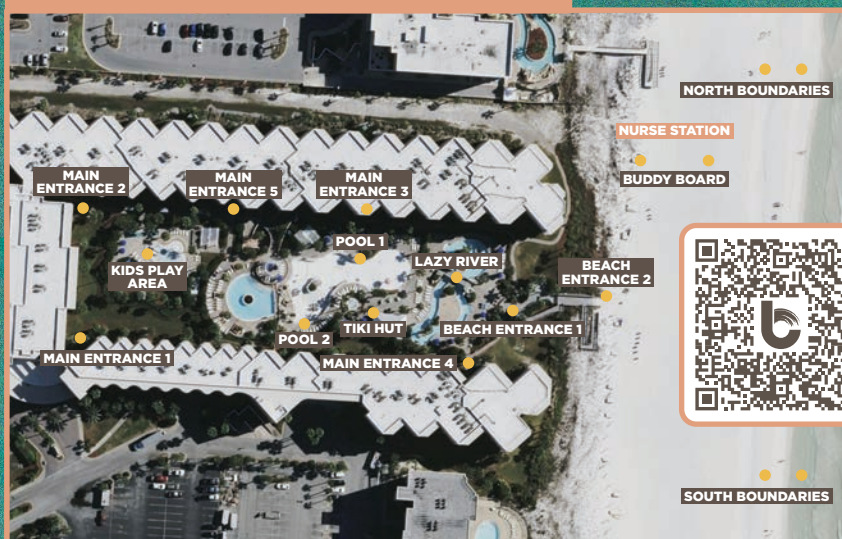
SUMMER PLACE



ISLAND ECHOS



WATERSCAPE



AZURA

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.

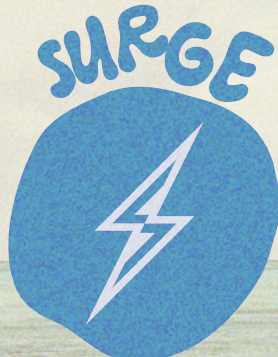
Your role is to keep the students of your condo excited and engaged each day. It's simple – your students will follow your lead. So, if you're not excited and all-in, don't expect them to be (each condo leader will be placed on a team with the students of your entire condo). You will be given your Rec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



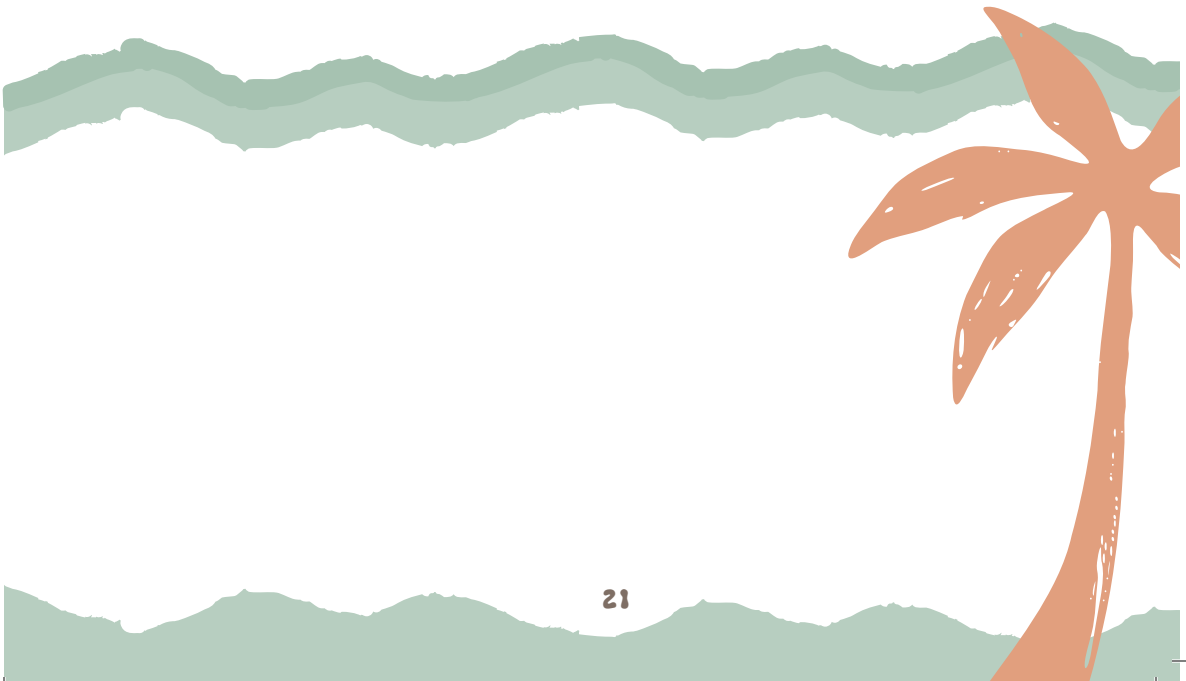


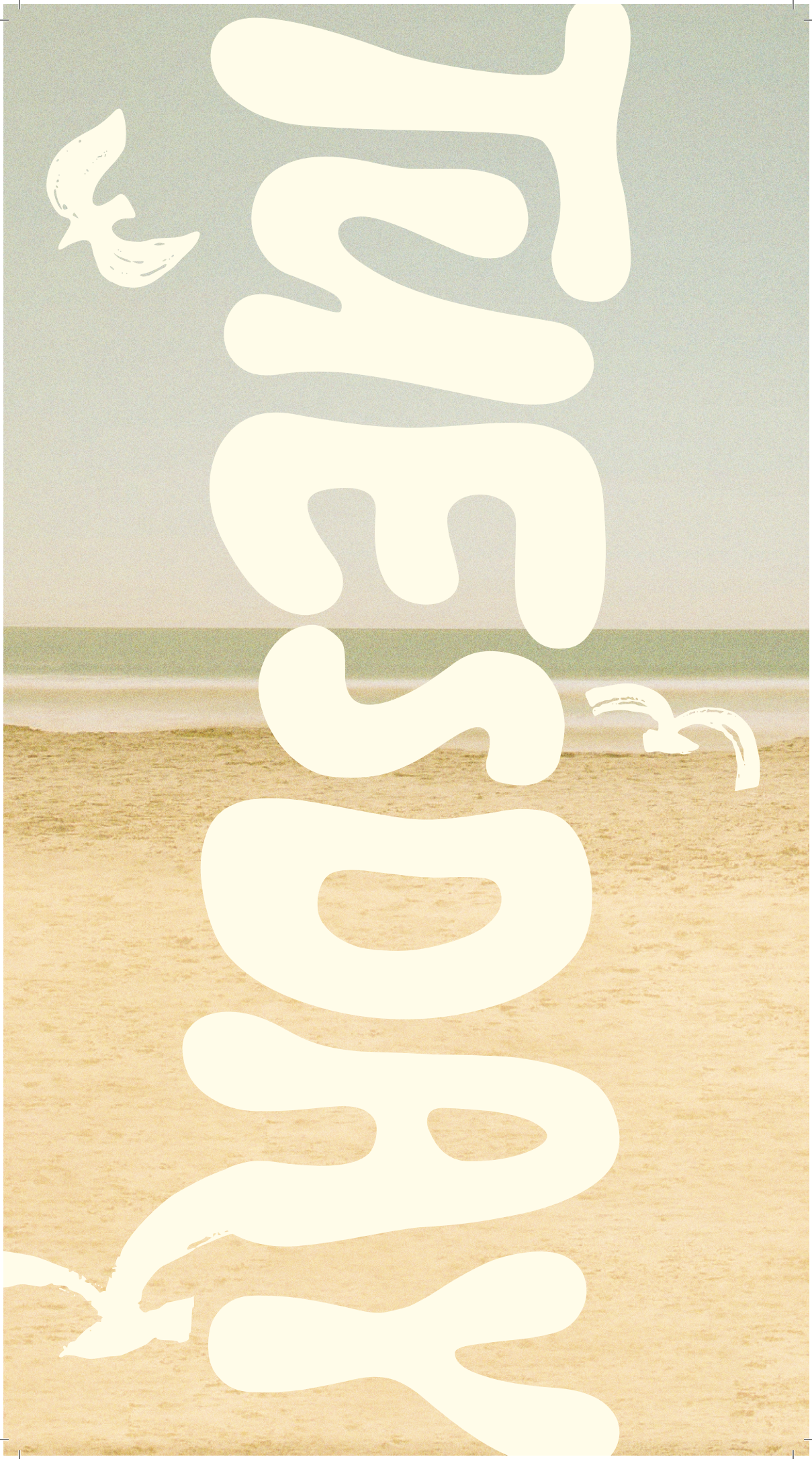
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ONE THING I LEARNED TODAY







Life moves fast. We know it. The noise of school, sports, social media, and responsibilities can drown out the voice of God. But here at Beach Camp, **you have a chance to pause, breathe, and truly listen.**

Silent Sounds is your time to step away from distractions and meet with God – just you, the sound of the waves, and His presence. Imagine starting each morning **with your feet in the sand, your Bible in hand, and the limitless ocean reminding you of God's endless love.** His plans for you are bigger than you can imagine, and He is ready to speak if you take the time to listen.

Be real with Him. Read His Word, underline what stands out, journal your thoughts, and pray as if He's sitting right next to you – because **He is.** Begin each morning by asking Him to reveal Himself to you and get ready for these moments to become **one of your favorite parts of Beach Camp.**

We are believing God will move in incredible ways this week. **We're praying for you – enjoy every moment!**

T U E S D A Y

SILENT SOUNDS

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:26-27

Genesis 3:1-19

Ephesians 2:1-10

WHO AM I?

MAIN IDEA: Identifying sin leads us to reidentify in Christ.

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Have you ever been to a yard sale? When a household has a multitude of items they don't want, they put up posters letting the community know they are having a yard (or garage) sale. To prepare, they set out all the items and price them with stickers to indicate, in their eyes, how much each item is worth. Buyers who show up for the sale come and go, and negotiate the price they feel an item is worth. Both buyer and seller must agree on that price before the sale is made, and sometimes this can cause disagreement.

In terms of money, value can be subjective based on perspective. An old, wooden bench might be worth nothing to someone who stumbles upon it randomly, but to the grown son who remembers his father building that bench for him during his childhood, it might be worth more than any amount of money.

As humans, we, too, can search for our value and worth. However, just as perspective mattered for that wooden bench, it matters for us, too.

JUMP IN

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.' So God created man in his own image; he created them in the image of God; he created them male and female" (Genesis 1:26-27).

Circle each time the Bible uses the word *image* in these two verses; any time the Bible repeats itself, we ought to stop and recognize it!

God has a lot to say about image. After all, it's clear from these verses that we were created in *His* image! For some of us, this is empowering

- to be made in the image of God is an honor you carry. However, for others of us, this might be confusing. *Me? I'm made in the image of God? My life is a complete mess ... does that mean God is a mess, too? Why would I want any part of that?*

We can read the Bible and know that God is holy (1 Peter 1:15-16); everlasting (Isaiah 40:28), infinite (Jeremiah 29:13) - just to name a few. Because we are not these things, we might feel conflicted - hearing that we're made in the image of God, yet not living up to the standard of God. This is the result of one thing: *sin*.

READ: GENESIS 3:1-19

When sin entered the world through Adam and Eve's disobedience, we were no longer able to identify with God; sin separated us from Him. While still made in His image, we were identified with sin. This leads to confusion of identity because sin promises to fill us - but always ends up running short. Some places where sin misleads us to place our identity are abilities, giftings, appearances, what people think of us, etc.

However, we don't have to continue to place our identity in these things only to come up short; the same God who made you in His image does not lead you to sin!

READ: EPHESIANS 2:1-10

Because Jesus was the only One who was able to live without sin, His death and Resurrection allow us to reidentify with God once more! Taking us from death to life, we have been made alive because of His grace - not by our own works!

Knowing that Jesus offers us a new identity is not enough; we must make the choice to accept Him as our Savior and live out this new calling. Pursuing this identity leads us to engage in good works, knowing that we are no longer trying to earn our identity, but expressing our new identity to a world who needs to know Him, too!

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. How has Adam and Eve's decision to disobey God in the Garden of Eden affected you and your identity today?



2. What are some things you are tempted to put your identity in other than Jesus?

3. What are some words you would use to describe someone who has put their identity in Jesus?

4. What steps do you need to do to remind yourself of your identity in Jesus?

PRAY



T U E S D A Y



SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:26–27; Ephesians 2:10; Matthew 6:19–20; 1 John 3:1

BIG PICTURE

When the world becomes our identity, we miss out on who our Creator intended us to be.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Welcome to Family Group Session 1! In this first Family Group of the week, take time to allow students to share things about themselves with a few opener questions, with the final one leading into your discussion:

- Leaders, introduce yourself by playing Two Truths and a Lie. This is an easy way for students to learn a few fun facts about you!
- Have students go around the room and introduce themselves, sharing what school they attend and something they love to do in their free time.
- **Question to lead into discussion:** “What is something people would identify you as or what is something you are known for?” (soccer player, in the band, being funny, sporty, etc.)

OPENER

Explain to the students that you are going to describe a few different famous people with identifiers and see if they can guess them. You are free to choose your own (appropriate) famous people as well!

Note: You do *not* have to do this. If you feel this will detract rather than encourage conversation, continue to the next section.

- **Tom Brady:** Champion, the GOAT, quarterback, New England Patriots
- **Taylor Swift:** In her Eras phase, the biggest Travis Kelce fan, musician
- **Ryan Gosling:** Best friends with a rock in space, He’s “just Ken,” actor

TIE IT BACK

Students, you were able to determine each of these people by their identity characteristics. And even before we talked about famous people, we each said different things about ourselves that identify us. This morning, you read in your silent sounds as well that we are discussing the topic of identity. While the world may have given us an identity or things to identify with, we're going to discuss the identity given to us by God that Scripture tells us about.

BIBLICAL CONTENT

Set the stage for this passage of Scripture: God has spent days creating the world and filling it with life. But there is a difference in His final creation.

Read Genesis 1:26-27

Ask: What do you think it means that God made humanity "in His image"?

- Allow for plenty of answers. There are many different ways to look at this question! The main thing we want is to ensure that students walk away with the fact that God created them in His image, making us image-bearers of the God who created the universe. If this is true, then the One who gave us our image also is the One who gives us our identity.

Examples

- If we take a photo on a phone, an image is made. That image is ours; we took it. We made it happen. We claim identity over the image as the image taker.
- **Connection:** If we can claim identity over a picture on our phone as the image taker, think about how much greater of an identity the Lord claims for us as the image maker. The God of the universe who created everything did not put His image into anything but humanity.

DISCUSSION

Relate back to Silent Sounds: Think about what you read in Silent Sounds this morning. Can someone provide a good summary of what happened in Genesis and the result of sin in relation to what we put our identity in? (Transition question to lead into next part.)

The Three Categories: God is what we, as His creation, should put our identity in. But in reality, we put our identity often into one of these categories:

1. **Performance:** This is often based upon what we do and can accomplish, things such as our grades, our sports talent, our ability to play an instrument, etc.
2. **Possessions:** This is based upon what we have and what we own, things such as our wealth, where we live, what we desire the most.

3. **Pedigree:** This is based upon what others say about us and our status, things such as how funny we are, if people think we are cool, our follower count, our snap streaks, having plans all the time vs. having no one to hang out with, where we're from.

Ask: Which of these do you often find yourself putting your identity in? Allow for plenty of answers. Stay on this question for a while and press in a little on students for reasons why they place their identity in their answers.

WHAT SCRIPTURE SAYS

- **Performance:** What we do does not define us, but what has been done for us does. (Have a student read Ephesians 2:10.)
- **Possessions:** Our wealth and what we own will eventually fade away. (Have a student read Matthew 6:19–20.)
- **Pedigree:** The titles others give us and our earthly status pale in comparison to the ultimate title given to us in Christ. (Have a student read 1 John 3:1.)

WRAP IT UP

Think back to how we started this morning. We talked about all those famous people and the different ways people identify them. Ultimately, all those identities pale in comparison to the one given to us by God. Just as their identities pale, so do ours. The main thing to think through today is when the world becomes our identity, we miss out on who our Creator intended us to be.

PRAY IT OUT

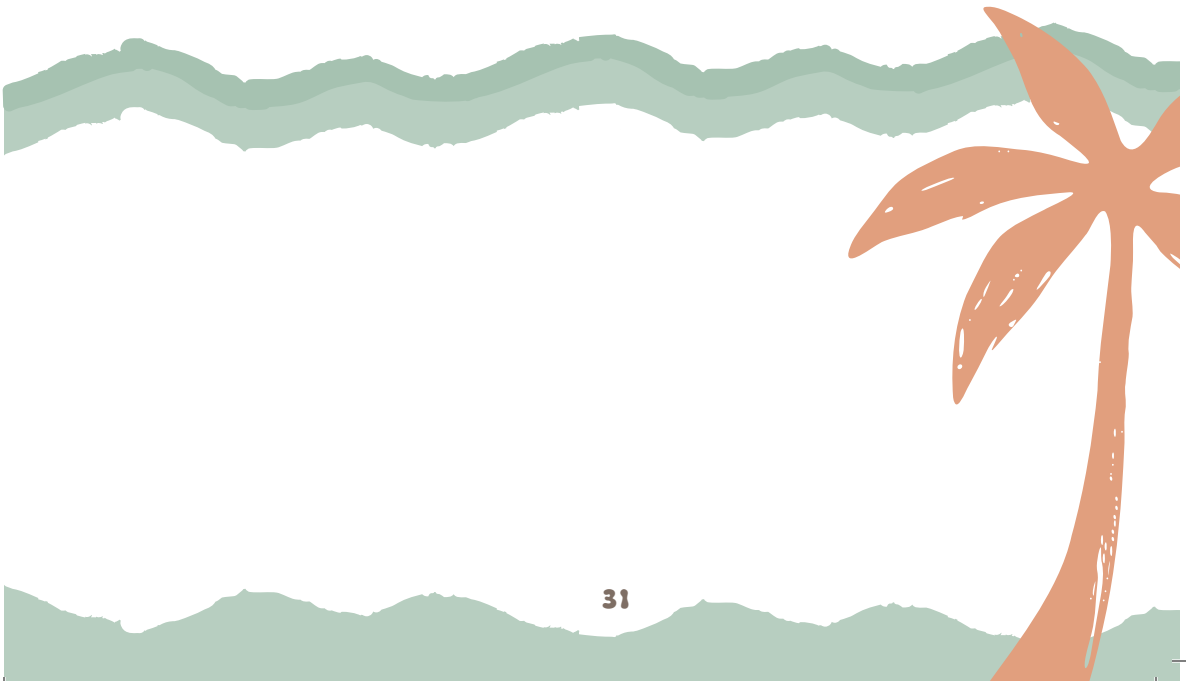
THEORY

WORSHIP NOTES

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 28 evenly spaced horizontal grey lines on a white background, typical of notebook paper. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines, typical of notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

ONE THING I LEARNED TODAY





W E D N E S D A Y

SILENT SOUNDS

SCRIPTURE

Romans 6:5-11

Luke 9:23-25

LIVING THE SURRENDERED LIFE

MAIN IDEA: God calls us to live a surrendered life

BIBLE BACKGROUND

ROMANS

Author: Paul is the author of Romans.

Time Frame: Romans was probably written from Corinth in the winter of AD 56-57.

Purpose: Since the church in Rome had not received comprehensive theological teaching on salvation and other implications of following Christ, Paul wrote Romans to ensure a good understanding of these things. In addition, since many Jewish Christians were rejecting some of the new Gentile converts, it was essential that a level playing field be given to all believers. This is what Paul was advocating for in Romans.

LUKE

Author: Luke was a doctor, a Gentile Christian, and a companion of Paul.

Time Frame: The Gospel of Luke was written around AD 60.

Purpose: Luke is the only Gentile writer of the Bible. His entire purpose was to write an accurate account of the life of Jesus and present Jesus as Savior, fully God and fully man. It is one of the synoptic Gospels, having much in common with the Gospels of Matthew and Mark.

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Imagine you're going on a trip for two days. But somehow, you are packing as if you're moving away forever. You've packed 12 outfits, "just in case"; three pairs of shoes; four hoodies; enough snacks to feed a small army; a hairdryer; a gaming console; and five books in case you get bored. You're having to rearrange your suitcase, rezip it, and maybe even sit on it just to make it close! As you head to the airport, you're dragging around this ginormous suitcase that barely zips. It's overflowing and things are falling out of it. At the airport, you struggle to reach the check-in, and you throw your suitcase on

the scale to see if your bag is ready to fly. After all this, the person at the desk tells you that your bag it is too heavy – you need to unpack some things.

Often, our lives are a lot like that suitcase. We try to bring so much of this world along with us in that rather than enhancing our life, it ends up weighing us down. Ask yourself a couple of questions this morning before getting started. What are some things in your life you need to unpack? In what areas do you need to deny yourself in order to allow the Lord into your life?

SERMON RECAP

As we learned yesterday, when we have faith in Jesus and trust in Him as Lord and Savior, we can become unidentified from sin and reidentify with His grace.

JUMP IN

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus is telling His disciples what it takes to be a faithful follower of Christ, including how they’re supposed to live in their new identities that Jesus has given them.

And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?” —Luke 9:23-25

According to Bible commentaries, the image of cross-carrying was startling – a march of humility and shame. Roman criminals were forced to carry their own crossbeams to the execution site. As Christ followers – we must be prepared to bear the world’s reproach, just as Jesus did.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “DENY YOURSELF AND TAKE UP YOUR CROSS”?

To deny yourself means choosing not to put yourself first. It’s valuing others above your own desires and setting aside personal preferences in order to serve God. Instead of making yourself the center of your life, your focus becomes following Jesus and living for Him.



WHY DO YOU THINK JESUS WOULD SAY THAT DENYING YOURSELF IS NECESSARY TO FOLLOW HIM?

Jesus also teaches something that seems backward: If you try to hold on to your life and live for yourself, you’ll lose what truly matters. But if you give your life to Him, you will find real life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. —Romans 6:5-11

Paul explains that following Jesus means being completely joined with Him. This includes not only sharing in His life, but also identifying with His death. When Jesus died, He broke the power of sin. And when you place your faith in Him, your old identity, your sinful self, is no longer in control.

HOW DOES KNOWING THAT YOUR “OLD SELF” IS NO LONGER IN CONTROL CHANGE THE WAY YOU VIEW YOUR STRUGGLE?



To be “dead to sin” means we must no longer obey sinful desires. To be alive with God means we now can pursue what honors Him. This is a daily choice. Even though your identity has changed, you still must pursue what honors Him.

- Dying to yourself isn’t just an idea – it shows up in everyday decisions:
 - Choosing humility instead of pride
 - Serving others instead of focusing on yourself
 - Obeying God even when it is difficult
 - Letting go of something you want in order to follow Him

WHAT IS ONE SPECIFIC AREA OF YOUR LIFE IN WHICH YOU NEED TO DENY YOURSELF RIGHT NOW?

PRAY

Spend this morning reflecting on your walk with Jesus and the things you need to deny in order to follow Him wholeheartedly. Ask Him what you need to surrender and what has been holding you back. Thank Him for how He is moving in your life this week and what things you need to give up when you go home.



W E D N E S D A Y



SCRIPTURE

Luke 9:23-25; Romans 6:5-11

BIG PICTURE

Move from awareness to action to consistency in denying yourself and following Jesus daily.

RECAP OF SILENT SOUNDS

During Silent Sounds this morning, we reflected on what it looks like to carry the burden of sin by ourselves. There is no need for us to walk through this life alone. In fact, the Bible commands us repeatedly to live in unison with others and avoid isolation.

- What was something that God taught you about Himself during Silent Sounds?
- What was something that God taught you about yourself during Silent Sounds?
- What was one thing you said you needed to “lay down” from your reflection in Silent Sounds?
- How can we actively deny ourselves and pick up our cross?

REMINDERS

When so many things are happening all around us, it is easy for us to forget the truth of the Gospel and believe false teachings, such as “we need to earn our salvation” or “we must earn the love of God” (Ephesians 2:8; Romans 5:8; Romans 8:39).

If we forget, even for a moment, what God says about our standing with Him, or we begin to look at others for comparison, it would be extremely easy for us to quickly run to our old self (2 Corinthians 2:5-7; Proverbs 26:11; Proverbs 14:12).

When we have a mountaintop experience (such as here at Beach Camp), it makes us want more of Jesus, and we can spend the rest of our summer or year striving and waiting for the next mountaintop experience, desiring to go deeper in our faith. The reality is that we will experience a deeper walk with the Lord not by waiting for the next mountaintop, not by seeking the things of this world, but by being obedient and daily surrendering to what God calls us to do. These may include spending time with Him

daily (Joshua 1:8), confessing our sin and praying for one another (James 5:16), sharing our faith (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19–20), serving one another (Philippians 2:2–7), and so many others.

DISCUSSION: THE DAILY BATTLE

Let's start by zooming in on one word Jesus uses that's easy to overlook – but is really important. In Luke 9:23, He says to take up your cross daily. That means following Him isn't just a big decision we make once – it's something we step into over and over again. Let's talk about why that matters.

1. Why do you think Jesus emphasizes daily surrender instead of a one-time decision?
2. What tends to pull you back into old habits?
3. When is it hardest to follow Jesus?

So what we're seeing is that following Jesus is less like a one-time moment and more like a daily choice. The battle doesn't mean you're failing – it means you're in it. And that's exactly where growth happens.

THE GAP BETWEEN KNOWING AND DOING

We've talked about what's true – our old self is gone and we're alive in Christ, according to Romans 6. But if we're honest, there's often a gap between what we *know* and how we actually *live*. Let's dig into that tension.

1. Why is it hard to live as if our “old self” is actually gone?
2. What lies do we believe in those moments?
3. What feels more “real” – your identity in Christ or your struggles?

That gap doesn't mean your identity hasn't changed – it just means you're still learning to live in it. Growth happens when we start aligning our choices with what's already true about us.

IDENTIFYING PATTERNS

If we want to grow, we must be honest about where we struggle. Most of us don't mess up randomly – there are patterns, situations or environments that make it harder to follow Jesus. Let's identify those.

1. What situations, environments or people make it harder for you to deny yourself?
2. Why do those make it harder for you to deny yourself?
3. What would happen if you really did deny yourself in those scenarios?

Awareness is a huge step. When you know where you're vulnerable, you're not caught off guard – you can prepare and respond differently next time.

PRACTICAL SURRENDER

It's easy to talk about “denying yourself” in general terms, but real change happens in specific moments. Let's bring this down to real life.

1. What does surrender look like when it counts?
2. What will you do differently the next time you are presented with an option to choose God or self?
3. What's one thing that you need to change this week?

Surrender isn't just a feeling – it's a decision. And the more specific you get, the more likely you are to live it out this week.

ACCOUNTABILITY & SUPPORT

Following Jesus was never meant to be a solo journey. We're meant to help each other grow, stay accountable, and keep going when it's hard. Let's talk about what that could look like for us as a group.

1. Why would it be easier to do this with others?
2. How can this group help each other live this out?

Real growth happens in a community. When we invite others in, we don't just try harder – we get stronger together.

SPEND TIME IN PRAYER

James 5:16 reminds us of the importance of praying for one another, specifically so we can find freedom from the burdens that weigh us down and ultimately hinder us from experiencing God more fully (Galatians 5:1). We want you and your group to spend several moments praying about very specific things. Break up into groups of two or three and pray over the things you all have shared in the group as well as the following prompts with your partner(s).

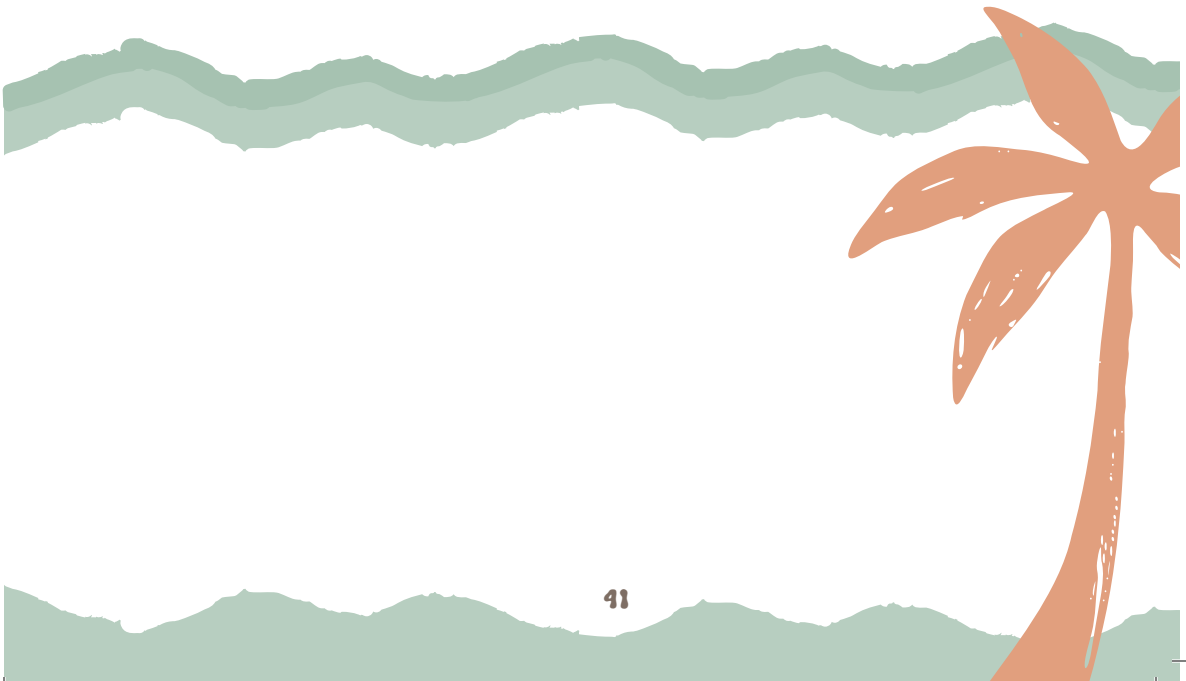
- That you would walk in the grace of Jesus
- That God would break your heart for the things that break His
- That you would be able to find freedom from the things that are distracting you from God

Today is *not* about behavior modification; it is about transforming our hearts to get rid of the things that keep us from experiencing Jesus more fully!

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ONE THING I LEARNED TODAY





THURSDAY

SILENT SOUNDS

SCRIPTURE

Romans 6:5-11

Luke 9:23-25

WE ARE IDENTIFIED FOR A PURPOSE

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

A boy was building a sandcastle on the beach. He had all the tools and buckets to build the best sandcastle of his life. With full excitement, he went out in the afternoon and began to fill his buckets with sand. With the walls and moat constructed, he began to build the main structure, but he came to the realization that everything he was about to build was only hours from being under the waters of the rising tide. Suddenly, all the motivation he had to build this sandcastle faded, and he was left asking, “What’s the point?” If the castle is inevitably going to get washed away, why build it in the first place?

This is how many people go through life – building up earthly things knowing these things will one day fade away. It can leave people wondering what their purpose is in life. Some people spend their whole lives searching for their purpose in life, but for the Christian, it is different.

That’s why Jesus says in Matthew 6:19–21:

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Today we will look at how the identity we receive in Christ gives us all a new purpose in life, but unlike the sandcastle, this purpose never fades.

Every school has two defining features that set it apart from others in the area: its colors and its mascot. Whether it’s for a sport, band, drama, or even the merch you wear, your school is often recognized by those two things. Sometimes you may compete against a school that shares your mascot or colors, but very rarely do they have both. Why? Because these features are meant to identify you with the

school you belong to. It tells others whom you represent and the group you're supporting.

Much like the mascot and school colors, we are instruments for proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. This is not merely something we should do or must do; it becomes part of who we are!

WE ARE IDENTIFIED FOR A PURPOSE TO PROCLAIM.

Read Matthew 28:18-20

The disciples had received the best news ever. Jesus was not dead; He was alive. In some of His final words to them, He gives them all a mission: GO! This is not a command to be passive in our proclamation. While our deeds and actions should ultimately point to Christ, He commands here an active participation in the telling of His story.

Jesus specifically mentions a disciple identifier in the action of **baptism**. We see here that part of Jesus' command is that we, as disciples, are called to be baptized after receiving His Good News. This should be our first public proclamation of our relationship with Him, but it should not be our last. Baptism is a public identification with Christ, but we are then meant to go and proclaim Christ every day.

Read Romans 10:14-15

The command to “go” is one for all of us. We are all sent by God to proclaim The Good News of Jesus. If we neglect that call on all our lives, how will they know?

HOW CAN YOU “GO” AND PROCLAIM CHRIST IN YOUR LIFE?

IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU FEEL UNPREPARED TO PROCLAIM CHRIST IN YOUR LIFE?



WE ARE IDENTIFIED FOR A PURPOSE THAT BRINGS JOY.

Read: Luke 15:8-10

Jesus tells this Parable of the Lost Coin right between two other stories of lost things. The first is the story of a shepherd who loses a sheep and leaves the 99 just to find the one. The third tells the story of the Prodigal Son, who takes his father's inheritance and wastes it on reckless living. In the end, the son returns to the father, who welcomes him back with open arms. In all three stories, we see the joy when what was lost is found.

If you've ever lost something super important to you, you may be able to relate to this story. The anxiety and worry that builds up as you consider how you could have possibly lost such an important thing. Maybe it was your phone, wallet, keys or a sentimental item you hold dear. The thoughts of never finding it begin to flood your mind, but those thoughts are all overridden with unmatched joy when that thing is finally found. We are invited to experience the greatest joy possible with God when we participate in our purpose of sharing Jesus with others. When we see our lost friends or even a stranger come to faith in Jesus, we get to rejoice with the angels of heaven.

We sometimes treat the role we have in fulfilling God's purpose like a job or task. We know we are supposed to do it, but there's something in us that really doesn't want to. Every opportunity to share Jesus can feel like our parent telling us to do the chores we've been avoiding. Our mind instantly starts to produce every excuse about why we shouldn't. We tell ourselves "they'll never listen to me" or "I don't know what to say," and before we know it, the opportunity has passed.

But God's Word calls us to experience something so much greater. When we realize that people's need for the Gospel is greater than our excuses, we can become people who bring the joy of Christ to those around us.

Read: Acts 13:46-49

Paul and Barnabas spoke to those who saw themselves as unworthy of eternal life, but through the bold proclamation of the Gospel, many began to rejoice as they experienced saving faith in Jesus. That Good News then began to spread throughout the region. It is often said that "movements begin with moments." What will your moment be? Will you decide in this moment that the joy of Christ is worth experiencing and sharing?

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU FELT REAL JOY BECAUSE OF SOMETHING GOD DID IN SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE? WHAT MADE THAT MEANINGFUL TO YOU?

WHAT EXCUSE MOST OFTEN HOLDS YOU BACK FROM SHARING JESUS - AND WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE TO CHOOSE JOY OVER THAT EXCUSE THIS WEEK?

The passage in Acts 13 comes after Peter and John had miraculously healed a disabled man and been arrested for preaching of Jesus' Resurrection. They were brought before a council where they made bold statements for Christ!

Read: Acts 4:5-22

Peter and John sat in front of this council and were questioned about what authority gave them the right to preach. Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, was compelled to present the message of the Gospel. This answer astonished the council because it didn't come from highly educated or high-profile men, but from what they perceived as "common men." The council tried to stop them from continuing to preach the Gospel, but they responded by saying, "For we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." They were so compelled by what they had experienced through the Gospel that nothing was going to stand in the way of their proclaiming it.



WE ARE IDENTIFIED FOR A PURPOSE THAT'S "ALL IN."

In 1519, Hernán Cortés set sail from Cuba to explore and claim new territory in Mexico. He arrived with a small group of soldiers who quickly realized they were in a land filled with powerful civilizations, unfamiliar terrain and uncertain danger. As fear grew, many of the men began complaining and pushed to return to Cuba. There were even mutinies forming against Cortés. He knew that if retreat remained as an option, his men would never fully commit. So he made a dramatic decision: He ordered the ships dismantled and sunk, so there was no way to sail back. With the option of retreat gone, the men had no choice but to be fully committed going forward.

Hernán knew he had to remove any other options to get full commitment. Peter and John were so committed that nothing would stand in their way of sharing about Jesus. The question becomes, what is stopping us from being “all in” for Jesus? What is it that keeps us from having the attitude of Peter and John, being compelled to share Jesus no matter the cost. One of God’s primary purposes for you is to make Him known. We can either spend our lives building castles in the sand that will eventually get swept away in the rising tide ... or we can go forward with an “all in” mentality toward building the kingdom of heaven.

Read: Hebrews 12:1-2

Here, the Bible commands us to “lay aside every weight that clings so closely so that we can run the race set before us.”

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS YOU NEED TO LAY ASIDE IN ORDER FOR YOU TO RUN YOUR RACE?

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WHAT IS STOPPING YOU FROM LIVING “ALL IN” FOR JESUS?

WHO IS ONE PERSON YOU CAN SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS WITH WHEN YOU GET HOME?

PRAY



THURSDAY



SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 2:8-11, Hebrews 12:1-2

BIG PICTURE

We are identified for a purpose.

GOAL

The main takeaway for today's study is for students to realize that when we come to faith in Christ, we discover the ultimate purpose of our life. That purpose is to proclaim the Gospel, worship the Lord with great joy, and hold nothing back in our pursuit of following Jesus faithfully. This does not mean that life will always be easy, but if we live with eternal perspective, we come to realize that we are identified for a purpose.

1: WE ARE IDENTIFIED FOR A PURPOSE TO PROCLAIM.

Read: In Silent Sounds this morning, we learned that Jesus has chosen every Christian to be the mouthpiece of the Gospel to the world with both our actions and our words. Baptism is the first step of obedience to this command as we demonstrate with our actions that we have been buried with Christ in baptism and raised to walk in newness of life. This "newness of life" means that we seek after righteousness and proclaim to the world how to come to know Christ.

Example: Think of a guitar. What is its purpose? To make music! You can certainly use a guitar as decoration by hanging it on the wall or as a table and eat your lunch off of the back of it - but neither of those options is using the guitar for its ultimate intended purpose. Using the back of it as a table fulfills our needs but damages the material. Hanging it up as decoration, while even to admire its beauty, will never make music. The command in Matthew 28 is very similar. Some Christians outright deny it, others may even study it and admire it, but will you pick it up and live it out?

Read: Matthew 28:18-20

The context of the book of Matthew is important as we understand that while Matthew certainly documented the first-hand, eye-

witness account of Christ and His earthly ministry, we also learn that it was written with a specific audience in mind. Matthew was written largely with first-century Jews in mind to focus on how Jesus specifically fulfilled many Old Testament prophecies and therefore revealed Him to be the promised Messiah. The word *Messiah* means “savior” or “liberator,” and His purpose is to fulfill the Old Testament, taking the law and giving it life.

The word *go* in Matthew 28 is from the Greek word *poreuō* (pah-ROO-oh) which specifically means “to pursue the journey on which one has entered” or “to continue on one’s journey.” It doesn’t mean that we get up and “go” make disciples somewhere else, but “as we go,” we are making disciples and proclaiming the Gospel with our lives. Jesus came to bring to completion what God had been working on for thousands of years. God finishes what He starts.... Will you?

Ask

- How does knowing that Matthew 28 is an everyday command change our perspective on it?
- What are some ways that we can practically proclaim the Gospel with both our actions and our words?

2: WE ARE IDENTIFIED FOR A PURPOSE THAT BRINGS GREAT JOY.

Read: The second way we can deepen our understanding of this “purpose to proclaim” in our life is to see that this is not a job or a task, but it brings joy to our life and the lives of others around us. We share about what we care about. If we truly have come to know Jesus and experience His great forgiveness and new life, shouldn’t we want to talk about it? Shouldn’t the single greatest experience of your life, coming to know Jesus as Lord and Savior, be the topic you want to talk about the most?

Ask: Often, we are fearful to share about Jesus with people instead of joyful. Why is that?

Read: Sometimes, the reason we are fearful is because of an unknown future event. We are afraid we’ll “mess it up,” or someone will ask us a question we don’t know. But the joy we have in sharing the Gospel is not found in what could happen but has already happened. Nothing we can say, do, or “mess up” can change that fact that Jesus is already alive and has risen from the grave! We don’t have to worry about talking others into something or convincing them to do something they don’t want to do. All we have to do is joyfully share the facts of what has already taken place.

Read: Luke 2:8-11

Read: The Gospel of Luke is unique because it is the longest of the four Gospels and has the most details that often give greater picture to the miracles that took place in and surrounding the life of Jesus. Luke was a physician, so it is not far-fetched to believe that he was deeply astounded by miracles because he knew that they superseded the laws of nature. He focused more on those moments

not only because they were awe-inspiring, but because they validated who Jesus is. The quality in which Luke proclaims these miracles is completely unrelated to the fact that they happened! He shared these stories without fear because they actually happened. He was just sharing the Good News!

Ask:

- In this Christmas story example, where was the “great joy that will be for all the people” found?
 - *Answer: In the Good News!*
- How did the angels share this Good News?
 - *Answer: They shared what had already happened!*

Read: Our ability to share this Good News has nothing to do with the fact that the news is good or not. We are faithful simply by opening our mouth and starting the conversation. The Holy Spirit will take it from there!

Ask: Many people may have doubts about the facts of miracles or the Resurrection, but you cannot deny someone’s personal testimony of how God changed their life. What is an example in your life of how God changed you that you can joyfully share with others?

3: WE ARE IDENTIFIED FOR A PURPOSE THAT’S “ALL IN.”

Read: Finally, we learned this morning that this new life that is found in Christ leads us to a point of going “all in” for Jesus. Everything in this world will pale in comparison to this incredible purpose to love God, love people, and proclaim the Gospel because this calling is eternal! Seasons change, popularity wanes, and looks fade, but God’s Word and His love endure forever. We are called to pursue that wholeheartedly and lay down every weight that hinders that.

Read: Hebrews 12:1-2

Read: Here in this text, our pursuit of the Lord is like a race that we are set to run with our eyes fixed on Jesus. When horses are prepared to race, they are strapped with blinders around their eyes so they can only look forward. This helps them fix their eyes on what lies ahead of them instead of being distracted by looking right and left.

Ask

- What are some examples of some things in your life that you would consider a “weight” that you need to lay aside in order to run your race?
- How do you think laying those aside will help you pursue Christ better?

WRAP UP

Out of everything we discussed today, what has impacted you the most?

PRAY

RECAP

Take time to go back through your Silent Sounds, Family Groups and Night Worship and write down one thing that you took away from each time. Use this page in the future as a reminder of all that God taught you this week!

MONDAY WORSHIP

TUESDAY SILENT SOUNDS

TUESDAY FAMILY GROUPS

TUESDAY WORSHIP

WEDNESDAY SILENT SOUNDS

WEDNESDAY FAMILY GROUPS

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

THURSDAY SILENT SOUNDS

THURSDAY FAMILY GROUPS

THURSDAY WORSHIP

WITH WHOM DO YOU NEED TO SHARE THIS?